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**Community Meeting
Scheduled To Discuss
Fair Michigan Initiative**



**Sarah Paulson
On Coming Out &
Pressure To Be An
LGBT Activist** pg. 22

Bringing LGBT Homelessness To The Stage

*Meet Rising Star
Emilio Rodriguez*



December 3, 2015
VOL. 2349 | FREE

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Brief Summary of Patient Information about GENVOYA

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There may be new information about GENVOYA. This information is only a summary and does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about GENVOYA?

GENVOYA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).**

Lactic acidosis may happen in some people who take GENVOYA. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms, which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems may happen in people who take GENVOYA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large and you may develop fat in your liver.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking GENVOYA for a long time.**

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** GENVOYA is not for use to treat chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV). If you have HBV infection and take GENVOYA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking GENVOYA. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of GENVOYA. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your GENVOYA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking GENVOYA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking GENVOYA.

What is GENVOYA?

GENVOYA is a prescription medicine that is used without other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older:

- who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past **or**
- to replace their current HIV-1 medicines in people who have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months, have an amount of HIV-1 in their blood (“viral load”) that is less than 50 copies/mL, and have never failed past HIV-1 treatment

HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

GENVOYA contains the prescription medicines elvitegravir (VITEKTA®), cobicistat (TYBOST®), emtricitabine (EMTRIVA®) and tenofovir alafenamide.

It is not known if GENVOYA is safe and effective in children under 12 years of age.

When used to treat HIV-1 infection, GENVOYA may:

- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load”.
- Increase the number of CD4+ (T) cells in your blood that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV-1 and increasing the CD4+ (T) cells in your blood may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 infection to others:

- Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to other people.

Who should not take GENVOYA?

Do not take GENVOYA if you also take a medicine that contains:

- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- midazolam, when taken by mouth
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- pimozone (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort or a product that contains St. John’s wort

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking GENVOYA?

Before taking GENVOYA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems including hepatitis B infection
- have kidney or bone problems
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if GENVOYA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking GENVOYA.

Pregnancy registry: there is a pregnancy registry for women who take HIV-1 medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take GENVOYA.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - At least one of the medicines in GENVOYA can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in GENVOYA can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how GENVOYA works.

Some medicines may interact with GENVOYA. **Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.**

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with GENVOYA.
- Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take GENVOYA with other medicines.

How should I take GENVOYA?

- Take GENVOYA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. GENVOYA is taken by itself (not with other HIV-1 medicines) to treat HIV-1 infection.
- GENVOYA is usually taken 1 time each day.
- Take GENVOYA with food.
- If you need to take a medicine for indigestion (antacid) that contains aluminum and magnesium hydroxide or calcium carbonate during treatment with GENVOYA, take it at least 2 hours before or after you take GENVOYA.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking GENVOYA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking GENVOYA.
- Do not miss a dose of GENVOYA.
- If you take too much GENVOYA, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- When your GENVOYA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to GENVOYA and become harder to treat.

What are the possible side effects of GENVOYA?

GENVOYA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about GENVOYA?”**
- **Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine.** These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking GENVOYA. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking GENVOYA if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take GENVOYA. Bone problems may include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of GENVOYA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

General information about the safe and effective use of GENVOYA.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use GENVOYA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give GENVOYA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about GENVOYA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about GENVOYA that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call **1-800-445-3235** or go to **www.GENVOYA.com**.

Keep GENVOYA and all medicines out of reach of children.

Issued: November 2015

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Theater artist Emilio Rodriguez's story of two teen boys in an LGBT homeless shelter will be included in the Michigan Playwrights' Festival at Ann Arbor's Theatre Nova. Photo: Brandy Joe Plambeck

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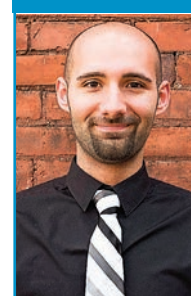


“My personal life... I'm not gonna hide it from you, but I also don't want you to think about that before you think about the character I'm playing.”

- Sarah Paulson

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WORLD AIDS DAY



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PARTING GLANCES



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Community Meeting Scheduled To Discuss Fair Michigan Initiative

BY BTL STAFF

ANN ARBOR – Leaders in the LGBT community and co-chair of the ballot committee Fair Michigan will meet for the first community conversation at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 7 at Washtenaw Community College to discuss Fair Michigan, a ballot proposal for the 2016 election that, if passed by voters, would add sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to a list of protected classes in state law.

The ballot measure was introduced October 30 by Dana Nessel, co-counsel for April and Jayne DeBoer, the plaintiff couple in the Michigan same-sex marriage case. If passed, the ballot would add sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to the equal protection clause of the Michigan constitution and would direct the state Legislature to update all laws to comply, including the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.

Members of the LGBT community have been calling for a seat at the planning table since Nessel announced the bipartisan committee earlier this year. Seventeen LGBT rights organizations and individuals in the state signed a letter

soon after the announcement, calling for Nessel and her team to collaborate with LGBT organizations as the measure moves forward. This meeting will be the first time Fair Michigan and the LGBT community will both sit down to publicly discuss the proposal.

A panel of speakers will discuss Fair Michigan and the current efforts to get the measure passed in November 2016. Speaking on the panel will be Mark Schauer, former candidate for governor; Dana Nessel, co-chair of Fair Michigan; Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan; and advocates from the transgender community. Sandi Smith, president of the Jim Toy Community Center from 2013-2014, will serve as moderator. State Rep. Jeff Irwin, D-Ann Arbor, and state Sen. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor, will speak about the viability of a legislative option to add protections for the LGBT community into state law.

The event will be held at Washtenaw Community College's Morris Lawrence Building in Room 101. WCC is located at 4800 E. Huron River Dr. in Ann Arbor. The event is free and open to the public.

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They're Unified - HIV Health and Beyond

AIDS Partnership Michigan and HIV/AIDS Resource Center merged earlier this year to strengthen the response to and treatment of HIV in Southeast Michigan. The merged organization officially launched its new brand Dec. 1 – World AIDS Day – and will now be known as “Unified – HIV Health and Beyond.” Unified serves 10 counties in Southeast Michigan where 63 percent of HIV-affected Michigan residents reside. Services will be delivered from the three

existing offices in Detroit, Ypsilanti and Jackson. Unified will increase capacity in key areas including programming, access to funding, community-based research and delivery of HIV-related healthcare services. Look for an extended piece in next week's issue.

Unified can be found online at <http://miunified.org/Home>. Visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/miunified/timeline.



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Left-Coaster Turned Mitten-Stater: A Rising Star In Theater World

BY AMY J. PARRENT

Maybe it was a happy accident. Or destiny. Maybe it was an innate talent and a drive to bring something different to light. But talented young playwright Emilio Rodriguez seems to have found his calling, and even the subject for some of his plays, through a kind of kismet.

Take for instance, his play “Swimming While Drowning,” part of the Michigan Playwrights’ Festival at Ann Arbor’s Theatre Nova which will be performed on Dec. 13. It’s a story of two teen boys in an LGBT homeless shelter and their struggle with wanting to love and be loved.

“At a (previous) reading of the play, one big feedback was that people never get to see LGBT people of color in a relationship,” said Rodriguez. “I never thought about how rare that is in theater, but I couldn’t pinpoint another play that did. It’s such an important aspect of this; it gave me a focus of what I wanted to explore in other plays. My plan wasn’t to make something different; the characters just fell into place as they were.”

The 26-year-old multi-threat actor/writer/director, who grew up in California’s Inland Empire area, got into writing after a rude rejection from an LA casting director.

“The impetus for writing came my first year after college. I sent a head shot and resume, never got an email back. So I showed up for an audition and said, ‘I don’t know if you made a mistake.’ The casting director said, ‘Oh, you’re not from LA, we don’t need to see you,’” Rodriguez recalled. “I thought, that’s so unfair not to be seen because of the way I look. So I started writing with the intention to write for myself.”

That was just four short years ago. Since then, he moved to Michigan to teach and has thoroughly entrenched himself in the local theater scene, as well as points farther away.

“Emilio is kind of a star on the rise nationally,” said Carla Milarch, Theatre Nova’s founding artistic director. “This play is a very moving and poetic piece, and has been picked up by a number of festivals across the country.”

“Swimming While Drowning” was recently featured in the Latino Theatre Commons’ Carnival of New Work and Western Michigan University’s Activate Midwest Festival. The play landed him a commission with Milagro Theatre in Portland, Oregon and a residency with the Mitten Lab. Additionally, selected poems from the play earned him an inaugural artist-in-residence slot with the University Musical Society last season.

“There are moments of myself in every character and every piece I do,” said Rodriguez. “Life experiences that are tweaked and made into a storyline. But personally I’ve never lived in a homeless shelter and did not have my first kiss at 15. Both of the characters are kicked out



Playwrights Emilio Rodriguez and Morgan Breon both have scripts that will be staged as part of the Michigan Playwrights’ Festival at Ann Arbor’s Theatre Nova. Photo: Wolf Tytschkowski, courtesy of The MITTEN Lab.

“There are moments of myself in every character and every piece I do. Life experiences that are tweaked and made into a storyline.”

- Emilio Rodriguez.

by their families for different reasons. For me, that’s something I cannot relate to.”

Instead, he thinks the idea originates from when he started college at the same time his parents moved away.

“So the idea of having to make a home through my friends in college, making a home out of people around you, subconsciously inspired this specific story – although I would not compare going to college and being homeless.”

Rodriguez, who lives in Hamtramck, worked for Teach for America in the Detroit area for two years. He now teaches freelance theater arts classes through organizations such as Matrix Theatre and Living Arts. In addition to writing and directing, he’s also

been involved in helping to organize various other festivals, including the 2015 Detroit Fringe Theatre Festival, and has taken on the role of literary manager for Theatre Nova.

Rodriguez said that the theater, whose slogan is “Fresh Voices, Hot Plays,” had wanted to conduct a new playwrights’ festival. On a limited budget, he explained, “We were trying to figure out how to fly out playwrights from out of state. I thought, why not just have the festival for Michigan writers? Festivals in California and Texas have play festivals just for people in those states. With the focus on Michigan writers, we give them opportunities to be produced and seen. We can provide them with resources.”

He said the strong submissions received

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- 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8: An evening of 10-minute plays
- 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9: “Bird” by Kristin Andrea Hanratty
- 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10. (after “An Almost British Christmas”): “Lisandra” by Cara Beth Heath
- 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11 (after “An Almost British Christmas”): “The Side Effect of Happiness” by Linda Ramsay-Detherage
- 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12: “Katherine” by Kim Carney
- 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13: “Swimming While Drowning” by Emilio Rodriguez
- 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13: Michigan Playwrights’ Forum – a community discussion
- 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13: Michigan Playwrights’ Festival reception (refreshments provided)

“proved the point I was trying to make – there’s so much talent here, it confuses me why more theater companies aren’t doing more with local playwrights.

“We have so many people doing things that are our stories, our experiences, things people in other states might not understand. The way we drive everywhere, the way it snows in November and snows in April,” he joked. “There are all kinds of stories told from a Michigan experience that Michigan audiences relate to. I hope this festival will facilitate that process of getting other theaters producing local writers.”

The first of the two-part festival runs the week of Dec. 8 through Dec. 13, with a combination of readings of full-length plays and fully staged 10-minute plays. The second week will take place sometime next spring.

Among the many featured writers included in week one are veteran Kim Carney and Wilde Award winner Linda Ramsay-Detherage.

Rodriguez also was taken with an offering from Morgan Breon, one of the 10-minute plays, called “Portrait of a Wise Woman.” “She’s a Detroit actress who trained with Mosaic (Youth Theatre),” Rodriguez said. “She’s been doing acting in the area for so long, but people never knew about her writing. I asked her on a whim to be in the Detroit Fringe Festival. She said she had something she wrote when she was 16. I’m excited for people to see it (at Theatre Nova), excited for what it will lead to.”

He added, “This festival is important because of that Michigan element, creating a sense of home – ironically, like in my play – between the actors and directors.”

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ACLU-TN Lawsuit Supports Students' Right To Free Speech

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) – The American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee has filed a lawsuit to protect students' right to free speech after a senior was censored for wearing a shirt to school supporting equality for lesbian and gay people.

The federal lawsuit was filed on behalf of a Richland High senior who was censored by the Giles County school system, The Tennessean reports (<http://tne.ws/1Xo9Nee>). Giles County is about 86 miles south of Nashville.

