

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



**Jay Kaplan Says  
Stop The Madness!**

**Detroit Murders Leave  
City Reeling**

**Cars & Camaraderie**

**Fall Auto  
Edition**

*p. 23*



# Adding White To The Rainbow

**New Leadership Arrives  
At Equality Michigan  
With Stephanie White**

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“I’m a very huge Diana Ross fan, so, if I was going to be that close (to Detroit), I needed to go and see where my idol started. I started out impersonating her until I realized I wasn’t black and that I couldn’t sing.”

-Frank Marino

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## BRIEFS

### DeBoer-Rowse Legal Team Finally Gets Paid

**DETROIT** – The state of Michigan is paying nearly \$2 million to the lawyers who fought for marriage equality in the state.

Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Bill Schuette spent nearly three years arguing in favor of the same-sex marriage ban, facing off against a lesbian couple from Hazel Park who were seeking ways to extend the rights and protections from one parent to all of their children.

After a tireless fight that extended all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, Schuette and Snyder lost the battle and are now forced to pay a total of \$1.9 million to the legal team representing April and Jayne DeBoer-Rowse.

April and Jayne, who have been together for 15 years, finally wed in August following the U.S. Supreme Court decision in June, striking down same-sex marriage bans and making marriage equality the law of the land. Together they have four children who will soon be legally adopted by both parents.

The couple filed for second-parent adoptions in 2012 and were turned away due to a line in Michigan law that banned same-sex marriage. Since any couple seeking a second-parent adoption has to be married in order for it to be granted, they were left with no other choice than to sue the state for the right to protect their children.

The couple was represented by Dana Nessel, Carole Stanyar, Ken Mogill and Bob Sedler in Michigan courts and by Mary Bonauto during the SCOTUS oral arguments. The legal team took the case pro-bono, knowing that the Hazel Park couple would not be able to afford the fees of an ongoing case that was heard in every level of the U.S. court system.

“Four years without a paycheck, fronting costs in a case of this magnitude, was certainly hard on our families,” Stanyar told the Detroit News on Oct. 7, when she received the final payment. “The fee statute was enacted to empower and encourage the vindication of civil rights. I do feel empowered, and very encouraged. So I guess the law is working as Congress intended.”

The legal team filed 15 time sheets and affidavits with the motion, requesting compensation for 5,474 hours of work at a rate of \$350 per hour based on attorney income summaries reported by the State Bar of Michigan.

Taxpayers also paid \$96,000 to John Bursch, a lawyer hired by Schuette to defend the gay marriage ban. Conservative economists and social scientists hired by the state for the 2014 trial were paid \$148,000.

U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman,

who suggested that the couple sue the state for the right to marry instead of the right to second-parent adopt and brought the case to trial, oversaw the hearing that was set for Oct. 7.

### Third LGBT Murder In Detroit Since January

The Detroit police are investigating the murder of a 30-year-old African-American male who was found Monday morning between Arizona and Brush Streets on Detroit’s east side. Officers believe the incident happened before 6:30 a.m.

The victim, who Equality Michigan has identified as Melvin, was found dressed in women’s clothing with a fatal gunshot wound to his body. Melvin was a sex worker, identified as a gay man and often wore women’s clothing while earning his living.

Early reports identified Melvin as a potential member of the transgender community, however, friends of Melvin insist that he did not identify as transgender, Equality Michigan reports.

“We have no words to describe the inexplicable and heart wrenching pain we are feeling right now. We can, however, articulate our outrage over this epidemic of violence aimed at our community. Enough is enough. As mainstream communities use our lives and our bodies as political fodder and comedy, our people are dying in brutal and violent attacks. We are not the problem. In the land of the free, we should be able to express our authentic selves freely and without fear for our physical safety, but this is not our reality. In the land of the brave, we lead the way. Because, in this world, openly expressing your gender or sexual orientation in a way that mainstream society regularly demeans, discounts and objectifies is revolutionary,” said Yvonne Siferd, director of victim services at Equality Michigan.

Danielle Woods, LGBT Liaison for the Detroit Police Department, told WXYZ news that DPD does not, at this time, see a connection between Melvin’s sexual orientation and his murder. Officers do not have any leads but are hopeful someone will step up and speak out.

*This is an ongoing investigation. Anyone with any information is encouraged to call the Detroit Police or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-SPEAK-UP.*

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# COVER STORY

# Adding White To The Rainbow New Leadership Arrives At Equality Michigan



Stephanie White said bringing local activism together, harnessing it, is going to be a key part of her vision for Equality Michigan and her leadership. BTL photo: Todd Heywood

BY TODD HEYWOOD

**BRIGHTON** – Working in the trenches on New York City’s lower eastside to organize immigrant residents to challenge the political and legal power structures was the moment Stephanie White knew her life was going to be forever entwined with the topsy turvy world of politics and social equality.

“Watching oppressed people band together and stand up to a local police captain, who was letting the cops be kind of irresponsible around the neighborhood,” she told BTL in an exclusive interview Monday, “and pinning him down and saying, ‘No, Captain, I need a direct answer from you – will you or will you not make your officers obey the law?’ Watching him stammer, and try to answer these folks – that was it for me. A-ha. It was just beautiful.”

That moment and decades of hands-on political organizing experience are about to

quieter over the last year or so, it’s really allowed these other organizations in our state, these other leaders, to jump up and emerge and fill the gap, and say, ‘Hey, I can do things, too,’” she said. ““We don’t have to wait for one organization or one leader.””

She said she has noticed in the past half a year or so that there is a willingness to collaborate among various organizations to conquer the various issues related to equality.

“Everyone is saying, ‘I’m in,’” she said.

“Our role in this puzzle is to be the political eyes and ears – and the political strategic thinkers,” White said of the organization’s broad mission in driving the equality agenda in the state.

While White is optimistic about the role the organization can play in coordinating and driving the equality agenda in Michigan, she is also stepping in at a time when the Board has just appointed Jim Murray, the president

“I think equality means equality for all. I think when you leave people out of equality, that’s actually called inequality.”

– Stephanie White

be put to use as she takes the helm at Equality Michigan – the state’s anemic LGBTQ and HIV affected community and political organization.

The 46 year old native of the Kansas City metro area comes on at a time when the organization has been rocked by controversy – an aggressive, but ultimately failed, attempt to garner enough GOP votes to amend the state’s Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act; a controversial call to boycott the beloved Michigan Womyn’s Music festival over a trans-exclusionary policy; and five executive directors in a decade, just to name a few issues.

Also during the last two years, the organization found itself increasingly isolated, politically. When former executive director Emily Dievendorf left the organization earlier this year, the acting ED, Bill Greene, found himself weighing the political, funding and board relations issues which have consistently hampered the organization’s functionality.

But White said that in the vacuum left as Equality Michigan reorganized, an “exciting” level of grassroots activism has risen.

“As Equality Michigan has been a little

of AT&T, to its ranks. That appointment was seen by some in the political world as a head nod to incrementalism in policy development and advocacy. Murray is controversial because he worked with the state GOP leadership to craft a sexual orientation only bill to amend the state’s civil rights act, a move that left the transgender community behind.

“It’s important for me to say – for you to know, for everyone to know – that transgender equality is central to my beliefs and my commitment,” she said. “I am 100 percent committed to a fully inclusive nondiscrimination law.”

She said the incrementalism discussions happening with board members is “on-going” and “is not done.” But personally, she does not support that move.

“I think equality means equality for all,” she said. “I think when you leave people out of equality, that’s actually called inequality.”

She noted that part of the cause of the debate is a lack of knowledge about the complex interactions between the discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

“We have to acknowledge that the whole

“She’ll be great at working with people of different political stripes and bringing equality to the state of Michigan.”

– Mark Schauer – a former Congressman and Democratic nominee for governor. White was his political director during his 2014 gubernatorial race. He said in a phone interview that White would harness all the resources available “to put together” effective coalitions.

LGBT community is still learning and growing,” she said. “I think there are people all over our state that don’t get it; don’t understand why it’s not OK to leave some members of our community out, or why gender identity discrimination really is part of sexual orientation discrimination.”

She said the newly minted Transgender Advocacy Project at the ACLU of Michigan – and under the leadership of Amy Hunter, a transgender political operative from Kalamazoo – is going to be key in supporting conversations about gender identity in both the LGBT community and the broader community.

## Forging Coalitions

At the end of the day, White said, bringing local activism together, harnessing it, is going to be a key part of her vision for Equality Michigan and her leadership. That includes, she said, engaging the broader progressive community as well.

And those who have worked closely with her talk glowingly about her ability to forge political coalitions to drive change.

“She’ll be great at working with people of different political stripes and bringing equality to the state of Michigan,” said Mark Schauer – a former Congressman and Democratic nominee for governor. White was his political director during his 2014 gubernatorial race. He said in a phone interview that White would harness all the resources available “to put together” effective coalitions.

Schauer said White will bring a keen sense of political strategy and objectives to the organization, and drive a powerful agenda through that.

And what is on that agenda?

“Amending Elliott-Larsen, obviously,” she said. She also said it was important to battle against so-called religious freedom bills. Another key policy issue, she said, would be changing Michigan’s rules and laws related to gender markers on state issued identifications.

While such an issue may seem minor to a casual observer, the trans community has long reported that not being able to have an identification which reflects their gender identity – but rather their assigned gender at birth – can be humiliating. It results in outing people as trans, and can put people at risk of violence.

Addressing such violence is key to the mission of Equality Michigan, as well. The group runs an anti-violence project, which White called “huge.” She said she hopes to connect the lived stories of those who have experienced violence and discrimination with political lobbying efforts as well.

“It’s important to ground the organization from our, you know, kind of esoteric political analysis, and the lived reality people feel and experience day in and day out,” she said.

While marriage equality is a national reality, full equality is still not here in Michigan she noted.

“It’s easy to think that now that we have gay marriage – everybody wants to celebrate – ‘Hey, gay marriage, everything’s great!’” she said. “You and I know, lots of us know, that’s not the case. There’s legal equality and then there’s lived equality. A lot of us still struggle with that.”

## AT A GLANCE

### Stephanie White

Age: 46

Hometown: Kansas City Metro area

Current Home: Ann Arbor

Education: Bachelor’s degree from Texas Christian University

Marital Status: Married nine years to Emma; one son, age 5.

Work experience: Political Director of Schauer for Governor, Campaign Manager for the 2002 Ypsilanti equality ballot initiative fight, Howard Dean for President organizing, former Army officer, community organizing in NYC and Washington D.C. Currently Treasurer of National Center for Transgender Equality.



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## Detroit Man Murdered After His 24th Birthday Party

Mylin Jenkins Remembered As 'Beautiful Inside And Out'

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

**DETROIT** – By all accounts, Mylin Jenkins had a bright future in front of him. He was an aspiring model who dreamed of becoming a dentist and moving to Atlanta or Los Angeles. He turned 24 on Friday, Oct. 2. Three days later, he was dead.



Mylin Jenkins

Jenkins was leaving a birthday party that had been thrown in his honor in the early morning hours of Monday, Oct. 5 when the tragedy occurred outside a home on Detroit's west side. He was in the driver's seat of his parked car when a passenger in the back seat of the car, identified as 17-year-old Devin Simms, shot him in the head. Simms then allegedly removed Jenkins from the car and sped off in it.

Later that day, Simms held a SWAT team at bay for nearly two hours as he sat armed and barricaded in a house on Ohio Street. Eventually, he surrendered without incident. Simms was charged with felony murder, carjacking, resisting and obstructing a police officer and felony firearm.

But if police believe they know who did it, Jenkins's family is still struggling with why.

"Everyone seems to be just as shocked as we are," said Jenkins's sister Nygeria Ligon. "There are so many different stories."

Most people, however, are simply talking about Jenkins and how special he was. He worked at Petco, was pursuing his associate's degree from Oakland County Community College and was known for loving the night life.

"He was a real joyful person, fun," said his brother Darrick McConnell. "You could be down or mad and he'd call you or walk in the room and your spirits would lift. Even if you were irritated with him you couldn't stay mad at him for long because he had a great personality."

And, above all, he loved to party.

"He was a turn up king," McConnell said. "He could go all night with you. He could drink you under the table. He could dance you under the table. He was the life of the party."

"That boy could dance his butt off," said David Perrett, a friend of Jenkins. "We came out together. There was a large group of us who used to hang out together and he was the youngest person in the group. He was always just a really cool sweetheart."

"He had really positive energy and as long as I've known him he's never been tied up in drama," Perrett continued. "Of course, we know he was absolutely gorgeous, but he was also very talented ... and he would always keep you laughing and joking."

Jenkins's sister concurred.

"Mylin was beautiful inside and out," Ligon said. "He had a great heart. He was very ambitious and loving ... such a loving individual."

