

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Our First Valentine's Day With Legal Marriage!

Out White House Honoree Marco
Castro-Bojorquez Sings His Own 'Song'
p. 26



WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM

Did Michigan
Senate Reaffirm the
Criminalization of
Sodomy?

PAGE 11

State's Chief Medical
Officer Holds
Position Illegally

PAGE 10

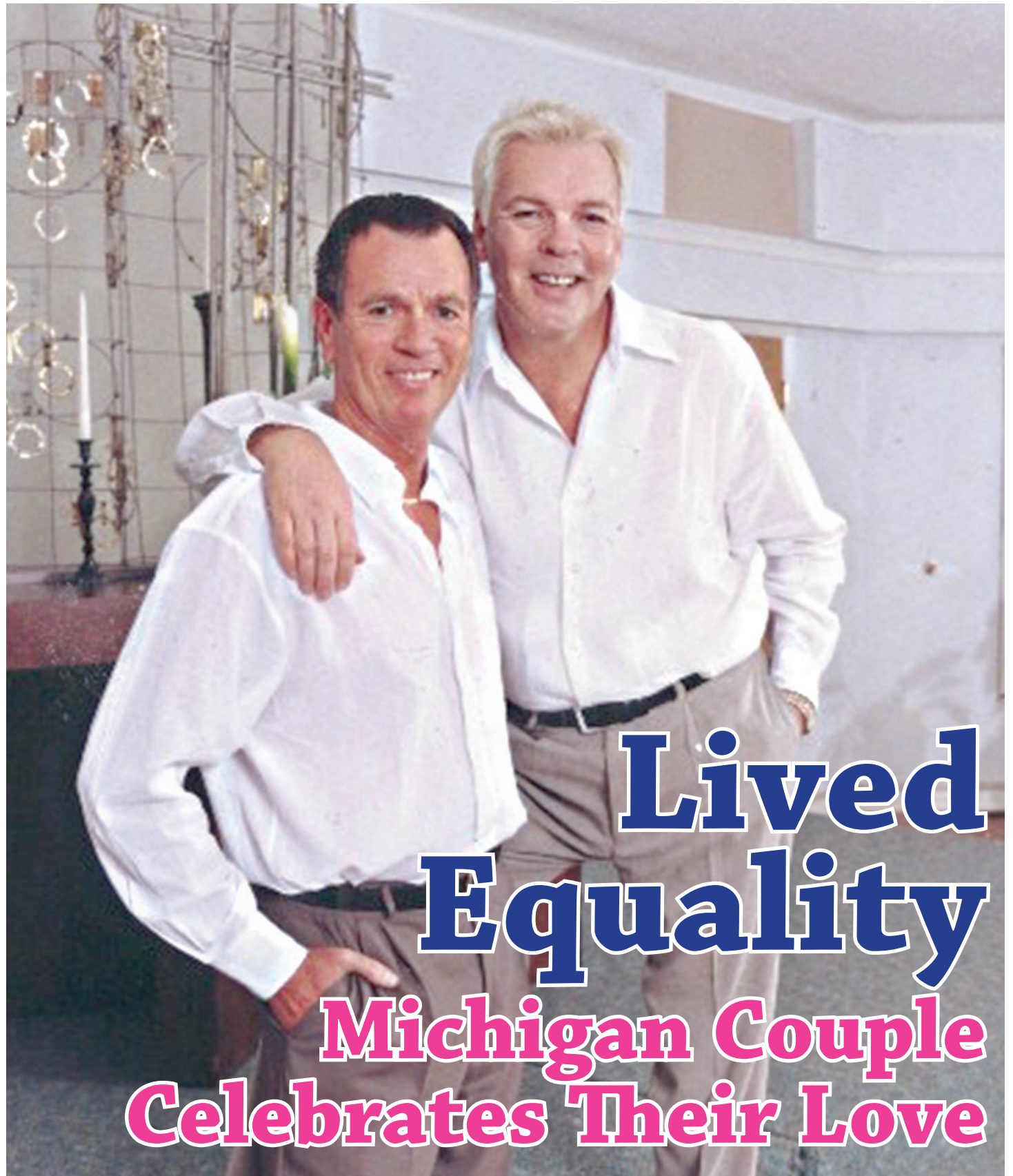
Dirty Show Features
LGBT Artist Jack
Summers

PAGE 28

Our Guide to the
Best LGBT Events

PAGE 34

February 11, 2016
VOL. 2406 | FREE



**Lived
Equality**
Michigan Couple
Celebrates Their Love

GenvoyaTM 

elvitegravir 150mg/cobicistat 150mg/emtricitabine
200mg/tenofovir alafenamide 10mg tablets

**New Genvoya[®]
is now available**





Actual Size

One pill contains
elvitegravir, cobicistat, emtricitabine,
and tenofovir alafenamide (TAF).

Ask your healthcare provider
if GENVOYA is right for you.

To learn more visit
GENVOYA.com

Please see Brief Summary of
Patient Information with important
warnings on the following pages.

Brief Summary of Patient Information about GENVOYA

GENVOYA (jen-VOY-uh) (elvitegravir, cobicistat, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide) tablets

Important: Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA.

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 (Cafegot®, Migegot®, 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


elvitegravir 150mg/cobicistat 150mg/emtricitabine
200mg/tenofovir alafenamide 10mg tablets

 **GILEAD**

EMTRIVA, GENVOYA, the GENVOYA Logo, GILEAD, the GILEAD Logo, GSI, TYBOST, and VITEKTA are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc., or its related companies. All other marks referenced herein are the property of their respective owners.

© 2015 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved. GENC0002 11/15

Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com

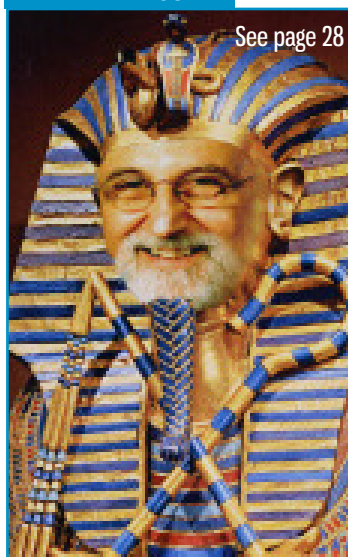
RISING STAR SERIES



Out White House Honoree Marco Castro-Bojorquez Sings His Own 'Song'

See page 26

HAPPENINGS



See page 28

The Dirty Show is Back in Town

COMMUNITY



Amy Hunter Shares How Michigan's Transgender Advocacy Project is Working

See page 17

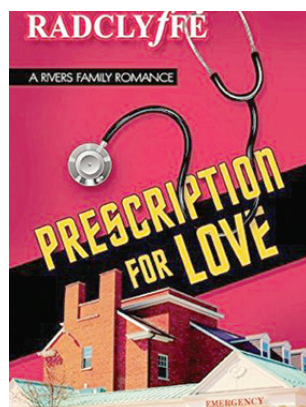
ISSUES



Are Public Displays of Affection More Accepted since Marriage Equality?

See page 14

LOVE & MARRIAGE



4 Must Reads

See page 32



The Frivolist Offers DIY for V-Day

See page 30



COVER STORY

18 Western Michigan couple celebrates their love

NEWS

- 8 Southfield: Author criticizes black homophobia, praises Obama
- 10 Mysterious rashes plague Flint water consumers
- 10 Part Time Health: Experts say chief medical officer holds position illegally
- 11 Did Michigan Senate reaffirm the criminalization of sodomy?
- 12 Local news briefs
- 14 Is it finally safe to share same-sex PDAs?

OPINION

- 16 Parting Glances
- 16 Viewpoint: I want to be in it to win it
- 17 Transgender Advocacy Project is working
- 17 Creep of the Week: Marco Rubio

LIFE

- 26 Out White House honoree sings his own song
- 28 Down and dirty in Detroit with Jack Summers
- 28 Trans musician tries out for 'The Voice'
- 31 Cool Cities: Ferndale
- 34 Happenings
- 37 Puzzle and comic
- 39 Classifieds

VOL. 2406 • FEBRUARY 11, 2016
ISSUE 951

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National Gay Media Association
Q Syndicate



EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Assistant Editor

Shelby Clark Petkus, shelby@pridesource.com

Calendar Editor

Shelby Clark Petkus, shelby@pridesource.com

Staff Writers

AJ Trager, ajtrager@pridesource.com

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Contributing Writers

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

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter
Alexander Godin

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 16
donelle@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

ONLINE AT



"Between The Lines Newspaper"



Follow us @YourBTL



Email your op-eds to
editor@pridesource.com



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for claims made by our advertisers, nor can we accept responsibility for materials provided by advertisers or their agents.

A TIP FROM A
**FORMER
SMOKER**

™

**HIV alone
didn't cause the
clogged artery
in my neck.
Smoking with
HIV did.**

Brian, age 45, California

Brian had his HIV under control with medication. But smoking with HIV caused him to have serious health problems, including a stroke, a blood clot in his lungs and surgery on an artery in his neck. Smoking makes living with HIV much worse.

You can quit.

CALL 1-800-QUIT-NOW.



**U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services**
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention
[CDC.gov/tips](https://www.cdc.gov/tips)

#CDCTips





Partridge Creek

Obstetrics & Gynecology

is pleased to welcome
Angela Viviano, FNP



We have expanded our practice to provide exceptional care for women of all ages, from care of the adolescent girl, through pregnancy and menopausal women.

MAIN OFFICE:
MACOMB TOWNSHIP
15959 Hall Road, Suite 301,
Macomb Twp., MI 48044

NORTH OFFICE:
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
58851 Van Dyke, Suite 100,
Washington Twp., MI 48094

Center: Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOG

Left to right: Hina Javaid, MD, Teresa C. Kuz, MSN, WHNP-BC,
Beth K. Mutch, MSN, FNP-BC,
Tanya M. Vaughn, MS, CNM, FNP-BC, Angela Viviano, FNP

Contact our main office at
586-247-8609 to make your
appointment today.

For more information visit us at:
partridgecreekobgyn.com

Tax Time?



When it's tax time, it's time to
call **Kuderik at 248 835 7755.**

- Specialist in Individual and Joint Returns.
- Over 20 years Small Business experience.
- Certified Business Valuations.
- Maximize your deductions and returns.
- Electronic filing for fast refund.



KUDERIK
AND ASSOCIATES

www.kuderikcpa.com

Kuderik and Associates PLLC
Certified Public Accountants
Certified Valuation Analyst

32121 Woodward Ave.
Suite 202
Royal Oak MI 48073

NEWS BRIEFS



Michael Eric Dyson signs copies of his new book at the Southfield Public Library Feb. 6. BTL Photo: D'Anne Witkowski

Author Criticizes Black Homophobia, Praises Obama While Promoting New Book in Southfield

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Author Michael Eric Dyson spoke at the Southfield Public Library Feb. 6 promoting his new book, "The Black Presidency: Barack Obama and the Politics of Race in America." The event was sponsored by local independent store Book Beat.

The Detroit native, speaking before a packed auditorium, praised President Obama's accomplishments and said he will go down as one of the most important presidents in history.

However, Dyson, added, "We do him no great service by ignoring the contradictions and failures."

Obama has not done enough to help black people in America, Dyson argued, saying that the president offered black Americans "platitudes instead of policy."

Dyson was particularly critical of Obama for not "going 60 miles" north to Flint during his Jan. 20 visit to Detroit while "doing a victory lap for the automobile industry." Obama toured the North American Auto Show but did not visit Flint where residents, predominantly black and poor, have been living with a poisoned water for two years. A majority of the audience nodded and murmured in agreement with Dyson.

Dyson also criticized homophobia in the black community.

"When did black people become

homophobic?" he asked the predominantly black audience.

"We all knew who was gay," he continued, adding, "We see you, Andre!" causing a ripple of knowing laughter from the audience.

Refuting the argument that being gay is a choice he asked, "When did you choose to be heterosexual?"

Dyson, an ordained minister, criticized the use of the Bible against LGBT people arguing that the Bible has been used in the same way by white people against blacks.

He also pointed out that while some black churches may preach against homosexuality, none refuse gay tithes.

Dyson, who has been married three times and divorced twice, said he supported marriage equality but that he couldn't understand why gays and lesbians would want to be married in the first place. "You mean you had a pass?" he joked.

Asked by an audience member about the 2016 election, Dyson said he hoped that Hillary Clinton, who he referred to as "the Notorious HRC," or Bernie Sanders gets elected. He said he didn't want to be alarmist, but "the other side of the aisle... Man, it's looking rough over there."

"I hope all good people of conscience show up and vote," he said. "This 2016 campaign is really important and black people need to show up."



SUBURBAN CADILLAC OF PLYMOUTH

4 YEARS PREMIUM CARE*



40475 Ann Arbor Road. Plymouth, MI 48170

SuburbanCadillacOfPlymouth.com

1-877-485-5176

©2015 General Motors. All Rights Reserved. Cadillac®

* Approved Cadillac Premium Care Maintenance (4years or 50,000 miles). Complimentary scheduled maintenance included with the purchase of every new cadillac in stock.

Mysterious Rashes Plague Flint Water Consumers

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

Shortly after the city of Flint shifted its water source from Detroit-provided water to water drawn from the notoriously polluted Flint River, clients at Wellness Services, Inc. in Flint began to complain. The water smelled. It was rusty, often coming from the tap the color of coffee. It tasted wrong.

Then the strange rashes began.

Teresa Springer, director of programs for Wellness – an AIDS service organization in Flint, said most of the clients have reported rashes since the change over. The organization has been offering bottled water on its premises for over a year, and has been distributing water filters to clients. Springer said about one in five of the organization's clients have obtained water filters from the agency. She notes many more have likely accessed filters from other sources.

Despite this temporal relationship to the water change, public health officials say “there is no scientific link connecting rashes to the change in the water source.” In fact, public health officials issued a release on Jan. 27 encouraging parents to continue to use the water from the system to bathe their children.

“Based on current testing and guidance from

our federal partners, it's important to reiterate to families that bathing is safe for adults and children in Flint,” the press release quoted Dr. Eden Wells, chief medical executive with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, as saying. “Naturally, people in Flint continue to be concerned about water quality and our department is working closely with officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as the local provider community to monitor all health issues that may be related to water. At this time there is no evidence to suggest this guidance should change.”

State health officials tweaked that message. They are now investigating the rashes and tracking them.

“Flint residents are understandably worried about the effects of skin exposure to water in their homes, and it's absolutely necessary we follow up directly on their concerns,” said Wells. “While the science currently tells us children and adults can bathe in the water, we are committed to identifying any potential health risks so we can provide information to and protect families in Flint.”

