

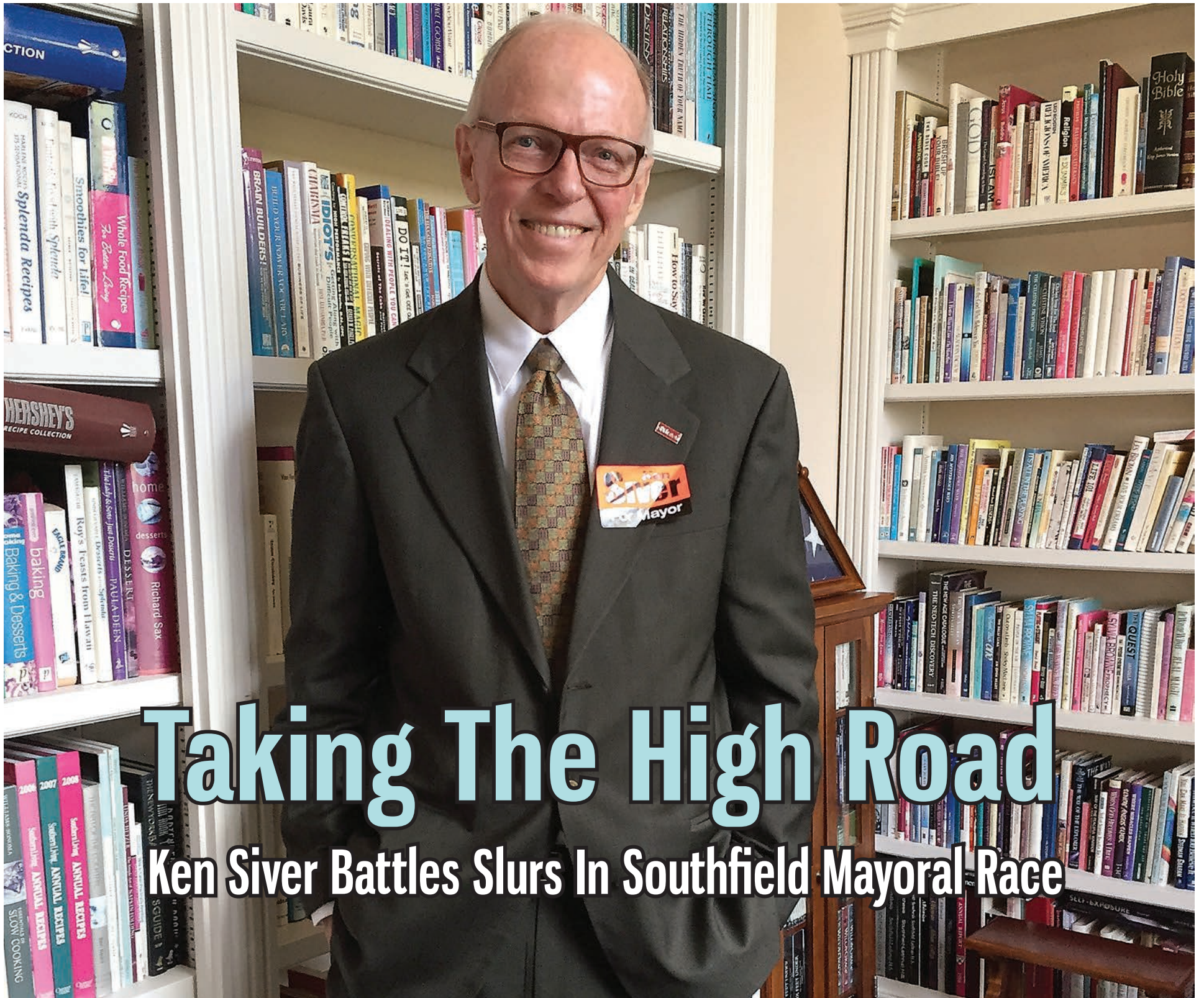
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Hearing Rescheduled For Transgender ACLU Case

Guide For LGBT Muslims Released

Sara Bareilles Talks Growing Up With Gay 'Brothers and Sisters,' Inspiring LGBT Fans



# Taking The High Road

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Resources, strategies, best practices make this report a must read for anyone committed to finding **real solutions to breaking the School-to-Prison Pipeline** and addressing the disparities in school discipline along lines of race, gender and sexual orientation.”

-Michelle Brown

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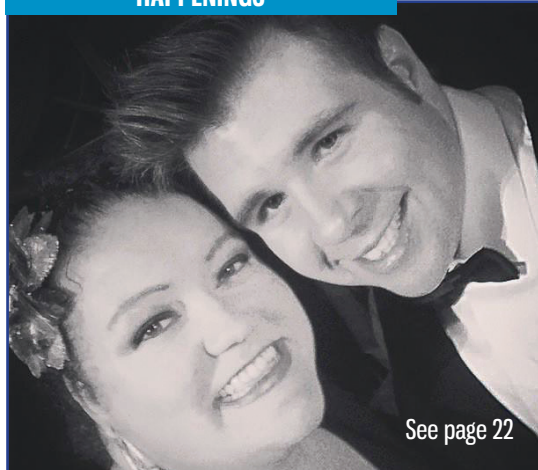
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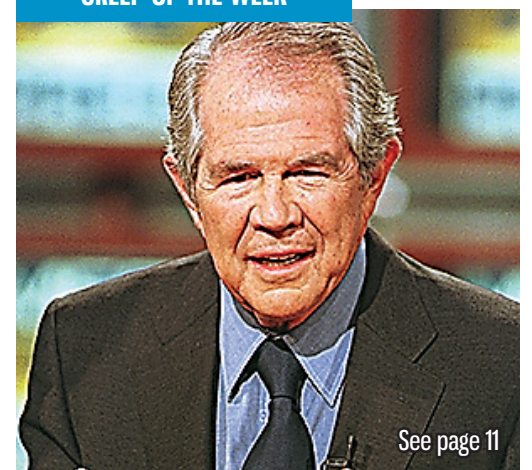
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20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152  
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Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

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#### EDITORIAL

##### Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12  
[susanhorowitz@pridesource.com](mailto:susanhorowitz@pridesource.com)

##### Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24  
[chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com](mailto:chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com)

##### Assistant Editor

Shelby Clark Petkus, [shelby@pridesource.com](mailto:shelby@pridesource.com)

##### Calendar Editor

Shelby Clark Petkus, [shelby@pridesource.com](mailto:shelby@pridesource.com)

##### Staff Writers

AJ Trager, [ajtrager@pridesource.com](mailto:ajtrager@pridesource.com)

#### CREATIVE

##### Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, [kevinbryant@pridesource.com](mailto:kevinbryant@pridesource.com)

##### Contributing Writers

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

##### Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

##### Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter  
Tony Lowe

#### ADVERTISING & SALES

##### Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22  
[jan@pridesource.com](mailto:jan@pridesource.com)

##### Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13  
[anncox@pridesource.com](mailto:anncox@pridesource.com)

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 16  
[donelle@pridesource.com](mailto:donelle@pridesource.com)

##### National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

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## BRIEFS

### Hearing Rescheduled For Love V Johnson

**DETROIT** – A hearing date has been reset for Nov. 4 in the case of Love v. Johnson, a lawsuit filed by the ACLU of Michigan against the state of Michigan challenging the Secretary of State's gender marker policy on driver's licenses and state IDs. The court will decide to either dismiss the case or have it move to trial.

The lawsuit was filed against the state on May 21 on behalf of six plaintiffs challenging a department policy that makes it impossible for many transgender individuals to correct the gender marker on their driver's licenses and other forms of identification.

While some states currently require a simple court order before changing the gender designation on a birth certificate, Michigan is not one of those states. In 2011, then Secretary of State Ruth Johnson implemented a policy that refuses to allow a change of the gender marker on a driver's license or state ID unless the person can produce an amended birth certificate showing the correct gender.

However, obtaining an amended birth certificate can be difficult if not impossible for people born in Michigan. State law requires that a person undergo gender confirmation surgery to receive an amended birth certificate, and not every trans man and woman needs or wants the procedure.

The hearing will commence at 2 p.m. Nov. 4 in room 851 of the Federal District Courthouse, located at 231 W. Lafayette Boulevard in Detroit.

LGBT Special Projects Attorney for the ACLU of Michigan, Jay Kaplan, has asked members of the LGBT and allied community to pack the courtroom with as many supporters as possible, particularly transgender community members.

### Documentary On LGBT Seniors To Play In Dearborn

The University of Michigan-Dearborn College of Education, Health and Human Services, in partnership with the LGBT Older Adult Coalition/SAGE Metro Detroit, will host a screening of the LGBT documentary, "Gen Silent," with a talk-back following on Thursday, Oct. 29. The discussion will include a couple who has been together over 56 years and married on June 26 when the Supreme Court decision was announced. "Gen Silent" is a 60 minute film that follows the lives of LGBT seniors struggling with harassment and closeting in senior facilities or with caregivers.

"I believe this evening will be a wonderful experience for all, whether you are a professional/provider, a friend, an older adult

– or just looking forward to aging safely, regardless of your sexual orientation and/or gender identity!" said Judy Lewis, program administrator for the LGBT Older Adult Coalition/SAGE Metro Detroit.

The film will be played at 6 p.m. The free film and discussion will be at UM-D's Fairlane Center South in the Michigan Rooms, located at 19000 Hubbard Dr., Dearborn. For more information, contact Jonathan Larson at jonalars@umich.edu or 313-593-5052.

### EMU Launches 2015-2016 Speaker Series

BY AJ TRAGER

**YPSILANTI** – Eastern Michigan University will kick off its six-part Equality Knowledge Project Speaker Series Oct. 26 with a presentation on the denial of services to LGBT couples.

Landon Schnabel from Indiana University will present her findings on "American's View on Denial of Service to Same-Sex Couples and Interracial Couples" in the kick off event for the series beginning at 5:30 p.m. in room 350 of the EMU Student Center. Attendance is free and open to all ages.

Schnabel will beg the questions: Should businesses be able to refuse service to same-sex and interracial couples? Does it matter if the reason is religious or not? Would Americans support refusal for explicitly non-religious reasons?

All information that will be presented was derived from a national survey experiment.

The Equality Knowledge Project is a research stimulus program of EMU, intended to accelerate the production of credible research on LGBT equality issues. The project is part of the center's commitment to public information, awareness and education.

Each project will benefit from mini-grants provided by the center to support academic research consistent with its mission and research priorities, will be presented in an on campus lecture at EMU and all completed research projects will be catalogued in the center's Equality Research Reports.

Other upcoming presentations for the Equality Knowledge Project include: LGBT rights and their impact on anti-LGBT violence; disgust and the dynamics of LGBT politics; organizational inequality and policing of LGBT sexual and gender identities post-Don't Ask Don't Tell; LGBT homeless youth surviving in the south; and health related consequences of same-sex and intimate LGBT partner violence.

For more information on the Equality Research Center or its projects, go to [www.emich.edu/equality](http://www.emich.edu/equality).



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# Siver Seeks Mayoral Office Via The High Road

## Kenson Siver Would Be First Openly Gay Mayor Of Southfield

BY JAN STEVENSON

**SOUTHFIELD** – What was supposed to be a routine afternoon fundraiser for a local politician instead became an animated discussion on slurs and the vandalism of Kenson Siver’s campaign signs with anti-gay graffiti. Siver, who is openly gay and white, is running for mayor of Southfield. An ugly stealth campaign to paint him as racist has attracted negative media attention both locally and nationally.

Siver said he and his campaign have been distracted and disrupted by people writing “fag,” “sodomite,” “rapist” and “racist” on his campaign signs, and by middle-of-the-night leafleting of fliers that accuse him of secretly wanting to run African-Americans out of Southfield.