Donations can be made to a gofundme page the family has set up. The page can be found at [www.gofundme.com/ny5skqbc](http://www.gofundme.com/ny5skqbc)

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

**DETROIT** – Former Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh has returned to the news over the past week as the start date for his civil trial nears. Pugh's trial was originally slated to begin this week. But District Judge David Lawson pushed the start back to Nov. 3 in the wake of new allegations by a second man who has come forward to claim that Pugh groomed him for sex while he was underage.

In a sworn affidavit 22-year-old Nathaniel Hill said he was hired to be Pugh's personal intern when he was a 14-year-old student at Cass Technical High School. Hill, who is currently serving 9-20 years in prison for carjacking, claims that while working in Pugh's downtown condo he would witness pornography playing on Pugh's personal computer and be subjected to body language that he interpreted as unwanted sexual advances.

"Many of the actors in the pornography videos were very young," the affidavit reads in part. "It was clear to me that Mr. Pugh was attracted to teenaged males ... Mr. Pugh made it clear that he believed he could attract any young man he set his sights on."

Hill is claiming he came forward because his story was so similar to Khody Sanford's, the man who is suing Pugh. Sanford's attorney is hoping to have Hill testify at the trial. In rescheduling the start date of the trial, Judge Lawson gave Pugh's attorney time to depose Hill and other potential witnesses.

While Hill's claims have the potential to be damaging to Pugh, there is the question of Hill's credibility.

"(The jury) will experience some issues of credibility with this witness," Sanford's attorney, Nicole James, told Fox 2 News. "This is someone who, my understanding is, is in prison now on a carjacking charge. And that is a very serious offense and a very violent offense."

## School Board Members Warned Placing Pugh At Boy's Academy Was 'Dangerous'

Also made public this week were affidavits filed by three members of the Detroit School Board who claim they made Detroit Public Schools emergency



Then Detroit City Council President-Elect on election night in 2009. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

managers aware of their concerns with Pugh's mentoring program at Frederick Douglass Academy for Young Men.

"Mr. Pugh was thought to date underage teenage boys and we made sure the emergency managers – Roy Roberts and Robert Bobb – were aware of our concerns and the reasons behind them," said Detroit School Board member Ida Short. "We wanted the emergency manager to not allow the mentorship program to proceed or continue as planned. We thought it would be better if Mr. Pugh were placed at another facility, perhaps a girl's facility."

According to the affidavits, the board thought that having Pugh's program take place "at a boy's academy was dangerous."

Roberts and Bobb are named alongside Pugh in the suit. District lawyers have previously tried unsuccessfully to have all claims against Detroit Public Schools dismissed.

## A Tale Of Two Texters

The suit, which stems from a prolonged interaction between Sanford and Pugh that took place in May/June 2013, alleges "personal injury" and "violation of civil rights." Sanford is claiming that Pugh made unwanted sexual advances and groomed him for sex while he participated in the Charles Pugh Leadership Forum during his senior year. There is no record, however, of Sanford and Pugh ever

being alone until after Sanford's last day of his senior year, at which time he was 18. At that time, Pugh bought him clothes for a job interview and gave him some cash and a new cell phone. Text messages obtained as part of a Madison Heights police investigation – that resulted in no criminal charges against Pugh – show the two texted back and forth frequently over the following days.

"Can I trust you?" Pugh asked in one of the first text messages he sent.

"Trust me to what?" Sanford asked. "Keep our friendship our business." "LOL. Sure!"

"If I can trust you, then the sky is the limit for you, sir," Pugh said. "You can have whatever you need or want."

What Sanford needed turned out to be \$160 to pay for prom expenses, which Pugh agreed to give to him in exchange for a video of Sanford masturbating. Sanford made the video and received the cash. But shortly afterward, Sanford's mother discovered her son was texting the councilman and put a stop to the relationship.

"Everything between us has to stop," Sanford said in his last text message to Pugh. "My mom knows what is up and is going to report you."

Read online at *Charles Pugh: An In-Depth Look At The Rise And Fall Of A Local LGBT Hero*: <http://bit.ly/1GbmUgm>



# Creep of the Week

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

## Eric Metaxas

It may be a grown up, but I read a lot of young adult fiction aimed at LGBT teens.

Wait. I shouldn't use the term "aimed at" less I fuel the fire behind Eric Metaxas's idea that YA books are "disproportionately gay" and are trying to turn young people gay or at least make kids cool with the so-called sinful gay lifestyle.

In a recent commentary on BreakPoint which, according to their website, "provides a Christian perspective on today's news and trends," Metaxas proclaims "an alarming trend in youth lit."

"The way to win over a culture is to capture the minds and hearts of its young people," he says. "The gay-rights movement has certainly learned that lesson, which helps explain a current trend in youth literature. Anyone who reads books for teens these days will tell you that portrayals of gay relationships and characters are rapidly increasing."

He's right, in a way. Though what he sees as a bad thing, I see as a good thing. It's true that there are more LGBT themes and characters



being explored in YA lit. But it's not because all of a sudden "the gay-rights movement" ramped up

production.

When I was discovering I was attracted to girls and not boys in the mid-90s, there were books about lesbians out there, but I didn't know that and didn't know where to find them. I couldn't just Google "lesbian books" and I certainly couldn't ask a librarian to help me find them. One of the first books about lesbians that I read was "The Well of Loneliness" by Radclyffe Hall (even if you haven't read it, the title alone gives you a pretty good idea of the suffering therein). In college I read "Stone Butch Blues" by Leslie Feinberg (more suffering).

As far as breaking down "sexual boundaries of all kinds," that's a common claim of the anti-gay right who think of LGBT people only in terms of sex. As if having sex – really freaky sex in the imagination of the anti-gay right – is the only thing LGBT people do or think about. It's a fun way to dehumanize us.

There were YA books that I could have read in high school. "Annie On My Mind" by Nancy Garden, for example, was first published in the early 1980s. But like I said, I had no way of knowing that.

But today, there are plenty of books to choose from and I've read many of them. I want to know what today's young people are reading. And I'm very happy that LGBT young people no longer lurk in the shadows without books that reflect their lives.

Metaxas sees something far more nefarious at play. "Authors who work to normalize homosexuality are trying to promote what they see as compassion, understanding and acceptance," he says. "I believe they're also trying to break down sexual boundaries of all kinds, to push what they see as 'freedom' as far as they possibly can."

What's wrong with "compassion, understanding and acceptance"? Unless, of course, you believe that LGBT people are

unworthy of it and should simply be scorned. As far as breaking down "sexual boundaries of all kinds," that's a common claim of the anti-gay right who think of LGBT people only in terms of sex. As if having sex – really freaky sex in the imagination of the anti-gay right – is the only thing LGBT people do or think about. It's a fun way to dehumanize us.

Metaxas continues, "Even when there are no explicit descriptions, sexual themes are often introduced before kids are ready to deal with them in a mature way. Moreover, the way they're introduced can be confusing to vulnerable and impressionable readers."

Earth to Metaxas: all kids are exposed to sexual themes before they're ready to deal with them in mature way. I would much rather have kids, gay and straight, read a book written just for them that promotes "compassion, understanding and acceptance" than learning about sex by Googling "boobies" and "wieners" on the Internet.

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## Ah! Those Days Long Gone

# Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I went to my first gay bar, the Silver Slipper, a dyke bar on Grand River, near downtown Detroit. Just 19, I used borrowed ID, escorted authoritatively by two 'stone butches': Speedy and Draino.

Lesbians sat in an upstairs balcony. Gays and "tourists," downstairs. (Tourists came to gawk at us queers.)

Entertainer was porkulent Chi Chi LaTrine, aka Benjamin Ernest Franklin. He wore wide, be-ribboned picture hats, sang songs with lyrics of questionable OB-GYN soundness. ("Douche yourself with kerosene. Light it with a match. You will be the only queen with a blow torch for a snatch.")

Chi Chi's comedy routines closed with his trademark insertion of a champagne glass into his ample facial cheeks and mouth. (Sidebar: Franklin had a sociology M.A., and in the early '60s was the first openly gay person to speak to Wayne University psych classes.)

With teenage friends Gary and Richard, we hit the Scenic Bar in Toledo, Ohio. Soon our little circle – "Claudia," (Richard) "Margo," (Gary) and (groan) "Crystal" – took our sing-along road show to Cleveland, staying at the Y-M-C-A!

I met Marcus, who took me home, played Maria Callas arias from Verdi's "La Traviata," fed me a wonderful breakfast. It was magic, until I learned to my over-stuffed chagrin that my gourmet cook was yet another crossdresser. Two that summer!

Next came Big Apple week. Our threesome took the New York Central train – playing gin rummy for 13 hours – and booked into the notorious Sloan House Y. It was mid-July. No air conditioning. Heat 90-plus. Sweat

**In the mid-50s, we had no role models. We suspected certain movie stars. (Tab Hunter, Barbara Stanwyck, newcomer James Dean). All wishful thinking. These Sen. McCarthy witch-hunting years were terror for "known homosexuals." We had no choice but the closet.**

soaked outdoors in minutes. So, we slept at day; partied at night.

I had no sooner unpacked my things when the phone rang. "Hi! I'm Jerry. I saw you in the lobby. Can I take you to dinner?" He left two days later. Ever faithful at 19, I thought of Jerry for 36.5 hours, 36 seconds. (Jerry, who?)

Our trio went to a Greenwich Village downstairs bar, the Sans Souci. "Cry Me a River," sung by Roberta Sherwood, was the jukebox hit. Bar ambiance was intimate and discreet. I met a bona fide actor: Gunther Wilde. (Gunther, who?)

Richard reeled in two mid-30s Italians who invited us to Fire Island. We took the train to Babylon – three hour ride – and a ferry boat to Cherry Grove. "Truman Capote's there," they told us. (Truman, who?) I experienced a toothache, a sunburn, no sleep, a sore back. (It was worth it.)

In the mid-50s, we had no role models. We suspected certain movie stars. (Tab Hunter, Barbara Stanwyck, newcomer James Dean). All wishful thinking. These Sen. McCarthy witch-hunting years were terror for "known homosexuals." We had no choice but the closet.

For those who could pass for straight, problems were few. Vice cops. Crabs. VD. Job firing. Shock therapy. Excommunication. Incarceration. Media exposes. You kept your "she this" and "she that" to yourself.

Travel was a revelation. We realized we weren't alone. We were everywhere: doctors, stevedores, actors, professors, cops, nurses, American Indian chiefs, average Joes, exceptional Jills. Gaydar was a godsend. Question: Who needs gaydar these days?



WALT WHITMAN LEAVES THE BAR WITH CONGRESSMAN ABE LINCOLN AFTER HAVING BEEN CHATTED UP ALL NIGHT BY ACTOR JOHN WILKES BOOTH



BY JAY KAPLAN

## Viewpoint

# Stop The Madness!

I'm upset – no, I'm angry as hell – at certain members of our LGBT community.

I'm outraged at those would-be partners in a same-sex relationship who, once the relationship sours, not only deny the existence of such relationships but also vengefully turn to discriminatory Michigan law to justify taking children away from the former partner they once co-parented with.

I'm furious at those LGBT attorneys who represent these partners, lawyers who use the very same legal tools of oppression that harm all members of the LGBT community to score one for their client, obliviously dragging the rest of the LGBT community and their families down. Let me (take a deep breath and) explain.

For decades, Michigan family law and Michigan courts have acted as though LGBT families did not exist

in our state. When a same-sex couple broke up, courts refused to take jurisdiction over matters concerning child custody, visitation and distribution of property. This also made it easy for same-sex partners to walk away from a relationship and behave as though it never existed, even if it meant children suffering the collateral damage.

It started with adoption. Although Michigan appellate courts have never specifically addressed the issue of whether same-sex couples could jointly adopt the children that they were raising together, some judges in Michigan erroneously interpreted the adoption law to require that couples have to be legally married. Since Michigan would not permit same-sex couples to marry (and would not recognize marriages between same-sex couples from other states) until the recent United States Supreme Court decision, that

meant they could not jointly adopt and that only one parent (usually the biological lesbian mom) was recognized under Michigan law. The non-legal co-parent, no matter how bonded she was to her child, was a stranger to that child as far as Michigan was concerned. Thus, in the event of a break up, the one legal parent held all the cards with regards to custody or visitation issues.

In 1988, the Michigan Supreme Court, in the case of *Atkinson v. Atkinson*, came up with the concept of equitable parenthood. *Atkinson* involved a heterosexual marriage wherein the wife had a child from a previous marriage and co-parented with her second husband. After she divorced her second husband, she refused to allow him to have visitation with her son, even though her son had regarded the second husband as his father. The Supreme

Kaplan: Stop The Madness, next page

## ► Kaplan: Stop The Madness

Continued from p. 10

Court found the second husband to be an equitable parent, because he had developed a parent-child relationship with his step-son that had been encouraged by his former wife during the marriage. The court ruled that it was in the best interests of this child to have continued contact with his step-father. It was a good decision that could help LGBT co-parents who were not recognized under Michigan law.