“It's very disconcerting,” said Springer, “they tell us to do this; then four days later tell us no, don't do that.”

That release from the state's Joint Information Center—a centralized information source initiated as part of the emergency response – noted the state was working with federal health officials at the CDC to develop a reporting and monitoring program, and that local and state health officials had begun meeting with local residents who had complained about rashes. Health officials are asking medical providers to report possible Flint water associated skin conditions to the state health officials. The patients will then be interviewed and the water in the home sampled.

Wellness officials are not buying the recommendations from the state, Springer said. The organization is advising clients to minimize contact with the water.

“We tell them not to bathe in it,” she said. “We recommend that they do a wash down – you know with a washcloth – rather than showering. But we also tell them if they are going to shower – because some people do want to shower – we tell them to limit their time in the shower and to not shower every day.”

The water crisis is not just impacting people living with HIV being served by Wellness, Springer noted. The organization's syringe

Teresa Springer, director of programs for Wellness – an AIDS service organization in Flint, said most of the clients have reported rashes since the change over. The organization has been offering bottled water on its premises for over a year, and has been distributing water filters to clients.

exchange clients have also reported adverse reactions when using unfiltered Flint water for injection purposes.

“Our syringe clients who are using Flint water report infections at their injection sites,” she said. “When they stop using the unfiltered Flint water, those infections stop.”

Despite the new plan to identify and investigate the ongoing rash situation from federal and state health officials, Springer said her organization has not been contacted.

Springer said she and others in Flint are frustrated by the contradictory advice being issued by health officials and believe “there is one big cover up.”

Part Time Health: State's Chief Medical Officer Holds Position Illegally, Experts Say

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

The state's Chief Medical Executive Officer may be in the position in violation of state law.

Dr. Eden Wells was appointed to the post in April of 2015. The state's Public Health Code requires that when a director overseeing the public health agency of the state – in this case, the Department of Health and Human Services and its director Nick Lyon – is not a physician, that the state hire a physician “fulltime” as the Chief Executive Medical Officer.

But an investigation has revealed that Wells does not work for the state, nor is she serving the needs of Michigan's residents and their health, in a fulltime capacity.

“Either she needs to resign or become a fulltime employee of the state of Michigan,” said Rep. Tim Greimel, D-Auburn Hills. He is also the House Democratic leader. “With the Flint water crisis, the Legionnaires' Disease, the Detroit Public Schools with classrooms filled with mold and mushrooms, we have very many pressing health concerns in the state. We need someone who is focused on it full time.”

But that is not what Wells is being paid for, according to the University of Michigan.

“She's basically splitting her time – 50 percent with university responsibility and 50 percent with the state of Michigan,” said Rick Fitzgerald, director of the U of M Office of Public Affairs and Internal Communications. “The state contracts with the university to fill this role.”

Questioned if he was stating that Wells was employed only part time as the state's Chief Executive Medical Officer, Fitzgerald said, “That's correct.”

That is a violation of the law, say experts.

They point to the Public Health Code provisions on hiring a chief executive medical officer, which reads in part, “The chief medical executive shall be a full-time employee.”

“If accurate, this means that Dr. Wells is working as a part-time independent contractor in violation of the Public Health Code,” said Christine A. Yared, an attorney in Grand Rapids with experience litigating some aspects of the public health code.

Dave Murray, a spokesman for Republican

Gov. Rick Snyder, dodged direct questions related to the legality of the arrangement, instead issuing a statement saying Wells “has been putting in full time hours” and “more so during this time of crisis.”

“Her expertise is needed as we move forward evaluating the health risks faced by city residents and determining ways to address these challenges,” he continued. “People in Michigan benefit from her continued connections to the University of Michigan, which keep her abreast of developments in the field and gives access to additional experts that can help the state as we address the Flint water crisis.”

Jennifer Eisner, spokesperson for MDHHS, said in a statement Tuesday that Wells' past experience with the department “benefits” the residents of Michigan.

“Regardless of the source of pay, Dr. Wells is available to the department full time for the emergency response in Flint,” Eisner wrote.

She declined to comment on the legality of the contractual arrangement with U of M and the state.

Wells was not available for an interview Tuesday afternoon; Eisner, spokesperson for MDHHS, and Fitzgerald of U of M said Wells was unavailable because she was in Flint working on the crisis there.

“Without commenting on Dr. Wells' medical expertise or ability to hold this position, these allegations are troubling, particularly if they were done as a cost-savings measure for the state by the Snyder administration,” said Lonnie Scott, executive director of Progress Michigan, a liberal advocacy group based in Lansing. “Given the current public health crisis, it's now more important than ever that Michigan reprioritize its commitment to ensuring we have healthy communities regardless of the cost.”

Yared and Greimel raised concerns about transparency.

“There are also significant liability and legal problems, including the legal difference between an employee and an independent contractor, the role of the university in

See Medical Officer, page 13

Did Michigan Senate Reaffirm the Criminalization of Sodomy?

Four Words in New Bestiality Law Cause Controversy

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

An effort to create a law to prevent people convicted of abusing animals from adopting or owning an animal for five years after their conviction is in jeopardy over an attempt to repurpose an obsolete law banning bestiality.

The Michigan State Senate voted 37-1 on Feb. 4 to approve the measure known as Logan's Law. That law would allow animal welfare organizations free access to the state's criminal database to verify whether or not potential adopters had been convicted of crimes of abuse or neglect involving animals. But in the course of adopting the measure, lawmakers approved an amendment to the obsolete abominable and detestable crime against nature law.

That law is commonly called the sodomy law and because lawmakers did not amend the language to remove references to consensual sex between adults – a part of the law which was deemed unconstitutional by a 2003 U.S. Supreme Court ruling – the internet unravelled. Numerous websites proclaimed the state Senate had approved legislation to criminalize sodomy with a 15 year sentence.

"This (controversy) is being fueled by people who are not from the state," said Sen Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge. He's the bill's sponsor and head of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "They do not know the legislative process here and they do not know the players. As a result they have simply got the facts wrong on what was approved."

"Sen. Jones is completely full of shit," said John Wright, a reporter based in Texas who published the original report on The New Civil Rights Movement website. "He's probably catching hell for authoring a bill that reaffirms the sodomy ban, so he's shooting the messenger ... Although sodomy bans have been declared unconstitutional, law enforcement officials in some states have continued to try to enforce them. Furthermore, their mere presence on the books sends a dangerous message to LGBT youth. Would Sen. Jones author a bill that reaffirmed racial segregation, even though it's unconstitutional? I don't think so. The Michigan Senate, Democrats and Republicans alike, should be ashamed of this vote. And the House should immediately amend the bill to eliminate the four words in question."

Senators report that they have "spent more time talking about sodomy" in the last week as a result. The question is – was The New Civil Right Movement correct or is Sen. Jones right,

that the organization simply had it wrong?

It's a little bit of both actually. From an outsider and political novice perspective, the Senate did indeed vote to keep four words in the obsolete law which – if they were not unconstitutional – would criminalize consensual oral and anal sex between two adults.

Here's the original law's language:

Sec. 158. (1) Any person who shall commit the abominable and detestable crime against nature either with mankind or with any animal shall be guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment in the state prison not more than 15 years, or if such person was at the time of the said offense, a sexually delinquent person, may be punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for an indeterminate term, the minimum of which shall be 1 day and the maximum of which shall be life.

Wright argues that by not removing "either with mankind or" from the language, the Senate approved criminalizing sodomy in Michigan.

But Jones and other state lawmakers argue that when existing laws are amended by legislative process, the lawmakers casting their votes are voting on specific changes. Words that are being removed are highlighted by a line through them, while words that are being added are capitalized and bolded in the legislation presented to the public and for a vote.

Language

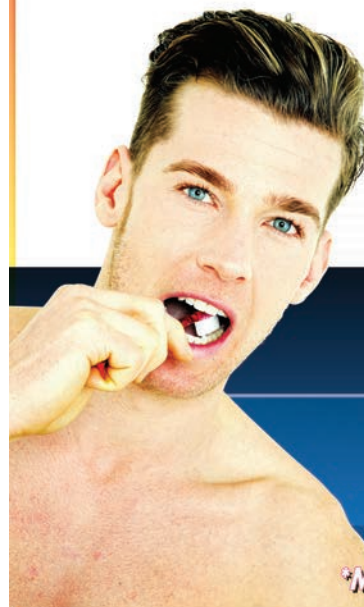
Here's the section from the legislation that is causing all the controversy:

Sec. 158. (1) ~~Any~~ **A** person who ~~shall~~ **COMMIT** the abominable and detestable crime against nature either with mankind or with any animal shall be guilty of a felony, punishable by ~~imprisonment in the state prison~~ **FOR** not more than 15 years, or if ~~such person~~ **THE DEFENDANT** was **A SEXUALLY DELINQUENT PERSON** at the time of the ~~said~~ offense, a ~~sexually delinquent person~~, **may be** **A FELONY** punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for an indeterminate term, the minimum of which shall be 1 day and the maximum of which shall be life.

See Sodomy, page 13

RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS

Dedicated to make our community brighter
One Smile At A Time
248-399-4455



Zoom Special
\$249
One-hour Teeth Whitening

**Must mention this BTL ad - Expires 2/29/15*

Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)
Proud participants in the Ryan White Program
No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.
Uninsured? No problem. Significant savings with our in-office club.

Care Credit



1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4,
Berkley, MI 48072
www.rontwilliamsondds.com

Find us on
facebook

DETROIT BASKETBALL

PRIDE NIGHT AT THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

SUNDAY, MARCH 6TH
vs. PORTLAND TRAILBLAZERS • 6:00PM

Celebrate Pride Night by joining the Detroit Pistons at The Palace of Auburn Hills as they take on the Trailblazers on March 6th. Join us in our private, exclusive Club 300, which has an overview of the court!

EXCLUSIVE TICKET PRICING:

Tickets: \$60

Ticket includes all you can eat and drink (beer/wine included)

Please contact Abe Alcodray for tickets or use the link and passcode below:

Pistons.com/pridenight

Promotion Code = pride

248.371.2014 / AALCODRAY@PALACENET.COM

Tickets are limited; get them before we sell out!



LGBT Detroit Launches Career Building Lecture Series During Black History Month

DETROIT – In celebration of Black History Month, LGBT Detroit has launched its Career Building Lecture Series.

Integrated into February's Talk Tuesday forums, the Career Building Lecture Series focuses on professional development and strategies and hosts diverse presentations in the fields of law, web development, music and journalism.

"Four distinguished Detroit professionals lead this historic educational opportunity for young adults," said Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit.

Two presentations remain in the series that will engage with LGBT Detroit's Leadership Academy and other young LGBT individuals to discuss potential career paths and present an in-depth look at a variety of paths to success.

On Feb. 16, Matthew G. Cobbs, an engineer, will discuss his years working in the planning, designing, developing and maintaining of websites. Cobbs currently leads a team of developers at Hook in Ann Arbor.

On Feb. 23, Aaron Foley, a Detroit native and writer, will discuss his work as editor of BLAC Magazine and his 2015 book titled "How to Live in Detroit Without Being a Jackass." Foley has appeared in Belt, Jalopnik, Bridge Michigan, CNN, The Atlantic and several other publications.

As part of the series, Ozie Cargile, a composer, presented Feb. 2 and Chase L. Cantrell, an attorney, presented Feb. 9.

Each lecture begins at 6 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Space is limited. Free gated parking is available on Amsterdam St., between Woodward and Cass.

LGBT Detroit is located at 41 Burroughs St. in Detroit, in Suite 109. Join the conversation globally on Twitter @LGBTDetroit #TalkTuesday.

West Michigan 2016 LGBT REACH Awards

KALAMAZOO – The Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center handed out the 2016 REACH awards to six individuals and/or organizations who have excelled in their work as an

LGBT activist or ally. Winners of the awards represent the best of the best in the categories of retail, education, ally support, community, humanitarian and faith.

The following individuals were honored at the annual KGLRC Winter Gala that was held Feb. 6 at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts.

Terry Johnston Photography won the REACH award for retail. Johnston has dedicated his time professionally and personally to making a difference in the LGBT community, working to reduce HIV stigma in West Michigan and beyond. He has been a long-time supporter and friend to the KGLRC over the years.

Dr. Jill Hermann-Wilmarth was awarded the REACH award for education. Hermann-Wilmarth is a professor at Western Michigan University in the College of Education and Human Development, where she combats heteronormativity, homophobia and transphobia in her classroom as she teaches future teachers. Throughout her career, Hermann-Wilmarth has published multiple papers on the importance of LGBT characters in early education literature. Additionally Hermann-Wilmarth has volunteered at the KGLRC as a facilitator in the youth group and has been active at Kazoo school, a private school focused on catering to all student learning, making safe spaces for LGBT students and families in Kalamazoo.

Shannon Sykes received her REACH award for her efforts as an LGBT ally. Through her work with PeaceJam, an organization working to uplift and teach youth leadership skills, and her recent work as a city commissioner, Sykes creates safe spaces for LGBT voices and stands against all forms of homophobia and discrimination. Commissioner Sykes has dedicated time and efforts to building bridges between unlikely allies and the KGLRC.

Marty Marlett was awarded the REACH award for her tireless work in the LGBT community. For years, Marlett has led Transcend, the Transgender support group at the KGLRC, without recognition and has gone above and beyond to provide transportation for trans folks who could not otherwise get to meetings. Marlett has tirelessly ensured that members of the trans community have a safe place to go for support.

Dr. Michelle Johnson received the REACH award for her work in the humanitarian sector. She is the co-founder of Fire Historical and Cultural Arts Collaborative and has dedicated

her life to working with youth, connecting them with a positive outlet for their creativity and supporting youth to reach their dreams. Johnson has provided a safe haven for LGBT artists across age demographics, giving them a performance space and a community when there were no other places. She continues to raise up stories about the intersections of race and sexuality while advocating for people to find their voice.

Awarded the REACH award for faith was Christine Babcock. While working for the HRC, she spoke with religious leaders who were anti-LGBT, trying to change the narrative and move them to a more positive position. Babcock made waves in west Michigan and braved conversations few others were having with community members.

The 2016 KGLRC Winter Gala is an annual event held to honor LGBT and ally community members for the work that they do and to raise funds for the west Michigan LGBT center. The Gala showcases food and desserts, a silent auction, performances by local musicians and time to socialize and celebrate diversity. To find out more about the Winter Gala, visit the KGLRC website at kgllrc.org/winter-gala.