Upset and saddened by these accusations, Siver said he is determined to take the high road and not stoop to the level of this smear campaign.

“There are always a few jerks around, but the overall sense of this community has been one of tolerance,” said Siver. “We have a large Jewish population, a large Chaldean population, African-Americans and white folks – a whole mix of people here and we all get along.”

He choked up when talking about the smear campaign, saying tearfully, “It’s not my experience here. We’ve lived here very well and have had wonderful neighbors.”

State Rep. Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield, introduced Siver to the group of about 30 donors. The event took place at the home of Alan Semonian Oct. 18 and was hosted by attorneys John Allen and Mark LaChey. Moss served on the Southfield city council with Siver before getting elected to the State House of Representatives last year. He is now one of two openly gay members of the House, along with Jon Hoadley from Kalamazoo.

“It says something that this type of activity is done anonymously, in the middle of the night, scribbled on Ken’s signs because we live in an era where this is not acceptable in a public forum,” said Moss. “Anyone who wants to run a whisper campaign about Ken being gay – it is not going to work. Not in 2015. I have had so many straight allies from our communities from all races, all creeds and all ages say to me, ‘This is 2015. This isn’t going to work. Let’s talk about the issues.’”

Moss declared Siver’s opponent, Rev. Sylvia Jordan, to be no friend of the LGBT community. “There is a clear contrast between the two candidates. This is not just an LGBT candidate running for mayor that we should embrace and support – which we should.

“Anyone who wants to run a whisper campaign about Ken being gay – it is not going to work. Not in 2015. I have had so many straight allies from our communities from all races, all creeds and all ages say to me, ‘This is 2015. This isn’t going to work. Let’s talk about the issues.’”

– State Rep. Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield

This is an LGBT candidate running for mayor against someone who has held back our rights time and time again.”

Moss then detailed how Jordan as council president thwarted every effort to include sexual orientation and gender identity as a protected class in the city of Southfield. She voted twice against the ordinance and then tabled the amendment even after the legislative committee and the council as a whole voted to draft the ordinance.

The Washington Post quoted Jordan in 2014 as saying, “I don’t think I knew a gay person until late, late in life. Now it’s being slapped in your face every day,” the Rev. Sylvia Jordan told her African-American congregation at the Family Victory Fellowship Church in Southfield. “Anything that’s against God’s law, we as his representatives must stand up and say, ‘This is against God’s law.’”

Jordan also picketed against marriage equality with a group of pastors in fall 2013 during the DeBoer v. Snyder trial.

Jordan told The Detroit News that her campaign and her supporters had nothing to do with the vandalism or the leafleting. She dismissed the whole incident as the cost of running for office.

Siver, 69, has lived in Southfield for 48 years and is the retired deputy superintendent of the Southfield schools. He’s served on the Southfield City Council for 15 years, and for two years as its president. He is president of the Southfield Non-Profit Housing Board, working to secure safe, affordable housing for lower-income seniors in Southfield.



Wade Rakes, left, from the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund with State Rep. Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield, attorney John Allen who hosted the event Oct. 18 at the home of Alan Semonian, and Southfield Mayoral candidate Ken Siver. BTL photo: Jan Stevenson



This sign along 10 Mile road in Southfield was defaced with “fag,” “racist,” “sodomite” and “rapist” on it.

His campaign for mayor is endorsed by the entire Southfield school board and by U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence, who served as mayor of Southfield for 14 years before getting elected to the U.S. Congress in 2014. Siver’s campaign is also supported by the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, a national organization that supports openly LGBT candidates for public office.

Moss said he is excited about Siver becoming Southfield’s mayor, and warned that Jordan would take the city backwards. “This is an incredible opportunity to have someone from our community as mayor, but on his own

credentials Ken is probably one of the most qualified people in the city of Southfield to be our next mayor,” said Moss.

According to 2010 census data, there were 71,739 people in Southfield. The racial makeup of the city was 70.3 percent African-American; 24.9 percent White; 1.3 percent Hispanic or Latino of any race; .2 percent American Indian or Alaskan Native; 1.7 percent Asian; and 2.4 percent identified as being two or more races.

To learn more about Kenson Siver’s race for mayor of Southfield, go to <http://kensiver4mayor.com/>



Rachel Crandall

## Transgender Michigan And Co-Founder Turn 18

BY AJ TRAGER

**FERNDALE** – Rachel Crandall, co-founder of Transgender Michigan, is turning 18 and GLSEN has come out to help her celebrate.

Beginning at 6 p.m. Oct. 24 in the lower level of the Community Pride Building in Ferndale, Crandall's birthday party will showcase Halloween costumes, laughter and fun all free of charge. The entire LGBT and allied community is welcome to join Crandall and Transgender Michigan to celebrate her "18th birthday" as Rachel.

She says that she has learned a lot over the course of 18 years and joked about writing her own book about transitioning

and the wild world of living as a woman in today's society.

"This means that I am a full female adult. That I have been through the streets of being a girl and I have learned how to be a woman. I think I have learned how poorly women and girls are treated and that they are not respected. I do not mean only transgender women. I am talking about all women," Crandall told BTL. "And many trans women do not fully know what they are getting themselves into – that being a woman is hard. Many people think that everything will be like a fantasy land, and it is a cold, hard world out there for women. People need to know this when they are thinking about transitioning. And I have never really heard anyone really say that out loud."

Every year dozens of LGBT and allied people from Metro Detroit attend Crandall's birthday party that serves as celebration and as a welcome space for transgender men and women who often times come out as their authentic selves for the first time. Attendance is free of charge; however, any and all donations to Transgender Michigan are encouraged.

"The last time we tried to have activities, people just ignored them," Crandall laughed. "But, so many people who come are just looking to socialize with people like them. Many people who come will have never ever met anyone like them."

The Community Pride building is located at 429 Livernois St. in Ferndale. Parking for the event is in the back of building. As of Oct. 19, 37 people had RSVPed for the event. To RSVP, go to [www.facebook.com/events/1792779590949014/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1792779590949014/)

## EMU OTOber Display Found Vandalized

**YPSILANTI** – The LGBT Resource Center at Eastern Michigan University found its Pride flag installation vandalized just days after the center held its annual flag day outside of the Pray-Harrod School of Arts and Sciences.

According to EMU spokesman Geoff Larcom, the flags were damaged the morning of Oct. 13.

"This is being investigated as a larceny of about 80 of the flags," Larcom told MLive. "No indication of a hate crime."

The flags were planted as part of the school's annual OTOber celebration – a month dedicated to LGBT-related events as well as diversity and inclusion on campus.

LGBTRC faculty and staff planted hundreds of small red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet flags to resemble a larger rainbow flag and came together to immediately make the display complete again.

## Affirmations Executive Director Darrious Hilmon Announces Departure

In February, Affirmations Community Center announced that Darrious Hilmon would become the new executive director after a year-long search concluded. Hilmon began his tenure in late March and with less than seven months on the job, announced in a press release Oct. 13 that he would be departing effective Jan. 1, 2016.

The press release indicated that the Board of Directors "has begun the process to identify an Interim Executive Director to ensure that the Center has strong leadership after Mr. Hilmon's departure."

"Darrious told us at the last board meeting that it just wasn't a right fit for him," said Board President Frank Aiello. "I was surprised, as everyone else on the board was, and I'm sad – sad to see him go."

Aiello said that because last year's search is still so fresh, finding Hilmon's replacement will not take anywhere near as long. He also praised Hilmon for bringing on strong staff members that will enable the next director to hit the ground running.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't shell shocked," said Aiello. "But I am also feeling pretty good about finding someone equally strong."



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## Records: Aide To Michigan Congressman Arrested In Baltimore

**BALTIMORE (AP)** – An aide to Michigan Congressman Sander Levin was charged with attacking his boyfriend with a kitchen knife and shovel, according to police and court records.

Timothy Foster, 32, was arrested Oct. 8 and charged with aggravated assault and two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, online court records showed. A phone number could not be found for Foster, and court records do not list an attorney for him.

A police report said officers met a man at a Baltimore hospital, who reported he and Foster argued at Foster's address. The man told police Foster was his boyfriend, according to the police report.

The report said Foster put the man in a chokehold, then lunged at him with a kitchen knife, threatened to kill him and used a gay slur.

Police said Foster's wife got in the way and Foster hit the man in the back with a shovel. The man got into his car and drove to the hospital, according to the report.

The officer saw abrasions on the man's back neck and torso.

Levin's chief of staff, Hilarie Chambers, said the issue is "a completely private matter" and that the employee has been placed on unpaid leave pending a resolution. The Democrat's office had no further comment.

The incident was first reported by CQ Roll Call.

A trial is scheduled for Nov. 10.

## Trans And Being Denied Health Care? Contact The ACLU Of Michigan

The ACLU wants to hear from members of the trans community who are being denied coverage for transition services, including hormone therapy and gender confirmation surgery, due to exclusions in their Medicaid or private insurance policies.

The ACLU is collecting stories for advocacy efforts with the state and is helping people to file discrimination complaints with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Anyone experiencing these kinds of discrimination are encouraged to email Jay Kaplan at [jkaplan@aclumich.org](mailto:jkaplan@aclumich.org) or reach him by phone at 313-578-6812.

# Man Claims He Lost Job At Catholic Home Because He's Gay

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)** – A Virginia man said the bishop of a local Catholic diocese forced his removal from the top job at a diocese-owned assisted living home because he's gay and married to his partner of 30 years.

John Murphy filed a discrimination claim against the Catholic Diocese of Richmond with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission last month. He said he served as executive director of the Saint Francis Home in Richmond for about a week before two deputies of Bishop Francis Xavier DiLorenzo told him that he was being fired because his marriage goes against church doctrine.

Murphy was terminated without severance pay and he and his husband, a retired clinical social worker, are relying primarily on Social Security benefits to get by, he said. The 63-year-old lifelong Catholic said the incident has shaken his faith in his church.

"I thought I found a safe place where I could do good and I won't be judged and I won't be ostracized," Murphy said. "People being discriminated against because of who they love, when it has nothing to do with their performance, is outrageous."

Diana Sims Snider, a spokeswoman for the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, declined to answer specific questions about Murphy's charges, saying she cannot comment on personnel matters. But she said the diocese sees it as a First Amendment issue and expects its employees to uphold the teachings of the church,

"including the values that are consistent with the sanctity of marriage."

"We expect that a Catholic organization or any religious organization should be able to follow the teachings of our faith," said Snider. "We are saying: this is what we do as Catholics, this is what we expect of our employees because this is what we believe to be true."

The Saint Francis Home's day-to-day operations are handled by lay administrators. The diocese doesn't fund the home's yearly operating expenses, but it supports the home in other ways, like allowing it to solicit funds from parishioners, Snider said.

Murphy said he had been told by the president of the home's board of directors, which is made up of the bishop's appointees and handles hiring, that his relationship wouldn't be a problem. Murphy and his attorney said they believe DiLorenzo found out about his marriage after his new employee paperwork was forwarded to the diocese for processing.

At least one board member has resigned out of frustration with the bishop's actions.

"I didn't want to be a part of that decision – not in this day and age," said Sam Dibert Sr., who had been vice president of the board and served on it for more than 20 years. Dibert said he didn't know that Murphy was gay until after he was hired, but it didn't affect his opinion of him or whether he thought he could do the job.

The board's president didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

## Pope Calls For Church That Is Far More Decentralized

BY NICOLE WINFIELD

**VATICAN CITY (AP)** – Pope Francis called Saturday for a Catholic Church that is far more decentralized, where they laity play a greater role, bishops conferences take care of certain problems and even the papacy is rethought.