However, the Michigan Supreme Court revisited the issue of equitable parenthood in 1999, in the case of *Van v. Zahorik*. Van involved an unmarried heterosexual couple, a boyfriend who co-parented his girlfriend's child from another relationship. After the couple broke up, he argued that he should be considered an equitable parent. This time, a newly constituted conservative majority on the Michigan Supreme Court disagreed. They said that equitable parenthood was limited to the context of a legal marriage and since the parties had not married, the boyfriend could

**I'm outraged at those would-be partners in a same-sex relationship who, once the relationship sours, not only deny the existence of such relationships but also vengefully turn to discriminatory Michigan law to justify taking children away from the former partner they once co-parented with.**

not request custody or visitation. This also meant that LGBT co-parents – who were prohibited from marrying their partners – could be denied contact with their children but had no legal standing as equitable parents to petition the courts for parenting time.

*Van* is a flawed legal decision in so many ways, but most importantly in that it elevates the marital status of the parties over the best interests of children, which is what is supposed to be the main focus of Michigan courts in deciding child custody disputes. And yet it became the law of Michigan and for more than a decade, dozens of LGBT co-parents had their children taken away from them by their former partners (the legal parent) and found the doors of Michigan courts closed to them. As a heartbreaking consequence, many of these co-parents never saw their children again.

The U.S. Supreme Court's historic June decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* – which held that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to legally marry and have their marriages recognized in 50 states – will usher in a new era in Michigan family law in which LGBT family relationships are endowed with the same rights, protections and responsibilities that are accorded to heterosexual married couples. However, will it help same-sex couples who broke up before marriage was available in Michigan, and who were raising

children together? I believe that it should.

A LGBT co-parent should not be denied recognition as an equitable parent because she was unable to be legally married in the state of Michigan due to laws that have now been declared unconstitutional. Indeed, the Michigan Supreme Court just recently vacated a Court of Appeals decision denying a lesbian co-parent equitable parent status – based on the *Van v. Zahorik* ruling – and sent the case back to the Court of Appeals to reconsider in light of the *Obergefell* decision. That is hopeful. And yet, we still see legal LGBT parents denying their former partners co-parent status to have contact with the children they have raised together.

Seldom do the reasons for cutting off contact with the co-parent have anything to do with the best interests of the child. Usually the legal parent is in a new relationship and no longer finds it convenient to have her former partner involved in her and their children's lives. And when that co-parent files a case in court arguing that she should be an equitable parent, the legal mom's attorney argues the bad law established by the *Van* case to deny this co-parent legal standing to petition in court. Even

when the facts are clear that this child has two moms. Even when it's in the best interests of that child to continue to have those two moms.

Worse, the legal moms in such cases are often represented by an attorney from the LGBT community, men and women who seem to have no qualms about using anti-LGBT law to argue in favor of irrevocably severing the ties between a child and the parent with no legal standing. Both mom and attorney are wrong and irresponsible.

For years we have asked that our relationships be accorded the same benefits, protections and responsibilities that heterosexual couples have. Granted, heterosexual couples can behave just as badly in a break up or divorce, putting their grievances against their former partners before the welfare of their children. However, we in the LGBT community need to be better. For years our families have been denied recognition, dignity and respect. When we engage in bad behavior, when we argue that our relationships have no meaning, no significance under the Michigan law, we undermine every argument our community makes for full equality. And we harm children.

Stop this madness, this selfishness. And until we do, my outrage will continue to boil.

*Jay Kaplan is the staff attorney at the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project.*

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## Judge Says Georgia's Gay Marriage Ban Can't Be Enforced

ATLANTA (AP) – A federal judge in Georgia has ruled that the state's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage cannot be enforced.

The ruling is effectively a formality. State probate courts have been issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples since a June 26 U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalized same-sex marriage nationwide.

Georgia's constitution prohibits same-sex marriage and says the state will recognize only the union of a man and a woman as marriage and that same-sex marriages performed in others states are not legally recognized.

In April 2014, gay-rights group Lambda Legal filed a lawsuit challenging that ban on behalf of three couples and a widow.

U.S. District Judge William Duffey on Oct. 7 signed an order ruling in their favor and saying the Supreme Court ruling means the same-sex marriage ban can't be enforced.

## Alabama Judge: Feds Should Issue Same-Sex Marriage Licenses

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) – An Alabama probate judge is asking the state's Supreme Court for a way out of issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Elmore County Probate Judge John Enslin filed a petition Oct. 5 that says the federal government, not state offices, should issue same-sex marriage licenses. Enslin says the federal government is responsible for upholding and enforcing other laws created at the federal level.

The petition asks the court to order judges statewide not to issue same-sex marriage licenses or recognize licenses that Enslin says have been issued in contradiction to the Alabama Constitution.

Enslin also asks that the state declare it will recognize only same-sex marriage licenses if they have been issued by the federal government or by states that have their own gay marriage laws.

## Openly Gay US Ambassador To Denmark Weds Partner

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) – The U.S. ambassador to Denmark has married his partner in the Scandinavian country that became the first nation to allow gay couples to formalize their unions in 1989.

Rufus Gifford, the U.S. envoy since September 2013, is a strong gay rights advocate and often appears with Stephen DeVincent, a 56-year-old veterinarian, at his side. The two were married Saturday at the Copenhagen City Hall. Gifford, a 41-year-old Boston native, wrote on Twitter: "26 yrs ago the site of 1st legal gay unions in the world. Humbled and emotional."

Later in the day, he posted a smiling photo of the two, showing off their rings: "In the land that created fairy tales, we just started our own."



BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

## Viewpoint

# Fire & Ink Four: Igniting The Genius In Us

Imagine attending a family reunion and discovering that your family consists of some of the greatest creative minds alive who not only share your passions and your interests but come ready to share, encourage and inspire with ideas both familiar and brand new. Then imagine this dream family reunion is taking place not in some far off location, but in your own back yard. Well that's what happened Oct. 8-11 in Detroit.

The event, however, wasn't a family reunion per se but a reunion of sorts for those in the creative community. "Fire & Ink" is a gathering held every six years to bring together LGBTQ writers, journalists, academics, filmmakers and playwrights of African descent and heritage, from across the country and around the world. The last gathering, Fire & Ink III: Cotillion, was held in Austin, Texas in 2009. In 2002, the Fire & Ink Festival was held in Chicago.

Close to 200 participants from around the corner in Detroit to as far away as South Africa attended Fire & Ink IV: Witness. Some faces you knew – old friends continuing ongoing conversations. Then there were faces known only from social and other media – Facebook friends, living legends, authors and others – who we never thought we would meet but felt an affinity, a common bond and a shared struggle with.

The intention of Fire & Ink IV: Witness was to address the urgent question of what it means to bear witness as LGBTQ and SGL writers of African descent and heritage in the 21st century. And it went there from Day 1.

A theme which continued throughout the conference was the importance of recognizing and acknowledging the shared struggle connecting the African-American LGBTQ communities and our brothers/sisters worldwide from increasing translations of LGBTQ writings to and from English, to a focus on how the LGBTQ liberation movement in Africa is using media to share their stories and promote safe spaces.

LGBTQ films chronicled our heritage. Stephen Winter's new film "Jason and Shirley" revisited the making of Shirley Clarke's film "Portrait of Jason." Although hailed as a pioneering documentary, Clarke's film was frequently seen as exploitive and damaging by many in the black LGBTQ community. Winter's look at the making of the documentary opened the door to discussions on importance of the telling of black LGBTQ stories in the voice of/ from black LGBTQ lives.

Mindful of the historic role of African-American LGBTQ writers, Fire & Ink continues the work of ancestors like James Baldwin in opening up new literary territories not just for a generation but for generations to come by intentionally welcoming and including new voices, young voices, seasoned voices with stories told, revisited and explored.

Then, after lifting us to new heights of creativity, it was over, but not before a discussion on keeping the fire burning brightly. 2016 will be a year of transformation for Fire & Ink. Besides a call for new board members, keeping the fire burning ironically includes the passing of the torch by co-presidents Lisa C. Moore and Steven G. Fullwood who will be retiring from

the organization. Fire & Ink IV: Witness landed in Detroit with the message that we are doing it, this is how we're doing it and we must do it. It planted new seeds of creativity, innovation and imagination for LGBTQ writers, journalists, academics, filmmakers, playwrights and individuals of African descent to chronicle our lives. We don't have to accept what others have done to us or rely on others to do for us. We have only to look at us for genius. The genius is within us and we must tell our stories.

And what better place to inspire a generation of visionaries, dreamers and witnesses than in Detroit, a city rich in black history. A city where its predominantly African-American residents, including members of the LGBTQ community, have survived despite efforts to be excluded and disenfranchised and opted, in the most uncertain of times, to wage love, to fight for justice, bearing witness to the resiliency of the human spirit.

WITNESS was more than a conference – it was a reunion, a festival bringing together the best of the best and brightest creative minds. This year's festival ending heralded the beginning of a new era for Fire & Ink. In 2021 Fire & Ink will be all new – new board leadership, new technology, new evolving voices and new stories to tell. But one thing is for sure: black LGBTQ world citizens will continue to be living for and creating change and black LGBTQ writers, journalists, academics, filmmakers and playwrights will bear witness for history and generations to come.

*Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. You can follow her writing and activities at [www.mychangeiam.com](http://www.mychangeiam.com) and on*

## JTCC Board Member Runs For Washtenaw County Board Of Commissioners

ANN ARBOR – Jim Toy Community Center board member Jason Morgan has announced that he will run for the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners seat that will be vacated by Yousef Rabhi in 2016.

Morgan is currently working as the director of government and media relations for Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor. He served as district representative for former Rep. John Dingell, worked on former Rep. Bart Stupak's congressional campaign

staff, served as legislative aide to State Senate Minority Leader Mike Prusi and worked as assistant and scheduler to Stupak in Washington D.C.

"If elected, I will support a strong public safety and human services system, strengthen our local economy by creating living wage jobs and support investing in our infrastructure and neighborhoods," Morgan said in a statement.

Morgan is also focused on community mental health budget and structure as well as housing concerns in the county.

His name will first appear on the ballots in the Democratic primary set for Aug. 2, 2016.

The county's 8th District seat covers most of downtown Ann Arbor, the Georgetown neighborhood, Burns Park and some areas south of I-94.

So far with less than a year to go, Morgan has been endorsed by Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor, Washtenaw County Board chair Felicia Brabec, State Rep. Adam Zemke and State Board of Education President John Austin.

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## Bill Would Allow Florida Churches To Say No To Gay Marriages

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)**— A bill that would allow churches to refuse to marry gay couples won its first approval Oct. 7 even though its sponsor said churches already have that right and he knows of no cases in which a church has been forced to perform a same-sex wedding ceremony.

After listening to dozens of pastors, most of whom supported the proposed law and some of who opposed it, the House Civil Justice Committee approved the bill on a 9-4 vote, with all Republicans supporting it and all Democrats opposed.

“We think it’s a good idea to put this in law now because it’s difficult to predict where this is all going,” said Rep. Scott Plakon, R-Longwood, who is sponsoring the bill along with Rep. Bob Cortes, R-Altamonte Springs. “Some have said, ‘Well, it’s unnecessary.’ I would hope that that’s so, quite frankly, so there’s no harm in putting in an extra layer of protection.”

While the bill (HB 43) doesn’t specifically mention gay marriage, it says that churches and clergy do not have to perform a wedding or allow a reception if it goes against sincerely held religious belief. But it was clear during questions, testimony and debate on the bill that it is a response to the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision giving gay couples the right to marry.

While pastors and lawmakers acknowledged the state and federal constitutions protect churches, some pastors expressed fear that a future legal decision could diminish that protection and praised the bill for giving them added protection.

Pastor Gerald Bustin of the Open Door Community Church in Summerfield said the bill is “extremely necessary” for pastors.

“We will die before we will give up our religious freedoms in the United States to any group or any organization regardless of who they are, whether they’re government or whether they’re an LGBT organization or whoever because we will stand for God and what we believe God has told us to stand for,” he said.

Pastor Harold Thompson of Miami Beach Community Church said the bill creates a division.

“Search your heart. Look at the true intent of this bill. It is not to protect pastors, it is not to protect the church, it is to protect an agenda. It is nothing more than a wolf in sheep’s clothing, intending to deceive, intending to harm,” he said.

Democratic Rep. Lori Berman of Lantana said the bill was pandering to fear.

“This is legislation looking for a problem that doesn’t exist,” she said. “This bill is not just an added layer of security, it’s a clear message of disapproval of same-sex marriage.”