Blumz Co-Owner Assumes Elected Position

Co-Owner of Blumz by JRDesigns, Jerome Raska, was recently elected as the new president of the Michigan Floral Association. Raska has over 30 years of experience in the floral industry but is most known for his expertise as a teacher and educator in the industry. He serves on many boards in the Metro Detroit area including the Ferndale DDA, Chamber of Commerce, Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau and The Ferndale Rotary.

Raska and his partner Robbin Yelverton opened their first store in Detroit over 15 years ago and together have over 60 years of experience working in the industry. Blumz by JRDesigns is an award winning event planning and floral design company and coins itself as a "one stop shop" and can assist customers with florals, linens, rentals, invitations, lighting, tenting, tuxedos and more.

For more information on Blumz, contact Sadie Quagliotto at 248-398-5130 or by email at Sadie@Blumz.com



PHARMACY UPGRADE

MEDCART
Pharmacy

248.542.2300

www.medcartpharmacy.com

1964 West 11 Mile Road, Berkley
Between Woodward & Coolidge



Divine Peace
Metropolitan Community Church

The perfect place in
Northern Oakland County
for your Holy Union or
Wedding Celebration!!

MCC
DIVINE PEACE
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH

1400 Scott Lake Rd. Ste H.
Waterford, MI 48328
Phone: 248.332.1186
www.dpmcc.net

Sunday Worship time is 10:00 A.M.



Prism of Possibilities
Psychotherapy

Christine Cantrell, PhD
Fully Licensed Psychologist

Give yourself an extreme
self makeover ...

- ▼ Speak Your Truth
- ▼ Discover What You Want
- ▼ Create Your True Self
- ▼ Heal Old Hurts, Find Wholeness

CALL NOW!
248-591-2888

Located in Royal Oak
www.christinecantrell.com
christinecantrellphd@gmail.com

► Medical Officer

Continued from p. 10

potential litigation and the question of who makes legal decisions about her documents and emails,” Yared said.

Obtaining documents related to the Flint water crisis has been a significant concern, with the governor refusing to release the emails of his top aides, which are not subject to the state’s open records law.

Wells has been the medical face of the response to the dual public health crisis unfolding in Flint due to decisions to not properly treat Flint river water as a source of drinking water for the city. There has been an alarming spike in lead in the water, and that in turn has shown up in a number of Flint area children and at least two dogs. Lead is a long term neurotoxin linked to behavioral and developmental issues in children.



Dr. Eden Wells

On top of that, health authorities in the county believed an outbreak of Legionnaires’ Disease – a pneumonia – may have been linked to the water shift. Over two years, and what health authorities including Wells called “two waves” of outbreaks, at least 87 people were diagnosed with the disease and at least nine died between March 2014 and June of 2015. A non-pneumonia version of the infection known as Pontiac’s Fever was diagnosed in one person in Flint.

The revelations about Wells’ employment come as part of an investigation – through scores of interviews with public officials and others in Flint and in state government as well as publicly available documents – of the anemic response to the Legionnaires’ Disease outbreak. Wells was announced as the state’s chief executive medical officer in the middle of the Legionnaires’ Disease outbreak and as state environment officials were beginning to see elevated lead levels in Flint water.

► Sodomy

Continued from p. 11

Sen. Steve Bieda, D-Warren, serves on the Judiciary Committee in the Senate. He, along with Jones, pushed the legislation. He agrees with Jones that an attempt to remove those four words would have ensnared the animal rights bill in the politics of war between social conservatives and liberals.

The controversy, which Jones and other senators say was stoked by a misunderstanding of Michigan’s legislative process, will likely result in the GOP controlled House striking the entire passage on sex with animals from the final bill and sending it back for approval from the Senate. This would effectively allow those convicted of sexual activity with animals the ability to own domestic animals despite the conviction.

Ironically, the “abominable and detestable crimes against nature” law – which was ruled unconstitutional in 2003 by a Supreme Court ruling, at least as it applies to humans and sexual activity – would stay on the books. Untouched. Unconstitutional. And Un-enforceable.

Former judge and attorney Rudy Serra has written extensively on Michigan’s sodomy law and the laws of gross indecency between various genders. He has advocated for the repeal of those laws, and said that Michigan lawmakers should strike the entire law – bestiality and sexual activity among adults – from the books.

“It’s clearly unconstitutional,” Serra said. “So, repeal it. If lawmakers want to make

Stehanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan, said she believes the failure to address the human on human language of the law was “an oversight” and believes the House will address it. Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., D-Meridian Township, said he will introduce legislation to repeal the entire law.

bestiality a crime, they can and should adopt a clear plain English law that puts a citizen on notice about what is prohibited.”

The language of the law dates back in Michigan history to 1859, but finds its roots in Biblical literature, Serra said.

“The language is certainly archaic,” said Bieda, the Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee. “Would a stand alone bill defining bestiality work? Yes, probably.”

And Jones said he would support Serra’s “plain English” version of a law outlawing bestiality if that is what the state House passes on.

Stehanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan, said she believes the failure to address the human on human language of the law was “an oversight” and believes the House will address it.

Sen. Curtis Hertel Jr., D-Meridian Township, said he will introduce legislation to repeal the entire law.



COME SEE THE DIFFERENCE!

- Free, discreet prescription delivery! Accept most insurances! Competitive pricing!
- Free, same day result HIV testing, no appointment required!
- Prescription Compounding
- Fast, compassionate and knowledgeable staff!
- Traveling abroad? We offer all of your travel vaccinations as well as flu, shingles and other immunizations!

BUSINESS HOURS- MON- FRI 9AM-6PM, SAT 10AM-3PM

28577 Schoenherr Rd.
Warren MI 48088

586-573-8300
www.berkleypharmacy.com

“Best Investment we’ve ever made!”



How? By giving you:

- **Guaranteed Energy Savings**
- **Up to 10 Year Parts & Labor Warranty**
- **Whisper Quiet and reliable**
- **Greater Comfort**
- **Increased Property value**

The Best for Last

We hear that a lot. Many customer’s wish they’d replace their old heating and cooling systems sooner!

You may think a new system is “too much” until you realize your old system’s real cost.

Just like an old car may be cheap, but after adding repairs, unreliability, and poor mileage, is it worth it? The same is true for a heating and cooling system’s real cost.

Can pay for itself, plus more!

A new system from Hinson Home Comfort can save you money, time, and trouble.

With one of our great finance plans, you may save more than you’re spending?

Now you see how this can be your best investment too! Invest a moment now and call **248-541-7007** for your **FREE ENERGY ANALYSIS**. The call and survey are free, but your returns may be great!

Hinson
HOME COMFORT SERVICE

(248) 541-7007



GM WORLD HEADQUARTERS
at Renaissance Center

MILLENDER CENTER
Downtown Detroit

www.AshleysFlowers.com
313-259-5000
We Deliver Around the World.

BTL Wedding Announcements Free!

BTL is celebrating marriage equality by running announcements of your wedding, recommitment vows, anniversary or engagement. Simply send us your pics and a description, up to 50 words, and we will run it as space permits in BTL! Send to editor@pridesource.com

Marriages Since 1968!
Plan your special day with us.

Senior Pastor Rev. Roland Stringfellow
Associate Pastor Rev. Deb Dysert

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Children's Ministry 11 a.m.

2441 Pincrest Ferndale, MI
248-399-7741 www.mccdetroit.org

Find us on: facebook.
Search: MCC Detroit

Is it Finally Safe to Share Same-Sex Public Displays of Affection?

BY AJ TRAGER

It has been six months since the U.S. Supreme Court handed the LGBT community a historic marriage equality victory. However, despite the joy and celebration that followed, many people still consider LGBT love to be despicable, disgusting or even reprehensible. With Valentine's Day right around the corner, and having had six months of marriage equality, BTL wondered if now is finally a time when LGBT couples can feel safe engaging in public displays of affection.

A year ago in London, gay couples came from all over the region to participate in a "kiss-in" to mark Valentine's Day. Organizers held the event in protest of research results from Pride in London, which found that 54 percent of same-sex couples do not feel comfortable kissing in public due to homophobic abuse aimed at LGBT individuals.

Just last weekend during the Superbowl halftime show, the stadium was lit with rainbow colors accompanied by the words "Believe In Love," seen by many as an endorsement of marriage equality. Sure, Super Bowl 50 was held in one of the largest pro-LGBT cities in the country, but the message was very symbolic given the NFL's reputation for rampant homophobia. So are things finally changing?

Recent Studies

A recent study published by GLAAD, titled "Accelerating Acceptance," has found that Americans are largely becoming more accepting of minor LGBT public displays of affection but there is still a long way to go.

The study found that 29 percent of people, down from 36 percent in the 2014 report, are very uncomfortable or somewhat uncomfortable with an LGBT couple holding hands.

The study also found that heterosexual individuals were only marginally more comfortable with learning that a family member is gay or that their doctor is gay.



Just last weekend during the Superbowl halftime show, the stadium was lit with rainbow colors accompanied by the words "Believe In Love," seen by many as an endorsement of marriage equality.

However, even with the growing rate of acceptance, 26 percent of respondents reported that they were uncomfortable seeing LGBT co-workers' wedding pictures, with 29 percent reporting that they would be very or somewhat uncomfortable learning that their child had a lesson on LGBT history in their school.

"Complacency is the enemy of social progress," Sarah Kate Ellis, president and CEO of GLAAD, said in a statement released with the survey. "2015 was a monumental year for the LGBT community, but marriage equality is a benchmark – not a finish line. The hard work of legislative change must go hand in hand with that which cannot be decided in a courtroom: changing hearts and minds."

Surveys for "Accelerating Acceptance" were conducted with the help from the polling firm Harris Poll. The 2015 poll was conducted online from Oct. 5 through Oct. 7, 2015, and included responses from 2,032 adults.

Study in Hate Crimes

While studying how LGBT visibility and LGBT rights impacts anti-LGB violence, Ph.D. candidate at Stony Brook

University, Elizabeth Coston, has found that over the course of the last few years the passing of pro-LGBT legislation such as nondiscrimination ordinances, marriage equality bills, etc., has actually led to a decrease in LGBT related hate crimes.

"When we expect to see the most negative backlash, because of all those court cases overturned decisions, what we actually see is that the incidents of hate crimes decreased – not what we would expect," Coston said during their Jan. 26 Equality Knowledge Project presentation at the Equality Research Center at Eastern Michigan University.

LGBT visibility is problematic because it threatens the the social order and challenges social norms.

"We don't like challenging social hierarchies," Coston said. "Even positive visibility changes social norms."

Coston looked at how the 2014 energy, when marriage equality picked up speed and states' bans on same-sex marriage fell like dominos, paired with reports of hate crimes across the country.

LGB crimes have no relationship with the overall crime rate, Coston said. They speculated that it's possible that

See Public Displays, page 24

Presented By

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



Between the Lines™

THE ULTIMATE **LGBT**
WEDDING **EXPO**
& ANNIVERSARY

at the **MotorCity Casino Hotel**

Sunday, March 20 • Noon to 5 p.m.

The Largest LGBT Wedding Expo in Michigan

Exhibitors • Fashion • Live Entertainment • Food Samples
Community Marketplace • Free Parking • Great Prizes

BTLWeddingExpo.com

Visit and register today. Plus, find great resources.

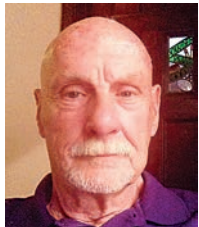
For more information call 734-293-7200 ext. 22

Jan@pridesource.com

Over \$25,000 in Giveaways Including Cruises & Hotel Stays



Hosted by Celebrity
EmCee Jason Bowen



Dreams, Wet and Otherwise

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

The mind boggling possibility of recording dreams will soon be a reality predicts a British monthly science magazine, *How It's Made*.

The nano technology/brain scanning techniques are now such that translating neural impulses from brain neurons and retina images to recording and screen instrumentation is almost a done deal. (Nightmares anyone? Wet dreams for replay?)

Question: Are the dreams of gay and lesbian persons significantly different from those of straights because of variations in respective brain hemispheres? How about trans persons? Recording dreams would likely provide answers.

I once kept a dream journal. I recorded over 50 dreams for six months, which is pretty good considering that dreams are like exotic butterflies – occasionally darksome moths – unless netted, quickly they flutter back into the twilight zone. Vanishing forever in seconds.

(Everyone dreams. Cats, dogs, parrots. Sarah Palin. Dreams occur every 90 minutes. Evidenced by Rapid Eye Movements. REMs. Up-and-down fluttering behind the eyelids.)

The secret to keeping a dream journal is to remind yourself at bedtime that you will remember your dreams when awakening, and have pencil and paper nearby to jot down vivid and fresh details.

You may not get back to sleep, but you've got something to show for time spent in your brain's unique answer to Disneyland.

I reread my dream journal recently, neglected over the years. It was fascinating. Embarrassing. Shock theater. And, to be expected of an eccentric artist like myself, wacky. No wonder Freudian shrinks find their couch company such fun.

Here's a sample. Dated July 19, 2010. Feel free to free associate. Your couch. Or mine. "I'm riding in a horse-drawn cab with passengers wearing blond wigs. None of whom speak English. We are in a foreign country. At night. I get off at a blinking stop light. The driver rolls down the window. "You left your beaded bag, Mary!" I wake up. (No tip, I'm sure.)

Modesty precludes further dream journal entries. (One including an erotic encounter with two movie stars, an acrobat, three outfielders and a drag queen piano tuner.)

Although dreams can be crazy, they keep us from going temporarily insane. If you go without sleep for more than 48 hours – say at a weekend circuit party – you can expect to experience hallucinations or psychosis. Without taking drugs.