The shirt read: "Some People Are Gay, Get Over It."

"Our goal in this case is to ensure that students are not censored for expressing their support for the equal treatment and acceptance of LGBT students," Hedy Weinberg, ACLU of Tennessee director, said in an interview.

The lawsuit said the school's principal, Micah Landers, prohibited the student from wearing that shirt or any other shirt referencing lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender rights because it might provoke other students.

According to Giles County dress code policy, students cannot wear clothing or accessories that have slogans about or suggestive of "drugs, alcohol, sex, obscenities or prove to be a disturbing influence."

Following the incident, ACLU-TN sent a letter to the school system explaining that schools can only censor student speech when the speech itself – and not other people's reaction to it – is disruptive to the educational process.

"We know from a series of cases that as long as that the shirt is not obscene or doesn't constitute a threat, then the student's speech or expression cannot be censored," Weinberg said.

Wisconsin School Nixes Reading Of Book About Transgender Kid

MOUNT HOREB, Wis. (AP) – A southern Wisconsin elementary school cancelled a planned reading of a children's book about a transgender girl after a group threatened to sue.

The Mount Horeb Area School District released a statement Nov. 25 saying it will not proceed with its planned reading of the book "I am Jazz," the Capital Times reported. The district said it would give the Board of Education the opportunity to address a situation, for which the district has no current policy.

Last week, the principal of Mount Horeb Primary Center sent a letter to parents saying the book would be read and discussed because the school has a student who identifies as a girl but was born with male anatomy.

"We believe all students deserve respect and support regardless of their gender identity and expression, and the best way to foster that respect and support is through educating students about the issue of being transgender," the letter said.

The Florida-based Liberty Counsel group threatened to sue, saying it was contacted by concerned parents. In a letter to the school district, the group contended that reading the book would violate parental rights. The Southern Poverty Law Center classifies the Liberty Counsel as a hate group that advocates for "anti-LGBT discrimination, under the guise of religious liberty."

Judge: 3 Gay Couples Can Amend Kids' Birth Certificates

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) – A Pulaski County judge said Nov. 23 that three same-sex couples who sued the state for refusing to name both spouses on the birth certificates of their children can get the documents amended to list both names.

Judge Tim Fox did not issue a formal ruling after a hearing on motions for summary judgment but said the three couples who filed suit can go to the Arkansas Department of Health to change the documents immediately. Fox said he will issue a written ruling, probably in December.

"As much as I would like to announce from the bench exactly what my ruling is, because I don't know exactly what my ruling is I'm not going to announce that today. The easy part is to amend the birth certificates for the three main couples and that is the order of the court today so that there's no more delay with respect to that," Fox said.

The married women said in the lawsuit filed in Pulaski County Circuit Court that the state Health Department would list

only the biological mother on the birth certificate, and said they were told they would need a court order to name both spouses. The couples sought the birth certificates after the U.S. Supreme Court in June struck down gay marriage bans nationwide.

Two of the couples were married out of state before the U.S. Supreme Court ruling, and a third was married in Arkansas days after the decision. The couples' children were conceived through anonymous sperm donors.

Assistant Attorney General Colin Jorgensen argued the statute and related Health Department regulations allow biological parents to amend birth certificates. He said all non-biological parents, regardless of sexual orientation, have to go through a legal process to be listed on the birth certificates.

"They're seeking a blanket rule that we're going to create parental rights without even looking at the best interest of the individual children or the individual cases," Jorgensen said.

Fox said the state's argument that

the statute was based solely on biology would be its "best argument on appeal."

"I don't see it framed that way, and if the high court does, then I'm going to get reversed. But I don't see it that way. I see it as disparate treatment of same-sex couples," Fox said.

Cheryl Maples, the attorney representing the couples, said in instances where heterosexual couples use fertility treatments that include sperm donations, the same requirements are not applied. She said sperm donation requires a waiving of parental rights by the donor and should be treated the same for heterosexual and same-sex parents.

Before the June U.S. Supreme Court ruling, Pulaski County Circuit Judge Chris Piazza had struck down Arkansas' 2004 voter-approved same-sex marriage ban as unconstitutional. That ruling included an order that Maples said applied to the ability to list both parents on a birth certificate. The attorney general's office said that order violated judicial rules.

Utah Man Sues Over Alleged Same-Sex Marriage Discrimination

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) – A Utah man says the college where he worked discriminated against him because he was in a same-sex marriage, denying the couple benefits and forcing him out of a job.

Dustin Kennedy said in a new federal lawsuit that an administrator at the Salt Lake City-based Eagle Gate College acknowledged that the couple could have gotten benefits if one of them was a woman.

"He just wants to be treated like everyone else," attorney April Hollingsworth said.

But the for-profit school said it couldn't give the men spousal benefits because its insurance company refused. Eagle Gate lawyer Christopher Snow said that administrators wanted to extend benefits to the couple, but their provider turned them down because gay marriage wasn't legal when Kennedy worked there between 2007 and 2011.

"We were in full compliance with the law at the time of Mr. Kennedy's request," said Snow in a statement.

Hollingsworth says that no one cited the insurance company when Kennedy and his husband, also an Eagle Gate employee, were denied benefits.

Afterward, they were told they violated a romantic relationship rule even though it was routinely ignored

The for-profit school said it couldn't give the men spousal benefits because its insurance company refused.

for heterosexual couples. When they complained, Kennedy saw his work hours reduced to nothing, the lawsuit claims.

After his job as a massage therapy instructor ended, he says that Eagle Gate refused to pay unemployment benefits, claiming that he had left voluntarily. Kennedy took the issue to court and a judge sided with him, the suit states.

Kennedy also filed a claim of gender bias against Eagle Gate with the state and the federal governments. The U.S. Equal Opportunity Commission investigated and dismissed his claim in August, clearing the school of a federal violation, according to a letter filed with court documents, but giving him a green light to file the Wednesday's lawsuit.

Utah's new law barring discrimination based on sexual orientation went into

effect in May, after Kennedy stopped working at Eagle Gate. It was hailed as a landmark measure with the backing of the Salt Lake City-based Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Mormon church's relationship with the LGBT community cooled in recent weeks, however, after the church instituted new rules banning children of same-sex couples from baptism until the kids turn 18 and disavow same-sex relationships.

It's part of a complex landscape for same-sex couples in Utah, where the capital city officially elected its first openly gay mayor about a week after a small-town judge ordered a baby taken away from lesbian foster parents in a ruling that was later reversed.

The Utah Anti-Discrimination and Labor Division has gotten three complaints under the new rule since May, division director Kerry Chlarson said.

Kennedy is seeking back pay and unspecified damages.

Eagle Gate, which is based in Salt Lake City and has campuses in Murray and Layton, switched insurance providers last year to a company that does extend benefits to same-sex couples, after gay marriage was legalized in Utah but before the U.S. Supreme Court made it the law of the land.



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Getting To Zero

How The HIV Epidemic Is Changing

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Alex Saenz is a gregarious 27-year-old gay man, but his bubbly exterior hides a rough and tumble life.

The 2009 Eastern High graduate struggled with addiction, specifically meth, a popular sex drug in gay communities across the country, including in Lansing. Saenz said he was injecting the drug, a habit that came to a crashing halt two years ago when a free HIV test registered inconclusive. In his case, the rapid test for the antibodies, which the body develops to fight invaders, was positive. But a confirmatory test taken by oral swab came back negative.

“Something didn’t feel right,” Saenz said. So he asked his primary care doctor to do a more sensitive blood test. That one came back positive.

He was an elusive target for public health – the newly infected person. When someone is first infected, the virus multiplies rapidly, winning the first battle with the immune system. Eventually, the immune system gets the virus under control. Those in the very early stage, where the immune system is losing the battle, don’t test positive for the virus but are highly infectious. Scientists and doctors have found that starting someone on powerful anti-HIV medications shortly after infection can quickly control the virus and set a path to better health.

Saenz takes a combination pill every day. Saenz’s medications are paid for by a publicly funded insurance program. The cost is about \$14,000 a year for the three drug combination pill he takes.

“It has had no impact on my everyday routine and activity,” he said.

The drugs that Saenz takes, and others like it, have changed the face of what was once a fatal diagnosis to one of a chronic manageable disease. Experts say those drugs and new testing technology make them “cautiously optimistic” that the HIV epidemic can be halted in the coming years.

The medications – called antiretroviral medications, or ARVs – have reshaped the HIV epidemic in the U.S. and other developed countries. Before they were approved in 1996, a person diagnosed with HIV faced a significantly shortened lifespan. Today, a person diagnosed with HIV who takes the drugs is expected to live a completely normal lifespan, though with a chronic manageable disease.

Scientists and public health officials have

also discovered another benefit related to the use of the drugs. When a person takes the drug daily, it controls the virus – something experts call an undetectable viral load. With that undetectable viral load, a person is highly unlikely to transmit their infection.

The science behind this discovery has spawned a public health movement called Treatment as Prevention (TasP). That movement is now being driven by federal dollars to get people living with HIV into medical treatment and on the drugs. The benefits are two-fold: better health outcomes for the person with HIV and dramatic reductions in onward transmission of the infection.

Also, health officials are recommending the drugs to prevent people who are not infected with the virus from becoming infected. In 2012, the feds approved a drug called Truvada as a daily regimen to prevent HIV infection. Studies have shown that if taken daily the drug is over 92 percent effective.

Even the tests used to identify those with HIV have improved. The new HIV test being used can identify HIV infections as early as 12 days after infection, instead of the minimum 20 days from the last generation of tests.

Stubborn Virus

Despite all these improvements, new HIV infections in the U.S. remain stubbornly at about 50,000 new cases. In Michigan, Ingham County is second in HIV infections to the city of Detroit. Ingham stands at 175 per 100,000 people, while Detroit is at 800 per 100,000 people.

Last year, county health officials said, 25 people were newly diagnosed with the infection. About 500 people are living with HIV in Ingham County.

Data from the Department of Health and Human Services shows that in the last three years, the use of anti-HIV medications to control or suppress the virus to “undetectable” has grown. In 2012, of people living with HIV in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties, 61 percent had undetectable viral loads. In 2013, the number was 65 percent and last year it was 70 percent.

With federal funding, the county’s 362 HIV positive clients saw undetectable levels in just over 82 percent of those clients. That’s better than the national HIV/AIDS Strategy goal of 80 percent, Ingham County Health Officer Linda Vail said.

“In general we are meeting or exceeding

Getting someone into care is key to addressing the disease.

But that has been a struggle nationally and locally.

CDC targets,” Vail stated. She said that the county was uniquely placed “to be on the front edge” of the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy – which include access to treatment and care for those infected and a reduction in the number of new cases. She credits the Ingham County Community Health Center – a collaboration between a private entity and the county – as well as local partners in this accomplishment.

“I think, absolutely, that when someone tests positive here, there is a benefit in being able to walk them across the hall to a primary care physician and HIV care,” she said.

Getting Care

Getting someone into care is key to addressing the disease. But that has been a struggle nationally and locally. Data from the state shows that 608 people are living with the virus in the greater Lansing area, and of those, 431 are considered in care. That’s because they have had at least one set of HIV monitoring tests done in the last year. Of those, 362 people are in continuous care, meaning they have had at least two HIV monitoring tests done in the last year. And only 308 of those people are virally suppressed. This is what is known as the treatment cascade and complicates controlling the disease in the community. Those not in continuous care and virally suppressed are more likely to transmit the infection. Those who do not know they are infected are even more likely to transmit the virus. In comparison to other metropolitan areas, Ingham is doing a passable job in overcoming this obstacle.

To get more people into care, the health department will be contracting with the Lansing Area AIDS Network to bring in an early intervention specialist. That specialist will focus on identifying those people who know they have HIV, but are not in care.

That sounds simple enough, but state health officials acknowledged in interviews that the state’s strict confidentiality laws related to who can know the names of those infected with HIV could be hampering those efforts. State health officials said they are prohibited from sharing that information with community partners, such as LAAN, by state law, but they are working on a legal work-around to address that.

PrEP: A Game Changer

On the prevention side, while the advent of

PrEP – a once a day pill to prevent HIV – has been hailed nationally as a “game changer,” the reality on the ground has been different. Only one in three primary care physicians and nurses is aware of the intervention, Vail said.

“We need to get our infectious disease doctors out in the community doing grand rounds,” Vail said. “They are key to informing other doctors about PrEP. And I think they will be doing that.”

Vail reports that ICCHC doctors have prescribed PrEP to “about 50 people.”