The bill has one more committee stop before it can be considered by the full House. A Senate bill (SB 110) sponsored by Sen. Don Gaetz has yet to be heard.



## Campaign For A National Park For Stonewall Comes to Saugatuck

BY BTL STAFF

The National Parks Conservation Association, in partnership with the Saugatuck Center for the Arts and the Saugatuck Douglas Historical Society, will host a special program as part of the Center’s ongoing “Intriguing Conversation” series on Saturday, Oct. 17.

The event will begin with the Saugatuck Douglas Historical Society discussing local efforts to establish a gay history initiative, followed by a conversation with renowned Stonewall historian David Carter and Stonewall uprising participant Philip Bockman about the history of the 1969 Stonewall riots and recent efforts to create a national park at the site.

Carter attended college at Emory University, majoring in religion and received an M.A. in South Asian Studies from the University of Wisconsin. Soon after moving to Wisconsin, he became a gay activist and spent more time on activism than he did on studies. Carter founded the Madison Committee for Gay Rights and cofounded The United. He and two friends started what was apparently the nation’s second gay television series, “Glad To Be Gay.”

Carter moved to New York in 1985 and went to work for Chelsea House Publishers, where he proposed and helped launch two new series: lesbian and gay biographies and lesbian and gay studies. In 1998, with a grant from the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, he researched and nominated the site of the Stonewall Riots for the National Register of Historic Places. The Stonewall site was added to the Register in 1998 and the following year was made a National Historic Landmark.

For more information about the campaign to establish a national park at Stonewall, please visit [npca.org/](http://npca.org/) stonewall and follow the conversation online using [#NatIParkForStonewall](https://twitter.com/NatIParkForStonewall).

Carter published “Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution” in 2004 and assisted with the WGBH film on the Stonewall Riots for the American Experience series as well as a BBC program on Stonewall. Carter lives in New York City.

Bockman was raised in the Midwest at a time when being gay was considered a crime and a mental illness. While a student at the University of Michigan, he was thrown out for being gay. Bockman then fled to New York City only to find that the great “liberal” city was in the midst of a crackdown involving raids on the neighborhood bars, and harassment for simply walking down the street. Bockman wanted to be a psychotherapist, but was told he could not, because people would find out his “secret” identity. So he studied English, taught high school and lived a “furtive” gay life – until Stonewall, which changed everything for him, as it did for so many others.

A Stonewall uprising participant, Bockman became part of Gay Activists

Alliance, GLAAD and other political groups, and wrote for The Native, a gay newspaper, as well as Christopher Street Magazine. Fulfilling a lifelong dream, he became a psychotherapist at the age of 52. Bockman practices in New York City and resides in Philadelphia with his partner Paul.

The June 1969 events at New York City’s Stonewall Inn sparked a revolution in America. A weeklong uprising by LGBT patrons against routine police raids on the bar inspired LGBT communities throughout the country to organize in support of their civil rights. Within two years following those historic events, LGBT rights groups were organized in nearly every major city.

America’s National Park System tells diverse stories and teaches valuable lessons about Americans’ shared heritage. From Yellowstone National Park to Gettysburg National Military Park to Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park, the U.S. National Park System has always grown to include and protect for future generations the underrepresented stories, like those at Stonewall, that have shaped the national identity.

For more information about the campaign to establish a national park at Stonewall, please visit [npca.org/stonewall](http://npca.org/stonewall) and follow the conversation online using [#NatIParkForStonewall](https://twitter.com/NatIParkForStonewall).

National Parks Conservation Association has also posted a petition to encourage President Obama to use his executive authority and create a national park for Stonewall.

*Saugatuck Center for the Arts is located at 400 Culver St., Saugatuck. For more information on the event and the campaign, visit [www.npca.org](http://www.npca.org).*

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### Clinton Says Jail Was 'Right Thing' For Kentucky Clerk

MOUNT VERNON, Iowa (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton says that jail was the “right thing” for a Kentucky clerk who refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

Speaking in Iowa Wednesday, the Democratic presidential hopeful said Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis was “treated as she should have been treated.”

Davis spent five days in jail for defying a court order and refusing to license gay marriages. Several Republican presidential candidates have vocally defended Davis, including former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

“People are totally entitled to their private, personal beliefs, religious or otherwise, but when you take an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States, that is your job,” Clinton said, adding that people are free to agitate to seek to change laws.

Clinton spoke before over 700 people at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, as part of a two-day swing through the leadoff caucus state. She also pledged to fight for gun control measures, seek immigration reform and defend the Affordable Care Act.

Clinton also criticized the Republican primary field, saying the rhetoric in that contest was reaching a “new low.”

“I think we all have to speak up and speak out when they say things,” Clinton said. “I’ve gone very clearly after the comments that not just (front-runner Donald) Trump, but some of the others have made.”

### Lawmakers Want Gender Restrictions In School Bathrooms

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Two Republican legislators are proposing a law that would bar transgender students from using the locker room or bathroom assigned to the gender with which they identify.

Rep. Jesse Kremer and Sen. Steve Nass want to require school boards to designate bathrooms and locker rooms as exclusive to one gender. They also want the state Department of Justice to defend school districts in lawsuits that challenge the requirements.

“This bill reinforces the societal norm in our schools that students born biologically male must not be allowed to enter facilities designated for biological females and vice versa,” Kremer wrote in a memo sent Tuesday to lawmakers.

Kremer tells the State Journal that the legislation is aimed at providing safety and privacy to students.

The proposed legislation, he said, is the

result of a situation in the Kewaskum School District in which a student who was born female but identified as male repeatedly used a school bathroom for boys.

The Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund said the bill singles out transgender students for discrimination.

“Transgender young people already face immense harassment and bias when they are just trying to participate in their school environments as their authentic selves. Legislation like this would further stigmatize transgender students and harm their health and well-being,” the group’s executive director, Michael Silverman, said in a statement Oct. 7.

### 2016 Presidential Candidate Ben Carson Compares Gay Marriage To Car Seats

Presidential hopeful, author and retired Johns Hopkins neurosurgeon Ben Carson has a history of making offensive statements about the LGBT community and other minority groups. His opposition to same-sex marriage is well known but many believe that the Republican candidate’s recent remarks are out of this world.

Carson, in his new book titled “A More Perfect Union,” talks about the issues of altering laws to allow same-sex couples to marry.

“Laws and regulations should be designed to address normal situations while providing special mechanisms for the creation of exceptions in abnormal situations,” Carson writes, according to PinkNews. “Changing the law governing the normal situation in order to accommodate the abnormal situation is like requiring that car seats be designed to accommodate conjoined twins as well as anatomically normal children.

“The more sensible thing would be to require car seats to accommodate typical children and design special car seats for atypical children as needed,” he continues. “This principle can be applied to a host of situations in our nation. For example, most people are heterosexual, and changing the definition of marriage to suit those outside that definition is unnecessarily complicated.”

Democratic National Committee spokesperson, TJ Helmstetter, responded with a direct comment on both Carson and the Republican party for their views on marriage equality.

“We’ve heard it all before from the Republican field, and now we’re reading it in Ben Carson’s book,” Helmstetter said. “Carson, Trump, Bush, Fiorina, Rubio and the others – it’s no coincidence that they agree on so much. They would shut down the government to defund Planned Parenthood, and they’d all take our country backwards.”

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# BTL Weddings & Anniversary Celebrations

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## Tennis Shoes And Keeping It Simple

Betty Olding And Jenny Schumacher Marry, Share Advice With Young LGBT Couples

BY AJ TRAGER

Every week, more and more LGBT couples are finally tying the knot. Couples that have been denied access to equal protection under the law are now able to share in the joy of matrimony, and Betty Olding, 71, and Jenny Schumacher, 83, are one such couple.

When Olding and Schumacher met in 1972, Schumacher was working as a nurse and Olding worked at AT&T. Schumacher was married, had three children and rarely, if ever, stirred the pot. She did what was expected and followed a closeted path that many in her generation did.

"I was always thinking in the back of my head about who I would be and who I was," Schumacher recalled. "And then I found somebody who I had an affair with. That's when Betty came into the picture. That's when we got together and I accepted who I was. I got divorced and here we are."

Over the last 43 years Olding and Schumacher have seen it all and stuck by one another through good times and bad times, through sickness and health. They were legally married before 70 family members and friends on Sept. 26 by longtime friend and Detroit pastor, Deb Dysert of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit. Their autumn wedding consisted of dancing, vows and the blending of the sands ceremony, their alternative to the more traditional unity candle.

They try to follow the rules of KISS, or "Keep It Simple, Stupid," and don't try to do anything super elaborate. Their September wedding was their third commitment ceremony following one in 1998 and then their civil union in 2001.

They spent much of their relationship keeping their love a secret. Or, at least, keeping it mostly quiet in public. Tennis shoes became a meaningful signal for



Betty Olding and Jenny Schumacher met in 1972 and have been together for 43 years. They were finally married on Sept. 26 by Detroit Reverend Deb Dysert of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit.

them and their love. They now have tennis shoes printed on pins that rest on their necklines and had tennis shoes frosted onto their wedding cake.

Schumacher moved in with Olding in 1973 and gave custody of her children to her former husband. At that time Olding and Schumacher "couldn't tell anybody" and they were worried what sort of treatment the kids would receive

in school if the administration and the students were to hear about their relationship.

"That's when we started our thing about tennis shoes," Olding described. "We have a pin around our neck. We would say tennis shoes and that meant, 'I love you.'"

Schumacher had a stroke in February

See Keeping It Simple, page 20





# BTL Weddings & Anniversary Celebrations

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Gina Calcagno and Nicolette Siragusa have been together for 15 years. They have participated in two domestic partnerships, a civil union and a church wedding over the years and were finally legally married on Oct. 1. Photo by Roxanne Frith Photography

## Lesbian Power Couple Finally Ties The Knot

BY AJ TRAGER

A lesbian power couple who have worked hard to improve LGBT equality in the state, Gina Calcagno and Nicolette Siragusa, have finally tied the knot.

“We are thrilled that we were able to solemnize, legally, today, what we have been living for the past 10 years. It is our hope that we are one of the last couples to go through the trials of uncertain legal standing in our own relationship,” Calcagno told BTL.

Calcagno, former coalition manager of Michigan for Marriage, and Siragusa, a pastor with the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Grand Ledge, were finally married Oct. 1 before the Lansing City Capitol building after 15 years together.

Calcagno joined Michigan For Marriage in January and was pivotal in spreading the stories of many same-sex couples in the state who were eagerly awaiting the right to marry. Over the course of their partnership, Calcagno and Siragusa have been very active in establishing equal rights for same-sex couples in the Christian community and under state

law. Since the U.S. Supreme Court decision in June, Siragusa has officiated the weddings of dozens of same-sex couples, many of whom who have been together for decades.

Ten years ago they signed a domestic partnership in Cook County, Illinois, followed by a civil union in New Jersey in 2007. They held a church wedding a year later in Illinois. After moving to Michigan, Calcagno and Siragusa were one of the first to sign a domestic partnership in East Lansing in 2013.

The Oct. 1 ceremony was officiated by Nathan Triplett, mayor of East Lansing, who quoted part of the U.S. Supreme Court majority opinion written by Justice Anthony Kennedy in the same-sex marriage case Obergefell v. Hodges.

“While I’m proud that East Lansing provided an opportunity for recognition of loving relationships through our (domestic partnership) registry, I’m even more pleased that couples like Gina and Nicolette now have the equal marriage rights that they deserve and that our Constitution demands,” Triplett wrote on his Facebook.



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## ► Keeping It Simple

Continued from p. 16

of this year, a situation that Olding says made her closer to her spouse.

"I never thought about saving money, or worrying about this or that," Olding said. "I never thought about it. I have grown too, myself. Especially since the stroke. You take on a whole new responsibility. I just think that we grew into a oneness."

They say the trick to a long-lasting partnership is honest communication. They value one another and agree that open and constant communication is the best way to ensure couples stay on the same page and connected throughout the curves of life.

"I think it's wonderful that anybody can get married," Olding said. "This isn't the old saying that you take your U-Haul on the second date. You really have to think about this and you're in for it. If you're in it, there'll be disagreements. You have to work together."

They caution young couples who, in wake of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in June, are eager to get married to their partners. Schumacher and Olding think some young couples may rush into things and they offer their advice as often as it



Betty Olding and Jenny Schumacher as Detroit Reverend Deb Dysert of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit joins them in matrimony Sept. 26.

is well received.

"My advice: think about it. And talk. And talk. Honesty: that is one thing that we have tried to do with each other. We have gotten mad and stormed at each other. Bottom line to the whole thing is you need to talk about things and know exactly what you will do and why you

are going to do it. Think. Talk and be honest," Olding said. "I am excited for everybody getting married, but it is a commitment that is binding. And isn't something that is just a flick of the pen. Think, talk and be honest. Then decide to go ahead with it."