Francis issued the call during a ceremony Saturday to mark the 50th anniversary of the institution of the Synod of Bishops, a consultative body formed during the Second Vatican Council that was intended precisely to encourage more collegiality in the running of the church by inviting bishops to offer their advice to Rome.

Over the past five decades, the synod has been little more than a talk-fest. But Francis has sought to re-energize it, and the contentious meeting under way at the Vatican, in which conservative and progressive bishops are squaring off over ministering to families, has been the result.

Francis noted that he launched the family synod process two years ago by sending out a questionnaire to Catholic families around the world asking for their input – a strong sign that ordinary lay Catholics have an important role to play in the governance of the church and spreading the faith.

"How would it have been possible to talk about the family without engaging families,

listening to their joys and hopes, their pain and anxieties?" he said.

One of the main themes running through the current synod is whether individual bishops' conferences can take on greater responsibility in charting pastoral strategies to deal with issues like ministering to gays and divorced and civilly remarried couples. Conservatives insist that only Rome can offer such doctrinal guidelines; progressives say the local churches know better what individual circumstances require.

In his speech, Francis said the church needed to reflect further on "intermediate types of collegiality" involving bishops, even going back to some aspects of the greatly decentralized church of the past.

Finally, he said a truly collegial church has implications for the papacy – and therefore relations with other Christian churches that split from Rome precisely over the primacy of the pope.

Francis has been keen to insist that he is perhaps first and foremost the bishop of Rome.

"The pope is not, all by himself, above the church but rather inside it as a baptized Catholic among other baptized Catholics, and inside the episcopal college as a bishop among bishops," he said. At the same time, he added, the pope is called "to guide the church of Rome that presides in the love of all the churches."

Dozens of openly gay employees at Catholic institutions in the U.S have reported losing their jobs since 2010 over their same-sex relationships or support for gay marriage and gay rights, according to New Ways Ministry, which advocates for gay and lesbian Catholics.

The Equal Opportunity Employment Commission ruled in July that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act – which bars employers from discriminating against someone because of their sex, race and religion – also prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

There is a religious exemption in the law, but it goes only so far as to allow organizations from refusing to hire people who aren't part of their religion, said Samuel Bagenstos, a professor at the University of Michigan who specializes in constitutional and civil rights law.

If the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission finds that Murphy was discriminated against, it will try to negotiate a settlement between the two sides. If it finds that there has been no discrimination or a settlement can't be reached, it will likely end up in federal court, where the potential outcome is unclear.

The issue hasn't been tested in court since the commission made its ruling in July and courts aren't required to follow the commission's guidelines.

"This is a very quickly developing area of the law," Bagenstos says. "It's, in some ways, a very open issue in the federal courts right now."

## Indiana Governor Discusses Division On LGBT Protections

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Gov. Mike Pence says he's considering if the concerns of religious conservatives can be reconciled with those of gay rights supporters who want LGBT protections in law.

The Republican spoke to WRTV-TV in Indianapolis. He says nothing has been determined and he's spending time studying the issue and listening to people. He says he's learned Indiana residents cherish faith and don't tolerate discrimination.

His comments come as lawmakers have largely shied away from speaking publicly about LGBT rights.

Democrats have planned to push legislation and several Indiana cities have considered adopting their own lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender protections.

Religious conservatives and gay rights supporters remain divided after last spring's religious objections law, which generated national headlines. Critics say the law could sanction discrimination against gay and lesbian couples.



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## Ah! Those Days Long Gone: Number 2

# Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

**T**hirty-five right. Twenty-five left. Fifteen right. Click! After 60-plus years I can still recall my locker combination at Harry Burns Hutchins Intermediate School, located on Detroit's west side.

I can also rattle off 30 names of my Homeroom 223 classmates: Lenore Abramowitz, Roland Anderson, Judith Berkowitz, Lois Carmichael, Thomas Diamond, Henry Gonte (forever combing his blond hair), Kenny Lenseski (my persistent – and most welcome – gym wrestling buddy), Ella Maxwell, the Wassermans, Melvin and Saul...

Most classmates were Jewish; a few, black. Hutchins, built in 1922 as a model intermediate school, was located near three synagogues, and when the high holidays fell, only a few “goyim” attended classes. We gentiles looked forward to these celebrations, wishing our Jewish buddies mitzvahs.

Hutchins wasn't my neighborhood school. My mom got Board of Education permission for me to attend. She felt nearby Jefferson Intermediate was too rough for me. Each morning for three years, 15 cents plus bus card, I rode safely two miles to Woodrow Wilson and Blaine.

Coming from a poor family, I found prototype Hutchins palatial. Up-to-date library. Wood and print shops. Two gyms. Two swimming pools. Ample auditorium. Staffed cafeteria serving 30-cent lunches. A string orchestra. A school song. A “Hutchins Handbook,” with rules of conduct to be loyally and strictly followed. Or else. Face no-nonsense Ass't. Principal Luther Hale.

**I got A's in gym, not because of any sports prowess, but because I printed well and wrote out attendance slips for two classes.**

Along with academic subjects, I learned to type, balance business ledgers, play cello, write for the Hutchins Star (as contest editor), speak some Spanish, shoot basketballs, do woodwork and soldering, practice public speaking, act, and explore my nascent art talent with two gifted teachers.

My homeroom teacher, who also taught math, was Miss Harriet B. Gaston. (I can still forge her hall pass initials.) “What's under the crust of a cherry pie?” “Who's buried in Grant's tomb?” she'd prompt when I was on the verge of answering the yet unrecognized obvious answer during remedial sessions.

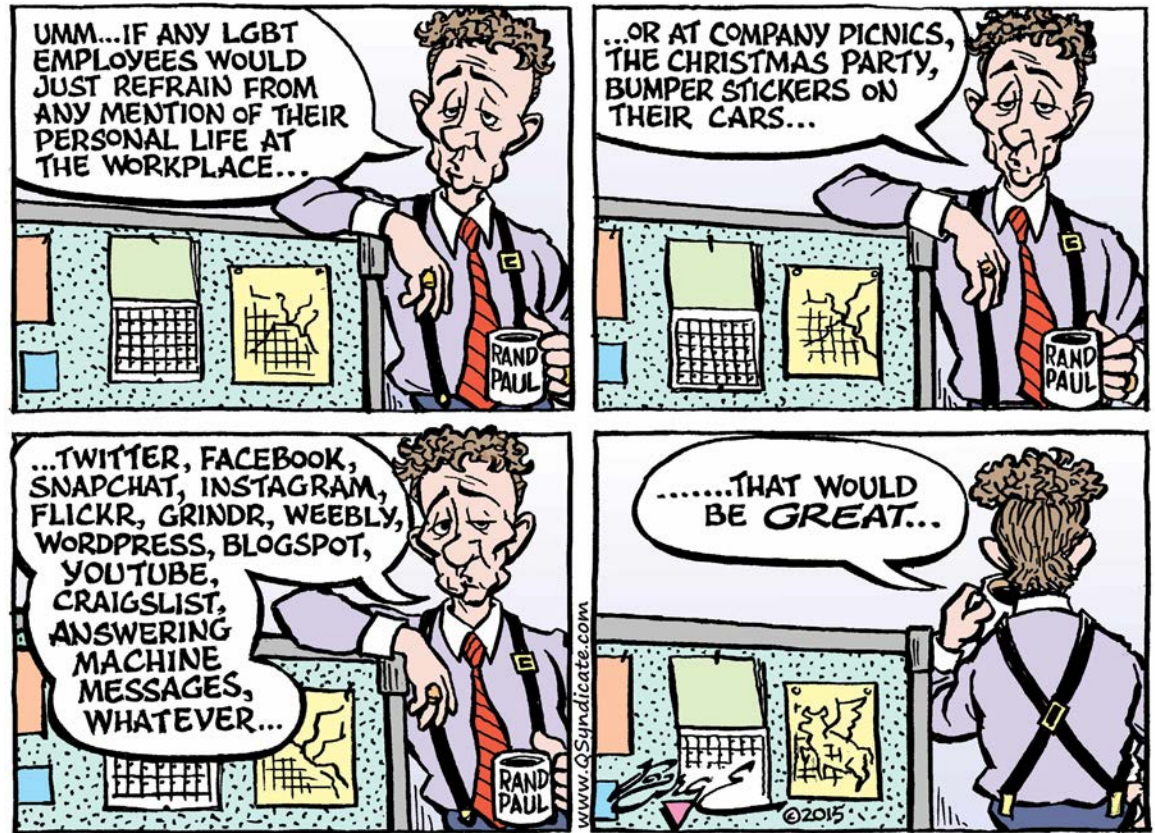
I got A's in gym, not because of any sports prowess, but because I printed well and wrote out attendance slips for two classes. I had swimming once a week. We swam naked, and were shyly curious in the shower to see who had pubic hair status. (I was a washout on that score.)

My most embarrassing moment: the day the girl's gym teacher caught me whistling as the girls passed carefree by an open second-floor window. My punishment – concocted with HBG's stern, but amused, approval – was to spend one full gym period in my pristine white gym shorts among the girl's gym class.

“Girls: young Mr. Alexander, who was impolite enough to ogle you, is our embarrassed guest today,” said Miss Reba Kelly. “I suggest you politely ignore him.” And ignore me they did, ‘til a fire alarm sounded, and I had to march out onto the sports field where staff, students, God (and surely all Orthodox Detroit) bore amused witness to my offense. (That's why I'm gay.)

My last day at Hutchins was sweetly sad. I had many close friends, gotten exceptional groundwork in place for high school and later college, and took initial and confident steps in exploring my writing, music and artist creativity. Our song: “School Ever Glorious.” It was.

As we crossed the stage to receive our diplomas to say goodbye, I tried vainly to hold back tears to no avail: 35-25-15!



BY DANA RUDOLPH

## Mombian

# LGBTQ Families, Past, Present And Future

**I**love LGBTQ History Month almost more than I love Pride Month. Going to grad school in history will do that. Keeping in mind the truism, “History is written by the victors,” and philosopher George Santayana's observation, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it,” I find there's something about looking at our queer past that feels empowering and vital.

A search for LGBTQ parents in history also leads us to some lessons that can help us better understand the full scope of what it means to be an LGBTQ family today.

The history of clearly out LGBTQ parents goes back to just after World War II, when we find evidence that most lesbian and gay parents had their children within different-sex marriages, leading double lives or divorcing and almost always losing custody. The first collective and public activity on the part of LGBTQ parents are discussion groups on lesbian parenthood arranged in 1956 by the Daughters

of Bilitis, the first national lesbian rights organization in the U.S.

The history of bisexual and transgender parents at the time is still foggy. It seems reasonable to assume, however, that some of those labeled gay or lesbian might really have identified as bisexual; some who might now call themselves transgender may have been misidentified as gay or lesbian; and other bisexual and transgender parents have stories yet to be uncovered.

If we leave aside modern definitions, however, our history goes back even further. The Greek poet Sappho, whose island home of Lesbos gave us the term “lesbian,” may have had a daughter named Cleis, which would put the earliest LGBTQ parent at around 600 B.C. Other, better documented queer personalities, like writers Oscar Wilde and Vita Sackville-West, comedian Jackie “Moms” Mabley, and poet Lord Byron were also parents.

All of the above figures had partners of both sexes. This brings us to the important reminder that

the history of LGBTQ parents is not solely a history of same-sex parents. It encompasses them, but includes a wide range of people, coupled and single, across the spectrum, who parented both within and outside of same-sex relationships.