The combination of Treatment as Prevention (TasP) and PrEP is working in San Francisco. That city saw only 302 new HIV infections last year. A study of 657 men who have sex with men using the drug PrEP as a prevention tool found zero new infections among those men. That model has won praise by national HIV experts. Saenz’s use of the medications, which have brought his virus to undetectable levels, is an example of how TasP works.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Disease, told the New York Times earlier this year that he “loved” the model.

“If it keeps doing what it is doing, I have a strong feeling that they will be successful at ending the epidemic as we know it. Not every last case — we’ll never get there — but the overall epidemic. And then there’s no excuse for everyone not doing it,” he said.

That model is not without critics however. The study of PrEP use saw half of the participants diagnosed with another sexually transmitted infection – an indication those men were not using condoms. But Vail said that is likely an “artifact” of the PrEP protocol which requires quarterly STI testing.

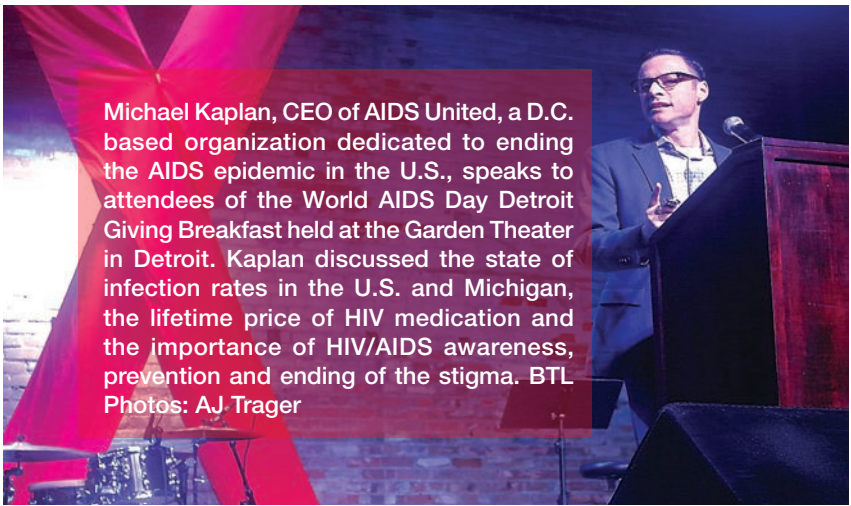
The San Francisco model may not be fully achievable in Michigan. Treating HIV is expensive – the cost of drugs alone runs tens of thousands of dollars a month. PrEP costs \$12,000 a year, or \$1,000 a month.

“ACA implementation has expanded insurance options for thousands of People Living With HIV,” said Dawn Lukowski, acting manager of HIV care and prevention for the state of Michigan. “However, premiums, deductibles, co-insurances and co-pays can still be prohibitive and present a barrier for low-income PLWH who cannot afford even the reduced costs. Therefore, services like ADAP, health insurance premium and cost-sharing assistance, targeted testing, emergency financial assistance, etc. are all still essential to

See *Getting To Zero*, page 15



Jeanne White-Ginder, mother of Ryan White, speaks to attendees at the World AIDS Day Detroit Giving Breakfast about the life of her son and how the impact his efforts and strength, and the efforts of many, have furthered AIDS awareness. During her presentation, White-Ginder read Ryan's speech that he gave before the President's Commission on AIDS in 1987 shortly before his death in 1990. Today the Ryan White Care Act provides funding and support for AIDS Service Organizations all over the country; providing services to 536,000 people each year who do not have sufficient health care coverage or financial resources to cope with HIV.



Michael Kaplan, CEO of AIDS United, a D.C. based organization dedicated to ending the AIDS epidemic in the U.S., speaks to attendees of the World AIDS Day Detroit Giving Breakfast held at the Garden Theater in Detroit. Kaplan discussed the state of infection rates in the U.S. and Michigan, the lifetime price of HIV medication and the importance of HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention and ending of the stigma. BTL Photos: AJ Trager

► Getting To Zero

Continued from p. 14

filling financial gaps left by ACA.”

State officials also announced in October they have received a three year grant to develop a pilot project to promote PrEP in Detroit. The first payment for the grant was nearly a half a million dollars. If successful, state health officials believe the lessons learned, and the educational outreach programs developed in

Detroit, can and will be rolled out statewide.

For Vail, the county's health officer, the county can do more. While she has only been at the helm for about a year and a half, she said she wants to develop a county wide strategy related to HIV, to bring the various “pockets” of knowledge together.

“I think we can do more as a department,” she said. “One strategy has the potential to have a greater impact.”

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AIDS: Lest We Forget (Pt. 1)

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

It's been over 30 years since media stories began to appear about what seemed the onset of a pandemic among gay men (and drug users). The acronym for these puzzling outbreaks on the East and West coasts was GRID. Gay Related Immune Deficiency. Later to be called AIDS. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

No one – doctors, virologists, health officials, the Center for Disease Control – seemed to have a clue as to what was the cause of this growing plague. How it was spread. Why it seemed to affect primarily gay men.

Given scant scientific/medical information, it is little wonder that panic – with a capital P and several alarming exclamation points – set in. The panic seemed as contagious as the new disease.

Hard hit were those areas with high populations of gay men during what was called the “sexual revolution” of disco dancing, drug and popper use, bath house and backroom cruising, of the Gay Power Movement militancy of the 1970s.

Restaurants known to have gay waiters were avoided. Few dared to visit quarantined wards. It would take President Ronald Reagan six years to publicly address AIDS.

(I recently watched a DVD documentary, “Gay Sex in the ‘70s.” Interviews were of those gay men who were in New York City at a time when sexual activity seemed nonstop. This was also true of the San Francisco Castro area. It was a time of the so-called “clone look”: Levi's, form-fitting plaid shirts, beards, mustaches, leather.)

It helps to keep in mind that the sexual revolution of the '70s was not a gays-only happening. Straights too were getting it on happy-go-lucky – or, unlucky – sex swapping in a big way. Pent-up frustrations prevailed, following the social upheaval of the previous decade. (On a lesser, but more sexually cautious scale, the same thing happened after World War I, leading to the uninhibited Roaring '20s.)

A bit of background history: John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy were assassinated in 1968. Vietnam War protests erupted in major cities that same year. Jonestown, with poisoning Kool Aid drinks that killed 909, occurred in November 1978.

That same calamitous year Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected San Francisco Supervisor, was assassinated by fired San Francisco supervisor Dan White. White's “Twinkie defense” sentencing resulted in gay rioting, cars overturned, glass shattering, cop baiting.

In 1969, the Stonewall Riots happened, setting the stage for Gay Power, and ultimately the LGBT liberation we experience today. The first New York City gay/lesbian parade took place in June 1970. Hundreds marched.

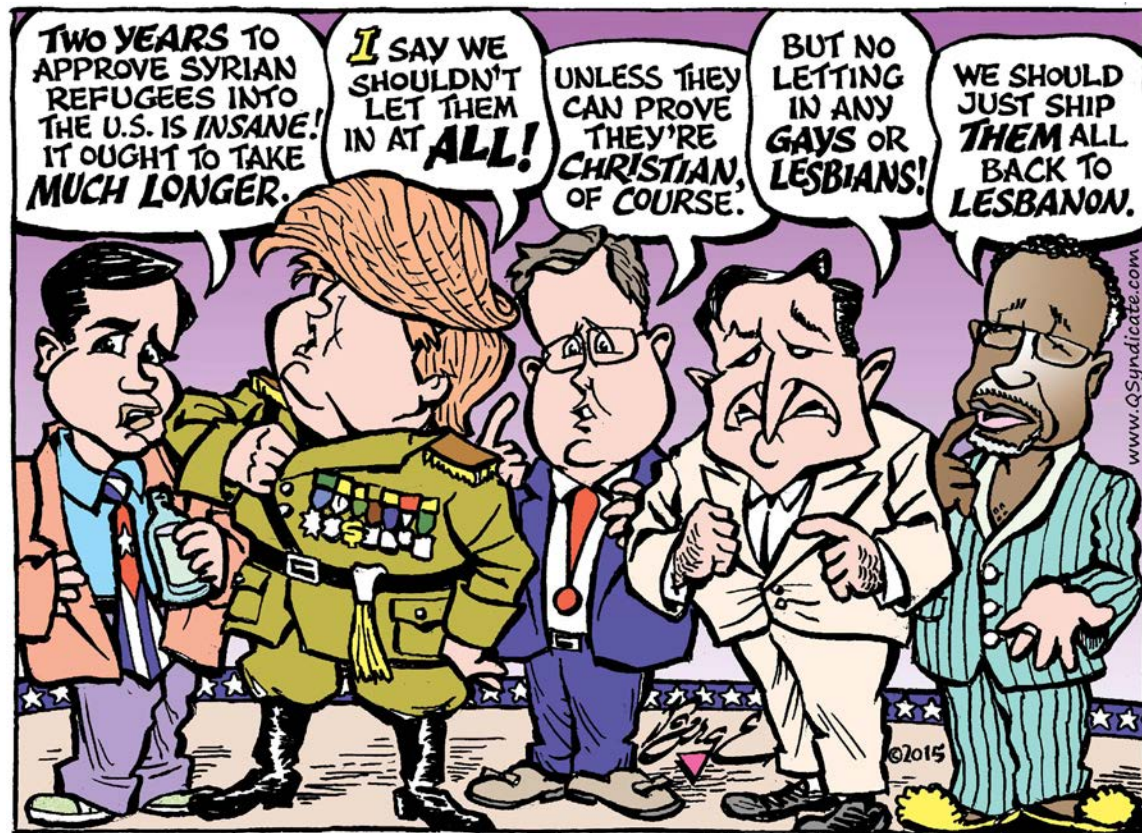
With the onset of the AIDS pandemic in 1981, gay men became pariahs. Because it was not known how AIDS was spread (Could it be airborne? Could it be just by touching an infected person?), gay men became lepers.

Restaurants known to have gay waiters were avoided. Few dared to visit quarantined wards. It would take President Ronald Reagan six years to publicly address AIDS.

Here in Detroit it was a scary time. As tallies of coastal deaths climbed into the hundreds, thousands and more, most of us wondered when the pandemic would hard hit here. Every spot, every cough, every bout of nausea, every ounce of weight loss, was viewed with anxiety. We asked ourselves, who's next? Treatment was painfully slow in coming.

Many again sought frightened refuge, hoped-for safety in the closet. AIDS was relentless. I lost a dear, longtime friend in 1981. Ten more acquaintances would follow in the '90s.

Charles@pridesource.com



Viewpoint

Our Doors Are Open

OPINION BY THOMAS 'TJ' ROGERS

Although fear is a legitimate emotion – one I would never discount – fear has a tendency to create paranoia. This could not be more apparent than in the alleged connection between terrorist attacks in Paris and the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis.

First, the individuals who committed these acts of terrorism were part of a small fraction of people claiming to be Muslim; they are extremists. Unfortunately, the perpetrators of these acts are ignorantly assumed to represent an entire group of people. This is just foolish. Our politicians have exacerbated our fear with hasty legislation (most recently, the ridiculous America SAFE Act of 2015) and by spreading misinformation, which itself is ultimately guided by a fear of the unknown.

Does this sound familiar? It should, because the LGBT community once upon a time was the “unknown.” In Michigan, and indeed around the country, the LGBT community is no stranger to discrimination. We know what it's like to be beaten

down, told we are less than and deprived of our rights. And in times of hysteria, we've been scapegoats and been blamed for diseases and natural disasters.

It's absurd. It's illogical. And yet, now it's happening to Syrian refugees. The LGBT community lives at a multitude of intersections and oppressions; we are a part of every facet of life, and believe it or not, this “we” includes the men and women fleeing Syria and other countries where it is illegal to be LGBT. To that end, we have a moral responsibility to welcome and support our refugee brothers and sisters, LGBT or otherwise, from around the globe. And we should not sit complacent when hateful, hurtful rhetoric is used for an entire group of people.

So let's talk facts: a “refugee” is an individual outside of her/his country of origin who has a well-founded fear of being persecuted on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership within a particular social group and is unable or unwilling to avail her-/himself to the protection of

The LGBT community lives at a multitude of intersections and oppressions; we are a part of every facet of life, and believe it or not, this “we” includes the men and women fleeing Syria and other countries where it is illegal to be LGBT.

that country. As it relates to the United States, the term “refugee” often refers to resettled refugees, or individuals who have proven to meet the aforementioned definition prior to arrival. Such people have gone through a rigorous vetting process complete with extensive background and security checks by multiple U.S. intelligence agencies (including the State Department, Department of Defense, FBI, Department of Homeland Security and National Counterterrorism Center), as well as collection of biometrics and thorough health screenings – a

See Doors Open, next page

Creep of the Week

Marco Rubio

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

If you're a Republican, you know that it is essential to seek the vote of people who are irrational and extreme. And in order to do that, you have to say things that are irrational and extreme.