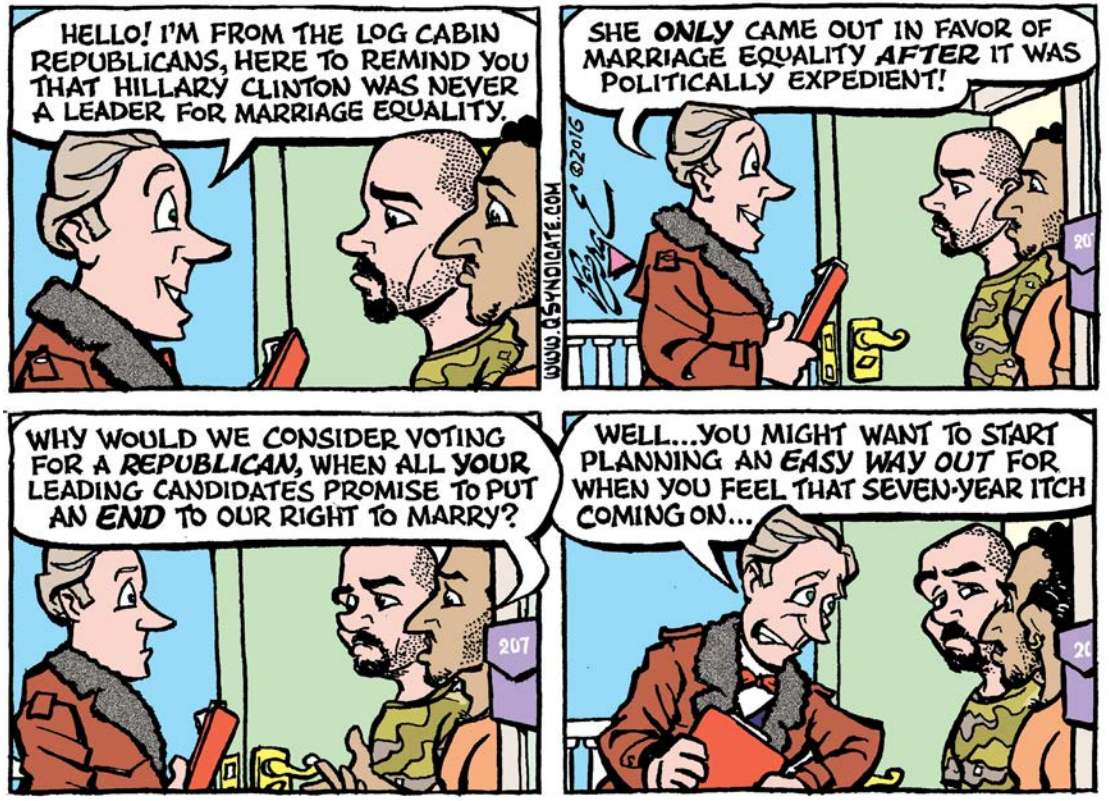
The world's record for going without sleep is 264 hours and 11 minutes, held by a straight but really bent DJ, who never fully recovered from nonstop lack of REMs.

Of all the sweet dreams I've had, none compares to a lucid dream. It's a real mind trip, and, for the 60 seconds or so that it lasts, it's life (and sometimes love) in the Fifth Dimension. No question about it: the mind has a mind of its own. (Lucid Dreams, like dreaming in color, are said by psychologists to be indices of reasonably high intelligence. Smile.)

You can fly. Touch your "solid" surroundings. Ask questions of dream people. (Like being awake, you may not get intelligent answers). Have a sexual fling. (I encountered one dream partner who, when refusing to fling, was told he had no choice but to be flung. It was my dream. Get with it. He did. It was mind blowing, though we haven't spoken since.)

It's a fact. More lesbians dream of U-Hauls than do gay men. More gay men dream of basket weaving. Neither dream of political elephants in their respective bedrooms. And, as Freud might have said, "Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar. A cucumber, just a cucumber."

Charles@pridesource.com



Viewpoint



OPINION BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

I Want to be 'In It To Win It,' Not Torn Between Two Lovers

Marriage was not the end in the fight for LGBTQ equality; in fact, it may have opened more opportunities for the haters to rise up against us. Our work is far from over. It is hard and there are no easy answers.

There are two very distinctive sides to me.

On the one side, I need to have a plan with everything thought out. I need to weigh all the pros and cons and have a backup plan B, C and even D! I guess you could call this side of me Strategic-Chelle.

On the other side is Scrappy-Chelle. She is down for a good fight. She is crazy optimistic and ready to give it all she's got. She is strong in the belief that good will ultimately overcome evil.

Yes, I can go one way or the other or stay balanced right in the middle. What can I say – I am a Libra!

Needless-to-say, the ongoing discussions on the best way to secure LGBTQ protections in Michigan as well as municipalities/states across the country has had both of my sides in turmoil.

When reading the banter on social

media and in conversations with friends/colleagues, I find I'm not alone in being torn between the two primary courses of action that have been laid out.

Even sadder than the fact that inequality still exists for LGBT people beyond marriage is the rancor between members of our community on the best way to achieve workplace equality.

Yes, we can get married and many employers offer wonderful benefits for same-sex families, but employment discrimination continues to be a critical problem facing the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and others who are gender nonconforming in our community.

Our friends, our families and our communities need to know this and how it not only impacts our families directly but all of our communities gay, straight and queer alike. They need to know that passing human rights ordinances, like Houston's HERO, or amending Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, are about expanding protections – not providing special rights.

They – our friends, family and communities – need to hear our stories and why this protection matters not just to the LGBTQ community, but also must matter to everyone in our state, not just today but for future generations. That's the

See next page

Transgender Advocacy Project is Working



OPINION BY AMY HUNTER

The Transgender Advocacy Project was conceived from a very simple premise: Transgender people's voices are critical to moving the entire equality movement forward in a post-marriage equality America. And it's working.

Next month, some 25 transgender Michiganders and allies will complete the first Advocacy University program. They have engaged in a six-month, intensive education program designed to impart sophisticated advocacy skills and a real-world perspective on the challenges of moving proactive transgender inclusive policy forward.

This diverse group of Advocacy U Fellows did more than make just a half-year commitment

to the TAP program. As a condition of their acceptance into Advocacy U, they pledged to take the skills they were learning and hone them in the real world by developing near-term and long-range projects that engage coalitions for change – a long-term prospect.

There was an implicit admission that went along with the creation of the Transgender Advocacy Project: Institutional and established organizational players, both statewide and nationally, had not yet done the inclusion work necessary to empower the transgender community to speak on their own behalf. So, it was a most welcome, while not wholly unexpected, surprise when TAP participants grasped for themselves the significance of what was possible here in Michigan and set out immediately to build a movement. While leadership development had been an underlying goal of TAP, what could not have been anticipated was the extent of the coalescence which began to transpire within Michigan's transgender community.

Advocacy U rolled out in September 2015, and by mid-November participants had convened a statewide gathering of the transgender community to discuss and weigh in collectively

See Advocacy Project, page 24

► 'In It To Win It'

Continued from p. 16

story: **us, our lives, our families.**

I understand that whichever path is taken to gain these protections whether by ballot amendment (which has been tabled for now) or legislative action, it will be expensive. Some will be targeted (most likely the most vulnerable) and there will be pain, harsh words, including much hate speech.

If we look back at the civil rights movement – the struggle that many LGBTQ activists often draw parallels to – there are lessons to learn.

Montgomery, Alabama residents, fed up with segregation on the bus systems, took action and refused to ride city buses from Dec. 1, 1955 to Dec. 20, 1956. The strategic decision to boycott the buses in the fight for equality often came at great economic hardship to residents who relied on the bus to get to/from work.

On Sunday, Sept. 15, 1963, white supremacists planted at least 15 sticks of dynamite at the 16th Street Baptist Church killing four little girls whose only crime was being black in an America that believed they were not due the same rights and protections of every other American child.

The community as a whole suffered indignities, hardships and violence but were united in their resolve to "march on, until victory was won."

History now tells us that during those darkest of times there were differences amongst leaders, in strategies and in tactics; but the faces we saw, the stories we heard, were united in one message

for an end to segregation and a call for justice!

Marriage was not the end in the fight for LGBTQ equality; in fact, it may have opened more opportunities for the haters to rise up against us. Our work is far from over. It is hard and there are no easy answers.

Now more than ever we need leadership. Leadership that will give us hope. Leadership that will bring our community together – not have friends challenging friends. Leadership that, while granting full transparency, does not let the media focus the conversation on infighting and away from the need to protect millions more LGBTQ Americans from unjust discrimination.

I get it! We have to work smarter, be strategic, get resources and not squander those we already have; we also have to take action. But we can do this.

Remember Prop 2, when everyday people, both LGBTQ and allies alike, stepped up, told their stories, moved hearts and raised funds in our fight for marriage equality? The deck was stacked against us but we dug deep into our pockets, deep into our hearts, for equality's sake.

Our community is prepared to do the work, so give us more than bad headlines and business as usual, "Leaders." I don't want to be torn between two lovers for equality's sake going back and forth between Scrappy and Strategic-Chelle. I want to be in it – In It To Win It!

Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. You can follow her writing and activities at <http://www.mychangeiam.com> and on <http://www.twitter.com/mychangeiam>

Creep of the Week

Marco Rubio

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

On Feb. 8, Marco Rubio was asked a very important question by New Hampshire resident Timothy Kierstead, a man who said he'd been married for a "long time."

"Why do you want to put me back in the closet?" Kierstead asked, according to the Washington Post.



Rubio

"I don't. You can live any way you want," Rubio responded. "I just believe marriage is between one man and one woman."

Kierstead wasn't placated by that answer and after some words about marriage equality, the Post reported that the tense exchange ended with Rubio disengaging and walking away.

Poor Rubio. He's so misunderstood. People think he's a moderate (a.k.a. "the least scary" among the GOP's presidential contenders), but he's really as far right as Ted Cruz. And yet Cruz seems to get all the credit – and the criticism – for this radical positions.

Earth to Rubio: America has changed a lot in the past 200 years. If you haven't noticed that, then you would be a very dangerous man to lead this country. To people who support equality: come November, you'd better show up.

I think in part it's because Rubio is a pretty handsome guy compared to smug-mug Cruz. So everything that comes out of Cruz's mouth sounds insane, but when Rubio says it, people are all, "Oh my, are those dimples I see?"

Just like Cruz, Rubio is anti-abortion with no exceptions for rape. Just like Cruz, Rubio supports so-called "religious freedom" laws which are by and large aimed at protecting those who discriminate against LGBTQ people.

In fact, Eric Teetsel, Rubio campaign's director of faith outreach, told the Christian Post that there "are few, if any, substantive policy differences" between Cruz and Rubio when it comes to what feeds to the right-wing base.

Teetsel continued, "The National Organization for Marriage calls Marco, 'a champion of marriage' and the Family Research Council's political arm recently gave him a 100 percent score."

Which leads, of course, to Kierstead's question and Rubio's bullshit answer, one that any LGBTQ person or ally would be wise to look at more closely.

When Rubio says, "You can live any way you want," he's being disingenuous at best. Because for many same-sex couples, the way they want to live is married, and they've fought for that right, and all the legal protections that come with it, for decades. Rubio would like to see all of that undone. And he's not shy about it.

When speaking about marriage equality on NBC's "Meet the Press" Dec. 13, 2015, Rubio said, "It is the current law. I don't believe any case law is settled law. Any future Supreme Court can change it. And ultimately, I will appoint Supreme Court justices that will interpret the Constitution as originally constructed."

In other words, if Rubio gets elected president, he will be sure to try to stack the Supreme Court with right-wing justices who would overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges*, not to mention *Roe v. Wade*.

But make no mistake, Rubio says, "It's not about discrimination. It is about the definition of a very specific, traditional and age-old institution." I call bullshit on that, too. Because the only reason Rubio wants to lock down that narrow definition is so gays can't get married. Hence, that's discrimination.

He also argues that equality advocates who won the right to marry didn't do it right. "If you want to change it, you have a right to petition your state Legislature and your elected representatives to do it," he said. "What is wrong is that the Supreme Court has found this hidden constitutional right that 200 years of jurisprudence had not discovered..."

Earth to Rubio: America has changed a lot in the past 200 years. If you haven't noticed that, then you would be a very dangerous man to lead this country.

BTL Weddings & Anniversary Celebrations

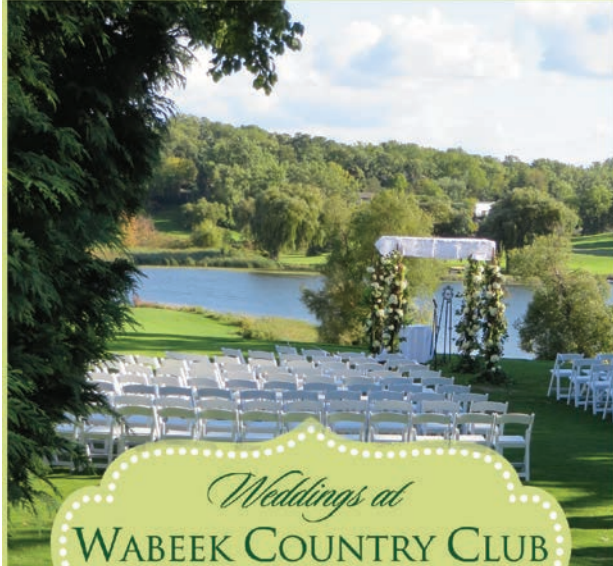


"Look Forward to Looking Back"

Masserman M_P Photography

2900 Orchard Lake Road, Keego Harbor, MI 48320
(248) 365-4014 www.massermanphotography.com

Mention Between the Lines and receive a complimentary 5x7 portrait with a package purchase. Ask about our Commitment Ceremony packages.



Weddings at
WABEEK COUNTRY CLUB
CEREMONIES & RECEPTIONS

Our beautifully decorated clubhouse offers a wide range of possibilities, from an intimate dinner gathering to a grand affair of a wedding. Our ballroom offers a picturesque view of our Jack Nicklaus and Pete Dye designed golf course with wall-to-wall windows.

4000 Club Gate Drive, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
248.855.0700 | www.wabeekcc.org

Receive a free 1-year Social Membership when you book your wedding



Christmas 2015 in Max and Doug's new home in Douglas, Michigan with their new dog, Harry. Photos courtesy of couple.

From US to Canada, Western Michigan Couple Celebrates Their Love

BY AMY LYNN SMITH

It was love at first sight for Max Brown and Doug Sipsma. They met in 1999 when they were both visiting Chicago. They struck up a conversation in a store, exchanged phone numbers and a couple of weeks later they had their first date. They've been together ever since.

"People don't believe it, but Doug said, 'Don't I know you from somewhere?' when we met," Brown recalls. "We lived close to each other on the west side of Michigan, but we'd never met."

The couple says it only took a few dates to know they wanted to be together forever, and one year to the day after they met they made it official with a commitment ceremony on Oct. 23, 2000. About 120 people packed into Phoenix Community Church in Kalamazoo, which is only supposed to seat about 80 people. The couple was surrounded by family and friends, both gay and straight, during a ceremony that began with the couple singing "No Matter What" by Boyzone to each other.

"We came from opposite sides of the church singing back and forth," Sipsma says. "By the time we got to the front of the church, everyone stood and applauded."

Singing and music were only two of the countless shared interests and values the couple had discovered by then. In addition to theater and movies, they both had a deep affection for animals, uniting Brown's dog and cat with Sipsma's cat. "That was one of the things that showed me what a good man Doug was, when I saw how he treated my Golden Retriever," Brown says. "He loved that dog as much as I did." When they had to put the dog to sleep, they went to the vet together. "It was a tearful day," Sipsma says.