If we take a careful look at queer parents today, we find much the same. In fact, the majority of LGBTQ parents are not “same-sex parents.” Dr. Gary Gates of UCLA's Williams Institute, who has long studied the demographics of the LGBTQ community, noted in a recent paper, “While as many as 2 million to 3.7 million children under age 18 may have an LGBT parent, it's likely that only about 200,000 are being raised by a same-sex couple. Many are being raised by single LGBT parents, and many are being raised by different-sex couples where one parent is bisexual.” Among bisexual parents, only 4 percent are living with a same-sex partner (“In The Future of Children,” Princeton-Brookings, Fall 2015).

Rudolph: Families, next page



BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

## Viewpoint Report Urges Collaboration Between LGBTQ & Racial Justice Organizations To Address School To Prison Pipeline

At the 2012 ACLU dinner in Detroit, Melissa Harris-Perry, author, college professor and host of a weekly news/information broadcast on MSNBC, spoke about the “school-to-prison pipeline” to the progressive mostly white straight and LGBT audience which was sprinkled with a handful of people of color and youth.

After she concluded her remarks, some gay activists asked me if it was true – were students of color more likely to be disciplined, at greater risk of being criminalized, and was it true that, based on third grade testing/observations, future prison beds were planned?

I didn’t have all the supporting

statistics as Perry-Harris, but from years working with youth I knew it was true that youth of color – black, brown, etc. – were in fact more likely to end up dead or in prison than their white peers. From my time working with the LGBTQ community and our youth, it went without saying that our youth – our LGBTQ youth – were equally at risk even if statistics did not accurately reflect their peril.

We all recognized our youth were in trouble, but our approaches differed depending on whether you were gay or straight. The bottom-line is that *all* of our youth are suffering.

We, the “grown-ups,” may be slow to get it, but young people know and are leading the charge.

Just as they understood that love was love and overwhelmingly supported marriage equality, they also understand that economic disparity and the disadvantages inherent in education and the justice system are also equal/civil rights issues. They get that there is no freedom until we all are equal.

Since 2012, the value of building coalitions and working intersectionally have become more apparent especially in youth led actions – think Black Lives Matter.

In September, a new report intended to serve as a resource for organizations – LGBTQ and racial justice organizations –

See Brown: Prison, page 13

### ► Rudolph: Families

Continued from p. 10

Not only that, but Gates adds that most of the children being raised by same-sex couples today “were born to different-sex parents, one of whom is now in the same-sex relationship.” Similarly, Gates says, several studies have

depicts same-sex couples who started or want to start a family together. Because many of those with LGBTQ parents also have a non-LGBTQ parent, we need to acknowledge that the boundary between having an LGBTQ parent or parents and having a straight, cisgender parent or parents is not as clear as we might think. Many grow up with Venn diagrams of queer and non-

picture of what it means to have them.

Author Chimamanda Adichie, in a popular 2009 TED talk, spoke of “the danger of a single story.” She explained, “The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.” Once we recognize the

This brings us to the important reminder that the history of LGBTQ parents is not solely a history of same-sex parents.

shown that transgender people who transition or identify as transgender later in life are more likely to have had children than those who do so at younger ages, which “suggests that many transgender parents likely had their children before they identified as transgender or transitioned.”

The reality of LGBTQ families, past and present, is thus far more varied than the usual media image (both news and fiction), which usually

queer parents, stepparents, birth parents and/or donors.

This is not to say that the experience of a child growing up with, say, a bisexual parent in a different-sex relationship is the same as that of a child growing up with same-sex parents, or that the experience of having cisgender parents is the same as having a transgender parent or parents. We need to recognize all of the distinct experiences of those with LGBTQ parents in order to gain a more complete

full variety of stories within our community, we can better see into our past and understand ourselves today. This LGBTQ History Month, then, take a moment to reflect on the varied stories of our heritage, our present and what promises to be a bright future.

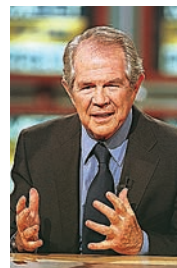
*Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.*

## Creep of the Week

### Pat Robertson

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Thanksgiving is a particularly problematic holiday. I mean, not only do people try to cram



Pat Robertson

the whole extended family into Grandma’s 900 square foot house, but the holiday promotes the story that the Indians and the Pilgrims used to party together and everything was cool (not so much IRL). But as long as you can ignore that part (and most people do), Thanksgiving is supposed to be a time of, well, being thankful. And for some reason we celebrate thankfulness by buying and cooking and eating and then throwing away a shit ton of food.

Sadly for a lot of LGBT folks, Thanksgiving can also be a holiday of exclusion. If you want to send a strong message of “we don’t want you” to an LGBT family member, just tell them that they are welcome to come to dinner, so long as they don’t bring their significant other.

It’s a dick move, as the kids say. But it’s the right move says living museum exhibit Pat Robertson.

On the Oct. 16 episode of “The 700 Club,” a viewer named “Jim” submitted a question regarding whether or not he should allow his gay grandson to bring his boyfriend to Thanksgiving dinner.

“We have made it clear in the past that we love him and he will always be welcome to be a part of our lives, but we will not be a part of the lifestyle he has chosen,” the viewer writes. “I have told him before that the presence of his sex partners would not be welcome in our house.”

First of all, I would like to point out the wording of Jim’s question. He says that the grandson “will always be welcome to be a part of” Jim’s life, but Jim makes it really clear that he does not want to be a part of his grandson’s life. He dismisses it as a “lifestyle” and makes a point to use “sex partners” even though Jim indicates that the grandson wants to bring one particular person.

Robertson’s response? Right on, Jim. “I just believe that you’re taking the right stand,” says Robertson. “Otherwise you become an enabler and you’re condoning that.”

And God forbid a grandpa “condone” his grandson trying to find love in his life.

“There’s a real good chance that he might come out of that so-called lifestyle, but if you’re going along with it, he says, ‘Well, mom likes it, so it’s OK,’” Robertson continues, apparently unaware that moms don’t usually refer to their kids as “grandson.”

And, no, there isn’t “a real good chance” that the grandson will one day un-gay if only his family continues to reject him.

“He’s trying to force you to do something,” Robertson adds. “I mean what if your son is dating a stripper

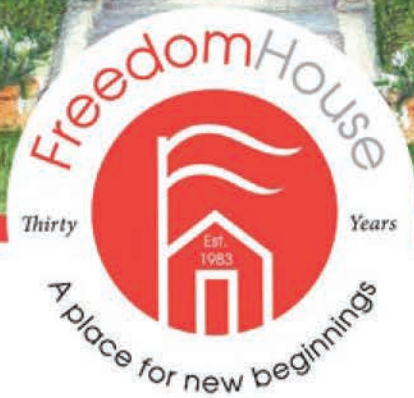
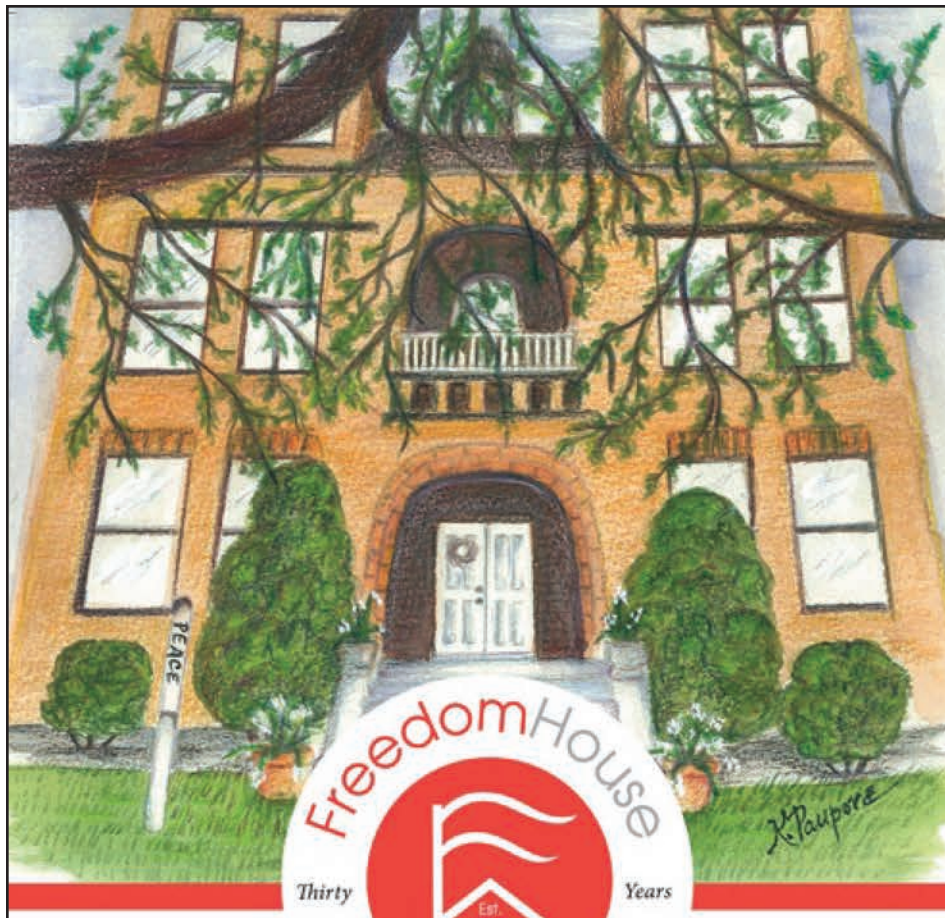
On the Oct. 16 episode of “The 700 Club,” a viewer named “Jim” submitted a question regarding whether or not he should allow his gay grandson to bring his boyfriend to Thanksgiving dinner.

and he wants to bring her home for Thanksgiving dinner and the family says, ‘No! We don’t want her in our house.’”

Well, the simple answer is they’re a bunch of terrible judgmental people and fuck them forever.

The real answer is, of course, more complicated. Relationships of all kinds, whether they’re with your grandfather, your mom or your boyfriend, are messy and difficult. And in this situation Robertson is the enabler, telling “Jim” and all of the people like him that they’re exempt from doing the hard work of being a part of a family. Robertson is basically saying, “Reject someone you love rather than question the belief that God or anyone would demand such a thing of you.”

Robertson believes that “religious freedom” trumps all, even reality. But Jim can pray all he wants and his grandson is still going to be gay. And chances are his grandson isn’t going to spend his life begging Grandpa to be treated as an equal. What Jim needs to decide is if he wants his grandson to think of him as a grandfather or remember him as a ghost.



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# White House Calls For End To Conversion Therapy

BY AJ TRAGER

WASHINGTON D.C. – In a press conference held Oct. 15, the White House discussed a recent report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration that aims to end conversion therapy and support the LGBT community.

"Today we are taking another important step to take care of our young people," said Valerie Jarrett, senior advisor for the White House. "People are determined to make these young people feel safe, and it's a call on everyone to take a public stand against bullying."

The report, "Ending Conversion Therapy: Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Youth," states that LGBT youth should be "supported in their right to explore, define and articulate their own identity" and that same-gender sexual orientation and variations in gender identity does "not constitute a mental disorder" and should not be treated as such. The report also found conversion therapy interventions "are coercive, can be harmful and should not be part of behavioral health treatment."

"No matter what their sexual orientation for gender identity, we want to make sure we are helping them along the way, and that the advice they are receiving is constructive," Jarrett said.

According to the SAMHSA report, youth who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity experience significant health and behavioral health disparities which run the risk of developing negative and social attitudes and discrimination.

"Interventions aimed at a fixed outcome, such as gender conformity or heterosexual orientation – including those aimed at changing gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation – are coercive, can be harmful, and should not be part of behavioral health treatment," the report reads.