Rubio

But you also have to ignore the parts of reality that clash with your irrational and extreme ideology. And Marco Rubio has that down pat.

It's saying that Pope Francis can do no wrong, except when you disagree with him. "On moral issues, he speaks with incredible authority," Rubio told Fox News.

"He's done so consistently on the value of life, on the sanctity of life, on the importance of marriage and on the family. (But) On economic issues, the pope is a person." How convenient.

It's shooting down Hillary Clinton's plan to make college more affordable as too expensive, yet trying to play down your coziness with for-profit colleges that often leave students in deep debt and without degrees.

It's telling Fox News that America should shut down mosques and "any place – whether it's a cafe, a diner, an internet site – any place where radicals are being inspired" and yet ignoring the many breeding grounds for violence by non-Muslims in the United States.

It's denouncing Planned Parenthood and repeating discredited claims about them selling "baby parts" for profit, yet remaining silent when a man shoots up a clinic in Colorado.

And it's calling for the anti-gay right to just ignore *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the Supreme Court case that established marriage equality as a fundamental right, just as they ignore *Roe v. Wade*.

In a recent interview on the Christian Broadcasting Network, David Brody asks Rubio if he considered *Obergefell v. Hodges* "settled law."

"It is current law. It's not settled law. No law is settled law," Rubio answers. "*Roe v. Wade* is current law but that doesn't mean that we don't continue to aspire to fix it because we think it's wrong. And in the interim,

As anti-abortion activists have chipped away at abortion rights over the years, Rubio clearly would like to see that same energy directed at marriage equality. Perhaps to limit the number of same-sex marriages and save as many homos from themselves as possible?

until we can get a Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, we do everything possible within the constraints that it's placed upon us, to confront it and certainly limit the number of abortions and save as many lives as possible."

As anti-abortion activists have chipped away at abortion rights over the years, Rubio clearly would like to see that same energy directed at marriage equality. Perhaps to limit the number of same-sex marriages and save as many homos from themselves as possible?

"If you live in a society where the government creates an avenue and a way for you to peacefully change the law, then you're called upon to participate in that process to try to change it," Rubio continues. "Not ignoring it but trying to change the law. And so that's what we're endeavoring to do here. I continue to believe that marriage law should be between one man and one woman and that the proper place for that to be defined is at the state level where marriage has always been regulated, not by the U.S. Supreme Court and not by the federal government."

First of all, it's worth asking whether Rubio believes we live in a society that allows for peacefully changing laws we disagree with. Granted, this interview was done before the Colorado shooting, but it's not like Rubio doesn't have many violent examples at his disposal. Not to mention the fact that this legislative attack on abortion laws is part of what has been called the GOP's War on Women. Republicans are hell bent on making women's access to complete health care a crime.

So when he says "that's what we're endeavoring to do here" regarding marriage equality, I can't help but question his sincerity about peacefully settling this dispute. The anti-gay rhetoric of the GOP is just fuel for more violence.

world, from countries desecrated by corruption and torn apart by violence. Reaching safety is unquestionably the ultimate goal for asylum seekers and refugees and the allure of the "American Dream" gives them hope for a new beginning. To deny Syrian – and indeed, any – refugees this dream is to deny them hope for a new beginning and their inherent dignity and rights.

We are a country founded by people fleeing persecution – people who today would have been asylum seekers or refugees. In the days ahead, I hope that we continue to uphold America's legacy as a place of

compassion and refuge for all people, regardless of one's nationality, religion, political opinion, race or sexuality. We can keep our country safe without compromising our values. So let's fearlessly forge ahead and extend an open hand, rather than a clenched fist, to our brothers and sisters in need.

Thomas "TJ" Rogers is the program manager at Freedom House in Detroit. Freedom House is a temporary home for survivors of persecution from around the world who are seeking asylum in the U.S. and Canada. For more information, visit www.freedomhousedetroit.org.

► Doors Open

Continued from p. 16

process that currently takes between 18 months and three years.

At Freedom House – a Detroit based nonprofit organization providing comprehensive services to indigent survivors of persecution from around the world at no charge – we help asylum seekers. The term "asylum seeker" is by definition the same as a refugee. However, these individuals apply for protected status while on our soil. Asylum seekers like refugees come from all over the

KEY TERMS

Understanding HIV In 2015

BY TODD HEYWOOD

In the 34 years since HIV was first identified by science, much has changed. It's no longer just a matter of whether someone is HIV-positive or not – today, with medical advances, people living with HIV are living longer healthier lives and are less likely to transmit their infection and now there is a once a day pill that is at least 92 percent effective in preventing someone from becoming infected. With these changes come a bevy of new ideas; here are some key ones to better understand HIV in 2015.

HIV positive: this means tests detected the antibodies for HIV. Antibodies are specific proteins produced by the body to combat foreign items in the body such as viruses and bacteria. An adult person only has antibodies to HIV if the virus has infected that person.

HIV negative: this means tests have not detected the antibodies for HIV. This means that either the person does not have the infection, or they are early on in the infection such that their body has not fully responded by developing the antibodies (which takes about three weeks).

Viral Load: This is a test which measures the amount of virus in the blood. The test can detect as few as 28 viral particles per mL of blood. The higher the viral load, the more infectious a person is as well as the more likely the virus will cause significant damage to the immune system.

Undetectable: This means the person is living with HIV, but has successfully suppressed the virus through medication. It refers to a measure of viral load which cannot detect the virus in the blood. It does not mean the person is not still infected with the virus, it means the virus is well controlled in the body. Recent studies have found a person who has an undetectable viral load is highly unlikely to transmit their infection to sexual and needle sharing partners.

TasP: This is an abbreviation for Treatment as Prevention. Scientists have discovered that when a person is on medications and has an undetectable viral load, they are highly unlikely to transmit the infection. As a result, the CDC and state and local health officials have moved towards encouraging people living with HIV to get on treatment for two reasons. First is better long term health outcomes for the person with HIV, and the second is the reduction in the risk of transmission to sexual and needle sharing partners.

PrEP: This is an abbreviation for Pre-exposure Prophylaxis. It is the newest weapon in prevention of HIV and involves taking a specific two-drug combination anti-HIV pill daily. Studies have found that when taken daily, the drug is at least 92 percent effective in preventing a person from becoming infected with HIV. A model of the drug's efficacy has estimated it may be as effective as 99 percent in stopping a person from contracting HIV. The CDC in 2014 released a broad new clinical guidance encouraging broad application of the drug in high risk groups.

HIV incidence: This is the number of new cases of HIV in a given year. In 2014, Ingham County had an incidence of 25.

HIV prevalence: This is the number of people living with HIV – including those who have not been identified – per 100,000 people. Ingham County's HIV prevalence was 175. Clinton County's was 48, while Eaton County's was 53. Ingham County has the highest prevalence rate outside of Detroit, according to data from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

HIV Disease: HIV, medically, is no longer broken into HIV infection and AIDS. All clinical diagnoses are now rated on a three stage process. What was traditionally referred to as AIDS is now HIV Disease Stage 3. Despite significant improvements in medical care which often results in restoration of immune system functions, once a person is diagnosed as HIV Disease Stage 3, they will remain in that category until death.

Research Study: Bisexual Women Found Most At Risk Of Violence In And Out Of Relationships

BY AJ TRAGER

YPSILANTI—In her Nov. 18 presentation, “Invisible Violence, Invisible Victims: The Health Related Consequences of Same-Sex and Intimate Partner Violence,” at the Equality Knowledge Project conducted by the Equality Research Center at Eastern Michigan University, Bethany Coston discussed the most recent statistics on intimate partner violence (IPV) in the LGBT community.

Coston found that while LGBT people were more likely to experience IPV than their heterosexual counterparts, a third to a half of all LGBT individuals who do suffer physical injuries or emotional trauma from IPV do not ever reach out to a medical professional and the majority of LGBT survivors were not utilizing services at their local LGBT community center.

Historically, the focus of intimate partner violence and rape campaigns has largely showcased experiences of cisgender, heterosexual women. Even in the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, lesbian, bisexual and transgender women were not specifically mentioned aside from one paragraph that discussed areas of improvement and health disparities.

“Given the focus that history has had, that the government has had and our criminal justice system (has had), medical service providers, shelters and our academics have had on women as victims, you might finally be asking yourself, ‘Well, how big is the problem of same-sex or LGBT intimate partner violence?’” Coston asked during her presentation.

“...marriage equality means nothing when we are being abused in relationships. So those things need to be separated and we cannot be afraid that it is going to say anything bad about LGBT people”

— Bethany Coston

Obama states that 20 percent of women will experience sexual violence in their lifetime. However, in the results produced by the NIPSVS, straight women had a 65 percent chance, bisexual women had an 80 percent chance and heterosexual men had a higher than 20 percent chance of experiencing intimate partner sexual violence in their lifetime.

Coston ran tests against these percentages and found the discrepancy between LGBT experiences and heterosexual experiences to be significant.

“On all accounts of intimate partner violence, bisexual women experience it significantly more often than other women,” Coston said.

Based on NIPSVS findings, physical violence rates are significantly higher than sexual violence rates against the LGBT community. Seventy percent of LGBT respondents reported suffering from at least one act of psychological violence and were more likely than most straight identified Americans to experience physical or sexual violence.

The NIPSVS study also looked at the rates of stalking in the LGBT community by partners or other individuals and again found that bisexual women were more likely to experience stalking than lesbians and gays.

“All statistics are higher than 45 percent — all of us have a 50 percent chance of getting stalked at some point by a current or former intimate partner,” Coston said.

Coston's Research

Pulling from a telephone survey of 18,000 people, Coston used data from 7,000 LGBT identified individuals for her study: 3,000 heterosexual men; 3,000 heterosexual women; 600 bisexual women; 300 bisexual men; 81 gay men; and 67 lesbian women.

“Previous research tells us very little about the difference between people abused by a same-sex partner and people abused by an opposite sex partner and those outcomes,” Coston explained. “It also tells us very little about LGBT people, as an identity, and heterosexual or straight people as an identity. In fact, only one study using nationally represented data has ever assessed health disparities following violence. What that study found was that all people, regardless of sexual orientation, experienced trauma that was both physical and psychological following

victimization.”

Coston studied mostly health outcomes and who sought service after experiencing an act of violence. Her findings focused on the quantitative analysis which showcases population statistics; however, it cannot discuss the lived realities of people and how severe the violence felt to them.

During her research, Coston discovered that no study has assessed physical injury rates or the rates that survivors are seeking health care. After studying her data, she found that the LGBT community was 26 percent more likely than heterosexual or straight people to seek medical care for injuries resulting from physical violence and psychological trauma.

Coston found that gay, lesbian and bisexual men and women are significantly more likely to suffer more physical injuries as a result of physical violence than straight people but were largely not seeking out medical help. Gay and bisexual men were found to experience psychological trauma more often but only 11.2 percent sought medical help and only 26 percent of lesbian and bisexual women sought help for their medical and psychological health.

Since the LGBT community is not seeking out medical help, Coston had to ask, “Are they seeking out any other types of aid?”

She found that gay, lesbian and bisexual men and women did talk to an advocate, counselor or psychologist 50-60 percent of the time and were also more likely to connect with a community service provider. However, 98.1 percent of LGBT people affected by IPV do not go to community service centers for help with emotional trauma and physical abuse.

In follow up research involving more complicated analyses, Coston found age to be an important factor in whether or not LGBT victims of IPV seek help. If the person is of a really young or older age they may have

Seventy percent of LGBT respondents reported suffering from at least one act of psychological violence and were more likely than most straight identified Americans to experience physical or sexual violence.

limited access to transportation and affordable health insurance or they may be on disability.

“If you have or perceive yourself to have poor mental health, you’ve had a disability and came into the relationship with a disability, you’re more likely to experience victimization but also not go get help once you do,” Coston said.