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Lambda Car Club member Troy Congdon comes from a family of General Motors workers. He joined the Car Club in 2009 and owns a 1967 classic Buick. The car, he says, reflects his fascination with chrome and color. "I love chrome. It's one of my most favorite things in the entire world. That's why I love 50s and 60s cars," he says. "Especially the late 50s, they were all about chrome – how much chrome you could put on the body and paint. That one (color of 1967 Buick) I believe is called fire mist red." BTL photo: Alexander Godin

## For the gentleman of the Lambda Car Club Detroit, a love of car culture has helped unite them as friends and a community

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

**M**aking friends is easy when you have a cool car.

"What year is that?" is usually how conversations start says Rich Kwiecien, owner of three classic cars: a 1962 Ford Galaxie 500, a 1963 Lincoln Continental Sedan and a 1979 Lincoln Town Car.

"You don't even have to know a person. All

you have to do is go up, if you like their car, ask them what year it is and it takes off from there," he says. "It's kind of a weird thing in that you never talk to anybody that you don't know so matter-of-fact for anything else. But when people enjoy their cars, it's just one of those things that you have a bond or a real common interest in and everybody is always willing to talk."

These bonds are what drive the Lambda Car

Club Detroit. Founded in 1981 as the Gay Old Car Owners Society, the club is the largest LGBT collector car club in North America with membership of more than 2,000 people in 32 regions.

You don't need a classic car to join, just an eye for a well-made car. Kwiecien has been a member since 2002, as he explains, "I've always liked cars." His first car was a 1976 Pinto. "Those were the highlights of my life,"

he says with a laugh.

Recently the club traveled up north for their annual Fall Color tour. And although driving anywhere in a classic car can be a leisurely experience, Kwiecien says leisure doesn't come cheap.

"You should have a decent checking account," he says about investing in a classic

See Cars & Camaraderie, page 24

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## ► Cars & Camaraderie

Continued from p. 23

car. "It's very much a benefit if you are handy at doing stuff and you can make some repairs yourself. Otherwise you are writing a lot of checks."

He adds, "But you know what, the enjoyment you get out of driving far exceeds the few times you have to write checks to have a repair made."

Lambda Car Club member Troy Congdon comes from a family of General Motors workers. His father was a home mechanic, but he still leaves the repairs to the professionals.

"I want it to run right," he says with a laugh. Congdon joined the Car Club

**“My dad worked at Ford Motor Company driving test cars. When I was a kid he brought home a different car every night. It was pretty cool.”**

- David Struck, vice president and activities director of the Lambda Car Club Detroit

in 2009 and owns a 1967 classic Buick. The car, he says, reflects his fascination with chrome and color.

"I love chrome. It's one of my most favorite things in the entire world. That's why I love 50s and 60s cars," he says. "Especially the late 50s, they were all about chrome - how much chrome you could put on the body and paint. That one (color of 1967 Buick) I believe is called fire mist red."

And when you're in a car that's colored "fire mist red," you don't drive, you cruise says Congdon.

"It is very relaxing. I like the looks people give when you are driving a classic car. It's a real mellowing experience. Especially when you are driving on the expressway and you're

just doing 60 mph when everyone else is racing doing 100 mph," he says. "You sit back. Relax and drive."

For David Struck, part of the relaxation of a classic car is having a car for work and a car purely for fun.

"Also, it's the old adage of recapturing your youth. I always appreciate my modern car much more when I spend the weekend driving my classic car," he says. "The first car that I ever owned was a 1968 Plymouth Barracuda Fastback. And it was the car that I said I was going to keep it forever. I drove it back and forth to college, put a 100 miles on it and swore I'd never get rid of it. Then one day something else caught my eye ... I

## INFO

### Lambda Car Club Detroit

Lambda Car Club Detroit was founded in 1981 as the Gay Old Car Owners Society. The club is the largest LGBT collector car club in North America with membership of more than 2,000 people in 32 regions.

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See Cars & Camaraderie, page 28



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# BTL

## Drive 2015

# Insider Scoop Into Ford GLOBE

BY AJ TRAGER

**DEARBORN** – Ford Globe, the company's LGBT employee resource group, was founded in 1994 but called itself the "Ford Family" back then. The name was changed a year later to Ford Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Employees – or GLOBE – and they adopted a mission, vision and objectives statement and designed an official logo. The group now has roughly 300 members across the world, with about 170 members in the United States.

Since 2004 Ford Motor Company has received a 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index – a measurement of how equitably large private businesses in the U.S. treat their LGBT employees, consumers and investors – and continues to remain a leader in LGBT corporate equality.

In June of 2000, Ford, Chrysler and General Motors were some of the first companies to adopt health care benefits for same-sex domestic partners of salaried and hourly employees. Implementation of the change took effect in August, and in September of 2000 two pilot training classes on sexual orientation in the workplace were held at Ford manufacturing plants.

Along with its participation in Motor City Pride, this year Ford Globe participated in Kentuckiana Pride, the Chicago Pride Parade, Cologne Pride in Germany and Brighton Pride in the United Kingdom.

BTL sat down with current chairman of the board Bill Peters and former chairman of the board Dr. Greg Stone. Peters joined Ford Motor Company



Ford Motor Company GLOBE board chairman Bill Peters and former chairman Greg Stone. Peters joined Ford Motor Company two and a half years ago and works as a senior IT project manager in the application development project management office, he assumed the role of chairman earlier this year. Stone joined Ford in 1995 and served as chairman of Ford Globe for five years and still serves on the board.

roughly two years ago and works as a senior IT project manager in the application development project management office. Peters comes from a multi-generational Ford Family and lives with his partner of 15 years, Reggie.

Stone is director of occupational health and safety at Ford. Stone joined Ford in April of 1995 as manager of Health, Safety and Security in Ford in Australia. Stone was chairman of Ford Globe for five years and still serves as a board member.

### How did GLOBE form and who was involved?

Stone: The two founders were Alice McKeage and Rob Matras. They were the two people who had the meeting in the living room and really did all of the work. There were a few core founding people. Way back there was an ally outreach coordinator called Bob Burrell. Bob's partner, Tony, still works in engineering here. Bob really was the

See Ford Globe, page 28



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## ► Cars & Camaraderie

Continued from p. 24

don't say that anymore about cars.”

Currently, Struck has two classic cars: a 1967 Chrysler New Yorker Coupe and a 1968 Chrysler Newport Convertible. He purchased the New Yorker within the last year and has had the Newport for about 15 years.

“My dad worked at Ford Motor Company driving test cars,” he explains. “When I was a kid he brought home a different car every night. It was pretty cool.”

Struck is the vice president and activities director of the Lambda Car Club Detroit and has been involved in the club for about 14 years.

“We do a lot of activities around town and to be able to socialize with my all my old cars when I didn't do much of that before, I get to enjoy them with other people now,” says Struck, as he explains, a passion for cars is not limited to race, gender or sexuality. “People find us interesting, especially the straight car clubs – that we are a gay car club because they think that all gay men want to do is dress as women. They don't understand that we're just like them. And have the same passion as them.”



Rich Kwiecien is the owner of three classic cars: a 1962 Ford Galaxie 500, a 1963 Lincoln Continental Sedan and a 1979 Lincoln Town Car. “You don't even have to know a person. All you have to do is go up, if you like their car, ask them what year it is and it takes off from there.” BTL photos: Alexander Godin



## ► Ford Globe

Continued from p. 26

first one to do the ally outreach to the plants and so on, and he was very courageous because 10-15 years ago that was even a less friendly place than it is now, and Bob was an ally employee who faced a lot of challenges in doing that.

### How has GLOBE changed since you joined?

Stone: It was originally formed because they needed to advocate for the company to change the policies and do the benefits and that sort of stuff, so there was a lot of advocacy and so on. And a couple of things happened: the policies and things were OK and then of course we went through a downturn, too, so a lot of things became ‘nice to do.’ We are really in the process of trying to rebuild our membership.

### Why did you decide to join GLOBE?

Peters: Long story for me but I've known about GLOBE since inception. I've only been working for Ford Motor Company for 2.5 years now. I knew about it because they have a public facing website and they were in the news a lot for many of the things that they did early on for the company by being out there and getting the (domestic partner) benefits and making people aware. I was an agency contractor employee for a year and joined just shortly after the middle of that time.

### What has been the most challenging part of assuming the role as chairman?

Peters: 1. Understanding the full impact that GLOBE has beyond what my narrow vision was – I knew what it means based on our objectives – but GLOBE has a much farther reach within and outside Ford. And 2. Understanding that and being able to consume that and absorb that within the position; being able to make sure that I'm not overstepping, too.

### How is the role of GLOBE going to change now that we have marriage equality? What is the future of domestic partner benefits at Ford?

Peters: That's interesting that you ask that. There are companies out there that aren't sure if domestic partner benefits can stay domestic partner benefits – you're just dropping the same-sex in front of it, because they are a domestic partner. You can be in a same-sex or an opposite sex relationship and need domestic partner benefits. But if you choose to get married then you would go under the policies of being a married couple. So, I think that's going to be a challenge that not only Ford has but any company that has offered domestic partner benefits – to assess if that is something that that company wants to maintain by dropping the same-sex in front of domestic and keep domestic partner or say, ‘Now that marriage equality is here, you get married or you don't.’ It's new for everyone.

### What does the future of GLOBE look like?

Peters: Going forward, it's about helping to promote an inclusive environment within work and within opportunities in the company. There isn't a single policy that we need to change. We can all with our husbands, wives or partners still get our benefits and discounts – it's all there. I don't think there's anything policy wise that we need to advocate for. I go back to the HRC CEI index. A lot of that is on there and it explains a lot of that. The sought-after employers have the policies in place. I think our biggest challenge moving forward is helping the company understand what inclusiveness is. I think the company understands that. It is just how do companies do that.

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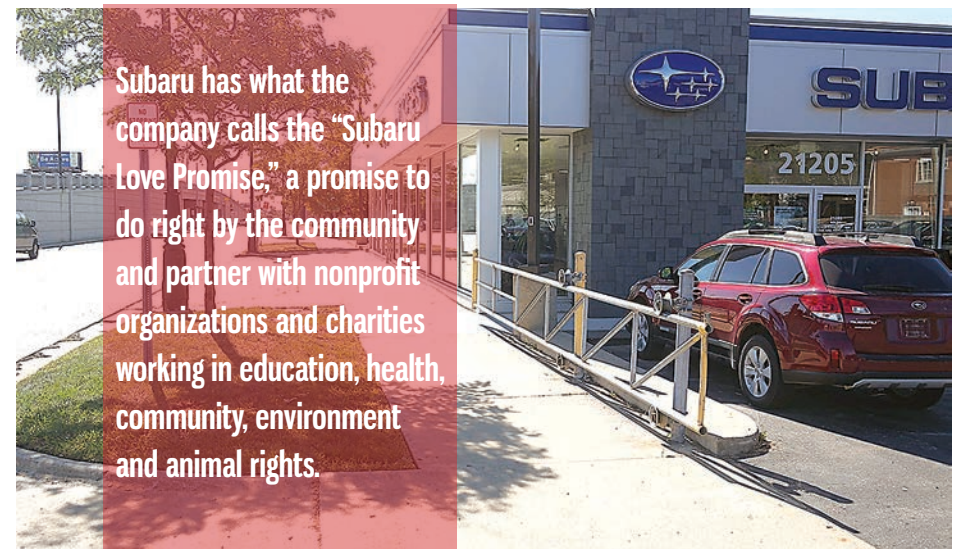


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Subaru has what the company calls the "Subaru Love Promise," a promise to do right by the community and partner with nonprofit organizations and charities working in education, health, community, environment and animal rights.

Hodges Subaru's new location at 21205 Woodward Ave. in Ferndale. The company has been advertising with Between The Lines for 20 years and is committed to maintaining a relationship with the LGBT community. BTL Photo: Ann Cox

## Longtime BTL Advertiser Hodges Subaru Moves To New Location On Woodward

BY AJ TRAGER

**FERNDALE** – Hodges Subaru, Metro Detroit's only Subaru specific dealer, has been a long-time advocate for the LGBT community and is committed to maintaining that relationship.

The premiere retailer of new and used Subaru vehicles began advertising with Between The Lines 20 years ago after a long-time LGBT client, Shea Howell, suggested that they do so. They started with two ad publications a month, but have since grown to have a much more regular ad presence.

"We cater to a lot of alternative lifestyles, couples or individuals," said principal partner Felipe Mendiola. "So we like to stay with them and inform them with what is going on here and what we may have that they will be interested in."