Elliot Kennedy, a bisexual trans man and special expert for LGBT affairs from the Office of Policy, said attempting to "fix" sexual orientation and gender identity with mental health treatments is "non-effective."

Conversion therapy has been denounced by every mainstream medical and mental health association, including the American Medical Association and American Psychological Association.

Four states and the District of Columbia have already passed laws banning the practice for minors, and 21 other states including Michigan have introduced similar legislation, according to the SAMHSA report.

HRC and the National Center for Lesbian Rights have partnered with state equality groups across the nation to pass legislation to end the practice of conversion therapy. Laws have already been passed in California, New Jersey, Oregon, Illinois and D.C.

Jarrett said that the president does support making conversion therapy illegal across the

**“Interventions aimed at a fixed outcome, such as gender conformity or heterosexual orientation – including those aimed at changing gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation – are coercive, can be harmful, and should not be part of behavioral health treatment.”**

country and that the White House has evidence that the practice is not in the best interest of the nation's youth.

"Conversion therapy is child abuse, and the Obama Administration has joined our call to ban its practice once and for all," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "This is dangerous junk science that uses fear and shame to tell young people the only way to find love and acceptance is by changing the very nature of who they are. Today's new health report shows the extensive damage that so-called conversion therapy can cause and why it's so urgent that we end it in all 50 states."

The White House called for an end to the practice of conversion therapy in April of this year. One month later, Congressman Ted Lieu, D-California, introduced H.R. 2450 or the Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act – the first federal legislation to prohibit the practice of providing conversion therapy to any person in exchange for money or compensation or advertising such services. The bill has yet to get a hearing and has been referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade.

The SAMHSA report was put together by a team of clinical experts from Abt Associates in the fields of child and adolescent mental health with a strong background in gender development, gender identity and sexual orientation in children and adolescents. The panel included experts with a background in family therapy and the psychology of religion.

NCLR efforts to end conversion therapy can be tracked online by searching for the tag #BornPerfect. Go to [www.NCLRrights.org/BornPerfect](http://www.NCLRrights.org/BornPerfect) for more information.

Visit <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content//SMA15-4928/SMA15-4928.pdf> to read the whole report.

## ► Brown: Prison

Continued from p. 11

interested in working together to address disparities in school discipline along lines of race, gender and sexual orientation, was released by the Advancement Project, the Equality Federation and the Gay Straight Alliance Network.

Advancement Project is a national, next-generation, multi-racial civil rights organization that supports grassroots movements that aim to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline. Equality Federation Institute is the strategic partner and movement builder to state-based organizations that are working on the ground to advance policies that improve the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

The Gay Straight Alliance Network is a next-generation LGBTQ racial and gender justice organization that empowers and trains transgender, queer and allied youth leaders to advocate, organize and mobilize an intersectional movement for safer schools and healthier communities.

“Power in Partnership: Building Connections at the Intersections to End the School-to-Prison Pipeline” explores how the discussion on the school-to-prison pipeline has gone from “a fringe

educational issue to a national youth-led movement anchored by grassroots communities across the country.” It highlights and provides greater detail on how the effects of policies and practices ranging from the underinvestment in public schools to punitive zero tolerance practices (i.e. overuse of suspensions, expulsions and school arrests) have not only on students of color, but especially on LGBTQ students of color and LGBT and other gender-nonconforming

**The bottom-line is that all of our youth are suffering.**

students.

The report not only provides a strong case for collaboration between LGBTQ and racial justice organizations laced with examples of activities from those who have already successfully engaged in “transformative intersectional” work, but also explores barriers to collaboration.

It provides a framework for understanding between LGBTQ activists and racial justice activists by providing basic terminology to facilitate conversations between groups that may have little or no experience working together. It assembles information we

may have not seen the connection and/or parallels in our shared struggles/experiences using a 50 year timeline.

Resources, strategies, best practices make this report a must read for anyone committed to finding real solutions to breaking the School-to-Prison Pipeline and addressing the disparities in school discipline along lines of race, gender and sexual orientation.

But perhaps the most powerful section of the report is the voices of young people themselves speaking out on the importance of intersectionality.

As Ian Palmquist of Equality Federation said in the announcement of the report’s release, “Youth belong in schools, not jails.”

From the mouths of babes to all of our ears, the message of “Power in Partnership: Building Connections at the Intersections to End the School-to-Prison Pipeline” must be, “Together we believe that we will win!”

Visit <http://gaybe.am/pi> to read a full copy of “Power in Partnership: Building Connections at the Intersections to End the School-to-Prison Pipeline.”

*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 [www.twitter.com/mychangeiam](http://www.twitter.com/mychangeiam).*

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## Guide For LGBT Muslims Seeking Renewed Faith Relationship

WASHINGTON D.C. – The Human Rights Campaign launched a new guide on the Islamic New Year to help LGBT Muslims who are seeking to reconnect with their faith and build more inclusive communities.

“Coming Home To Islam and To Self” highlights inspirational stories of American Muslims, including a transgender woman who has maintained her Muslim identity and relationship with God; a lesbian seeking a path back from spiritual disillusionment; and two gay friends working patiently with their families to become more accepting and affirming.

“The Qur’an teaches to embrace and celebrate the diversity of humanity, just as it teaches to fight for the rights of the oppressed,” said Rep. Keith Ellison, D-Minnesota, the first Muslim elected to Congress and a contributor to the guide. “Our faith should inform the work we do to advance human rights and build a more just world. When Muslims around the world fight for civil rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer people, they do it because of their faith – not in spite of it.”

The guide also provides resources and guidance on building fulfilling faith relationships to help U.S. Muslims looking to engage with a faith that upholds, through traditional interpretations, the rejection of LGBT people, which encourages a culture of silence.

“This resource seeks to begin erasing the line drawn by jurists who deny LGBTQ faithful their rightful place in the mosaic of Islam’s pluralism,” said Michael Toumayan of the HRC Foundation’s Religion and Faith Program. “The New Year commemorates the Hijrah – Prophet Muhammad’s escape from persecution in Mecca to safety in Medina – a movement from oppression to freedom that resonates profoundly with the LGBTQ faithful.”

The Muslim guide is the third in a series of HRC “coming home” faith guides – a Catholic guide and general faith guide were released earlier; a guide for Jewish LGBTQ faithful will be issued in coming months. “Coming Home to Islam and To Self” contains multiple resources for the LGBT faithful and encourages them to join the conversation on Twitter at #welcomehome and #LGBTMuslims.

## Five Dow Leaders Named To ‘OUTstanding In Business’ List

MIDLAND – In recognition of their efforts to champion lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality in the workplace, five executives and leaders from the Dow Chemical Company (NYSE: DOW) were today named to the “OUTstanding in Business” list published by The Financial Times, which honors LGBT and ally leaders who actively contribute to an environment where all employees feel safe, are respected and valued, and are able to bring their whole selves to work. Only EY had as many recognitions on this year’s list.

### Top 30 Executive Allies

Andrew N. Liveris, chairman and CEO (3)

“The determination to create an inclusive and respectful workplace is in our DNA at Dow,” said Liveris. “These accolades proudly display Dow’s core values in action. They demonstrate that we are leading by example at all levels of our organization, driving a culture – both within Dow and throughout our communities – that puts every colleague and citizen on equal footing and enables us to unleash the true power of the human element at work.” Ten years ago in Liveris’ first full year as CEO, he led Dow to its first 100 percent rating on the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) corporate equality index, a distinction he has helped to consistently maintain every year since. Liveris supports Dow’s global advocacy for LGBT equality and the company’s policy push in the U.S. at the state and federal levels. His leadership of inclusion by example has earned Dow numerous external awards while inspiring more than half of the company’s global leaders to participate in Dow’s LGBT Employee Resource Group (ERG).

### Top 100 LGBT Leaders

Jim Fitterling, vice chairman, Business Operations (73)

Louis A. Vega, chief of staff and vice president, Olympics and Sports Solutions (15)

Last year, Fitterling came out to Dow’s 53,000 employees in celebration of National Coming-Out Day. Ever since, he has led by example among senior LGBT and ally executives around the world while driving advocacy, supporting policy progress and implementing a strategy towards LGBT equality. He passionately mentors LGBT employees, sharing insights and striving to make a personal difference with each colleague. Vega leads Dow’s Olympic & Sports Solutions business and manages strategic initiatives that require high-level collaboration both within Dow and with other companies, government entities and non-government organizations around the world. Among Dow’s senior-most “out” executives, he serves as management sponsor for Dow’s GLAD network and represents the company on a White House task force on workplace equality. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Victory Institute.

### Top 30 Future LGBT Leaders

Cory Valente, Ph.D., associate scientist, Dow Coating Materials (3)

Tlaca Benavides, Latin America marketing manager (18)

Valente is the global leader for Dow’s LGBT ERG, setting the strategic priorities of the group, bolstering equitable policies and practices, and driving culture change throughout the organization while further enhancing Dow’s reputation. He is a founding member of a Delaware Valley LGBT Consortium comprised of local and multinational businesses to leverage best practices for the betterment of the community.

Benavides launched Dow’s LGBT ERG in Latin America and in just over two years has enabled the launch of three additional chapters in the region. He recently led an LGBT forum for 65 leading organizations to share best practices for promoting inclusion. He also led a multilingual employee and customer campaign against

homophobia throughout Latin America, and implemented a Dow training course for people managers on LGBT sensitivity. Benavides was recognized earlier this year as one of FORTUNE Magazine’s “Heroes of the 500” for his work to drive equality and inclusion in the workplace and throughout the community.

## Leading The Drive For Inclusion And Equality

Dow is a long-time leader in championing a fully inclusive workplace. The company offers best-in-class policies and practices for LGBT colleagues, including equal benefits to same-sex partners for everything from health, dental and life insurance to bereavement leave, relocation and dual career assistance. Dow recognizes survivor benefits for LGBT colleagues under its pension plan and provides transgender benefits.

The company also takes a leading public policy and advocacy position, speaking on Capitol Hill in support of LGBT policies and leading state and federal lobbying activities to bring fairness and equal treatment to all LGBT citizens, including standing in opposition to recent discriminatory legislation in Indiana, Louisiana and Texas. Earlier this month, Dow joined with other major global companies, including Google Inc., AT&T and The Coca-Cola Company, and others in a business coalition to push for rights and protections in the workplace globally, including in countries where LGBT individuals face legal discrimination or harassment.

This year, Dow was named one of the “Best Places to Work for LGBT equality” for the 10th consecutive year, again earning a 100 percent rating on HRC’s Corporate Equality Index. In 2014, Dow was recognized by Amsterdam-based Workplace Pride Foundation as the second most gay-friendly company globally.

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# Lawyers For Kim Davis Say Altered Marriage Licenses Valid

**FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP)** – Lawyers for Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis say the altered marriage licenses her office issued to same-sex couples are valid because they have been recognized by Kentucky’s highest elected officials.

Davis stopped issuing marriage licenses after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June effectively legalized same-sex marriage nationwide. She spent five days in jail for refusing to obey a federal judge’s ruling ordering her to issue the licenses.

When Davis got out of jail, she changed the marriage licenses to remove her name and to say they were issued under the authority of a federal court order. Last month, lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union questioned the validity of these altered licenses and asked U.S. District Judge David Bunning to order Davis and her employees to reissue them.

The ACLU asked the judge that if Davis refused, he fine her or appoint someone else to issue the licenses for her.

Oct. 13, Davis’ lawyers responded in a new court filing calling the ACLU’s request “extreme, unnecessary and improper.” They noted Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear and Attorney General Jack Conway have both

recognized the licenses as valid. And they said the ACLU was trying to “needlessly create controversy where it does not currently exist.”