From the beginning, they also shared a spiritual leaning, seeking a more positive and insightful lifestyle. The minister at Phoenix Community Church reinforced their belief that it was important to express their love and commitment in front of their family and friends, even though they couldn't be legally married at the time. She also encouraged them to start every morning by looking into each other's eyes and saying, "I love you" – a ritual the couple continues to this day.

"It's been very powerful and meaningful to us," Brown says. "It's always a reminder of that day, the people who supported us and the love that's continued in our lives."

See Celebrates Love, page 20

A woman with her hair in a bun is shown in profile, looking down. She is wearing a white, strapless wedding gown with a fitted bodice featuring lace and a wide, thin belt. The skirt is voluminous and covered in long, white feathers. She stands on a dark blue studio backdrop. To her left, a large studio light with a barn door is illuminated, casting a soft glow on her and the background. The overall mood is elegant and dramatic.

From *girl* to
Gorgeous.

B. Ella Bridal

570 S. Main Street • Plymouth, MI
(734)459-0000 • b-ella-bridal.com

► Celebrates Love

Continued from p. 18

In 2003, when Ontario, Canada, legalized same-sex marriage, the couple decided at the spur of the moment to get married during one of their many trips to the Stratford Festival. In fact, Sipsma says, they were the third gay couple to be legally married in the province. They both felt something was a little different once they were legally married, even though it wasn't recognized in the United States – a point that was painfully driven home the day President George W. Bush called for a ban on same-sex marriage.

"I remember sitting in front of the TV and feeling so disheartened that my own country was going in this direction," Brown says. "The justice of the peace in Canada had said, 'Isn't it strange that you come from the land of the free, yet you have to come to Canada in order to experience full equality in this marriage?' That was the beginning of being more aware of the marriage issue in America." After the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) was overturned in 2013, the couple's marriage became legal in the U.S.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruling in 2015 legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide marked a new era in their lives – even though the couple has always seen every day as a reason to celebrate their love. "One thing that's really changed since the ruling is now, when you're talking to somebody and you want to



Max and Doug are legally married in Ontario, Canada, July 25, 2003.

mention your partner, you can legitimately say 'my husband' and not many people are taken aback anymore," Sipsma says. "I think that's great."

Living first in Kalamazoo and now in Saugatuck, the couple has not faced many issues having their union respected over the years, although their relationship hasn't always been met with approval. For instance, when they moved to Kalamazoo, their neighbors weren't too happy at first about a gay couple moving in next door. But they became friends once the neighbors got to know them as people.

The 71-year-olds do appreciate having the same legal protections as any other couple now that marriage equality is here. Mostly, though,

they're just grateful to have found each other, Sipsma says. "I feel very lucky to have the life I have," Brown adds. "But the crowning glory has been my relationship with Doug – finding someone to grow old with."

The LGBT community will celebrate all the special occasions in their lives at the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo, hosted by Between The Lines from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 20 at the MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit. Tickets are \$10 each. Learn more or order tickets online at btlweddingexpo.com. For updates, follow www.facebook.com/UlimateLGBTExpo on Facebook, [@BTLEXP](https://twitter.com/BTLEXP) on Twitter and [@BTLEXP](https://www.instagram.com/BTLEXP) on Instagram.



The couple attend the White House Christmas gathering in 2014, where they are legal in America and "proud to be in our country's home."



**Honesty.
Respect.
Professionalism.
Courtesy.**

Beverly Lochard, Agent

Bus: 1-888-862-9292

beverly.lochard.ssmq@statefarm.com

www.BeverlyLochard.com

It's how I treat all my customers. And you can be sure I'll always do my best to meet your needs.

**Like a good neighbor,
State Farm is there.®**

CALL ME TODAY.

 **State Farm™**

1101016.1

State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

LAKELAND MANOR



**We've created magical
memories for over 40 years!**

Exquisite banquet facilities and catering services for
weddings, parties and special events.

26211 Harper Ave., St. Clair Shores MI 48081

586-773-2211 • www.lakelandmanor.com



The Polo
Fields
Golf & C.C.

ONE COUNTRY CLUB
TWO LOCATIONS
ONE AFFORDABLE PRICE

*Where affordability
meets quality.*



THE POLO FIELDS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUBS, FEATURING WORLD-CLASS SERVICE AT OUR TWO LOCATIONS:
THE POLO FIELDS-ANN ARBOR AND THE POLO FIELDS-WASHTENAW
Simplifying the planning process for your wedding, reception or bridal shower.

The Choice is Yours...choose from one of our complete wedding packages or from our new
"Design Your Own" wedding package. Wedding packages starting at \$40*.
Now booking events at our two banquet facilities for 2015-2016. Two unique outdoor ceremony sites.



THE POLO FIELDS ANN ARBOR: 5200 POLO FIELDS DRIVE, ANN ARBOR MI 48103
THE POLO FIELDS WASHTENAW: 2955 PACKARD ROAD, YPSILANTI MI 48197
Contact Chris Chalmers, Catering Sales Director at 734.998.1555 or cchalmers@polofieldscmi.com



www.polofieldscmi.com
*CERTAIN CONDITIONS APPLY

Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo Celebrates Marriage Equality March 20

DETROIT – It's the celebration of a lifetime. Now that same-sex marriage is legal nationwide, the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo on March 20 is going to be bigger, better and more meaningful than ever.

The event, being hosted for the sixth year by Between The Lines, has been expanded from an LGBT wedding expo into a wedding and anniversary expo. This expansion recognizes the many occasions being celebrated by LGBT couples and their families following the U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage in June 2015.

The expo will continue to be Detroit's only LGBT-specific destination for couples planning their wedding to meet with inclusive vendors. But it will also be a place where couples and families can meet with LGBT-friendly vendors that can help them celebrate all the special occasions in their lives: anniversaries, vow renewals, graduations, bar and bat mitzvahs, adoptions, baby showers, and more.

"So many couples have been together for decades, which makes the Supreme Court decision an acknowledgement of the commitment they've already made as couples and families," said Susan Horowitz, editor and co-publisher of BTL and co-producer of the event with her co-publisher and wife, Jan Stevenson.



Attorney Alicia Skillman and Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown model some wedding gowns provided by B. Ella Bridal at the 2015 expo. Fashion will be on full display again this year at the expo with a few new twists, including an underwear show. BTL file photo: Andrew Potter

The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo is moving to a fabulous new location this year: MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit. This elegant setting will be a perfect complement to the historic celebration, which will feature about 125 vendors, a fashion show, live entertainment, prizes, special guests and plenty of surprises, all in MotorCity's state-of-the-art ballroom and Sound Board Theater.

The Expo will include a fashion show with gowns provided by B. Ella Bridal in Plymouth and tuxedos from The Tux Shop on Woodward in Birmingham. Plans are also in the works for a Honeymoon Attire fashion show featuring provocative lingerie and other clothing suitable for the bedroom.

The entire event will be emceed by professional actor and entertainer Jason

Bowen. From Chicago originally, Bowen will keep the action going with all the shows, demonstrations, prize giveaways and more. One of the many event sponsors, Barefoot Wine & Bubbly, is providing the mixings for a complimentary signature event cocktail.

The Sound Board Theatre will be the place to see live entertainment going all afternoon by a variety of bands, DJs and other performers. Each of these professional performers have extensive wedding and event experience, and will provide an upbeat atmosphere adding to the fun of the whole event.

Because the event is more meaningful than ever, record attendance is expected.

"The ruling is a major step forward in lived equality – the goal that someday, LGBT people will have full equality in every aspect of their lives – so we're excited to celebrate that with our most ambitious expo yet," said Stevenson.

The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo will be noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 20 at the MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit. Tickets are \$10 each. Learn more or order tickets online at www.btlweddingexpo.com. For updates, follow www.facebook.com/UltimateLGBTExpo on Facebook, @BTLExpo on Twitter and @BTLEXPO on Instagram

Rachel H. Tucker, Esq.

An Attorney making the law respect your wishes

Prenuptial Agreements

Estate Planning: Wills, Trusts, Power of Attorneys

Real Estate & Co-Ownership Agreements

Corporate & Small Business Law

rtucker@jrlawplc.com 248.626.2226

30665 Northwestern Hwy., Ste.200 Farmington Hills, MI

Norton's
FLOWERS & GIFTS

SERVING WASHTENAW AND WESTERN WAYNE COUNTIES

YPSILANTI STORE
2900 Washtenaw Ave.
734-434-2700

ANN ARBOR STORE
2558 W. Stadium
734-769-9100

800-682-8667 - WWW.NORTONSFLOWERS.COM

We Deliver the **WOW**





Say "I Do"

with Golden Limousine

Our wedding specialists can help you through your marriage journey -- from proposing to saying "I do".



GOLDEN LIMOUSINE INTERNATIONAL

How can we help?
800.300.5151
www.GoldenLimo.com

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD AT OUR HOTELS.



Our beautiful ballrooms, premier catering services and on-site expert planners make us the perfect setting for your wedding. Say "I do" at Embassy Suites by Hilton™. Group block discounts are available for our two room guest suites.

EMBASSY SUITES
by HILTON™
Detroit Troy Auburn Hills

Embassy Suites by Hilton Detroit Troy Auburn Hills
850 Tower Drive | Troy, MI 48098 | 248-879-7500
800-Embassy | detroitroy.embassysuites.com

TWO-ROOM SUITES • COMPLIMENTARY DRINKS • FREE MADE-TO-ORDER BREAKFAST

HILTON HONORS

*Service of alcohol subject to state and local laws. Must be of legal drinking age. ©2015 Hilton Worldwide.™ Indicates a trademark of Hilton Worldwide.



The Wedding Shoppe

27333 Woodward Ave
Berkley, MI 48072
248.541.1988
www.theweddingshoppe.net



The most award winning bridal shop in Metro Detroit!





► Public Displays

Continued from p. 14

LGBT issues are not generating enough attention to have an effect on hate crimes.

“The theory tells us that there should be an increase, that since it is such a high profile thing that there should be an increase in anti-LGB hate crimes surrounding these events. Especially in 2014 when the courts overturned all of those bans. We just don’t see a negative backlash,” Coston explained.

Response from BTL Facebook

Many people are uncomfortable seeing couples kiss in public and would rather they, gay or straight, take that kind of affection indoors. But many people in the LGBT community still fear the backlash from expressing their own PDA.

BTL put a call out on Facebook for individuals who had experienced positive or negative remarks or behaviors related to their PDA.

“Once had a quick kiss in a Taco Bell drive thru. Guy followed us honking his horn and screaming ‘pull over’ for about a 40-minute drive. Scariest thing. (No cell phones) We got to a small town with a police station and he gave up,” April Kovatch-Emerick commented.

“We were harrassed on the road by a turd in a pickup ... he looked down into our car and saw us holding hands. (He) called us all kinds of names. (It was an ugly, ugly confrontation. Wtf?” wrote Connie Case.

Other commenters expressed that they

Many people are uncomfortable seeing couples kiss in public and would rather they, gay or straight, take that kind of affection indoors.



are always careful about when and where they express their public displays of affection.

“It depends entirely on where we are,” Lori Curry said. “Some areas I feel safe in, some I don’t. We ALWAYS have to be aware of those around us.”

“I am (comfortable expressing PDA), but I’m always conscious of where I am. A gay village is one thing, a small Bible belt town may be another,” George Borg wrote.

Cindy Clardy said that she hasn’t had any reactions to her PDA, positive or negative. “We hug and kiss goodbye at the airport, hold hands in the movies, live theater, weddings, etc. My basic theory is that anything that is acceptable for straight

“It depends entirely on where we are. Some areas I feel safe in, some I don’t. We ALWAYS have to be aware of those around us.”

– Lori Curry told BTL

couples to do in public is acceptable for LGBT couples to do in public, and act accordingly.”

GENERAL

RV CENTER

Your RV sales professional for over 13 years

Lori J. Macdonald 25000 Assembly Park Dr.,
248-349-0900 x 7079 Wixom, MI 48393

All Around Limos

586-303-7303

Wedding • Anniversary • Birthday
Concert • Sports Event • Prom

All Around Limos 586-303-7303

Book 5 Hours or More
Get One Hour FREE

With this coupon. BTL 2406

► Advocacy Project

Continued from p. 17

on the important issue of whether LGBT rights should be placed on the ballot in the 2016 general election.

Members of the transgender community published a well-reasoned and firm admonition that putting our rights to popular vote in 2016 was not in our – or anyone else’s – best interest. It marked an amazing display of cohesion developing in a community that is frequently the target of hateful rhetoric and violence and accustomed to being told to keep a low profile and stay quiet.

Now, here were transgender people speaking publicly, with one loud voice on an issue that affected them directly and in no small way. Along the way, Michigan’s transgender community changed the

vector of the entire discussion.

Just days ago, in fact, Fair Michigan dropped its efforts for a ballot initiative. Much of the credit for putting the brakes on this misguided effort goes directly to the voice of reason coming from a unified trans community. And for that, we should all be grateful.

By design, the Transgender Advocacy Project has largely flown under the public radar, but is getting noticed in the broader advocacy community. TAP will provide the basis for a scalable model which can be utilized in other states and with other organizations as well as continuing the work here in Michigan.

This week, both the TAP and Advocacy University models will be part of a presentation and panel discussion about moving LGBT rights forward at the ACLU National Staff Conference in Orlando, Florida. Our work here has led to TAP (and me) being invited to

participate at a national policy table of LGBT organizations. I’ve also been charged with hosting monthly calls with transgender professionals from across the country to bring our voices together within our movement, to ensure we are being consulted as policy and tactics are developed nationally.

Even as the work being done by Michigan’s transgender community and TAP goes on, it is increasingly clear that our initial premise is playing out across the advocacy world too.

The voice of the voiceless is the one we most need to hear.

Amy Hunter is the Transgender Advocacy Project Coordinator for the ACLU of Michigan. This piece was originally published at www.aclumich.org/article/michigan-transgender-advocacy-project-working.



Dillon's Jewelers

Celebrating 24 years in business

Engagement Headquarters

Featuring hundreds of engagement bands and rings in stock!
FREE same day sizing for ALL in-store purchases



1007 S. Wayne Road
Westland, MI 48186
734-722-3839



Sheraton®

DETROIT NOVI HOTEL

Let us help you create
your perfect Wedding day!



Onsite ceremony locations available; indoor and outdoor options!

"All inclusive" wedding packages including

- ◆ An overnight stay in one of our newly renovated suites
- ◆ Cocktail hour
- ◆ Host bar
- ◆ Chair covers & much more!