Mendiola joined the Hodges Subaru team in 1982 after marrying the owner's daughter. He works very closely with principal partner Bill Garcia and together they run the Ferndale based dealership. After spending roughly 65 years at their former location just north of 9 Mile on Woodward, Hodges Subaru recently made a big move to 21205 Woodward Ave., just north of 8 Mile Road. The change is ideal for Hodges Subaru, which now has extended room for their service center and for exterior parking.

"It is amazing that we've been working in that small place," Mendiola said.

Along with expanding the service center,

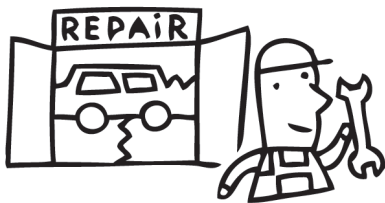
Hodges Subaru now has an extended customer waiting area and the new car building has an open space and clear glass so that those passing by can see the available products.

Subaru has what the company calls the "Subaru Love Promise," a promise to do right by the community and partner with nonprofit organizations and charities working in education, health, community, environment and animal rights. Every year Subaru owners and retailers participate in "Share The Love," which gives back to five charities across the country by donating \$250 per sale for every car sold between November and January. Last year Hodges Subaru donated to Almost Home Animal Rescue League and Haven, but has not yet released who will be the benefactor of Share The Love 2016.

Last year was the biggest year for Hodges Subaru, selling around 640 new and used vehicles. Subarus, Mendiola says, have really grown over the last decade.

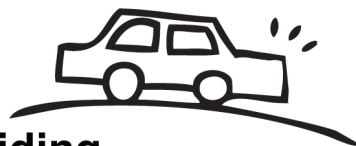
"Before we were an unknown entity unless you were an avid car researcher," Mendiola explained. "But now people are including us in their shopping list (a candidate to test drive.) Before it was always a challenge. We are a small company, very nimble in changing things. I think about 10 years ago they decided to really cater to American consumers. Developers added more leg room and shoulder room in the cars and changed design every 12 to 18 months. That's what keeps and attracts a lot of people."

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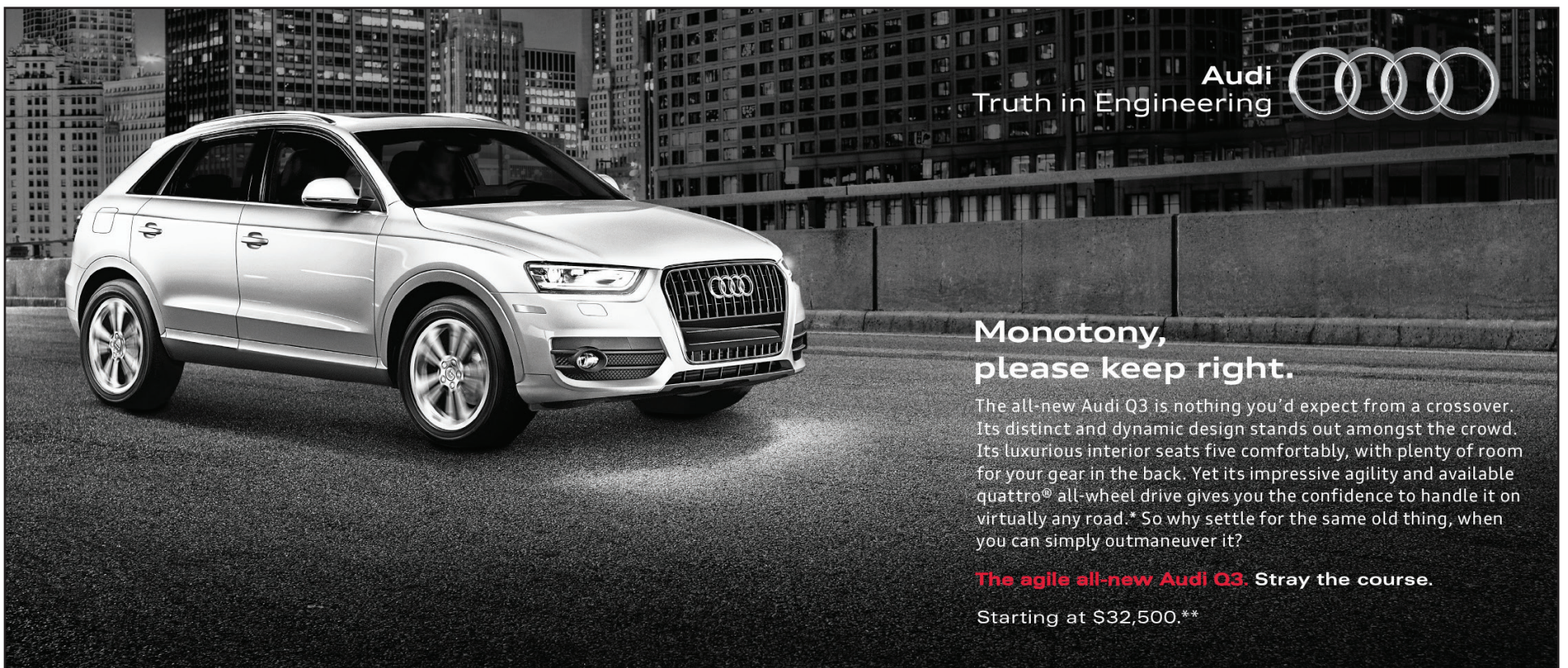
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# Your Lamborghini, Or Mine?

## Auto Companies Continue To Cruise Into LGBT Market

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It wasn't too long ago that the right-wing American Family Association – known for getting its membership to boycott groups, organizations and products – targeted Ford Motor Company for running 2005 Land Rover and Jaguar sales ads in *The Advocate*.

Ford reluctantly gave in, and for a time left the LGBT market alone. Since then several automotive companies, including VW and Audi, are including the rainbow market in important advertising strategies.

Outstanding among these is Subaru of America, basing its marketing on its own initiated extensive research of gay and lesbian automotive preferences of style, color choices, driving performance and actual user feedback.

As a result, the company continues to show marked LGBT profit gains, and garners LGBT buyer loyalty and support.

(Lesbians take note: Subaru Research finds that “lesbians are four times as likely as other heterosexuals counterparts to own a Subaru Outback No. 1.”)

Shortly after the AFA Ford boycott, the *New York Times* commented on increasing automotive trends catering to our community in its groundbreaking automotive article, “Gay by Design or a Lifestyle Choice.”

The *Times* piece, dated 2007, reports what is perhaps by now stating the obvious: “Cars are no more straight or gay than cellphones, office chairs or weed whackers. But in recent years that truism has not stopped a perception among motorists that certain cars can, in the right context, be statements about a driver’s sexual orientation.”

Says Ramone Johnson, former Saturn

engineer and a respected gay automotive journalist, who writes a yearly column “Top 10 Gay Cars” (*About.com*) says, “Driving a stylish car can be a way of taking control back and saying, ‘This is who I am.’”

He finds in his experience what he feels a gay man looks for in buying a car: soft lines, vibrant personality, fashion-forward red gauges and other styling cues.

A catalyst for monitoring and aiding automotive companies to understand and accommodate LGBT requirements in car choices and same-sex needs is *Gaywheels.com*. It’s been around since 2005, compiled by automotive specialist Joe LaMuraglia. (Joe drives a Mini Cooper convertible).

About *Gaywheels* he says, “We are dedicated to promoting responsive consumerism and affecting change by encouraging car shoppers to patronize gay-friendly companies throughout the vehicle purchase process.”

*Gaywheels.com* also provides key advocacy information about automotive companies that sustain fair treatment to LGBT employees and that provide requisite benefits for those in same-sex marriages. Covered also are automotive reviews, personal driver profiles and travel suggestions.

Thinking of retiring to Florida? A recent survey conducted by the South Florida Gay News lists these as its best-selling choices for enjoying sunny driving:

- Best Sports, Porsche Boxster \$50K
- Best Luxury, Audi A7, \$61K
- Best SUV, Jeep Grand Cherokee \$29K
- Best Sedan, Mazda 6, \$22K
- Best Economy, Ford Focus, \$17K – in spite of the AFA!



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# 'DIVAS' IN DETROIT

## Las Vegas Legend Frank Marino On His Career As A Queen

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

If you've ever been even near Las Vegas, Nevada, you've probably heard of Frank Marino. Whether it was advertisements for his longtime show, "Divas," or even walking

along the street named after him, Marino's tenure as the longest running headliner in the city has cemented him as one of the country's premier female impersonators.

Marino spoke with BTL before bringing "Divas" to Detroit at 8 p.m. Oct. 16 at

MotorCity Casino and Hotel's Sound Board, one of a few select locations that get to witness the tour. "There is no difference (between the Las Vegas and traveling versions of the show)," Marino says. "It's basically the same show; I pick very few cities I go to. MotorCity

Casino is one of the ones I'm really looking forward to."

Detroit was specifically one of his favorites because of his love for Motown. "I want to put all the Motown acts in the show. I hope they'll appreciate them as much as I do there."

Marino admits he's only been to Detroit one time before. The reason? "I was going to Canada, and I made the limo driver stop because I wanted to go to Motown," he says. "I'm a very huge Diana Ross fan, so, if I was going to be that close (to Detroit), I needed to go and see where my idol started." Marino even began his career impersonating the chanteuse. "I started out impersonating her," he notes, "until I realized I wasn't black and that I couldn't sing. I had to find a white comedian to do, and that's how I ended up with Joan Rivers ... but Diana was my first."

In addition to Marino's own drag persona, he's most famous for his Joan Rivers impersonation.

Rivers, who died last year, formed a relationship with Marino over the years (though it began with her attempting to sue Marino in the 1980s). "I got to be such close friends with her that her daughter Melissa invited me to the funeral," he reflects. "I was going to take the act out of my

show for awhile, and she said, 'If anybody would want you to continue, it'd be my mom.' So now I do a tribute rather than an impersonation." Is there much of difference between tribute and impersonation when it comes to one of the greatest insult comics of all time? "Absolutely nothing," Marino laughs. "But it sounds nice on paper."

Though impersonating Rivers is close to his heart, Marino prefers doing himself. "I open the show as Joan Rivers, but for the rest of the show I do my own femme fatale character, which is just Frank Marino in drag," he says. "A comedian in drag, like RuPaul would be a singer in drag."

"I am emcee and I am the star. The show opens with a big 'Vegas opening,' it's got dancers and everything. Then I come out and I do Joan Rivers," he adds. "Then I introduce all the famous female superstars. I'm bringing Diana Ross, I'm bringing Patti LaBelle; I have younger ones, too, like Rihanna, Cher, Madonna. There will be 15 different characters."

Despite his fame as a female impersonator, and even with Logo's "RuPaul's Drag Race"

and with the queens featured during the recent Miley Cyrus-hosted MTV's Video Music Awards, Marino doesn't think drag is as mainstream as some people seem to think. "I don't think (drag) is anymore mainstream than it was," he says. "I still think mostly drag queens are watching that show ('RuPaul's Drag Race'), and people that have been fascinated with it before. So I don't know if that's made it anymore mainstream."

Nonetheless, Marino's own drag show audience is composed of more than drag queens: "Middle American comes and sees my show. It's Mrs. Smith from the grocery store. There's

everything from prom kids to senior citizens. Men enjoy it just as much as women, sometimes even more.

"I think more mainstream people get to see my show than on a show like 'Drag Race,'" Marino says about "Divas." "Drag Race' is so far back on your cable channel that middle America can't even find it, you know what

I'm saying? If I can't find it, the people that know nothing about drag aren't going to find it either. I think by traveling around we're making it mainstream. Our show is definitely one that men and women both love, because it's just a fun art form. I wish it could be more mainstream, and the ones who make it mainstream are the ones who did 'Tootsie' and 'Mrs. Doubtfire' and 'To Wong Foo.' I was in the movie 'Miss Congeniality 2,' and that has a drag sequence too. Things like that put it out there."

After his tour, when he returns to Las Vegas with the other divas, look for Marino's projected reality show. "I'm working on a reality show, so I'm hoping that soon I can add reality TV star to (my resume)," he says. "It's just going to be my crazy life and the crazy, fun, colorful people around me."

Colorful people might not involve other drag queens on the circuit – "I don't really know any," he laughs – but he does hope to work with certain celebrities in the future. "I would like to work with Diana Ross," he laughs. "Anybody in Michigan who knows her from the good ol' days, please hook us up!"

**“I was going to Canada, and I made the limo driver stop because I wanted to go to Motown. I'm a very huge Diana Ross fan, so, if I was going to be that close (to Detroit), I needed to go and see where my idol started.”**

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# BTL Cool Cities Ferndale



## Scare Tactics: 10 Halloween Marathons For You & Your Boo

BY MIKEY ROX

Before the ghoulish parties kick off and trick-or-treaters roam the night, curl up with your own special cuddle monster for these scary TV-and-movie marathons sure to give a fright.