“Davis has taken reasonable steps and good faith efforts to substantially comply with this Court’s orders, and marriage licenses are being issued in Rowan County that are authorized, approved, and recognized as valid by Kentucky’s highest elected officials,” attorney Jonathan Christman wrote for the Liberty Counsel, the Florida-based law firm that represents Davis.

The ACLU called the altered marriage licenses “a stamp of animus against the LGBT community, signaling that, in Rowan County, the government’s position is that LGBT couples are second-class citizens unworthy of official recognition and authorization of their marriage licenses but for this Court’s intervention and Order.”

But Christman said the ACLU cannot “allege that Rowan County has issued or is issuing marriage licenses to the ‘LGBT community’ that are in any way different from licenses issued to the ‘non-LGBT community.’”

Bunning has not yet ruled on the ACLU’s request.

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## Sara Bareilles Talks Growing Up With Gay ‘Brothers and Sisters,’ Inspiring LGBT Fans

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Sara Bareilles was enjoying a bite at a Boston restaurant recently, and on her way out, the manager stopped her. He wanted a hug.

Inspired by her empowering anthem

“Brave,” this particular young fella, she says, felt compelled to express his gratitude. “As a teen growing up in Oklahoma,” Bareilles recalls him telling her while they hugged, “thank you for your music.”

The urge to give the “Gravity” singer a big squeeze is, of course, unavoidable — she’s

like a friend, and her voice has literally saved lives (in her newly-released memoir, “Sounds Like Me: My Life (So Far) in Song,” Bareilles tells the story of a fan whose suicide attempt was thwarted when her song “Hold My Heart” came on the radio).

The hug-friendly fan, then, would certainly

be happy to know that Bareilles has new music; her latest, “What’s Inside: Songs From Waitress,” is a mix of previously unheard tracks and songs Bareilles wrote for the film-turned-Broadway musical “Waitress.”

In a recent interview with Bareilles, the lovable singer-songwriter opened up about



another longtime passion of hers: LGBT advocacy. During the chat, she recalled growing up around her gay “big brothers and sisters,” and also shared her thoughts on whether celebrities should come out, why she can’t be anything other than herself and her hope for females in pop music.

**How do you react to stories like the one from the Boston restaurant manager?**

It’s still hard for me to understand the impact the song is having. I wrote it as a love letter to a friend who was struggling with coming out as an adult, and it was such an intimate story. It was also so impacted by (fun. guitarist) Jack Antonoff and all the incredible advocacy work he does in the gay community. So, I’m so grateful that the song has taken on a life of its own and is speaking to a message that I deeply, deeply believe in. I’m so proud that it brings either comfort or anything helpful to anybody out there.

**As an ally, how and when did you become so passionate about LGBT rights?**

Growing up, my mom had a lot of gay friends, and so people in the gay community were, essentially, big brothers and sisters to me all my life. I never even thought twice about it until I got older and realized that that wasn’t the norm – it wasn’t everyone’s experience to have an open-hearted and accepting family unit toward a community they weren’t necessarily a part of. To me, it’s about being accepting of an idea that we’re all the same community; it’s almost like, I can’t believe we’re still having the conversation. It’s how I feel about it sometimes. I’m like, “Everybody fuckin’ get on board already! Relax!”

But it’s such an exciting time. It really, really is. And so I feel really grateful that I was raised with the mentality of being an open-hearted and accepting individual. I feel sad for those who weren’t given that opportunity as a child, but I think those patterns of thinking can be unlearned, and I think that’s what’s happening.

**It might surprise some people that you grew up in an open-minded environment. You grew up Catholic, right?**

Yeah, I did.

**How did you and your family reconcile religion with the gay “brothers and sisters” you grew up with?**

The way my parents always dealt with that was... (Laughs) I suppose we weren’t the most devout Catholics in that way. Certainly, it was distilled into this idea that you treat everyone the way you want to be treated. Period. And there are no exceptions to that rule, and that’s the kind of religion that I want to be a part of.

**Regarding “Brave,” you once said in a webisode, “It’s important to be brave because by doing that you also give others permission to do the same.” How do you react, then, to people in the limelight who are hesitant to come out but**

**could potentially inspire so many people if they did?**

(Sigh) That’s a really hard thing to speak to. Honestly, I understand both sides of it. Everyone is on their path, and I really believe that, at the end of the day, people are doing the best they can with what they’ve got. Not everyone is comfortable enough to step into a leadership position and you can’t really judge them for that.

I would love to see everyone step into this holy space of carrying the torch of bravery – it’s just not everyone’s role. If you make someone feel bad because they’re not (out), isn’t that similar to punishing them because they’re quote-end quote “different” in the first place? All of that is a form of judgment. I would rather hope that everyone’s doing the best they can and that eventually people feel safe to be exactly who they are. It’s just so hard. You can’t know what’s going on behind the scenes – why someone is as complicated as they are – and I just wouldn’t want to judge someone’s experience.

**In an industry where authenticity isn’t easy to come by, you have always remained true to yourself. Why has it always been important to give the public your most authentic self?**

I have to give my family a lot of credit. I don’t really know how to be any other way. My whole family – we’re all very bad liars. (Laughs) We don’t know how to do it! There are people out there who are much more graceful and adept at navigating social situations; I just think I default to awkwardness, because when I feel awkward I have to just be awkward. So I give them a lot of credit. But also, those are the kinds of people I relate to. When I see someone being honest in the media, I’m so grateful for it.

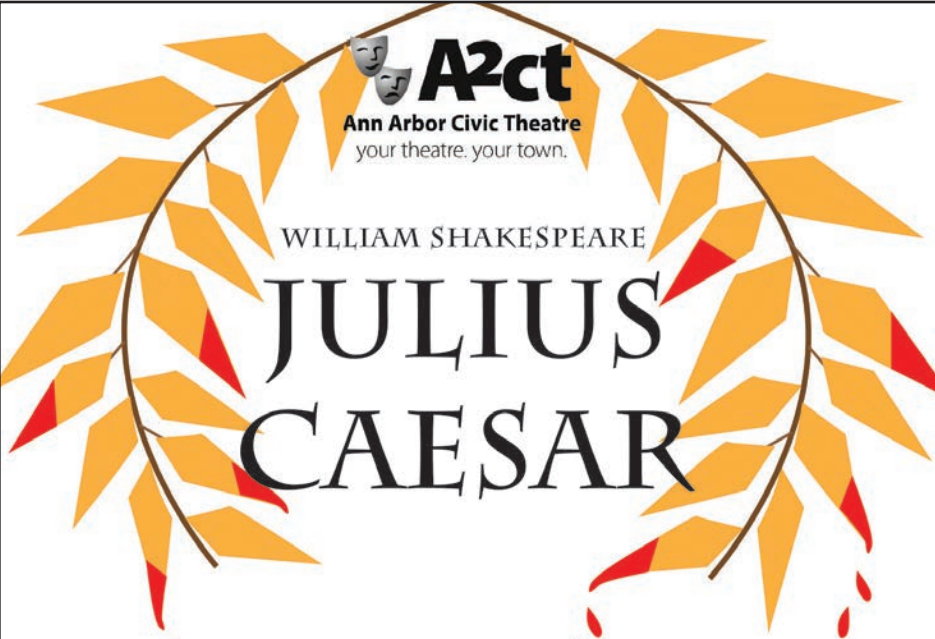
I think everyone has vulnerabilities and everyone feels messy or shameful or not good enough, and I would rather share that and hope to create connection than pretend my life is a highlight reel. It’s just not. It’s human. Celebrity or otherwise, there’s no human out there that has some sort of plateau of happiness – it just doesn’t exist. So, I would rather speak to the highs and lows of what it means to have a dynamic lifestyle and a dynamic life than pretend I’m fucking happy all the time. I’m a mess. (Laughs)

**You featured a lesbian couple, Aly and Andrea, and their surprise proposal in your video for “I Choose You.” How often are you asked to do gay weddings now that’s it’s legal?**

(Laughs) Well, I am asked to do a lot of weddings, and I love weddings, don’t get me wrong. But yeah... it’s really fun. It’s so beautiful to have made a statement with a song that’s really just about love at the end of the day.

The song was inspired by a guy who came up to me after a show and said, “My wife and I wanted to use your music in our wedding, but

See Sara Bareilles, page 23



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# August Wilson's 'The Piano Lesson' Plays On In Royal Oak

BY BTL STAFF

**ROYAL OAK** - August Wilson's "The Piano Lesson," an intimate portrayal of the black experience in 20th century America, is marking a historical milestone for Stagecrafters. This Pulitzer-winning drama is the first all African-American cast production to be presented in Stagecrafters' black-box studio theatre, 2nd Stage. The show runs through Oct. 25 at the Baldwin Theatre in downtown Royal Oak.

Director Jeffery S. Nelson found importance in bringing The Piano Lesson to life on 2nd Stage. "African-Americans get few opportunities in theatre to perform and to tell our history our way. You will see how we love, how we laugh, how we fight, how we joke, how we sing, as well as how we protect our heritage. Our goal is that you will leave enlightened and entertained. My hope is you will not leave the way you came!" says Nelson.

The Piano Lesson is a touching tale of family, history and survival. Set in 1936 Pittsburgh, Boy Willie Charles (William Sinclair Moore of Southfield) and his easy-going sidekick Lymon (Jerrell Lomax of Oak Park) arrive at his sister's home in a beat-up truck filled with watermelons. A sharecropper, Boy Willie wants to buy his own plantation so he's not only ready to sell the watermelons but also the family piano kept by his sister Berniece Charles (Jenaya Jones Reynolds of Detroit). Berniece cherishes the carved heirloom as a link to their family's history and refuses to let it be sold. Intense sibling feuding erupts into



stories about the family's history with compelling interludes of rhythmic bluesy singing. Not only do the arguments and stories bring up ghosts from the past, but so does the piano which was originally owned by the Sutter family, slaveowners of the Charles family.

August Wilson, hailed as one of America's great playwrights, wrote "The Piano Lesson" as the fourth play in his 10-play "The Pittsburgh Cycle" which illuminates the African-American experience in 20th century America. The play garnered the 1990 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and was adapted for a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie starring Charles Dutton and aired on CBS in 1995.

Show tickets are \$18 for all performances. Students may purchase half-price tickets for the Thursday,

Oct. 22 performance. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.stagecrafters.org](http://www.stagecrafters.org) (online handling fees apply) or by phone at 248-541-6430 using Visa or MasterCard. All seats are reserved and there are no refunds or exchanges on individual tickets. If shows have not sold out, tickets can be purchased at the box office one hour prior to the performance. The Baldwin Theatre is located at 415 S. Lafayette in downtown Royal Oak. The show runs approximately 2 hr 30 min including one intermission. August Wilson's The Piano Lesson is rated PG-13.

Remaining show dates and times are as follows:

Thursday, Oct. 22 at 8 p.m. (Half price student night)

Friday, Oct. 23 at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24 at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 25 at 2 p.m.

Stagecrafters, a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit community theater, is in its 60th year of providing opportunities for members of the community to develop their talents and to volunteer their time to create an enriching, quality theatrical experience through its Main Stage, 2nd Stage and Youth Theatre productions. At the Baldwin Theatre since 1985, Stagecrafters has been named Best Community Theatre by Hour Detroit, Real Detroit Weekly and Daily Tribune. Stagecrafters offers shows that appeal to a wide variety of ages and interests and prides itself on providing professional quality shows at affordable prices, making the performing arts accessible to individuals in our "regional" community.