Contact Danielle Balmer 248 349 4996

danielle.balmer@sheratondetroitnovi.com

21111 HAGGERTY ROAD

NOVI, MI 48375

sheraton.com/detroitnovi

FIND US ON



Thomas's CATERING

734.525.5610 WWW.THOMASCATERING.COM



Like us on Facebook

WHEN IT HAS TO BE PERFECT ...



YOUR WEDDING DAY

Of all of life's greatest moments, this is one of the greatest of all. A celebration that will stay within your memories for a lifetime to come.

Let Thomas's Catering be your guide through the entire planning process. From choosing your linens and china, to creating that personalized, custom menu you and your guests will truly enjoy!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR SAMPLE MENUS AND SERVICES.
thomascatering.com • Main: 734.525.5610

Sacred Heart Conference Center Main: 734.261.8560
facebook.com/thomascatering • facebook.com/sacredheartbanquetconferencecenter
Preferred and Exclusive Venues Available

Photo Courtesy of A Thousand Words Photography



MARCO CASTRO BOJORQUEZ

RISING STAR

Photo: Liz Salinas

Out White House Honoree Sings His Own ‘Song’

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Marco Castro-Bojorquez was never very close to his father. They rarely spoke, especially about Marco’s sexuality. Two years ago, though, on New Year’s Eve, something changed.

His family went out that night, but not Marco, who stayed back home to spend time with his dad. Castro-Bojorquez sipped a glass of white wine. His dad drank a cider. And because it happened so infrequently, he remembers the two “talked and talked.”

The next day, Castro-Bojorquez recalls, his father spoke these simple yet treasured – and now immortalized – words: “I really enjoyed talking with you last night. We should do that again.”

Castro-Bojorquez’s father, Camilo Castro Casarez, died on May 15, 2015, just days before Castro-Bojorquez completed “El Canto del Colibrí” (“The Hummingbird’s Song”), his beautifully rendered documentary portraying the stories of Latino immigrant fathers who’ve transcended racial stereotypes by showing their unconditional love for their LGBT children. The film is a tribute to Camilo.

“He was always very proud of me and my accomplishments and my independence, but we never really talked about me being gay openly until the very last month of his life,” says Castro-Bojorquez, 48, noting that, together, they watched some of the unfinished film just before his death. “He was very interested in the film and we talked about it,

and it’s kind of symbolic because we had a great time.”

Before “El Canto del Colibrí,” two moms of Somos Familia, a San Francisco-based educational support program for moms and their LGBT kids, were in pursuit of culturally relevant programming that reflected being the mother of an LGBT child. They found nothing, according to Castro-Bojorquez. But then they came to an LGBT youth conference that Castro-Bojorquez was involved with. If there was no programming, it would have to be created. And a leader, it just so happened, was there in their midst.

Castro-Bojorquez, along with fellow filmmaker Jose Alfaro, made the mothers’ vision a reality when “Tres Gotas de Agua” (“Three Drops of Water”), a short doc featuring three Latina immigrant mothers pledging love for their LGBT children, premiered in 2011.

Then, Castro-Bojorquez says, people were asking: What about the dads? After all, Latino

fathers, he states, are the ones historically generalized as being “macho, homophobic and transphobic by nature.”

“I find that completely racist,” he says, passionately. “If you engage with people who are Latino, like the Latino immigrants in ‘El Canto,’ you find out that, of course they go through the same process – and some of them are not very accepting – but I think they have the capacity to transform.”

Shedding light on a wide-range of issues, including immigration, faith and coming out, that transformation is poignantly captured in a series of emotional interviews with Latino fathers and their LGBT children. “El Canto” is both culturally specific and universally affecting, but beyond that, it’s a powerful tool to bring fathers closer to their LGBT kids regardless of ethnic background. Castro-Bojorquez’s creation is close to his heart – the documentary, he says, is a hopeful yarn championing positivity when so little of it

seems to exist.

"We have been smacked in the media with anti-immigration sentiments," he says, "and there's a lot of stuff that we see or hear that is negative about us. I wanted to balance it out and provide something that they could feel proud of."

He breaks off, reckoning that, "I think that's why they cry... people cry in the film. And I did too."

Coming out for change

"It was hard," Castro-Bojorquez laments as he remembers the lab attendant who was "totally healthy" and then contracted HIV and died within days. It was the late '80s and AIDS was wreaking havoc. Castro-Bojorquez was on the frontlines, witnessing the agony of the AIDS epidemic while studying medicine at Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Monterrey, Mexico. Castro-Bojorquez admitted many patients, including the lab attendant.

He recalls the horror: "I remember seeing the faces of these people arriving at the emergency room. I had to admit them, and I didn't even know who they were until they talked to me."

For him, the gay stigma of the virus only exacerbated his fears about coming out. While enrolled in med school, he told his mother, who would then inform his father, that he was gay.

"Coming out in Mexico, at least for me, with the lack of information and education and support, was trouble," says Castro-Bojorquez, who was born and raised on the Mexican Pacific coast but, for political reasons, moved to California. "It was very confusing because I didn't have anybody helping me to understand what it meant to be gay or queer. I had a couple of books and magazines, but I didn't know what it was like to come out."

It'd be reasonable to assume that Castro-Bojorquez's own coming-out journey was the catalyst for his educational and advocacy-related work as Community Educator in Lambda Legal's Western Regional Office in Los Angeles, but he considers his actual muse to be his mother, a rural school teacher who died in 2000.

"Losing my mom prompted my work (with Lambda Legal)," he says. "To honor my mother's spirit and her legacy are the main reasons why I started to work with LGBT youth and their families."

Leslie J. Gabel-Brett, director of education and public affairs at Lambda, says Castro-Bojorquez has helped LGBT youth "live with pride and dignity."

"He uses artistic expression as a filmmaker and couples it with public education about the law to help advance our mission to secure equality and justice for LGBT people and people living with HIV," she says. "We need to reach everyone, and to use every voice and tool that we can."

In November 2015, the White House recognized Castro-Bojorquez as one of nine "Champions of Change" for being a staunch advocate of LGBT-related issues. Reflecting on the last time his efforts merited appreciation, when he competed in a singing competition during a Mother's Day celebration, he laughs: "I won a lollipop when I was in, like, elementary school!"

Recognizing his distinct gift for combining legal information with advocacy and storytelling, Lambda Legal is "proud" that the White House thinks as highly of Castro-Bojorquez's work as they do.

"Marco has made a beautiful film that is a powerful tool for increasing understanding of the experiences of Latino immigrant families with LGBTQ youth," says Gabel-Brett, referencing "El Canto." "It is such a well-deserved honor for him, and an amazing opportunity to raise up the voices and stories of these families."

When Castro-Bojorquez received the White House's email praising him for "El Canto," he was "flattered." Who wouldn't be? What an honor. Dad would be proud. But Castro-Bojorquez is quick to note that his work represents the work of many.

"I'm very grateful and appreciative of people recognizing my work," he says. "But it's not only my work - it's the work of a team of people that have helped me for many years. Not only the people who did the film with me, but my mentors, the youth that I work with, the families. All of those people influence the things that we end up creating."



Crown Pharmacy

Specializing in providing world class HIV pharmaceutical care



866-575-3784 (toll free)
www.crownpharmacy.com

24401 Plymouth Rd., Redford, MI 48239
313-532-DRUG (3784) 313-532-3718 (fax)
crownpharmacy1@aol.com
OWNER: Val Randall
HOURS: M-F 10 am - 6 pm Weds 10am-5pm
Closed Weekends and Holidays



Low Cost Pet Prescriptions

YOUR SEARCH FOR THE RIGHT HOME INSURANCE STOPS HERE



ALLSTATE HOUSE & HOME



I can help custom-build a policy for your new home.
Finding the right home can be a lot of work, but finding the right home insurance is easy with Allstate House & Home. Plus, save time and money when you bundle your policies with one agent...me! Call my agency today!


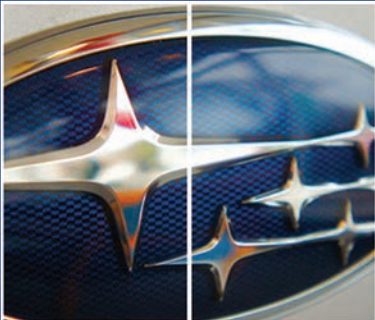


Allstate

You're in good hands.
Auto Home Life Retirement


THE MOULDEN AGENCY
248-691-5530
26013 COOLIDGE HIGHWAY
rmoulden@allstate.com

Subject to terms, conditions and availability. Allstate Vehicle and Property Insurance Co. Northbrook, IL. © 2012 Allstate Insurance Co.





at Hodges...

We know that moving forward means remembering where you came from. That's why we're proud to say that Hodges is celebrating nearly 90 years in Ferndale, Michigan; and over 40 years as Hodges Subaru. Since we may have had the pleasure of helping your grandparents purchase their first Subaru 360, or helped your parents pick out that blue GL, we would love the opportunity to find the perfect Subaru for you. We'll help you get where you're going, because you've helped us get where we are. Thank You!



CROSSTREK



SUBARU

HODGES SUBARU 21205 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220
248.547.8800 • www.hodgessubaru.com
HOURS: OPEN SATURDAYS 10-3 AND EXTENDED HOURS TILL 9PM MONDAYS & THURSDAYS
Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

Down and Dirty in Detroit

Local LGBT Artist Jack Summers Dishes on Dirty Show, 'Profane' Art and Upcoming Exhibit

BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

Jack O. Summers isn't a fan of religion – but he is a fan of making fun of it. The local artist, who will have his work exhibited at The Dirty Show from Feb. 12-20 at the Russell Industrial Complex in Detroit, laughs, "I like to mix religious and nonreligious elements, and I'm not religious at all, so sometimes I have to make fun of religion... I like to mix the profane and the religious."

The Dirty Show, Detroit's annual erotic art show, is known for this kind of debauchery – from tastefully done pieces to the sort of work that leaves guests praying a rosary in penance. Though, as Summers attests of the show, "The quantity (of art) is pretty good and there's a nice variety, and there's tons of it. People really go out for that show."

Summers' own contribution to this year's event?

"What I did this year is I made a form in the shape of a religious icon, like in the medieval times," he describes. "It's about 11 inches tall and 7 wide and about an inch deep. It's a relief. And what I did was make this iconic form, but instead of Jesus in the middle... I have a big penis. The whole thing is gold like an icon would be. Then I have jewels studded around it."

He laughs. "So as you can see, it's not terribly serious."

Summers, who specializes in collage work, photography and mandalas, doesn't limit his artistic juxtaposition to just tongue-in-cheek works aimed at religion.

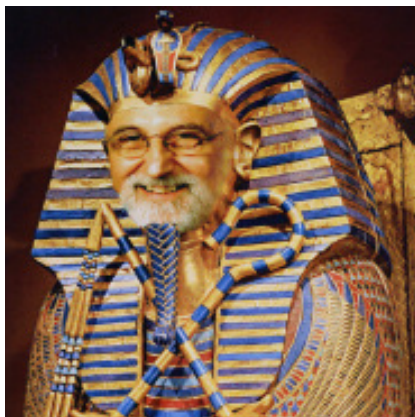
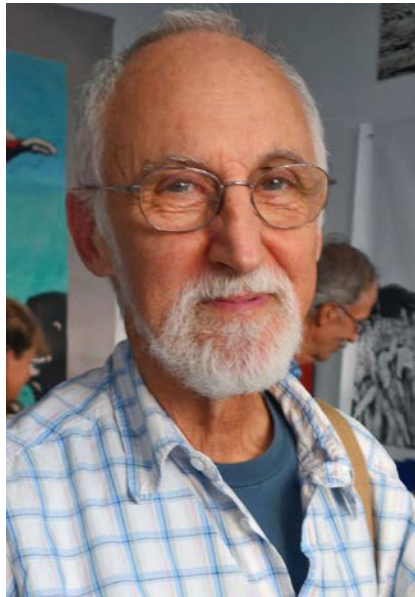
"I have a ton of comic books that I cut up and use in my work," he explains. "There's a lot of humor in my work, underlying one way or the other. I had a book of Roman sculptures, the heads of them, and I tore out all the pages of the books and I had saved monster eyes and stuff, and I turned these Roman heads into comic characters. I've been posting one a day on Instagram and Facebook. I did about 40 of them – people are reacting kind of positively to them. "I like to make fun of history and all kinds of things. It's fun to make dirty work, but once you show it there, where else are you going to show it? I can't show these things any place else."

Summers has found some unexpected success with his X-rated pieces, though. They've been featured at the Leslie Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art in New York City, "one of the biggest,

oldest gay galleries in the country," he says.

Summers' self-described fun art includes some self insertion, as well.

"I do put my face in and on a lot of things," he says, laughing. "Right now I'm using my collages for my Facebook page.



I take a lot of things, like the Sphinx, and put my face on it."

Other humorous works include his "Bah Humbug" series of Christmas cards he puts out yearly. "I've had a successful run with Christmas cards, and I have torturous kinds of things like with Santa Claus – like with his head cut off," he says. "I make about 20 new ones a year, and I've got them in about three different categories, and they've sold well. I've sold them at the Detroit Artist Market, the Ann Arbor Art Center, the Grosse Pointe Art Center, and I'm going to see if I can do the DIA and the

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association this year."

Between his Christmas works and the Dirty Show, they may be some of the few places fans can get their hands on Summers' art. "I don't sell stuff online," he admits. "I usually don't. I've sold a few pieces out of Affirmations where I had a one person show a few years ago.

"Right now I'm doing a series on the alphabet, and I'm making them in cigar boxes – I'm using the tops and bottoms of wooden cigar boxes. I'm putting objects in there for each letter, and oh my – the end of the alphabet is pretty difficult!

"I'm going to try and have a one-man show this September in Ferndale City Hall. I don't have an exact date, but it is September. All the work in that show is going to be about Detroit – I use a lot of found things, like wood, and I've been making a lot of collages and mandalas with photography and Detroit imagery."

For those hoping to see the artist's work this month at the Dirty Show, Summers offers this tip: "I find if you go to the opening night, it's OK, and then Sunday is kind of quiet. Otherwise it's **mobbed** – sometimes (the Dirty Show) can't even let people in because of the limits. The Russell Industrial Complex is a really nice, big space. It's a very good venue for it because of the size. It's all very, very popular."

Summers, who has watched the show evolve over the years, does note, "There's not much gay work."

"I've tried to encourage some other artists to think of making work for it," he says. "It's mostly heterosexual work. But the quality is quite good – some people really extend themselves. Not all of the work is explicit, but last year's had explicit pieces – but I'm not that interested in heterosexual work! Maybe I don't concentrate on it. Very little gay art in there."