Moving Forward

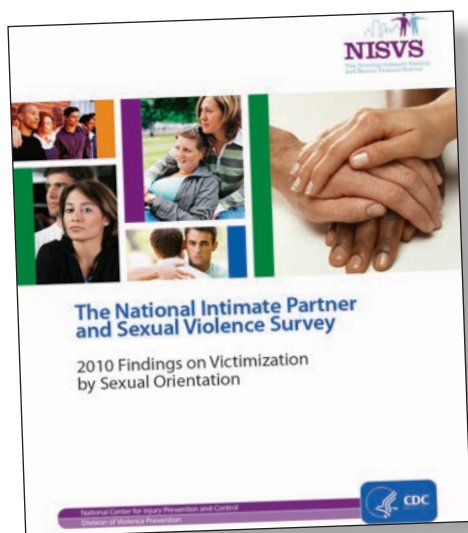
“We need to be thinking about issues of sex and gender,” Coston said. “Bisexual individuals were most likely to experience victimization and injury and it might surprise you to know that the majority of these individuals were abused by men.”

Patriarchy may be an explanation, but gender is more complicated than filling out a box in a survey or asking a survivor about the sex of their former partners. Coston would like to explore how gender operates in a relationship and if gender identity is directly linked to power dynamics in same-sex relationships.

While her study included striking statistics for the LGBT community, it did consist of some inequalities. The sample size was largely comprised of middle-class, white individuals without immigrant status. Also, transgender people were largely excluded since the survey listed transgender as a sexual orientation alongside bisexual, lesbian, gay or straight.

Coston found that LGBT individuals largely do not seek out help from LGBT community organizations. Improving on the services that are already in place would be a good start to strengthening the support infrastructure for victims and survivors but, Coston said, communities also need training for police officers, law enforcement officials and medical service providers that is both culturally competent and accountable to victims and survivors — services that people will actually use.

“Talking about LGBT intimate partner violence and same-sex violence should not induce either of these two fears in any of us. One, that talking about it will be bad for LGBT people because it says something bad about the relationships and marriages that people worked so hard to gain; marriage equality means nothing when we are being abused in relationships. So those things need to be separated and we cannot be afraid that it is going to say anything bad about LGBT people. Two, we really need to stop being afraid that we will draw resources away from women who are victims. We keep talking about how limited the resources are and if you draw any of those resources away from women who have been abused by men there will be nothing left. Well I say, compassion is not a finite resource and so we need to be really caring about the people who are victims and survivors.”



The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

The 2010 NIPSVS states that 65-75 percent of LGB people will experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

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Missouri School District Adopts Transgender Policy

MARIONVILLE, Mo. (AP) – A southwest Missouri school district has a new policy governing bathroom usage for transgender students that some civil rights advocates are calling discriminatory.

The Marionville School District recently adopted a policy allowing students to either use a gender-neutral bathroom or a bathroom designated for their biological sex, The Springfield News-Leader reported.

The district is among several others, including Fair Grove, Stockton, El Dorado Springs and Bernie in southeast Missouri, that have adopted such policies after a group of students protested over a transgender Hillsboro High School student who was allowed to change in the girls' locker room.

Under the new Marionville policy, students who participate in physical education classes requiring a locker room or shower are expected to use facilities designated for their biological gender. They can also take an alternative PE class that doesn't require changing clothes or showering.

The new Marionville policy also allows students to change their name once every school year, use whatever pronoun they prefer and dress in the same manner as the gender with which they identify as long as they are consistent with school dress code.

Sarah Rossi, director of advocacy and policy for the ACLU of Missouri, called Marionville's policy "blatant discrimination." She said the policy conflicts with federal guidelines for transgender students, who should be able to use a bathroom or locker room of the gender they identify with.

"Transgender students need to be treated with dignity and respect just like any other students, and policies like this do just the opposite," Rossi said.

Marionville's new policy also says the needs of each transgender student must be assessed case-by-case.

Marionville superintendent Larry Brown said the school board adopted the policy based on recommendations from the school's insurance company and attorney, Tom Mickes. Mickes is with the Missouri Consultants for Education, one of two organizations that create and recommend policies for Missouri schools.

Mickes said MCE created its policy model to counter recommendations from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights that include allowing transgender students who identify as being female to shower with biologically-born females.

"Female students have a well-developed legal right to be secure in their body integrity. They have the right not to be naked in front of a male," Mickes said. "We are going to provide alternatives, but showering with them is not one of the options."

Steph Perkins, interim director of PROMO, Missouri's statewide organization advocating for LGBT equality, said he hopes Marionville and other schools will not feel forced to follow these recommended policies to the letter and instead take a case-by-case approach.

"While these policies are a huge step in the right direction, we hope that any steps that have been made to support students aren't reversed because of a policy," Perkins said.

BY BTL STAFF

Sixteen anti-violence organizations from 13 states across the country, including Michigan, contributed testimony from 2,166 reports of Intimate Partner Violence for the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Program's 2014 report on LGBT Intimate Partner Violence released Oct. 27. The report found LGBT and HIV-affected communities of color, bisexual survivors, transgender communities and cisgender male survivors were uniquely and disproportionately impacted by IPV.

Findings from the report show that for a fourth year in a row cisgender men were most impacted by IPV homicide, bisexual survivors were more likely to experience sexual violence and transgender individuals were more likely to experience IPV in public areas.

In 2014, 15 LGBT individuals lost their lives to IPV, a 29 percent decrease from 2013. Of the 15 homicides documented last year, eight of the victims were cisgender men, seven of whom were killed by current or former male partners, accounting for 47 percent of all reported homicide victims.

The 2014 report shows a decrease of 20 percent of reported cases compared to the 2013 findings. Several NCAVP member programs who saw a decrease attribute the decline to less visibility for their organization due to staffing changes.

"While NCAVP saw a decrease in reports in 2014, this data remains some of the most comprehensive data available and includes reports of LGBT and HIV-affected IPV which may not have been reported to the police," said Beverly Tillery from the New York City Anti-Violence Project. "The need to bring visibility and resources to the experiences and needs of LGBTQ survivors of IPV remains a critical issue facing our country."

Member programs may have reported a decrease, however a higher percentage of survivors attempted to access formal systems and services of care following an incident of IPV in 2014. Of the 24 percent of individuals who sought orders of protection, 85 percent were granted compared to 58 percent in 2013. A 55 percent majority of survivors reported their experience of IPV to the police in 2014 – a substantial increase from 2013 when only 37 percent of survivors reported to police.

"LGBT and HIV-affected survivors

of color often face racism along with homophobia, biphobia and transphobia when interacting with first responders or attempting to access supportive services," said Lynne Sprague from Survivors Organizing for Liberation in Colorado. "It is imperative that responses to LGBTQ and HIV-affected intimate partner violence survivors of color address not just institutional anti-LGBTQ and HIV bias – but also racism."

LGBT and HIV-affected people of color accounted for 51 percent of IPV survivors. Specifically, LGBT black survivors were 1.89 times more likely and

Economic Impact

For the first time, NCAVP collected data on experiences of LGBT and HIV-affected survivors who are on public assistance in an effort to expand current research to analyze the economic impacts of violence and the relationship between socio-economic status and violence. The 2014 report found that LGBT survivors of color were 3.34 times more likely and transgender women of color were 8.43 times more likely to be on public assistance than people who do not identify as LGBT people of color.

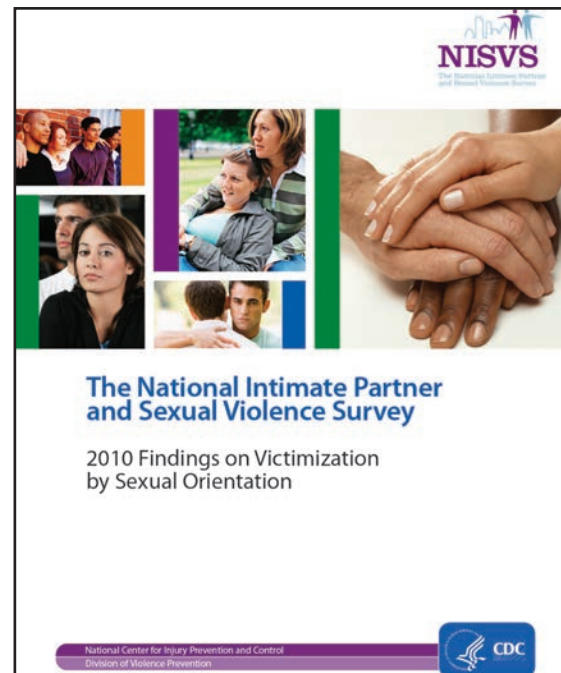
Additionally, survivors on public assistance in 2014 were 3.13 times more likely to experience physical violence and 5.71 times more likely to be injured than survivors who were not on public assistance.

NCAVP requests that policymakers ensure that the federal government collects comprehensive and inclusive information on sexual orientation and gender identity whenever demographic data is requested in studies, surveys and research including IPV, and the NCAVP asks that policymakers ensure that LGBT survivors are included in all prevention assessments. Policymakers and funders should fund LGBT and HIV-affected specific IPV prevention initiatives and fund economic empowerment programs targeted at LGBT and HIV-affected communities, particularly LGBT and HIV-affected communities

of color, transgender communities, immigrant communities and low-income communities. NCAVP also suggests policymakers enact compassionate, comprehensive immigration reform to reduce barriers for LGBTQ and HIV-affected immigrant survivors of IPV.

The report includes testimony from 2,166 reports of IPV from Arizona, California, Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Texas and Vermont.

NCAVP is a national coalition of 53 local member programs and affiliate organizations in 25 states, Canada and Washington D.C. who create systemic and social change for the prevention, response to and eradication of all forms of violence against and within the LGBT and HIV-affected communities. To read the whole report visit gaybe.am/avp.



Latina survivors were 1.59 times more likely to experience physical violence within IPV than non-POC survivors.

The report found transgender survivors to be 1.98 times more likely to experience IPV in public areas and 3.39 times more likely to experience discrimination than people who did not identify as transgender. Undocumented transgender survivors were 3.83 times more likely to experience discrimination and 1.78 times more likely to experience harassment than people who do not identify as transgender and are undocumented.

Bisexual survivors were found to be 2.02 times more likely to experience sexual violence than people who did not identify as bisexual. NCAVP's 2014 data reinforces the findings of the NISVS that revealed that 61 percent of bisexual women and 37 percent of bisexual men experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking in their lifetimes within IPV.

Obituary: Rev. Rodney E. Reinhart

Jan. 13, 1949 - Nov. 24, 2015

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Born in Toledo, Ohio and raised in Detroit, Rodney Reinhart's first calling was to teach. He earned a degree in English and secondary education from Oakland University and taught for many years in the Detroit public schools. But by the 1970s, it was a calling to serve God that Reinhart yielded to.

He studied theology and church history at Colgate Rochester, Bexley Hall-Crozer, the seminary consortium in Rochester, New York, earning his Masters of Divinity in 1975. Later, he did further graduate work at the University of Michigan and at Wayne State University.

Having realized he was gay in junior high school, Reinhart became involved in Detroit's burgeoning gay and lesbian community in the 1970s. By the following decade he had started Integrity-Detroit, a group working for the full equality of LGBT persons in every part of the Episcopal Church, with his partner Richard Kelch. Together they represented the group on the Detroit Area Gay/Lesbian Council, an early LGBT rights organization in the city.

In 1983, Reinhart was ordained as a deacon at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church in Detroit. A year later, he was ordained as a priest at St.

Andrew's Episcopal Church on the campus of Detroit's Wayne State University. Also in 1984, Reinhart co-founded the People Who Care About People With AIDS interfaith worship service.

"Rev. Reinhart reminded the religious community of its need to minister, pray for and demonstrate concern for the AIDS afflicted at a time when so many treated its suffering and dying as pariahs outside God's love and redemption," said friend Charles Alexander. "It was a courageous ministry for Rev. Reinhart to undertake over many years."

The service continued as an annual tradition for over 20 years. For much of his career in Detroit, Reinhart specialized in interim and transitional ministries. Working in close coordination with the Bishop of Michigan, Reinhart helped troubled parishes transition through times of conflict and change. Reinhart was very concerned about the tragedy of religious prejudice and war. In 1999, he established the World Sabbath of Religious Reconciliation, an interfaith holy day dedicated to overcoming religious and racial war, an event which continues to this day.

Reinhart relocated to the Chicago area in 2004. There he served as rector of St.