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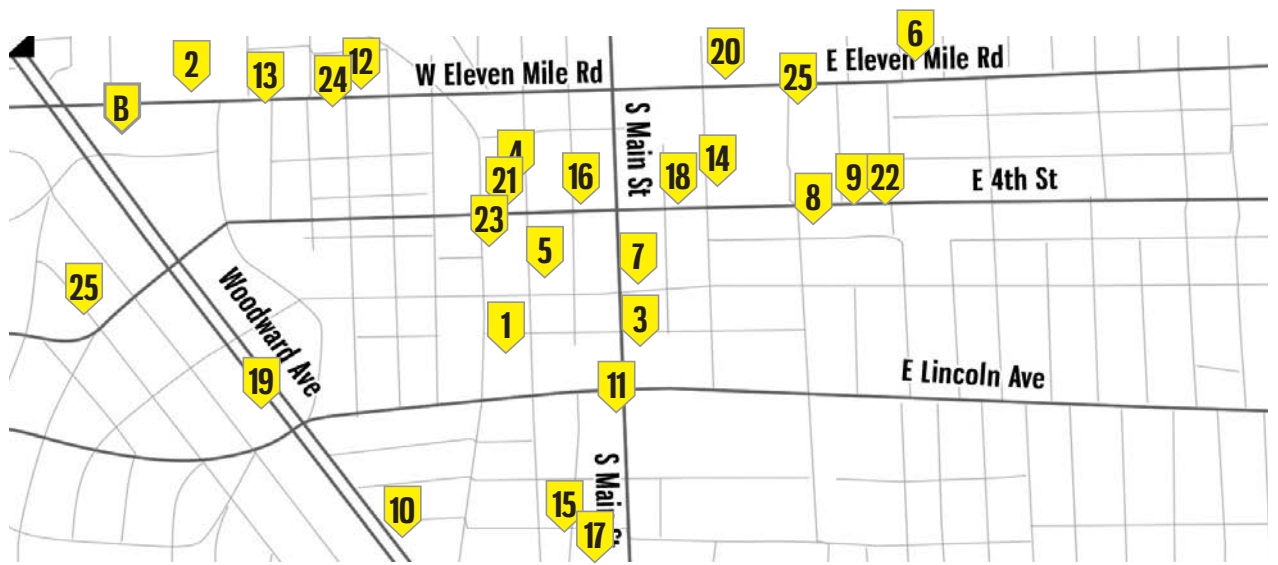
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## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Oct. 22

**Lights, Camera, Auction!** 6 p.m. You're invited to attend our 4th Annual Auction to support AWARE's mission to eliminate domestic and sexual violence while promoting social change and empowering survivors by offering shelter and services. The event will be an exciting night with an ultimate food extravaganza featuring about 20 local Celebrity Chefs! AWARE, 209 E. Washington Ave., Jackson. Irappaport@awareshelter.org 517-783-1638 x142

**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. a2theatrenov@gmail.com www.Artful.ly/theatre-nova/store/events/6413

### Saturday, Oct. 24

**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@uufliint.org www.Uufliint.org

### Sunday, Oct. 25

**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@uufliint.org www.Uufliint.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@detroitgltchamber.com www.Detroitgltchamber.com

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

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

**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

**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

### Monday, Oct. 26

**Equality Knowledge Project Speaker Series** 5:30 p.m. Different speaker and presentation each time. Equality Research Center, 329 King Hall, Ypsilanti. 734-487-3032. equality.emu@gmail.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. 27

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

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

**Free STI & Rapid HIV Testing** 5 p.m. Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Trichomoniasis, Syphilis. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

**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

**Rainbow Variety Show** 8 p.m. Part of OutBar. EMU LGBT Resource Center, Ypsilanti. www.Emich.edu/lgbtrc

**Dynamic Duo** 10 p.m. 21+. Free. Menjo's, 928 McNichols Road W, Detroit. 313-863-3934. www.Facebook.com/dynamicduoact

### Wednesday, Oct. 28

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

**MAC Health** 10 a.m. Michigan AIDS Coalition (MAC), Detroit. www.Michiganaidcoalition.org

**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-

See Happenings, page 24



## Editor's Pick

Entertainers Gerianne Ditto-Harvey and Eric Swanson have been singing together for over a decade but only recently decided to perform as a duo act. The result is a night of fun that can be seen bi-weekly at The New Menjos Complex in Detroit.

Each night begins with Gerianne and Eric warming up the crowd with various selections of musical theater, jazz, disney and pop music. As the night progresses the duo throws in a bit of stand-up and opens the guest

microphone up to singers who come up to sing a solo selections. So far, nights have included massive singalongs to "Rent," "Aladdin," "Hair," power 80s anthems, and so much more. Each night, the duo ends with the room joining in "Hair's" "Let The Sunshine In."

The Dynamic Duo can be seen at 10 p.m. on select Tuesday nights, such as Oct. 27, at Menjos, 928 W. McNichols Ave, Detroit. No cover and "no judgment." Safe and secure parking. Additional information can be found on the Dynamic Duo's facebook page, www.facebook.com/dynamicduoact.

## ► Sara Bareilles

Continued from page 17

everything you write is so depressing.” (Laughs) I thought about my catalog of songs, and went, “Wow, I haven’t really said anything positive about love yet.” (Laughs) So that song was sort of inspired by this backhanded compliment. But to be with Aly and Andrea – they were so courageous; they didn’t have the full support of their families, and Colorado was a hotbed at that moment. Not for our video shoot, but there was a lot of conversation happening around this issue at that time.

It was just really beautiful. Those girls stepped out into this very public space with their love, and it was really a beautiful thing to witness. I felt so privileged to be there with them.

### What songs on the “Waitress” album do you think your LGBT fans might relate to most?

The lead single, “She Used to Be Mine,” speaks to the idea of anyone’s character and the parts of ourselves that are multifaceted, the fact that we all can be messy, we all can be forgotten and lonely and strong. That message is not even a female-centric message; it’s more about taking a look at who you’ve become and who you thought you were going to become and juxtaposing those two images. I don’t know if it’s a gay or straight thing – it’s more just about a human condition experience, which I think that song really speaks to.

### For “Waitress,” how much pie did you eat to get in character to write those songs?

(Laughs) There was a lot of pie! But I love pie. I mean, I didn’t use the pie to get into these characters, but once the rehearsal process started, there was a lot of pie: pie-making seminars, and gifts from fans and friends of the community bringing pies to the rehearsals and performances – oh yeah, a lot of pie.

### Are you a cream pie or a fruit pie gal?

I’m a fruit pie gal.

### What kind of fruit?

My favorite is blackberry. I used to make blackberry pies with my mom growing up, so I have this very visceral memory – it’s so nostalgic to me. There’s actually a scene in the show and in the movie where she (the waitress, Jenna) is making blackberry pie and that scene always stuck with me because that’s exactly what I used to do with my mom.

### How does writing for a musical compare to writing your own songs?

The biggest difference is that within my own music I’m telling my own story. My songs tend to be very autobiographical, and so it was a challenge to find my way into telling the story on behalf of another character. But it ended up being one of the most delicious parts of the show for

me, that I got to play with the psyche of these characters. I got to challenge myself to find my way into how the crotchety old man who owns the diner would speak to our lead character (Jenna). What would he say to her? What would he want her to know? How does his life inform him as a storyteller? It was a really cool and very exciting challenge to find my way into these characters, and in a way, there was a kind of instinctual impulse I was following with writing for the show and that was very similar to the way I write for myself, except I was telling someone else’s story for the first time.

### When “Brave” came out in 2013, Katy Perry was criticized for releasing “Roar,” a song some said resembled “Brave,” shortly thereafter. How much of the “Brave” vs. “Roar” debacle was the result of women being pitted against women? And in general, what are your feelings on the way women are treated in this industry in comparison to their male counterparts?

We’re in the middle of a really exciting time for feminism. I think it’s going to take on a lot of different shapes and faces within kind of any industry. My issue with that particular experience was the idea that music is a competition, that there isn’t enough for everybody. That’s part of the philosophy behind the creation of music – that there’s always more to draw from, with the intent of creating a bigger and broader music community. And so it was a strange experience to watch people get so angry on my behalf and to pit us against each other.

Women, as much as we can, should continue to build up a sisterhood. That doesn’t mean you have to like everybody out there either. It’s a little kumbaya to think that we’re all just gonna hold hands and wonder off into the sunset. But I do think that being treated with respect and fairness and equality is really important to me, and being a woman who wants to feel that my opinion and my creative ideas are accepted as equally as any man or any other human in the room – it’s something that I will continue to walk toward expecting that it will be there. I don’t walk into a room and expect not to be heard. I am surprised when I am not heard.

Speaking of “sisterhood,” you’ve been one of Taylor Swift’s many surprise guests on tour when you two duetted on “Brave” in 2013.

Taylor was beyond welcoming. It’s one of the things she does so well. She really champions other artists with this idea that there’s enough for everybody and you don’t have to pit yourself against other artists. We can celebrate each other’s art and then let people decide who they gravitate toward, but it doesn’t have to be based on a feeling of competition.

### Does this mean you’re in her squad now?

(Laughs) I don’t know what the squad rules are. I don’t have a T-shirt or, like, anything.

# KATHY GRIFFIN

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## ▶ Happenings

Continued from page 22

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](http://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](mailto:jproctor@goaffirmations.org) [www.Goaffirmations.org/programs-services/community-events-activities](http://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](http://www.MichiganAIDScoalition.org)

**Queer People of Color** 6 p.m. QPOC hopes to be a supportive radical environment for people of color that are part of the LGBTQIA+ community. The coalition will support conversation about issues that face our community, build friendships and, furthermore, serve the greater Kalamazoo area. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. [www.Kglrc.org](http://www.Kglrc.org)

**Yours Truly, John Waters** 7 p.m. A different John Waters film every week. Michigan Theatre, 233 State



## Editor's Pick

Freedom House will hosts its 2015 annual dinner & auction, "Voices of Freedom," Thursday, Oct. 29. Sponsored by Between The Lines and Primestaff International, the event will benefit the temporary home for survivors of persecution from around the world.

Stephen Henderson will be the master of ceremonies. Henderson is a Pulitzer-prize winning journalist and

host of WDET's "Detroit Today." Grown Folks Storytellers will be part of the program; they are a team of

professional storytellers dedicated to preserving the oral tradition of African and African-American storytelling.

The reception begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Masonic Temple in the Crystal Ballroom, 200 Temple St., Detroit. Ticket Prices range from \$100-950. If readers cannot attend the 2015 Annual Dinner & Auction, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to support the dinner and sponsor a resident's dinner attendance. Visit [www.freedomhousedetroit.org](http://www.freedomhousedetroit.org) for more information.