But for those going in blind, they can keep an eye out for Summers' entry this year.

"I love the beauty of the icons and I love to work from them, and," he says, laughing, "I thought, 'I'll make just the icon instead of Jesus!'"

The Dirty Show will run from Feb. 12-20 at the Russell Industrial Complex, 1600 Clay St., Detroit. Shows are either 18+ or 21+. Find out more at www.dirtydetroit.com.

Trans Musician Tries Out for The Voice

BY AJ TRAGER

ANN ARBOR – Jaimie Wilson, 20, performed at Motor City Pride last year and is about to try out for season 10 of "The Voice." He's a return contender for the show but is excited for the opportunity to show the judges what he can do. The young artist has covered multiple songs from "Dibs" by Kelsea Ballerini to "Stay With Me" by Sam Smith. On Jan. 15 he released his first single as a male singer/songwriter, a fun upbeat pop country song called "Drivin' Me Crazy." At the end of last year, Wilson traveled to Nashville to record some new tracks that he will be releasing in his upcoming 2016 debut album.

Wilson's musical roots are in country and Gospel, however he has developed a taste for every genre of music, expanding on his musical repertoire. Music is more than just a past time for Wilson, best known for documenting his transition on his Instagram page (@tboy61915); music is a manner of life as he tries to pour his soul into his music.

How did you get your start in music?

I started music because of my mom (Cheryl). She is a singer/songwriter. I got the music start from her. I started by taking piano lessons – took them for a week when I was 5. I sang and played piano until about the age of 15 when my mom had an old guitar – that she never learned how to play – and gave it to me. I taught myself how to play guitar. It was really cool. I consider it a type of art, it's an outlet. You can take it with you places and be inspired by different things.

What do you like to write about?

Songs that aren't very deep and are about everyday stuff. Other times, if you've had a bad day or a tough situation, it feels good to write about that too. Awhile ago, I wrote a song for my mom. It is my favorite piece. It's been a year since I came out. And it still isn't good with my family. I'm holding out hope that it will be one day. Music has helped me a lot. I had a close knit family, and I thought it would be the end of the world if I wasn't accepted. But music helped me through that.

I think that when you are alone, the things that come to mind are pretty truthful when it's just you. I always saw myself with my guitar. I noticed a pattern in my music. I always wrote about leaving – running away. I never knew why I started writing about that. Now (after coming out) my songs are mostly about being happy. I think I've realized that. I think I knew it all along.

PERFORMING

See Jaimie Wilson perform Feb. 13 at the Grenadier Club in downtown Detroit.

>> www.jaimiewilsonmusic.net.



What did your coming out process look like?

I came out a year ago. I grew up on a farm in Howell with a super religious and conservative family. It (my transition) wasn't expected. It took everybody off guard. Especially because, not that there are warning signs that people like to call them, but I definitely didn't fit the stereotype. It was a lot of people denying it at first, saying this isn't you and telling me how I feel, instead of listening to how I feel. I came out in high school. At first it was weird, but it wasn't too bad, surprisingly. Nobody was really mean to my face. Mostly at home. I stayed at home for a month and then moved to Ann Arbor with my girlfriend.

Tell me about your experience auditioning for "The Voice."

Last year I went down to Chicago for auditions. They put you in a room with 10 people and you go up one at a time. I got a "maybe" last year. I almost made it and then didn't. I want to give it another go. It's not about making it on the show. It's cool to me that I can feel like I am being myself, if I audition and I do it; it's me on the show and not somebody that somebody else wanted me to be.

Are you worried that you'll be seen as the "token trans" contestant?

I would like to be chosen for my voice and not for being transgender. The judges are picky and choosy before the blind transitions. If they pick me because of

Music is more than just a past time for Wilson, best known for documenting his transition on his Instagram page (@tboy61915)

that, it might not be a bad thing. It's who I am. I'm not ashamed of it. If it helps other people, it won't be all bad. I have a chunk of followers on Instagram. I like answering their questions and making sure people know what they're experiencing is normal.

Has your voice changed since you've started taking hormones? Can you describe that process?

My doctor prescribed hormones but had asked me if I sang and said I might not be able to (once I started taking hormones). I tried looking it up. There isn't much. The only people that I know, through Instagram, they chose not to take hormones because they didn't want to ruin their voice. I took a leap of faith. Either I had my music or I could still write my music. I could still do it. Once I hit the two months mark, I couldn't sing at all. It wasn't until until four months (after taking hormones) that I could sing. I kept trying to sing, kept trying until finally one day it kinda came out and was a cracking sound. It progressively got better and is progressively getting better.

Visit Wilson's music page at www.jaimiewilsonmusic.net.

Happy Valentine's Day
FROM THE ABRA CREW

ABRACADABRA
Jewelry / Gem Gallery

734.994.4848 WWW.ABRAGEM.COM

amici's

Let Us Cater Your Next Event

3249 W. 12 Mile Rd., Berkley • 248.544.4100 • www.amicispizza.com

Special Delivery: 5 Thoughtful DIY Sweetheart Gifts to Give to Your Valentine

BY MIKEY ROX

Valentine's Day can mean a pretty penny out of pocket for many couples. Jewelry, flowers and a fancy dinner at the hottest resto in town add up quickly, but in a lot of ways these gifts and traditions have lost their meaning and significance. Sure, they're the pricey options – which, for some, is the only way they know how to show their "affection" – but let's get real here, this route isn't very creative... or thoughtful, for that matter.

In lieu of the same ol', same ol' this year, consider a thoughtful handmade gift. Yeah, yeah, I know – *effort* and all. But your S.O. deserves it, if only for putting up with *you* all year round. Plus, I'm here to help. If you aren't the creative type, or if you're just stumped for ideas, here are a few craft projects to spark your inspiration.

1. The Decorated Candy Jar

Start with a Mason jar with a lid; local thrift stores or even major retailers have these available in the kitchenware section. While you're out, pick up a bag of your boo's favorite candy – sweets that comes in small pieces, like Kisses, or the new



limited-edition Strawberry Shortcake White Chocolate M&Ms from Target. Also grab a red or pink bow and ribbon or garland to go on your jar. To assemble, wash the jar and



place the candy inside. Decorate the jar with the bow and the ribbons (or however you see fit; free printables are available at the blog The36thAvenue.com) and then add a

little card with a hand-written message of fondness and maybe a sweet memory or two.

2. '52 Reasons I Love You' Cards

This one requires only a deck of cards (minus the jokers), glue, and artistic paper. On separate sheets of the latter, you'll write one thing you love about your significant other and then glue it to the back of each card. It takes some patience, but once you get through the entire deck of cards you've got an incredibly thoughtful Valentine's Day gift. You can add a small ring binder to keep all the cards together and make for an easier time wrapping or handing the gift to your loved one. If needed, refer to this example of how to decorate and assemble the cards.

3. Chocolate Strawberry Bouquet

For this DIY gift you'll need small wooden sticks, strawberries, melted chocolate and wrapping paper with twine. Simply dip the strawberries in the chocolate, then skewer them on the wooden sticks and let them dry. Once dry, wrap them in the paper and tie the paper loosely with the twine for a classy bouquet look and feel.



Susan Alderson, R.N.
10112 Highland Rd. • Hartland
810.632.6123

Botox • Dysport

- Restylane & Perlane • Juvederm
- Radiesse • Acne Treatments
- Glycolic Peels
- IPL for Sun Spots & Rosacea
- Body Treatments
- Lasers for Skin Tightening
- Vanguish for Fat Destruction
- Jane Iredale Mineral Make-up
- Glytone, Avene & Neocutis Skin Care Products

financing available | free consultations | gift certificates | fountainofyouth-mi.com | walk-ins always welcome



Anna Draicchio *Cafe Creativo* for Sizis

4. Cupcake in a Jar

The concept is similar to the jar of candy, but in this instance you get to bake! In simple terms, you'll bake the cupcake, break it up into chunks and put it in the jar. Once that's done, tint your frosting pink or red with food coloring and add that on top, then tie a pink spoon to the jar with a festive red-and-white

V-Day-inspired ribbon. You can peep more detailed instructions at the Mighty Delightly blog – and share the cupcake, of course.

5. Simple 'You and Me' Photo Album

Print out a few great photos of you and

your main squeeze that they haven't seen or aren't familiar with. Personally, I recommend pulling pics from your phone or Instagram account using the new Fuji Instax Smartphone Printer; I got one for Christmas, and it's perfect for a project like this. When you've chosen the perfect images, buy a small simple photo album – one that you can spruce up and to which you can add your own touches. Write captions for the photos too – a reminder of where you both were when the picture was taken and what the occasion was.

Going the Extra Mile

While there's nothing wrong with the traditional Valentine's Day approach, going the extra mile with a handmade gift can add a lot of thoughtfulness and personality to the celebration. If you're looking for a way to step up your game and really impress your loved one this year, let your artistic side take over and make something that they'll know you put more thought into than money.

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

BTL Cool Cities Ferndale

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ♦ YOUR MARKET

Pinpoint your ad dollars where they will do the most good . . . Advertise in the next Cool Cities TO PLACE AN AD CALL 734.293.7200

SCHMIDT

LAW SERVICES

Family-Juvenile-Criminal
Divorce-Adoption-Sperm Donation Contracts
Prenuptial Agreements-Custody & Parenting Time



Lisa J. Schmidt
22720 Woodward Ave. Ste 203
Ferndale MI 48220
248-764-8584
www.Schmidtlawservices.com

Your ally in the courtroom.

 **MCC**
METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCH
OF DETROIT

Marriages Since 1968!
Plan your special day with us.



Senior Pastor Rev. Roland Stringfellow
Associate Pastor Rev. Deb Dysert

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Children's Ministry 11 a.m.

2441 Pinecrest Ferndale, MI
248-399-7741 www.mccdetroit.org




WATERWORK PLUMBING

PLUMBING? SEWER? DRAIN PROBLEMS?
WE CAN HELP! CALL TODAY:



\$20 OFF ANY SERVICE

MASTER PLUMBER LICENSED & INSURED
AVAILABLE 24/7
EXPERT SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING CERTIFIED BACKFLOW TESTING

248-542-8022
www.waterworkplumbing.com

The Print  Inc.

If you can think it, we can ink it

888-345-8010

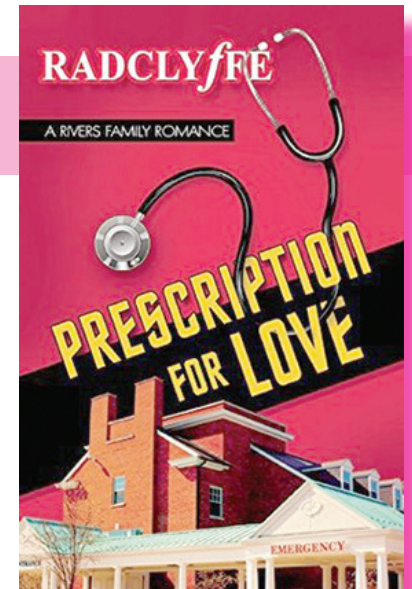
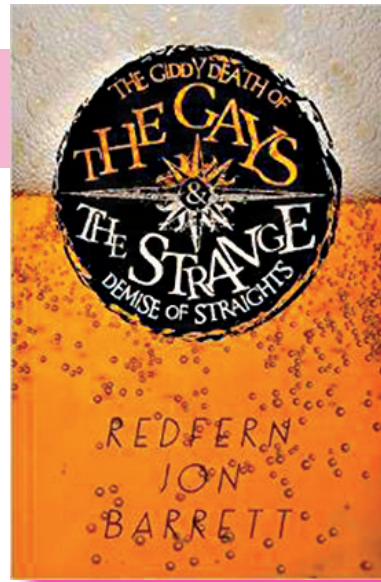
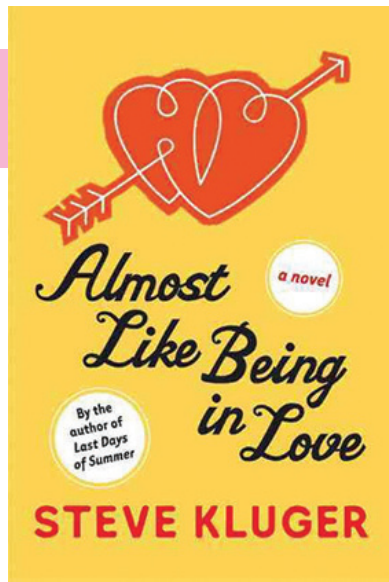
- ❖ Invitations
- ❖ Newsletters
- ❖ Menus
- ❖ Color Copies
- ❖ Typesetting
- ❖ Letterhead
- ❖ Brochures
- ❖ Business Forms
- ❖ Fax Service
- ❖ Business Cards

3172 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley
Serving the community since 2001

BTL  

Join The Conversation

Bookmarks: Romance Between the Pages



BY KEITH ORR

We associate two times of the year with love: Valentine's Day and spring. Usually we are in the midst of a deep freeze on Valentine's Day. Yet as I write this in Ann Arbor, the daffodils are considering pushing their shoots through the ground, geese are heading north, and Valentine's Day just may be balmy.

Whether spring is around the corner, or Michigan weather is pulling another trick on us, our hearts turn to love, and the bookshelves are full of romances.

Almost Like Being In Love

By Steve Kluger

Some books enthrall. Some mystify. Some make you think. Some are fun diversions. And some just charm the pants off of you. "Almost Like Being In Love" is a charmer. I come back to it over and over again and it never disappoints. In high school, Craig is a nerd and Travis is a jock. Charming and improbably they fall in love. After a magical summer in New York after their senior year, they attend schools on opposite coasts and slowly drift apart. Twenty years later they both risk all in order to find the other.

Travis writes in his journal, "But he still has my heart – and if he's not using it, I want it back. Otherwise I'm going to go on loving him for the rest of my life."

It seems like a traditional enough love story. What makes this novel different is the entire book is non-narrative fiction. The story is told through lists, journals, newspaper articles and even a menu. If you've ever wondered what happened to that first love, this book is for

you. Actually, all you have to do is believe in love, and the charms of "Almost Like Being In Love" will enchant you, as they have me.

The Biggest Lover: Big-Boned Men's Erotica for Chubs and Chasers

Edited by Ron Suresha

Several years ago Ron Suresha formed a new press, Bear Bones Books. He is a pioneer in advocating for the bear community and bi men. He has put together a collection of love and lust which has a large heart and large men. Authors in the anthology run the gamut from erotica legends like Jack Fritscher to novelists Hank Edwards and Jeff Mann. There is a great variety of men and stories to entice the reader.