Clement's Church in Harvey and St. Joseph and St. Aidan's in Blue Island. At St. Clement's Church, Reinhart oversaw an effective anti-hunger pantry and community garden program that fed as many as 300 impoverished families each month. At St. Joseph and St. Aidan's, Reinhart led an evangelistic program to heal the environment and make peace in the world. Under his leadership, St. Joseph and St. Aidan's became a great center for helping homeless veterans survive through the winter.

"He was without a doubt the most decent, caring man I have ever met in my life," said Alan Engle, Reinhart's husband. "That's the best anyone could say about Rodney Reinhart."

Peter Cooper, a longtime friend of Reinhart's, said he will remember Reinhart's fun side. "He was a gregarious man," Cooper said. "He was always involved in doing something, either working with the LGBT movement, working with seniors, with labor unions, working with the disadvantaged ... He was always trying to help someone else. And yet he knew how to have a good time himself."



Reinhart summed himself up rather eloquently in a story *Between The Lines* did on him nearly two decades ago.

"God's will for my life was to be grateful for the gift of being gay and to live this life out in the most effective, faithful and creative way possible."

Visitation for Reinhart will take place from 3-6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4 at Coat's Funeral Home, which is located at 3141 Sashabaw Road in Waterford. Funeral services will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, which is located at 5301 Hatchery Road in Waterford.

Tim Retzloff contributed to this report.

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THE AUTHENTIC LIFE

Sarah Paulson On Coming Out, Defying Labels & Pressure To Be An LGBT Activist

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

What does Sarah Paulson remember about the first time she kissed a girl? “Nothing that I’m going to tell you!” she teases, laughing as if to say “nice try.”

Not that the actress’ entire life is a secret. It hasn’t been.

In 2005, when then-girlfriend Cherry Jones was named a winner at the Tony Awards, Paulson planted a sweet kiss on Jones’ lips. But the 40-year-old acting dynamo isn’t one to kiss and tell – a practice extending to many aspects of her public life, which she’s regulated for a reason: so as not to distract from the stories she’s a part of telling.

Those stories are wide-ranging. In addition to her chameleonic roles in Ryan Murphy’s FX hit “American Horror Story,” where she’s currently playing a hip ’80s-inspired druggie named Sally, she stars as Cate Blanchett’s former flame, Abby, in writer-director Todd Haynes’ powerful lesbian love story “Carol.” In the film, Blanchett plays a married woman with a passionate desire for a department store clerk named Therese (Rooney Mara). But it’s the 1950s – homosexuality is taboo, and the closet doors are closed.

Paulson’s story is a different one, however. And the doors? They’re mostly open.

How do you reflect on your accidental coming out?

I was very young, and I was in love. It was the reality of the person I was with. She just won a Tony Award – I’m not gonna pat her on the back, give her the big thumbs up and say, “Go up there and get your award, sweetie.” It was not a really conscious thought. I didn’t think of what the implications were gonna be. I just did what was true and honest to me in that moment.

The truth of the matter is, it was early enough in my career that there have been no attachments made to me as a performer. I think the thing that makes it somewhat easier in terms of there not having been ramifications is that I’m a character actress – nobody is assigning a particular kind of sexual anything to me, I don’t think. Maybe that’s totally not true (laughs). But it just seems if you’re sort of known for being a sex kitten and that’s how you come on the scene, and then you end up being a total femme fatale actress, and then all of a sudden you make a statement about your sexuality, it becomes news. Whereas I’m a character actress; I can do a lot of things. I don’t think anybody’s



made one particular association with me that would then make them go, “Well, I can’t see her this way now.”

You do seem to put your career before your personal life.

I do think it’s more important, and I know that Matt Damon got a terrible amount of flak for the way he phrased those things (earlier

this year, he said: “People shouldn’t know anything about your sexuality because that’s one of the mysteries that you should be able to play.”), but the sentiment is still true: My personal life... I’m not gonna hide it from you, but I also don’t want you to think about that before you think about the character I’m playing. And so I want that to be of paramount importance – it’s of paramount importance to

me that you believe the story I’m trying to be a part of telling you, and if my personal life is going to get in the way of that, I don’t like that at all.

Have you been strategic, then, in what you reveal to the public?

The thing with Cherry was very accidental. And, again, I was very young. If it happened to me today, I don’t know what I would do necessarily. I really don’t. I think what I’d like to think is that I would just be who I am and whomever I was with, if I had won an award or they had won award or if it was some kind of public thing, I would not do what I would do simply because I was afraid of being revealed. I don’t think that would be a choice I would make. But I think it was hard a bit because when she and I broke up (in 2009) there were some public statements said by her in, I think, an accidental way that ended up being hurtful to me, so I’ve been very kind of careful now about what I’m willing to talk about in terms of specifics.

So, it’s not been strategic; it’s been life experience. I’ve learned lessons, and therefore I behave in different ways now, and they are not in ways I’m upset about or ways that I think are not good. But like for Therese in “Carol,” you live and you learn and you come into your own and you start to be responsible for your own power and your own choices and what you’re willing to reveal. At the end of the day, I put enough of my interior life on camera when I’m acting by giving as much of myself as I possibly can – I don’t have to give everything to everyone.

Did working on a movie about repressed sexuality have you reflecting on your own sexuality?

What it really made me think about is the power of love and how, at the end of the day, love is love, period. The end. It sounds cliché, but I think most clichés are clichés because they’re very, very true. And it’s very interesting, because I’ve been with men and women, and (the movie) puts a very fine point on that truth, which is that it’s very personal and that love is love, and sometimes you love a person you weren’t expecting to love – and how glorious is that?

How would you describe Abby’s relationship with Carol?

Carol and Abby were former lovers, for sure. But it was brief and it was much more

See Sara Paulson, page 28



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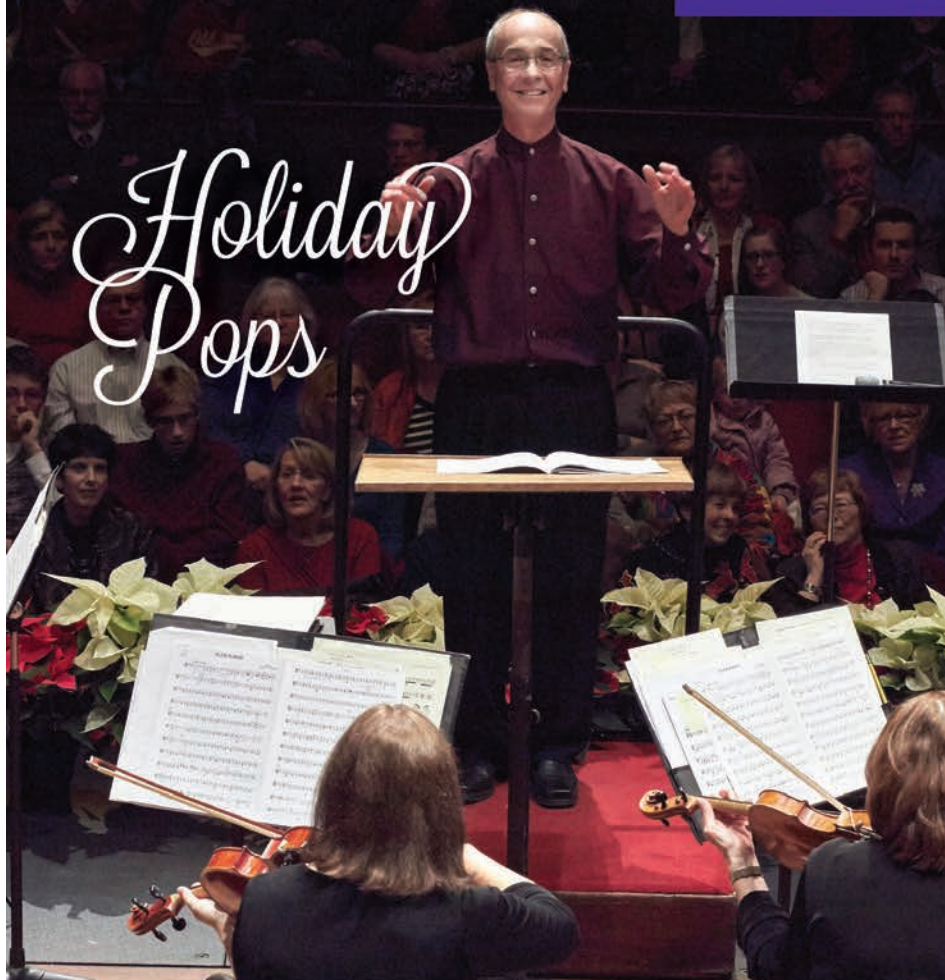
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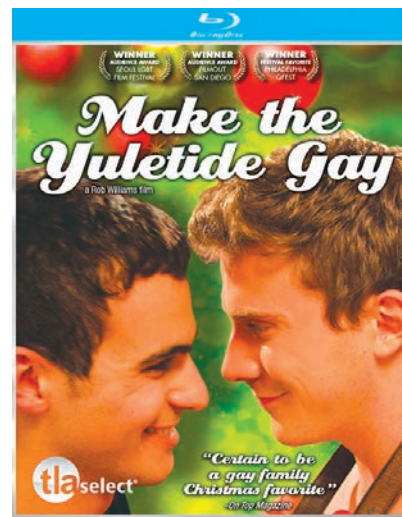
14 Swishy Christmas Movies to Make Your Holidays Merry and Bright

BY MIKEY ROX

When the weather outside is frightful, your DVD player is delightful with this fortnight of holiday flicks that appeal to gay and lesbian sensibilities.

Make the Yuletide Gay

Astonishingly, there are few holiday films that feature LGBT characters (this list is fairly comprehensive as a result), let alone films that have gay main characters. But out director Rob Williams changed that in 2009 by adding the spritely sweet “Make the Yuletide Gay” – about an in-the-closet college student (Keith Jordan) whose boyfriend (Adamo Ruggiero) suddenly shows up on his doorstep – to the Christmas-movie canon. “MTYG” has earned several awards, including Best Narrative Feature at FilmOut San Diego, Festival Favorite at Philadelphia QFest, and the Jury Award for Best Men’s Feature at the Long Island Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.



Home for the Holidays

Claudia Larson (Holly Hunter) navigates dysfunctional family dramedy during her solo trip home for Thanksgiving when her teenage daughter opts out of the year’s celebration. Tensions predictably boil over at the family table, but the weekend is wrapped nicely in a bow when the special guest of Tommy, Claudia’s gay brother, offers a second helping of stuffing. The Jodie Foster-directed “Home for the Holidays” celebrates its 20th anniversary this year.

Holiday Heart

Ving Rhames stars as a Christian drag queen (uh huh – how’d that fly under your radar until now!?) who takes in a drug addict (Alfre Woodard) and her daughter after his police-officer boyfriend dies. Based on the Cheryl L. West stage play of the same name, this made-for-Showtime movie has an astonishing 92 percent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Scrooge & Marley

A modern-day variation of Charles Dickens’ “A Christmas Carol,” this reimagined version depicts Scrooge as a bitter old queen whose bah-humbug attitude gets a makeover from

the ghosts of Christmases Past, Present and Future... and Bruce Vilanch.

Love, Actually

Widely regarded as one of the best holiday movies of the new millennium (by straight girls, at least), this romantic comedy told via 10 separate-but-intertwining stories throws the gays a bone with Billy Mack (Bill Nighy) and Joe (Gregor Fisher) – a rock star and his manager, respectively – who decide that getting drunk and watching porn together for Christmas is better than being alone. Because duh.

24 Nights

An unlucky-in-love gay man (Kevin Isola) thinks his new co-worker (Stephen Mailer) may be a gift from Santa Claus himself after making a Christmas wish for a boyfriend. Mental illness works in mysterious ways, y’all. David Burtka – before he was ever a twinkle in NPH’s eye – also stars in this 1999 romantic comedy.

Red Lodge

An impromptu marriage proposal is given at a train station en route to a holiday celebration with family in Montana. In lieu of an engagement ring, there’s a cock ring – because these dudes are classy AF.

Holiday in Handcuffs

There’s not a chance you missed this ABC Family staple that premiered in 2007 – what with all the endless promotion the initial season (Clarissa and A.C. Slater are together on your TV for the first time – watch!) and the subsequent showings during the channels “25 Days of Christmas” schedule. It’s about as well acted as any Melissa Joan Hart/Mario Lopez vehicle should be, but they’re cute, so there’s that.