St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-668-TIME. [www.Michigantheater.org](http://www.Michigantheater.org)

### Thursday, Oct. 29

**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](http://www.Autbar.com)

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

**Voices of Freedom** 5:30 p.m. Tickets: \$100-950. Freedom House, 200 Temple St.,

**Detroit**. [www.Freedomhousedetroit.org](http://www.Freedomhousedetroit.org)

**Capuchin School Night Out** 6 p.m. Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1401 Abbott St., **Detroit**. 313-579-2100 x202. [events@thecapuchins.org](mailto:events@thecapuchins.org) [www.Cskdetroit.org/events/capuchin\\_school\\_night\\_out](http://www.Cskdetroit.org/events/capuchin_school_night_out)

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

**GenSilent** 6 p.m. Free film screening and panel discussion. U of M-Dearborn and LGBT Older Adult Coalition/GEMD, 19000 Hubbard Drive, **Dearborn**. 313-593-5052. [jonalars@umich.edu](mailto:jonalars@umich.edu)

**Campus Life Storyteller's Lounge: Justice** 9 p.m. Part of OUTober. EMU LGBT Resource Center, **Ypsilanti**. [www.Emich.edu/lgbtrc](http://www.Emich.edu/lgbtrc)

### Friday, Oct. 30

**Bistro Fridays** Special menu. \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. [www.Autbar.com](http://www.Autbar.com)

### Saturday, Oct. 31

**Angels' Night Volunteer Campaign** Angels' Night, **Detroit**. 313-224-4415. [www.Angelsnight.org](http://www.Angelsnight.org)

**turnT aut** \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. [www.Autbar.com](http://www.Autbar.com)

### Sunday, Nov. 1

**Salsa Night** Salsa lessons. \$1 tacos. \aut\BAR, 315 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-994-3677. [www.Autbar.com](http://www.Autbar.com)

## MUSIC & MORE

**Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** "Romantic Tchaikovsky" Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Oct. 24. 734-668-8397. [www.A2so.com](http://www.A2so.com)

**Macomb Center for the Performing Arts** "Solid Soul" Tickets: \$40. Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Road, Clinton Township. 8 p.m. Oct. 24. 586-286-2222. [www.Macombcenter.com](http://www.Macombcenter.com)

**The Ark** "The Infatuations" Tickets: \$15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. Oct. 24. 734-761-1800. [www.Theark.org](http://www.Theark.org)

**The Ark** "Lee Ann Womack" Tickets: \$25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 25. 734-761-1800. [www.Theark.org](http://www.Theark.org)

**University Musical Society** "Hubbard Street Dance Chicago" Hubbard Street Dance Chicago returns for a one-night-only program featuring the choreography of William Forsythe. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., **Ann Arbor**. 7:30 p.m. Oct. 27. 734-764-2538. [ums.org/performance/hubbard-street-dance-chicago-3/](http://ums.org/performance/hubbard-street-dance-chicago-3/)

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

**Julius Caesar** **Ann Arbor Civic Theatre**, Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave.,

**Ann Arbor**. Oct. 29 - Nov. 1. 734-763-3333. [www.A2ct.org](http://www.A2ct.org)

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

**The Piano Lesson** Tickets: \$18. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., **Royal Oak**. Through Oct. 25. 248-541-6430. [www.Stagecrafters.org](http://www.Stagecrafters.org)

## ART 'N' AROUND

**DIA** "30 Americans" Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Oct. 1 - Jan. 18. 313-833-7900. [www.Dia.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.Umma.umich.edu)

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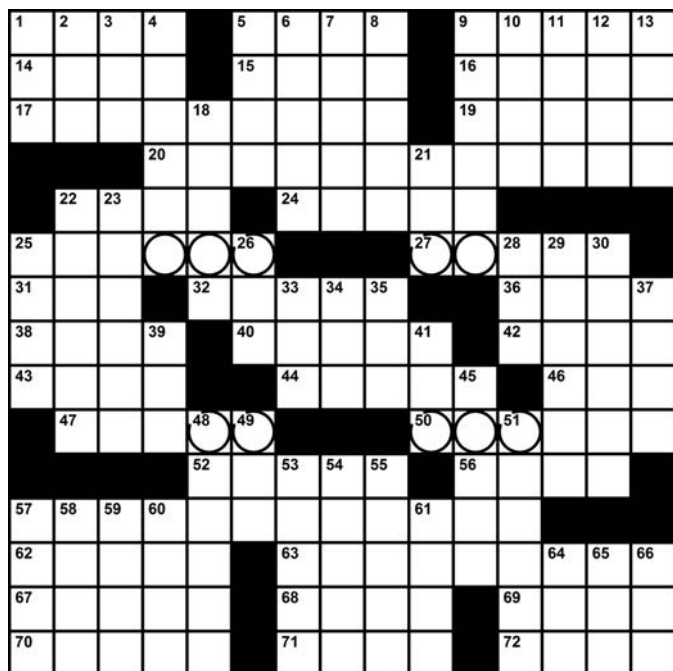
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with the actress in circles  
 42 Kind of package  
 43 At some remove  
 44 Brought up the rear?  
 46 Swell location  
 47 Olympic nickname  
 50 Placed one inside another  
 52 Ready for action, in the men's room  
 56 "\_\_\_ Side Story"  
 57 See 40-Across  
 62 Trooper's device  
 63 Sweet, hairy guy?  
 67 Top  
 68 From square one  
 69 "Otello" villain  
 70 What a jockey straddles  
 71 Untouchable head  
 72 Oman man

23 "Grease" director Kleiser  
 25 Wang in fashion  
 26 Bygone nuclear agcy.  
 28 Network of "The Ellen DeGeneres Show"  
 29 Says "Bottoms up!"  
 30 Castro, in San Francisco  
 33 Little black bk. listings  
 34 Stuff for a blow job?  
 35 Tony Randall's "7 Faces of Dr. \_\_\_"  
 37 All that's seen of the Wizard, at first  
 39 B'way hit sign  
 41 Alternative to smoking  
 45 Disney duck  
 48 Gave a hoot  
 49 Areas for Dr. Callie Torres  
 51 Balkan region  
 53 Hawke or Allen  
 54 Fairy tale hag  
 55 The sounds of music  
 57 Very in Vichy  
 58 "Hold your horses!"  
 59 Falco of "The Sopranos"  
 60 Mr. Right-now  
 61 They have boughs for bows  
 64 Stud site  
 65 Eastern title  
 66 "Chicago" director Marshall

## Down

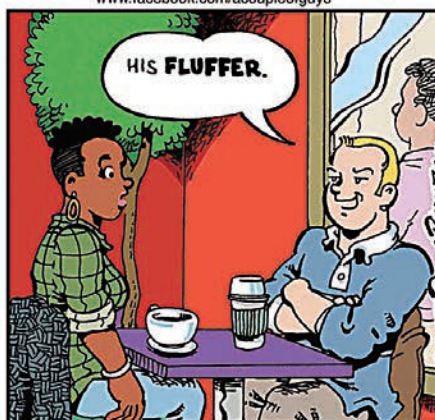
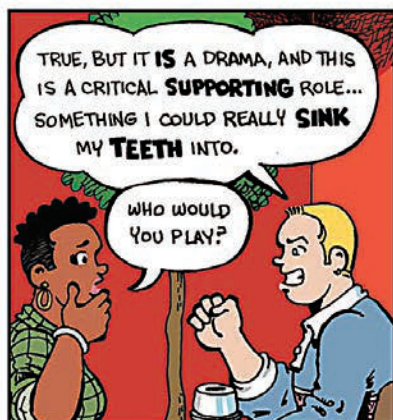
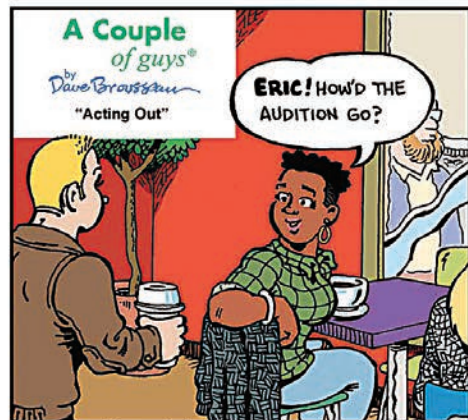
1 Eminem's mentor  
 2 What 50 million Frenchmen never drink  
 3 Caesar's thus  
 4 Duet partner for Tony Bennett  
 5 Subject of autoerotic fantasy?  
 6 More devious  
 7 Like someone blown away  
 8 Vixen's master  
 9 Part of Ali Babi's opening  
 10 Queer  
 11 Actor Morales  
 12 Woody valley  
 13 Jerusalem server  
 18 "Maurice" director James  
 21 Extra in "Lord of the Rings"  
 22 Go extinct

# Amazing Actress

## Across

1 Where open drawers can reveal a lot  
 5 Early AIDS play  
 9 Garbo, for one  
 14 Police incursion at Stonewall  
 15 Bone in a limp wrist  
 16 Stand next to Eakins  
 17 Type of geometry with triangles  
 19 Milan showplace, with "la"

20 1985 movie with the actress in circles  
 22 Bond opponent  
 24 Prepare to shoot off again  
 25 It may keep you up at night  
 27 Cheapest bas reliefs of Lincoln  
 31 Fabric name ending  
 32 Title character for Barbra  
 36 The two of them  
 38 McKuen and more  
 40 With 57-Across, 1984 movie



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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Who's gayer: Joseph Gordon-Levitt or Nicki Minaj?

This week in tangentially-queer news, Joseph Gordon-Levitt will star in the new psychological thriller "In Sight." Is it an LGBT-based project? No. Written or directed by someone gay? Not that we're aware of just yet. But super-producers and power-gays Craig Zadan and Neil Meron are the ones getting it done, and that means a lot to them and to the ability of gay creatives to get their projects sent down the pipeline to viewing audiences. Therefore, it counts in a you-really-have-no-idea-what-goes-on-behind-the-scenes way, got it? And speaking of scenes, Nicki Minaj is getting a sitcom with ABC Family based on her life growing up in Queens, New York. Technically, this one is even "less" gay than "In Sight," but if you were to poll your local group of favorite youthful gays and ask which one means the most to them, guess which one they'd probably pick? If you said the latter, the answer is YAAAAASS. And now you know how this weird world works.



Joseph Gordon-Levitt. Photo: Debby Wong

of-nature Billy Bloom, whose bold, gender-disregarding queerness in a conservative Florida high school has turned him into something of an outcast. Now "Freak Show" is getting the movie treatment from producer/director Trudie Styler, starring Bette Midler and AnnaSophia Robb. Yes, those are female names, which means Billy has yet to be cast. More on this as it develops, but we're hoping for an openly queer teen actor. Maybe there aren't that many yet, but a project like this seems to deserve one.

## 'Dancer From the Dance': The Movie

It's not just James Franco, you guys. The queer past is very hot right now. (Exception: the brain-damaged "Stonewall"). If you're young and paying attention, it's everywhere. So the time is right for Andrew Holleran's gay cult novel, "Dancer From the Dance," to find its way to screens. The 1978 novel explored chic gay life in New York City's club culture and the unlikely relationships it fostered. Alan Poul ("Six Feet Under") will direct from a script by Joshua Harmon, John Krokidas and Austin Bunn, and the shoot is planned for 2016. No casting news just yet, but this one ought to be memorable. You have plenty of time to get a vintage-appearing, yet still brand new, Paradise Garage T-shirt for the inevitable viewing party.

Romeo San Vicente is always ready to make you feel mighty real. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).

## That funny gay guy whose name you don't know is getting a TV show

"Happy Endings" cultists remember him. He was the frantic, perpetual motion gay guy who drove shlubby homosexual Max crazy. The devoted throngs of bearded film-festival-goers who've made the "Bear City" movies into an unlikely franchise (a "third" one is in the works – yes, really) also know the man in question. He's a comic actor named Stephen Guarino, he used to be on "The Big Gay Sketch Show" with "SNL" supernova Kate McKinnon, and now he's about to star in the Showtime series "I'm Dying Up Here," from producer Jim Carrey. Guarino will play a struggling stand-up comic who is described as "over the top, to the point of being tiresome," in a pilot to be directed by "50/50" and "Warm Bodies" helmer Jonathan Levine. We're excited about this one, mostly because we already know Guarino's name and just how very talented he is. You're about to, too.

## Trudie Styler and Bette Midler go back to high school

"Freak Show" is the best-selling YA novel from James St. James. The author's earlier book, "Disco Bloodbath," about his experience as a New York club kid involved with murderer Michael Alig, was made into the film "Party Monster." This means St. James knows a lot about dressing up and making an impression, just like "Freak Show"'s hero, teenage force-

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