### FearFest, AMC

Now's your chance to catch up on the most talked about show on television, "The Walking Dead," during the "Zombie Apocalypse" lead-up to the season 6 premiere early in October. Then settle in for a few classic chills as Oct. 31 draws closer with holiday standards like "Resident Evil," "The Amityville Horror," "Child's Play," and "Friday the 13th."

### 'Ghost Adventures' Marathon, Travel Channel

Explore the haunted houses, hospitals and asylums of America during this 15-hour back-to-back block of episodes beginning 9 a.m. Oct. 30.

### 31 Days of Halloween Spook-a-Thon, Syfy

Enjoy cringe-worthy content all month long, including venerable horror film series like "Insidious" and "Hostel" along with a handful of original movies, including "Night of the Wild," "Ominous," "They Found Hell" and "The Hollow."

### 'Evil Dead' Night, Starz

Watch Ash Williams single-handedly battle the forces of evil over and over again in this "Evil Dead" marathon that will play on loop for 24 hours ahead of the new scripted series "Ash vs. Evil Dead," premiering at 9 p.m. Oct. 31.

### 'Twilight Saga' Marathon, FX

Let's be honest – the only reason anyone watched the "Twilight Saga" was to catch glimmering glimpses of Edward Cullen's abs and Jacob's perpetually shirtless peccs. Relive those quivers during replays of the vampire-versus-werewolf trilogy that takes a bite out of Halloween beginning at 5 p.m. on Oct. 30.

### Cinemax Horror Movie Marathon

The network's After Dark programming swaps its skin for spooks on Oct. 31 with "Carrie," "Dracula Untold," "Sweeney Todd," "Annabelle," and more.

### 13 Nights of Halloween, ABC Family

If you prefer your thrillers and chillers with more bark than bite, tune into this festive but family-friendly schedule of semi-scary flicks like "Casper," "The Nightmare Before Christmas," and the seasonal can't-miss "Hocus Pocus."

### TMC Horror

If you have a penchant for a particular

genre of horror – namely rogue body parts (Oct. 9), scary kids (Oct. 16), literary horror (Oct. 23), and Val Lewton films (Oct. 30) – make room on your DVR for this weekly themed marathon that will feature titles such as "Mad Love," "The Bad Seed," "Dr. Jekyll and My. Hyde," and "The Body Snatcher," respectively.

### Halloween FREAKend Marathon, Nat Geo Wild

It doesn't get much wilder – or weirder – than with multiple eps of nonstop freak show "World's Weirdest," featuring mutant, mole rats and murderous animal siblings, airing from noon to 7 p.m. on Oct. 31.

### 'Scream Queens' Marathon, FX

Catch up on FOX's devilishly campy horror-comedy series starring Emma Roberts, Lea Michele, Nick Jonas, and original "scream queen" Jamie Lee Curtis, from 6 p.m. to midnight on Oct. 31.

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

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# Taylor Davis Dazzles Ferndale Fans With 'Nerdy' Violin Renditions

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Internet sensation Taylor Davis brought her viral violin songs and videos to Ferndale last week. The YouTuber is most known for her "nerdy" covers of video game, anime and movie music, as well as for her original compositions off of her 2015 self-titled album. She is known on YouTube as "ViolinTay."

The performance, held at Ferndale's The Magic Bag, opened with a large screen mimicking a classic video game opening. Salome, Davis' friend and accompanying pianist, "selected" animated figures of both her and Davis on the screen before Davis came out to applause.

Davis opened the show with one of her most well known covers, a high-tempo rendition of "Dr. Wily's Theme" from the original Nintendo Entertainment System game, "Mega-Man 2." She would later close the show, pre-encore, with her most popular YouTube cover of the "Pirates of the Caribbean" theme.

After her opening, Davis proceeded to have a variety of videos play behind her, from her YouTube music videos to thematic clips; for example, shots of winter scenery were shown as she played the main theme from the video game "Skyrim," known for its snowy setting. A unique twist to these videos came with her YouTube clips – Davis often perfectly synched her performance stylings with what she had previously recorded, often leaving a "double image" of Davis plucking the violin.

The violinist's interactions with the crowd were brief, but genuine. She repeatedly thanked the audience for supporting her, particularly as this stop was part of her first ever tour. The Ferndale stop was special in particular, she noted, "Because Detroit used to be my home town. And it's nice to be here for this weather!"

In favor of banter, Davis kept the music rolling. Original pieces like "Awakening" and "Reflections" would be followed by her self-proclaimed "nerdy covers." Renditions of music from the Nintendo video game series, "The Legend of Zelda," were the most prominent. A medley of "Song of Time" and "Song of Storms" from "The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time" was her first foray into the Zelda music library. Later, she'd perform "Gerudo Valley" from the same game. At the close of the show, she would perform one encore song – a cover of the original "Legend of Zelda" theme.

Davis told the crowd at one point that video games often trumped video games in her life.



"My mom used to incentivize me to play violin with video games," she said, laughing. "She'd say, 'OK, 30 minutes of violin, then you can play video games.'"

The performer also dipped into anime, or Japanese animation, themes. She performed "Grief and Sorrow" from the anime "Naruto" as well as "Brothers" from the show "Fullmetal Alchemist," both of which she had recorded on her 2012 album, "Gaming Fantasy."

Any in the audience who may not have been familiar with her more niche performances were treated to other more general performances, including a pop cover. In addition to more of her original pieces, like "Nebulous," Davis also premiered her not-yet-published-on-YouTube video, "Hidden Falls," for one of her more popular original compositions. The music video featured Davis performing in front of Oregon's natural scenery.

The almost 90-minute show left Davis' fanbase mesmerized, particularly for how diverse the crowd proved to be. The Magic Bag was filled to standing room of not only young fans but many middle-aged followers. Davis remained gracious to said fans for the rest of the evening, spending time to meet fans, take pictures and sign autographs directly following the show.

Taylor Davis' music can be seen at [www.youtube.com/user/violintay](http://www.youtube.com/user/violintay).

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# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Oct. 15

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

**Free HIV Testing Day for National Latino AIDS Awareness Day** 8:30 a.m. Ingham County Health Department, 5303 S. Cedar St., **Lansing**. 517-887-4424.

**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

**Healthy People & Planet Wellness Festival** 4 p.m. The event offers exhibits, presentations and roundtables promoting healthy, holistic, organic, non-toxic, eco-friendly, natural, sustainable, plant-based, fair trade, alternative and green products, services and programs. Enjoy show specials, samples, music, door prizes, yoga, massage, wellness programs, food concessions, and fun activities for all ages. Admission and convenient parking are free. MI Green Team, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. www.Hppfest.com

**The Parent Network** 6 p.m. This group aims to assist parents in understanding their child's identity, while also giving parents the opportunity to socialize with other adults who have LGBT children Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. www.Kglrc.org

**Speed Friending (QUEST)** 7 p.m. Spirit

Day: Wear purple! Part of OUTober. EMU LGBT Resource Center, **Ypsilanti**. www.Emich.edu/lgbtrc

**Bright Half Life** 7:30 p.m. Deep in the heart of every true love lies the truth of its inevitable end. Time Out New York calls this Critics' pick "Romantic! Virtuoso!" For sheer loveliness, you won't surpass Tanya Barfield's exquisite BRIGHT HALF LIFE" and the New York Times says "BRIGHT HALF LIFE shows the volatility in a long-term partnership, the joy and desolation, the hurt and help - all intermingled, all at once." Straight from its New York run, this shatteringly romantic play swirls us through decades in an instant with soul mates Erica and Vicki, as they explore marriage, children, skydiving and the infinite space inside the moments of a life together in this play. Theatre Nova, 416 W. Huron Street, **Ann Arbor**. 734-635-8450. a2theatrenova@gmail.com www.Artful.ly/theatre-nova/store/events/6413

**Throwback Thursday** 7:30 p.m. Different movies each time. Tickets: \$12. The Berman, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-661-1900. www.Theberman.org

### Friday, Oct. 16

**Divas** Sound Board - Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 800-745-3000. www.Motorcitycasino.com

**Frank Marino's Divas** 8 p.m. Tickets: \$17-\$37. Sound Board - Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 800-745-3000. www.Motorcitycasino.com

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

### Saturday, Oct. 17

**Theatre Bizarre** Tickets: \$85. Theatre Bizarre, 600 Temple St., **Detroit**. www.Theatrebizarre.com

**Home and Lifestyle Shows of Michigan** 10 a.m. Tickets: \$5. Street Marketing, Hewitt Drive, **Ypsilanti**. 248-347-4350. terri@streetmktg.com www.Homeandlifestyleshowsofmichigan.com

**Annual Witches Ball** 7 p.m. 21+. Tickets: \$40+ Michigan Pagans, 8201 E. Old 13 Mile Road, **Warren**. www.Meetup.com/Michiganpagans

**Intriguing Conversation: Campaign for a National Park For Stonewall** 7 p.m. National Parks Conservation Association, in partnership with the Saugatuck Center for the Arts and the Saugatuck Douglas Historical Society, 400 Culver St., **Saugatuck**. 269-857-2399. www.Npca.org

### Sunday, Oct. 18

**LGBT Parenting Support Group 1** a.m. The purpose of the group is for LGBT families to have a monthly opportunity to get together to get to know one another and to discuss topics of interest. Free. Organization Name, 318 W. Nine Mile, **Ferndale**. 248-955-3219. info@natureplayhouse.com www.Natureplayhouse.com/

**Lysistrate: A Woman's Translation** Tickets: \$10+. Theatre and Dance at Wayne, 3424 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-577-2960. www.Bonstelle.com

**Transgender Youth Empowerment Workshop** 9:15 a.m. FREE includes lunch and t-shirt multiple sessions to choose from throughout the day including self-



## Editor's Pick

Garbage, the world renowned alternative act that got its start in the 1990s, will perform in Royal Oak Monday, Oct. 19. Scottish singer Shirley Manson fronts the band and is well known for her LGBT advocacy, having even stopped a concert to host a gay marriage proposal. Garbage is also known for its borderline gay anthems, including their song, "Androgyny," off of their 2001 album, "Beautiful Garbage."

After forming in Madison, Wisconsin, Garbage released their self-titled debut album in 1995 and rode a wave of visually arresting, female-fronted alternative rock bands. The album spawned the hit singles "Stupid Girl" and "Only Happy When It Rains" and was certified double platinum in Australia, the U.K. and the U.S.

The 89x presented show is open to all ages. Doors are at 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 19. Tickets range from \$39.50-60. The Royal Oak Music Theatre is located at 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. To purchase tickets, visit [www.axs.com/events/279526/garbage-tickets](http://www.axs.com/events/279526/garbage-tickets).

defense, vocal techniques, spoken word poetry, fine art collage, music sharing, style. To participate please register in advance and you must be between the ages of 12 and 23. Learn about your rights, bullying and how to connect with trans friendly business when job career planning. Stand with Trans, 290 West Nine Mile Rd, **Ferndale**. 248-739-9254. roz@standwithtrans.org http://standwithtrans.org/empowerment\_workshop

**Livingston County PFLAG Monthly Meeting** 2 p.m. Please join us for our monthly support group the third Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. Livingston County PFLAG, 200 W St Paul St., **Brighton**. 517-

548-0839. LivingstonPFLAG@aol.com www.Facebook.com/pflaglivingston

**Bisexual Peer Group** 4 p.m. Our group meets monthly on the third Sunday & discussion relates to bisexual identity. Building is handicap accessible using ramp to rear entrance. Bisexual Peer Group, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. paylor9@icloud.com Facebook.com/groups/110918256984/

**Make That Change: Mosaic Youth Singers in Concert** 4 p.m. Tickets: \$32-37. The Berman, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-661-1900. www.Theberman.org

**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

### Monday, Oct. 19

**Intersections: The Theft of Black Queer Women's Work** 5:30 p.m. Part of OUTober. EMU LGBT Resource Center, **Ypsilanti**. www.Emich.edu/lgbtrc

**Jewish Ensemble Theatre Gala** 6 p.m. Joyce and Dr. George Blum to be honored. Jewish Ensemble Theatre, **Farmington Hills**. 248-788-2900.