The Family Stone

As if Carrie Bradshaw’s alter ego, Sarah Jessica Parker, isn’t enough to get you on board with this “Home for the Holidays”-esque romantic comedy-drama, the brood’s

See Frivolist, page 26





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Brazilian Film Depicts 1970s Drag Act

BY BTL STAFF

As the finale to the Lusophone Film Fest, the State Theater will present a showing of "Tattoo (Tataugem)," a Brazilian film directed by Hilton Lacerda that was released in 2013. Professor Larry LaFountain of the University of Michigan will speak in introduction to the 110-minute long film.

The Brazilian military dictatorship lasted more than 20 years, from 1964 to 1985, and withstood several waves of youthful rebellion, usually by cracking down on cultural movements that threatened to get out of hand (in 1969, for example, singer-songwriters Gilberto Gil and Caetano Veloso were imprisoned and subsequently sent into exile). By the mid-1970s it was possible for an anarchist theatre group to emerge in suburban Recife and put on subversive, queer, avant-garde cabaret shows, just so long as it stayed underground and criticism of the military remained implicit.

Clécio (Iranthir Santos) is director of such a group: The Star-Spangled



Hilton Lacerda's colorful debut weaves a gay love story set during the days of Brazil's military dictatorship. "Tattoo (Tataugem)" will play at 7 p.m. Dec. 3 at the State Theater, 233 S. State St.

Floor. But, when mild mannered soldier Fininha (Jesuíta Barbosa) is drawn into the uninhibited world of the cabaret, and gradually acknowledges his attraction to Clécio, it becomes harder and harder to keep these parallel and mutually uncomprehending spheres apart.

Hilton Lacerda's debut is both a colorful time capsule and a potent drama

that has earned comparisons to the work of Rainer Werner Fassbinder.

"Tattoo (Tataugem)" will play at 7 p.m. Dec. 3 at the State Theater, 233 S. State St., Ann Arbor.

Partially adapted from Palm Springs International Film Festival per University of Michigan press release.

► Frivolist

Continued from p. 24

deaf, gay son Thad (Tyrone Giordano) and his interracial partner Patrick (Brian J. White) should be. Plus Dermott Mulroney, Paul Schneider and Luke Wilson!

Too Cool for Christmas

Perhaps the Christmas film with the most interesting backstory, "Too Cool for Christmas" (a tale about a teenage girl who shuns the reason for the season – and her gay parents – in favor of a ski getaway with friends) actually has a straight-parent companion version that appeared on Lifetime in December 2004. Not much has changed since then – there are still no holiday movies with

prominent gay characters on Lifetime – which is why you should support this festive anomaly all the more.

Holiday Inn

If it's an Irving Berlin musical, it must be Christmas! There's a void of LGBT characters in this 1942 black-and-white musical starting Mr. Holiday Bing Crosby and the light-on-his-feet Fred Astaire – well, none that are specifically labeled as such, at least. But we'd be fooling ourselves if we thought there's nary a nancy-boy singing and dancing around that hotel all day.

Rent

A year in the life of Bohemian New Yorkers set between Christmas Eve 1989 and 1990. You'll come for the story, but you'll stay for the soundtrack.

Love the Coopers

Technically you won't be able to pick up this newly released film on DVD until next year, so instead you'll have to head to your local cinema to watch yet another dysfunctional family handle the holidays the best way they know how – with binge eating and alcohol. But between bickering and laughing and crying – and more bickering – there's Anthony Mackie (one of only a handful of black gay characters in a holiday film) as a closeted cop who doles out life advice... even if he should be practicing what he's preaching.

Miracle on 34th Street

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► Sarah Paulson

Continued from p. 22

meaningful to Abby than it was to Carol. In the scene with Cate at the bar, when we're having our martinis and I say, "I hope you know what you're doing," about Therese, I basically say, we can just go back and have that furniture store in New Jersey and Carol basically says no. That is my 1952 way of saying, "Let's try this again." It's code for, "Let's make out." Carol doesn't want that with Abby. For me, what I was interested in portraying and making sure was there was that sort of sadness that Abby has – that light and love for Carol that's not reciprocated – but still, that she would rather be in Carol's orbit in any way that she can be, so she will be a friend to her no matter what.

You've been so matter of fact about your sexuality since unintentionally coming out in 2005. How have you escaped becoming a pillar for the LGBT community?

Because I refuse to give any kind of label just to satisfy what people need. I understand that everybody wants to have a person to look toward that is actively making change around this issue, and I understand for young people coming out they want to attach that hope to a particular person, but I think that honesty is the most important piece of this for me.

All I can say is, I've done both, and I don't let either experience define me. I don't let having been with a man make me think I am heterosexual, or make me want to call myself that, because I know I have been attracted to women – and have lived with women. So, for me, I'm not looking to define myself, and I'm sorry if that is something that is seen as a rejection of or an unwillingness to embrace (my sexuality) in a public way, but it's simply not. It's simply what's true for me, and that's all I can speak to.

I can't speak to how anybody's experience about this works for them or how they got there or where their comfort zone lies. I would never want that for anyone, and I would never want anyone to ask that of me. And simply because I'm somewhat of a public person doesn't mean that I then have a responsibility to give you what you want simply because you think I should.

Do you think there is pressure on LGBT celebrities to be activists?

I do, and I think sometimes within the community itself people are like, "You have a responsibility to it – young people need the voices, we need the voices, we need people to see it." And I get it. But my reality is different than your reality.

I have had different experiences. I can meet a man tomorrow and fall in love with him and marry him and I wouldn't discount any of the experiences that I've had with women, or vice versa. I just don't think anyone is in a position to dictate what that is for me. I understand why the call is what the call is, and that's also why I don't hide it. I don't pretend it's not true. It's just, I have to be honest about what's true for me, that things kind of coexist.

How do you feel about the way Cate Blanchett reacted to the idea that because she's playing a woman attracted to other women she must have had relationships with women?

I think it's very interesting – all of it, really. Is anyone asking George Clooney what he likes about having sex with a woman? Nobody does. It's a foregone conclusion that it's just an acceptable reality and nobody thinks to bother to ask. But you have a story about two women together or two men together and all of a sudden it becomes fair game and assumptions are made that are just never made in the reverse, and I just think it's terribly unfair. I don't know what her reaction was, but I hope it was, "Bugger off!"

Why is anyone making assumptions about anything about anybody's life? It's a funny thing when actors complain, like, "I didn't ask for this; I just wanted to act." Well, in a perfect world we'd all just be able to act and none of this would be part of it, but it is a part of it – this *is* part of it – and on some level, it comes with the territory. But on another level, you can be responsible and you can control what you will talk about and what you won't talk about. Either you live your life in a very private way or you don't, and I never have done that – ever – and I won't do it going forward. I also won't serve it up on a platter for someone to feast on, because it's mine.

Let's talk about "American Horror Story: Hotel," in which you're currently starring. And you've been on the show since the beginning, in 2011. Are you seeing it through to the end?

If they'll have me. They're gonna have to drag me out of here kicking and screaming. It's gonna be "American Horror Story" Season 720 and I'll be an 80-year-old woman going, "This is the greatest job in the world." I will be around as long as they'll have me – absolutely.

Both "AHS" and "Carol" are associated with sexuality in some way or another. As an actress, are you drawn to roles related to sexuality?

As human beings we are very fascinated by sexuality and what it means and who we're attracted and why, because I think there's a really big mystery about it. There's something so unknowable about it, which is part of what makes it so exciting. And I do think this about my career all the time: People think I pick such great jobs – that I picked "12 Years a Slave," I picked "Carol," I picked "Game Change." I auditioned for them and I got the jobs. And so I've been lucky – I actually give the credit to Steve McQueen and Todd Haynes and Ryan Murphy and people who saw something in me that they went, "You're the girl. I want you." And so, it's less about choices I've made and things I've been drawn to – it's what has been drawn to me.

I can't believe you still have to audition.

With some things I don't! There are a lot of things on TV I don't. And there are some movies I don't have to. But for "Carol" it was a sought after role and many people wanted it and I had to fight like a dog to get it.

How does it feel without Jessica Lange around for the first time this season?

She and I have been friends for a long time. We did "Glass Menagerie" on Broadway together in 2005, and the whole reason I'm on the show, really, is because of Jessica. I had been at a dinner for Project Angel Food where Jessica was presenting an award to someone and (show creator) Ryan (Murphy) was there, and I was gonna do a play in New York that fell through and so I ended up staying in town. Jessica leaned over to Ryan and said, "Can't you find something for Sarah to do on the show?" And Ryan, whom I worked for before, went, "Ah, yeah! Actually, I think there's something coming up," and it was Billy Dean, the psychic. So, I did it, and that's how it all started. So I have Jessica to thank for a lot of things, including my run on "American Horror Story."

We always shared a trailer. Basically, we have these banger trailers, and every cast member has someone on the other side of the wall. And, for me, it was Jessica for three years straight. Now I have one with Kathy and that's wonderful because I love me some Kathy Bates, but my personal history with Jessica is long, and so I miss having her around because she was my friend – she *is* my friend. That part isn't so fun, but I think Lady Gaga is bringing a really wonderful kind of new energy to it – just different energy. It's not better energy. It's a different energy, and I think it's really wonderful.

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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

Tattoo (Tatuagem) 7 p.m. Lusophone Film Fest, 233 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. www.lsa.umich.edu/rll/events/lusophonefilmfest

Friday, Dec. 4

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

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Educator Workshop The Hampson Foundation 9 a.m. The workshop will include a full complement of activities sessions exploring both content and pedagogical strategies, a conversation with Hampson about his passion for telling the story of history and culture through classic song, and a special live performance focusing on songs related to the material covered in the workshop. This workshop is ideal for Language Arts, History, Social Studies, and Performing Arts teachers. K-12 Educator Workshops are professional development opportunities for teachers to explore arts-based classroom strategies that nurture student learning and support student achievement goals across various areas of the curriculum. University Musical Society, 1100 Baits Drive, **Ann Arbor**. 734-764-2538. umstix@umich.edu Ums.org/performance/educator-workshop-hampson-foundation/

Lunch With Santa 11 a.m. Tickets: \$5. St. Paul United Church of Christ, 31654 Mound Road, **Warren**. 586-264-4777.

Sunday, Dec. 6

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



Editor's Pick

An interesting twist to a traditional night out is now available with "Throwback Thursdays" at The Berman Center for The Performing Arts. Each of the four Throwback Thursday events features a well-renowned, classic movie that is sure to have moviegoers reliving great memories from their youth. Additionally, there will be themed snacks and spirits based on each of the films and when they debuted. It is the perfect setting for a couple's night out or a gathering of friends.

So far, "Hook" has shown. The most upcoming film will be "The Goonies," playing at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 10. The next two films, "E.T. The Extra Terrestrial" and "The Wizard of Oz," will also play at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 4 and March 3 respectively.

Tickets for "Throwback Thursdays" are \$12. To purchase tickets, call 248-661-1900 or visit www.theberman.org. The Berman Center is located at 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield Township.

Holiday Services 11 a.m. Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit, 2441 Pinecrest, **Ferndale**. 248-399-7741. www.Mccdetroit.org

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee 2 p.m. Tickets: \$18-20. Farmington Players, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road, **Farmington Hills**. 248-473-1856. www.Farmingtonplayers.org

Monday, Dec. 7

A Streetcar Named Desire The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-545-5545. www.TheRingwald.com

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

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, Dec. 8

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

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

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

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

Lighting the Path of Justice, Interfaith Service of Affirmation 7:30 p.m. St. Clare's Episcopal Church and Temple Beth Emeth are hosting the Annual Interfaith Service of Affirmation for transgender, bisexual, lesbian, gay, queer, questioning and intersex people, their families, friends and allies. The theme for this year's service is Lighting the Path of Justice and featured speaker will be The Rev. Roland Stringfellow, Senior Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit. There will be a free-will offering for ACLU Michigan's LGBT Legal Project to support their important work of advocating justice and equal rights for all. Music will be provided by Jean Chorazyczewski, Lori Fithian, Katie Geddes, Brandy Sinco, Lax Slomovits, and David Vaughn. St. Clares Episcopal Church & Temple Beth Emeth & Welcoming/Affirming Faith Communities, 2309 Packard, **Ann Arbor**. 248-219-7583. joburleigh@aol.com

Wednesday, Dec. 9

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

Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam St., **Williamston**. 517-655-SHOW. www.Williamstontheatre.com

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

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

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

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

Thursday, Dec. 10

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

Saturday, Dec. 12

2015 Holiday Open House and Hot Cocoa Bar 10 a.m. Admission during the open house is two people for \$10. Join us for our hot cocoa bar and cookies! The Piquette store will be open for those who have auto history lovers on their lists! Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, 461 Piquette St., **Detroit**. 313-872-8759. info@fordpiquetteplant.org fordpiquetteplant.org

Tiny Expo: Indie Art & Craft Fair 11 a.m. Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave., **Ann Arbor**. www.Facebook.com/events/1499658856993169/



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Sunday, Dec. 13

Home Sweet Home 4 p.m. Sing Out Detroit, 20500 W. 13 Mile Road, Franklin. www.Eventbrite.com/e/sing-out-detroit-chorus-presents-home-sweet-home-tickets-18823443426

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

MUSIC & MORE

Classical

University Musical Society "Handel's Messiah" The holiday season in Ann Arbor is never officially underway until Handel's Messiah is performed at Hill Auditorium. An eagerly anticipated holiday season tradition, these performances are ultimately the heart and soul of UMS, dating back to the organizations founding and first concerts in the 1879-80 season. In a true community tradition, Messiah features the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and the voices of the Grammy Award-winning UMS Choral Union (2006 Best Choral Performance). These performances also mark the debut of the UMS Choral Unions new music director, Scott Hanoian. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. Dec. 5 - Dec. 6. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/multiperformance/handels-messiah/

Concerts

Fort Street Chorale "Fort Street Chorale and Chamber Orchestra present G.F. Handel's Messiah" Fort Street Chorale and Chamber Orchestra, in partnership with Noel Night, present their 37th annual performances of G.F. Handel's Messiah. Soloists are soprano Peggy Dwyer, alto Dorothy Duensing, tenor Pablo Bustos, and bass Steven Henrikson. Dr. David Wagner performs on the Swift Memorial Organ and David Householder conducts. Tickets: \$15-20. Fort Street Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort Street, Detroit. Dec. 5 - Dec. 6. 313-961-4533. www.fortstreet.org

The Ark "Iris DeMent: The Ark's 50th Anniversary" Tickets: \$35. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 10. 734-761-1800. www.Theark.org

Other

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Sing-Along with Santa" Bethlehem United Church of Christ, Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Dec. 5. 734-994-4801. www.A2so.com

The Scarab Club "The 102nd Annual Boar's Head Dinner & Gold Medal Awards Ceremony" Tickets: \$50-102. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. 6:30 p.m. Dec. 12. 313-831-1250. www.Scarabclub.org

THEATER

An Almost British Christmas Theatre Nova presents this original holiday romp, inspired by the British tradition of Pantomime (or Panto) which takes children's stories and injects a bit of Vaudeville sensibility to create a raucous family entertainment. Well explore what happens when two unsophisticated Americans attempt a British pantomime, using American iconography and traditions. The result is an unusually American and hilarious Panto, with all of the traditional conventions, plus a rotating roster of local celebrities, pop culture references, and choirs of local schoolchildren - a truly unique way to celebrate the season. Theatre Nova, Yellow Barn, 416 West Huron, Ann Arbor. Through Dec. 20. 734-635-8450. www.Artful.ly/theatre-nova/store/events/17195

Auditions for Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead Auditions. Ann

Arbor Civic Theatre, A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Dec. 12 - Dec. 13. 734-971-2228. www.A2ct.org/audition

Herb the Green Knight Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through Dec. 27. 313-868-1347.

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Clause Tickets: \$5. Saline Area Players, Fifth Corner, 211 Willis Road, Saline. Dec. 3 - Dec. 6. 734-755-6983.

Civic/Community Theater

Once Upon an Ever After: A Fairy Tale Mash-Up Goldilocks and the Seven Dwarves? Snow White and the Three Bears? Anything is possible in this fairy tale mash-up created, workshopped, and written by the young performers themselves! Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Children's Creative Center, 1600 Pauline Ave, Ann Arbor. Dec. 4 - Dec. 6. 734-971-2228. www.A2ct.org/junior-theatre/once-upon-an-ever-after

College/University Theater

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play Tickets: \$10-25. The Theatre Company, Marlene Boll Theatre at the Boll Family Y.M.C.A., 1401 Broadway St., Detroit. Dec. 3 - Dec. 13. 313-993-3270. www.UDmarts.com

Professional

Jersey Boys Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Dec. 6. 313-872-1000. www.Broadwayindetroit.com

ART 'N' AROUND

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

Flint Institute of Arts "The Art of Collecting" Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Nov. 27 - Jan. 3. 810-234-1695. www.Flintarts.org

MOCAD "The Sick Man of Europe" Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Oct. 27 - Jan. 3. 313-832-6622. www.Mocadetroit.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

River's Edge Gallery "Title Goes Here" Leo Kuschel, Master Artist painting for over six decades. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Wyandotte. Nov. 24 - Dec. 31. 734-246-9880.

robert kidd gallery "Rick Vian: Using the Whole Chicken" robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. Nov. 21 - Dec. 19. 248-642-3909. www.Robertkiddgallery.com

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

Westside Neighborhood Art Hop "Westside Neighborhood Art Hop" Arts, crafts, jewelry, textiles, cards etc. for sale by artists. 700 Mt Vernon Ave and neighborhood, 700 Mt Vernon Ave. and neighborhood, Ann Arbor. 11 a.m. Dec. 5. 734-757-3717. westsidearthop.wordpress.com

Yourist Studio Gallery "Yourist Studio Gallery Annual Holiday Sale" Yourist Holiday Sale, featuring ceramic works by our Resident Artists and select students, opens with gala preview 5-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11. Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway, Ann Arbor. Dec. 11 - Dec. 13. 734-662-4914. www>Youristpottery.co

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Sun Dec 6 11 am

Second Sunday of Advent Theme: Selecting the Menu

Wed. Dec. 9 7 pm

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Sun Dec 13 11 am

Third Sunday of Advent Theme: Setting the Table

Sun Dec 20 11 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent Theme: Celebrate the Feast!

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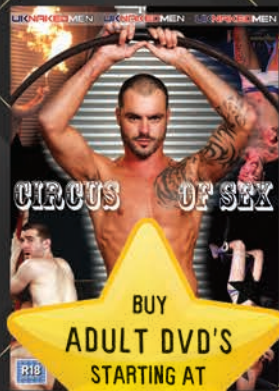
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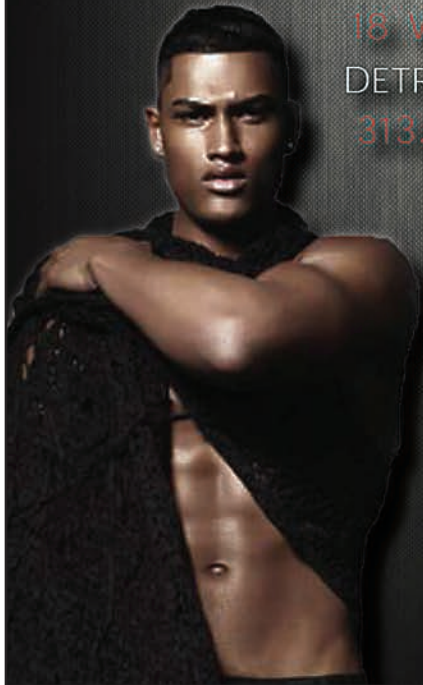
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Where: Ferndale MAC Office Only	Where: Detroit MAC New Center Office	Where: Ferndale Affirmations Location	Where: Ferndale MAC Office Only	

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ANNOUNCEMENTS - COMMUNITY SERVICES

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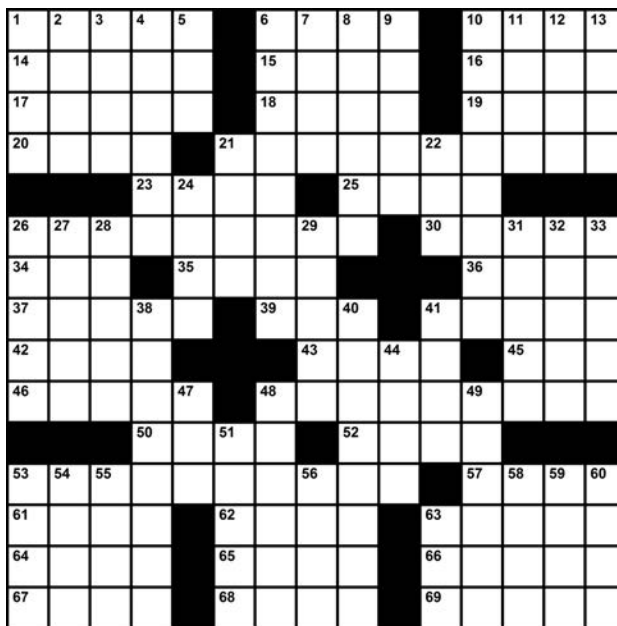
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Q Puzzle



- 39 Auberjonois on "Deep Space Nine"
41 Liza's ex Allen
42 Needle dropper
43 Part of San Francisco's BART
45 Pinch opening?
46 Dandy's footwear
48 See 20-Across
50 Arthur of the AIDS Quilt
52 Ballet dancer's skirt
53 With 57-Across, novel on which "Carol" is based
57 See 53-Across
61 "Uh-huh"
62 Othello was one
63 "Boys Don't Cry" actress Sevigny
64 Coin for Kahlo
65 Prefix with science
66 "Amadeus" star
67 Baltic Sea tributary
68 "___ Horny" (2 Live Crew hit)
69 Race site in Britten's land
- 12 Songwriter Holly
13 Maja painter
21 What a hoar!
22 Tasty tuber
24 Say whether or not you're coming
26 Door attachments
27 Bottom line?
28 Susan's partner in "Thelma and Louise"
29 Like some pools
31 Debussy contemporary Erik
32 A Lott of Mississippi
33 Jack, who licked it clean
38 "All the world's a stage," for example.
40 "I Am Harvey Milk," for one
41 Warsaw agreement
44 "No mo!" to Gomer
47 Cold War abbreviation
48 Turn into
49 Stonewall it
51 Words mouthed to a camera
53 "Equal justice under law," to a gay basher
54 What you pay to a master
55 Make less difficult to bear
56 Years on end
58 Start of a Shakespearean title
59 Nuts
60 Overflow
63 "Evita" role for Antonio or Mandy

Patrician Literature

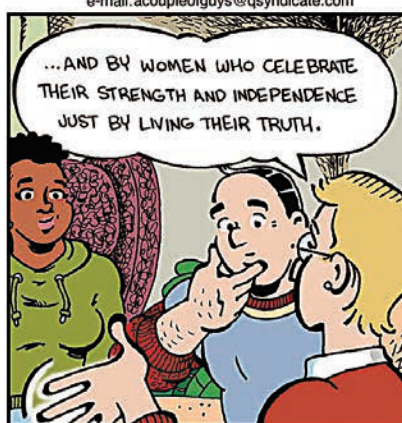
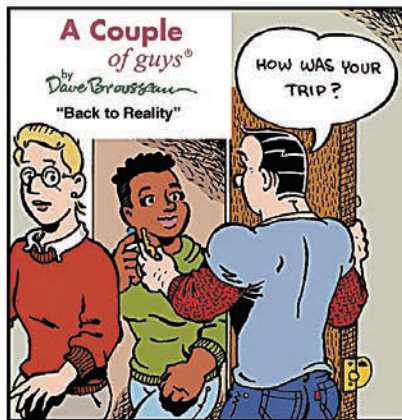
Across

- 1 "Funny Girl"'s Fanny
6 Soccer legend
10 Initiated phone sex
14 "Hot dog!"
15 Russian sea
16 Spread out on the breakfast table
17 Part of a "Tommy" lyric
18 Blaringly colorful
19 Jazz singer Anita
20 With 48-Across, she has the title role in "Carol"
21 Portrayer of Therese Belivet in "Carol"
23 Like a muscle Mary's waist
25 Hit the books hard
26 Patricia, who wrote the novel of this puzzle
30 Sail supports
34 Gide's soul
35 Caesar's post-orgasm cry?
36 Canvas covering
37 Fourth of the Stooges' threesome

Down

- 1 Fruit with a peel
2 Carla portrayer on "Cheers"
3 Sceptic's response
4 O'Neill's "The Iceman ___"
5 "Queer ___ for the Straight Guy"
6 Golden stallion
7 Suffix with smack
8 Send toward Uranus
9 Old-timer
10 Rose to Dorothy, on "Golden Girls"
11 Gallo portrayer in "And the Band Played On"

Find solution to this puzzle at
www.pridesource.com



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