**Garbage** 7 p.m. Tickets: \$39.50-60. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. 248-399-2980. www.RoyalOakMusicTheatre.com

**Jazz in the Gallery** 7:30 p.m. A local jazz ensemble, led by pianist and vocalist Brandon Perkins, rehearses and holds casual jam sessions in the Pittmann-Puckett Gallery every Monday evening. Jazz in the Gallery is open to the public. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Rd., **Ferndale**. (248) 398-7105. khug@goaffirmations.org http://goaffirmations.org/programs-services/community-events-activities

### Tuesday, Oct. 20

**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

**I AM Debrief: Language and Identity** 3 p.m. Part of OUTober. EMU LGBT Resource Center, **Ypsilanti**. www.Emich.edu/lgbtrc

**MCHR Fall Film Series** 7 p.m. Tuesdays

in October. \$5 Donation at the door. Michigan Coalition for Human Rights, 11 Mile and Woodward, **Royal Oak**. www.MChr.org

**Domestic Awareness Event** 7:30 p.m. Dawn Farm Education Series, 5305 Elliott Dr., **Ypsilanti**. 734-485-8725. www.Dawnfarm.org

### Wednesday, Oct. 21

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

**Senior Koffee Klatch** 1 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 and older. Various discussion topics, social outings, bake-offs, and potlucks are incorporated throughout the year. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Rd., **Ferndale**. khug@goaffirmations.org http://goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

**LGBT Know Your Rights Project** 3 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. www.Jimtoycommunitycenter.org

**Affirmations Run Club** 6 p.m. An informal group of runners and walkers of all abilities. Seasoned marathoners, beginner walkers, and everything in between! Everyone is welcome, just show up! Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. jproctor@goaffirmations.org www.Goaffirmations.org/programs-services/community-events-activities

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

**Yours Truly, John Waters** 7 p.m. A different John Waters film every week. Michigan Theatre, 233 State St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-668-TIME. www.Michigantheater.org

### Thursday, Oct. 22

**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

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in a safe space. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. www.Kglrc.org

### Friday, Oct. 23

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

### Saturday, Oct. 24

**turnt aut** \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-994-3677. www.Autbar.com

**Tret Fure in Concert** 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15-20. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint (UUCF), 2474 S. Ballenger Highway, Flint. 810-232-4023. office@uufint.org www.Uufint.org

### Sunday, Oct. 25

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

**Tret Fure Songwriting Workshop** 12:30 p.m. Weekend songwriting workshop with women's music pioneer Tret Fure. Tickets: \$100. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint (UUCF), 2474 S. Ballenger Highway, Flint. 810-232-4023. office@uufint.org www.Uufint.org

**LGBT Pride Day** 1 p.m. Detroit Lions take on the Minnesota Vikings. Tickets: \$55-100. Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce, Detroit. kheard@detroitlgbtchamber.com www.Detroitlgbtchamber.com

**The Whale** 3 p.m. A play for mature audiences; limited seating. The Theatre Company, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-545-5545. theatre@udmrcy.edu www.UDMarts.com

**TransCend** Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St.,

Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. www.Kglrc.org

**An Evening with Kristin Chenoweth** 7 p.m. Tickets: \$40+. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 800-WHARTON. www.Whartoncenter.com

## MUSIC & MORE

**Blind Pig** "Saintseneca with The Sidekicks & Yowler" 18+. Tickets: \$10. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9 p.m. Oct. 16. 734-996-8555. www.Blindpigmusic.com

**Igudesman & Joo** "And Now Mozart". Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 19. 313-576-5111. www.Dso.org

**The Ark** "The Verve Pipe" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 17. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

**The Ark** "Loudon Wainwright III" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 18. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

## THEATER

**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

**Company Auditions** No pre-registration is required. Production dates are Jan. 7-10, 2016. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, A2CT Studio, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Oct. 17 - Oct. 18. 734-971-2228. A2ct.org

**Jersey Boys** Tickets: \$35+. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Oct. 13 - Oct. 18. 800-WHARTON.

www.Whartoncenter.com

**Nunset Boulevard** Tickets: Cornwell's Dinner Theatre, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Rd, Marshall. Through Oct. 24. 269-781-4293. www.turkeyville.com

**The Piano Lesson** Tickets: \$18. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Oct. 16 - Oct. 25. 248-541-6430. www.Stagecrafters.org

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Detroit Artists Market (DAM)** "The Change We Want To See: Artists Reflect on Detroit" Detroit Artists Market, 4719 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 11 - Oct. 17. 313-832-8540. www.Detroitartistsmarket.org

**DIA** "30 Americans" Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 1 - Jan. 18. 313-833-7900. www.Dia.org

**Flint Institute of Arts** "French Twist: Masterworks of Photography from Atget to Man Ray" Featuring 100 vintage prints. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Oct. 1 - Nov. 8. 810-234-1695. www.Flintarts.org

**MOCAD** "United States of Latin America" Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Sep. 23 - Jan. 3. 313-832-6622. www.Mocadetroit.org

**robert kidd gallery** "Kevin Tolman: New Paintings" Artist Kevin Tolman poses a paradox: The deafening power of a quiet canvas... robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. Oct. 17 - Nov. 7. 248-642-3909. www.Robertkiddgallery.com

**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

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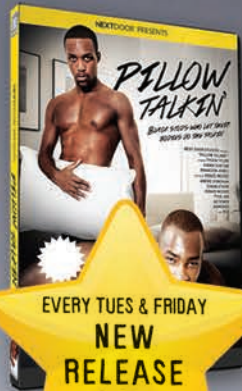
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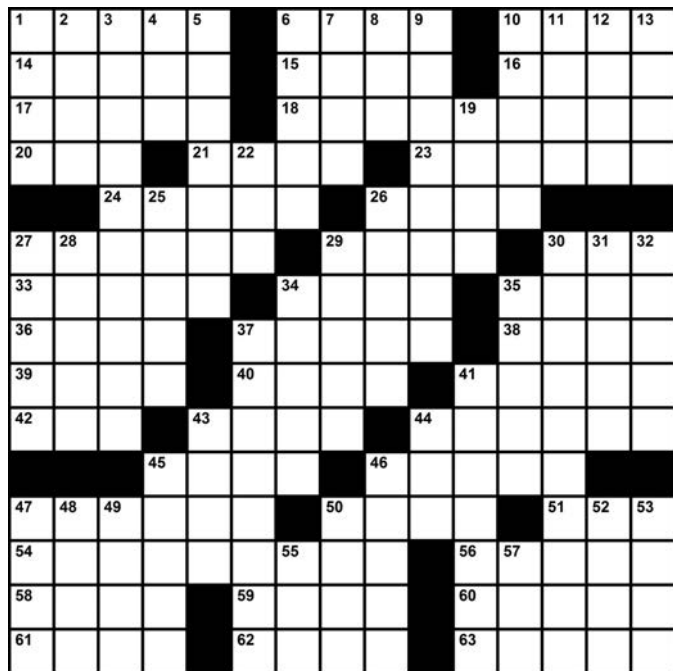


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# Q Puzzle



- 36 Ball of film
- 37 Cold-cocks
- 38 "Art of Love" poet
- 39 Umlaut pair, in Rilke's language
- 40 Shaft output
- 41 Tee shot for Rosie Jones
- 42 That, south of the border
- 43 Abel's assassin
- 44 Word after bottom
- 45 \*See 26-Across
- 46 Raunchy British sitcom
- 47 Gets to second base, perhaps
- 50 Comic strip dog
- 51 Family magazine
- 54 \*Pete, who sang "Rough Boys"
- 56 Full of the latest
- 58 "The African Queen" author
- 59 Early Ron Howard role
- 60 More cunning
- 61 First of the Democratic ass drawers
- 62 Fairy godmother's stick
- 63 Former NFL player Tuaoilo

- Day
- 11 "Terrif!"
- 12 "To be" to Henri
- 13 "Over my dead body!" and more
- 19 Small shooters shoot them off
- 22 Tennessee Williams twosome
- 25 Black pussy cats, e.g.
- 26 Leaves at the altar
- 27 It may be rough
- 28 Circles overhead
- 29 \*"Bicoastal" singer Peter
- 30 \*"John, I'm Only Dancing" singer
- 31 Kind of drab
- 32 Passover dinner
- 34 Richly deserve
- 35 Land of Margaret Cho's ancestors
- 37 Place to exam someone's dinghy
- 41 Man-to-man, to Sue Wicks
- 43 Disney frames
- 44 Crime-fighting org.
- 45 \*"Tonight's The Night (Gonna Be Alright)" singer Jackson
- 46 Changed from a pair to a threesome
- 47 Owner of a gay dog on "South Park"
- 48 Cicero's garment
- 49 Some of Mary's lambs
- 50 Way to come
- 52 Web surfer
- 53 Supermodel Banks
- 55 MPG monitor
- 57 Dottermans of "Antonia's Line"

## Down

- 1 Edifice complex
- 2 Novelist Wiesel
- 3 \*"Cool For The Summer" singer
- 4 Greeting to Maria
- 5 L of GLAAD
- 6 Vehicles for some dykes
- 7 Flair
- 8 Literary rep.
- 9 Erections with ribbons wrapped around them
- 10 \*"Coming Clean" singers \_\_\_\_

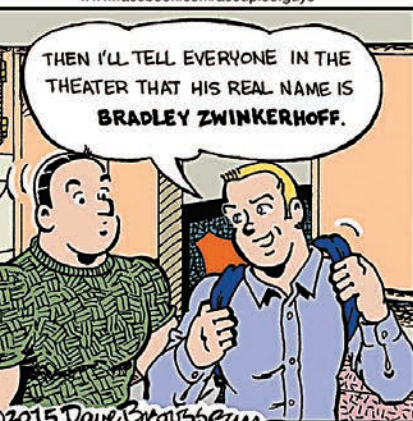
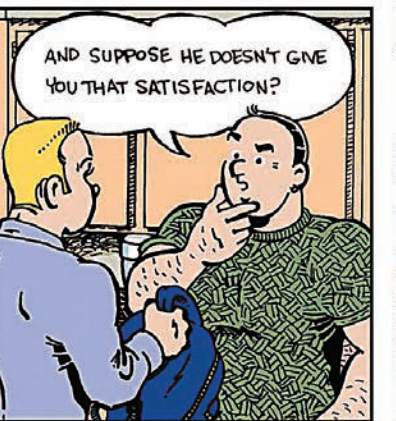
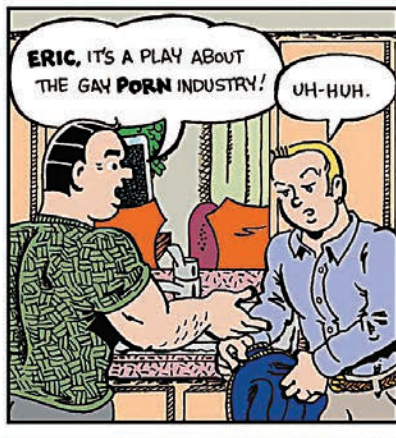
Find solution to this puzzle at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

## Bi Songs By ...

### Across

- 1 Olympic award for Ireen W, st
- 6 Supporter of Julia Morgan?
- 10 They were under Hoover
- 14 Advil rival
- 15 Global rights org.
- 16 Drumbeat start
- 17 They're green when you pluck them
- 18 \*"I Kissed A Girl" singer
- 20 Non-Judy garland

- 21 "I've \_\_\_\_ had!"
- 23 Annoyances
- 24 Meat that may be tender
- 26 \*With 45-Across, "Baby Blue" singer
- 27 The "T" in T.E. Lawrence
- 29 Doesn't feel up
- 30 Old PC program
- 33 Poe visitor
- 34 Miss, to Mauresmo
- 35 Leafy veggie



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS - COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Michigan LGBT Resources

Find hundreds of resources around the state online and in our digital edition of PrideSource Magazine. Visit [www.pridesource.com/directory.html](http://www.pridesource.com/directory.html) or open the digital edition.

### 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.bitweddingexpo.com](http://www.bitweddingexpo.com)



## BTL Pet of the Week

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Find hundreds of great LGBT friendly resources. Digital edition available at [pridesource.com](http://pridesource.com)



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## To Place A Classified Ad


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[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan\\_mens\\_clothing\\_optional\\_yoga](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga)

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# 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DIAMOND JUBILEE GALA FUNDRAISER

## SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2015

DETROIT ZOO INTERPRETIVE GALLERY  
ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN

*A benefit for Stagecrafters*

6 pm Benefactors' Preview

7 pm Drinks, Dinner and more

Early entry for Benefactors at 6pm drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and silent auction preview.

Festivities begin at 7pm dinner, program, silent and live auction. Strolling singers and special guest stars for a magical evening in celebrating six decades of theatre.

### Celebrity Guest of Honor

*Jeffrey Seller*, Stagecrafters' alum, Producer of Broadway's *Hamilton*, Three time Tony award winner of *Rent*, *Avenue Q* and *In the Heights*.

### An Evening with Jeffrey FRIDAY NOV 6, 2015

Broadway producer, *Jeffrey Seller* Enjoy cocktails and an intimate four course dining experience with *Jeffrey Seller*



### Limited Tickets Available

Early bird prices until Sept 30, 2015  
For tickets and information, 248.541.6430  
or [www.stagecrafters.org](http://www.stagecrafters.org)>special events



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