The opening story by Hank Edwards, "Furball," is a delicious mix of lust which blossoms into love. The title creature is a cat who acts as the go-between, the cupid as it were, for the lusty protagonists.

"Moby Dick" by William Holden is by turns an amusing play on the Melville opus and a love story on the high seas. "Call me Abram" begins the story. Our seafaring captain spies the man of his dreams as his ship sails forth out of Sag Harbor. And so begins his obsession with finding the great white beast he has seen but once. Bear Bones Books is releasing "The Biggest Lover" on Valentine's Day.

The Giddy Death of the Gays and the Strange Demise of Straights

By Redfern Jon Barrett

As I was planning this column, I realized I should include a trans and bi romance. Let me say here to any authors reading this, "There is a niche out there waiting for you." Most writing in both categories is nonfiction, with many memoirs. Great reading, but not great choices for fans of romance lit. And then I stumbled across "The Giddy Death of the Gays and the Strange Demise of Straights" by Redfern Jon Barrett and published by Lethe Press.

Can a romance also be a comedy?

Apparently in the world of Redfern Jon Barret, the answer is an unequivocal yes. This is one of the quirkiest novels I've read in a while, and that great rarity, a bi romance. The setting is post-industrial Swansea, Wales. The cast of characters includes:

- Richard and his new roommate Dom, who are both straight and improbably fall in love with each other.

- Caroline, Dom's girlfriend who must figure out how to navigate these waters.

- Rutti, a bitchy waif of a gay boy whom Richard had kicked out as his previous roommate.

- Nomi, Caroline's tough gal pal.

These main characters provide the narrative voices through the novel. Though Rutti and Nomi are not part of the triangle, it is their voices which really bring the novel alive. Swansea is pictured as a rundown locale whose only redeeming quality is its relative affordability. Otherwise it is a backdrop of treadmill jobs, shabby clubs and beaches with

needles. Barrett tells us that while there is no place like home, there is also no reason you have to stay there.

Prescription for Love

By Radclyffe

No one can write romance novels like lesbians. Nora Roberts and Jackie Collins are dwarf stars in a universe which includes a supernova like Radclyffe. Radclyffe has written 45 romances (and dozens of other novels). Her fans' only complaint is that they can read faster than Radclyffe can write.

Her newest novel is published by her long-time publisher, Bold Strokes Books. Bold Strokes specializes in the genre, publishing authors Kim Baldwin, VK Powell, Ali Vali, Gun Brooke and more. "Prescription for Love" is a sequel to "Against Doctor's Orders." Flannery Rivers is content to let her sister run the family dynasty at rural Rivers Hospital. She is ready for her next romance, and thinks she knows her target: city-gal Abigail Remy who has been brought in to run the ER. Abigail is looking for a community to raise her trans son in safety. Intrigue and jealousy, personal and professional, fan the fires of passion.

Keith Orr, with his husband Martin Contreras, is the owner/operator of Common Language Bookstore, one of about 10 LGBT Bookstores left in the United States and Canada. All books are available through the bookstore. Special orders are welcome. 317 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. For more information, call 734-663-0036, visit www.glbttbooks.com or email glbttbooks@gmail.com.

The Theatre Company and Matrix Theatre Company present

LOW HANGING FRUIT

Midwest Premiere

by Robin Bradford
Directed by Lisa Hodge Kander

March 3 - 20

A project supporting local female homeless veterans.
www.TheTheatreCo.com

March 3, 4, 5*, 10*, 11, 12, 17*, 18, 19 at 7:30 pm
March 6*, 13*, 20* at 3:00 pm
* Post-show activities.

At The Marlene Boll Theatre:
1401 Broadway Street, Detroit

Disclaimer: Adult themes, strong language, not recommended for young children

Ticket Prices: **313-993-3270**
www.UDMarts.com

Logos: The Theatre Company, Matrix, ART WORKS, National Endowment for the Arts, ALLIANCE, hand, UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY

The DSO and WDET present **Mix @ The Max**

BRAHMS, BEARDS & BURLESQUE

WDET 101.9 FM
MIX@THEMAX

FEBRUARY 18 * 7 P.M.
DOORS OPEN AT 6 • TICKETS JUST \$15!
MAX M. & MARJORIE S. FISHER MUSIC CENTER

A unique evening featuring:

- ★ a beard contest inspired by Johannes Brahms' righteous whiskers
- ★ artists from the Michigan Burlesque Festival
- ★ old-timey jazz stylings by the Detroit Pleasure Society

Tickets: Visit dso.org/mix or call 313.576.5111

\$15 General Admission	\$50 VIP (includes reserved table, light appetizers and free drink)	\$50 Beard contest entry (incl. VIP concert ticket plus reserved seating for you and your party)
----------------------------------	--	---

Logos: BRAHMS FESTIVAL, Fancy Pants

GLASS SLIPPERS ARE SO BACK.

BEGINS TUESDAY!

RODGERS + HAMMERSTEIN'S
CINDERELLA

THE TONY AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
FROM THE CREATORS OF
SOUTH PACIFIC & THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Detroit Opera House • February 16-28

BROADWAY IN DETROIT SPONSORED BY CHRYSLER
ChryslerDealer.com

ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787, Opera House & Fisher Theatre box offices.
Info: BroadwayInDetroit.com, 313-872-1000. **OC** 6:30PM 2/21.
Groups (12+): Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com or 313-871-1132.

"INTENSE and THRILLING. The most compelling new musical in years!"
—New York Magazine

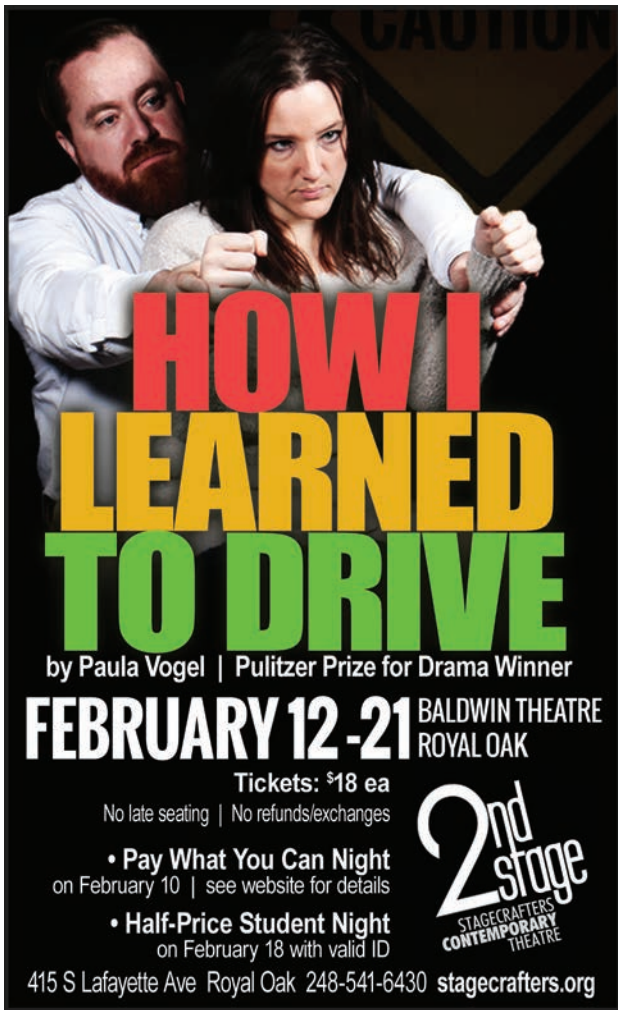
IF/THEN

Starring
JACKIE BURNS
ANTHONY RAPP TAMYRA GRAY
MATTHEW HYDZIK

Fisher Theatre • March 29–April 10

BROADWAY IN DETROIT SPONSORED BY CHRYSLER
ChryslerDealer.com

ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office.
Info: BroadwayInDetroit.com & 313-872-1000. **OC** 7:30PM 4/3.
Groups (12+): Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com or call 313-871-1132.



HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE
by Paula Vogel | Pulitzer Prize for Drama Winner
FEBRUARY 12-21 BALDWIN THEATRE ROYAL OAK
Tickets: \$18 ea
No late seating | No refunds/exchanges
• Pay What You Can Night on February 10 | see website for details
• Half-Price Student Night on February 18 with valid ID
415 S Lafayette Ave Royal Oak 248-541-6430 stagecrafters.org

2nd stage
STAGECRAFTERS CONTEMPORARY THEATRE



where music lives

Tuesday, 2/16, 8 pm
Shawn Colvin
New Music!
Dinner packages available at Cafe Felix



Saturday, 2/20, 8 pm
Jane Sibbery



"When I'm alone at home, she's always on"
--Alanis Morissette

Tickets at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, The Ark Box Office or theark.org.
734.763.TKTS
316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, MI
www.theark.org

f t



Editor's Pick

L2L: Lansing Lesbians is hosting a Valentine's Day Woman's Dance this Saturday, Feb. 13. The group invites area women to hang out, dance and eat some "awesome" food. DJ Megan will be playing music. "Relax, grab a beverage and your favorite dance partner and let's have some fun! If you don't like to dance, there are lots of opportunities to meet and mingle with new women," says L2L.

L2L: Lansing Lesbians is a safe, family oriented community that is affirming and supportive of womyn. Their goal is to provide a forum that is lesbian-friendly. They support and welcome all lifestyles including LGBT and supporters.

The event begins at 8:15 p.m. this Saturday. The dance will be at Sir Pizza/Grand Cafe at 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing. For more information, visit www.meetup.com/Lansing-Lesbians-L2L.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Friday, Feb. 12

Valentine's Ball 7 p.m. Open bar, family style dinner, dessert, 50/50 raffle, dancing and more. Tickets: \$45-55. The Forum Foundation, 26601 Ryan Road, Warren. 248-515-2551.

Saturday, Feb. 13

Valentine's Day Women's Dance 8:15 p.m. Lansing Lesbians - L2L, 201 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing.

Monday, Feb. 15

Happy Hour 4 p.m. Come join us for happy hour and Man Crush Monday. Grenadier Club, 3101 McDougall, Detroit. 313-910-6867.

Wednesday, Feb. 17

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>

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

Thursday, Feb. 18

Disgust and Dynamics of LGBT Politics 5:30 p.m. Presented by Jim Toy Community Center board member and University of Michigan Political Science Ph.D candidate, Logal Casey. Equality Research Center, 900 Oakwood St., Ypsilanti. www.Emich.edu/equality/about/index.php

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

Paula Poundstone 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$38+. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com

Friday, Feb. 19

Artini Martini Crawl 7 p.m. For 21+. Tickets: \$55. Ann Arbor Art Center, Ann Arbor. www.annarborartcenter.org

TRUE's Annual Valentine's Day Dance 7 p.m. For LGBTQ+ and allied teens. TRUE, 469 N. Hagadorn Road, East Lansing.

Sunday, Feb. 21

Livingston County PFLAG Monthly Meeting 2 p.m. Please join us for our monthly support group the third Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. Livingston County PFLAG, 200 W St Paul St., Brighton. 517-548-0839. LivingstonPFLAG@aol.com www.facebook.com/pflaglivingston

Monday, Feb. 22

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>

MUSIC & MORE

Classical

The Berman "Shuffle" Tickets: \$37-39. Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 7:30 p.m. Feb. 18. 248-661-1900. www.theberman.org

Theberman.org

UMS "Sir Andras Schiff: The Last Sonatas" After his stunning performance of Bach's Goldberg Variations and Beethoven's Diabelli Variations two seasons ago, Sir Andras Schiff returns with a project called "The Last Sonatas." Performed over the course of a week, this mini-festival includes the final three sonatas of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert. 825 North University Avenue, Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 20. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/multiperformance/sir-andras-schiff-the-last-sonatas/

UMS "Sir Andras Schiff: The Last Sonatas" Tickets: \$30-\$65. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 16 - Feb. 18. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/multiperformance/sir-andras-schiff-the-last-sonatas/

UMS "Sir Andras Schiff: The Last Sonatas" After his stunning performance of Bach's Goldberg Variations and Beethoven's Diabelli Variations two seasons ago, Sir Andras Schiff returns with a project called "The Last Sonatas." Performed over the course of a week, this mini-festival includes the final three sonatas of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. Feb. 16 - Feb. 18. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/multiperformance/sir-andras-schiff-the-last-sonatas/

Concerts

UMS "UMS Choral Union: Love is Strong as Death" This Valentine's Day, we explore the themes of love and loss with works featuring the UMS Choral Union accompanied by Hill Auditorium's Frieze Memorial Organ. The concert, led by new UMS Choral Union music director Scott Hanoian, features a provocative and comforting setting of the Requiem, the longing pleas of a wandering heart by Goethe, and the divinely transcendent poetry of George Herbert, all wedded to

the music of Durufle, Brahms and Vaughan Williams. This afternoon of choral masterpieces is sure to fill your heart. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 4 p.m. Feb. 14. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/performance/ums-choral-union-love-is-strong-as-death/

Unlimited Sky Production Jazz Cafe at Music Hall Celebrates Black History Month Jazz Music Series ft. Sky Covington & Club Crescendo" Tickets: \$10. Jazz Cafe, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Feb. 18. 313-887-8500. [skycovington.net](http://www.skycovington.net)

Dance

UMS "Camille A. Brown & Dancers" Tickets: \$26-48. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 13. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/performance/camille-a-brown-dancers/

UMS "Camille A. Brown & Dancers" Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 13. 734-764-2538. www.Ums.org/performance/camille-a-brown-dancers/

Film & Video

Michigan Theater "CineManga Film Series" Different anime or Japanese film each Wednesday night. State Theater, 233 State St., Ann Arbor. Jan. 13 - April 27. 734-668-8397. www.Michtheater.org

Other

MARVAC "Detroit Camper & RV Show Celebrates 50 Years" View a vintage RV built in Mount Clemens in the 1930s! The show also has booths featuring parts and accessories, campground information, on-site RV financing, RV rentals and educational seminars. Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Feb. 10 - Feb. 14. 586-752-6381. www.Marvac.org

Shows

Great Lakes Builders "2016 Great Lakes Builders Show" Exhibits and seminars happening throughout the show. Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. Feb. 17 - Feb. 18. 586-752-6381. www.Novihomeshows.com

UMS "The Triplets of Belleville" A decade after it was first brought to the screen, Beno't Charest revives his music to the Oscar-nominated film The Triplets of Belleville with a remarkable cast of musicians. Kidnapped by mysterious, square-shouldered henchmen, a Tour de France cyclist named Champion is spirited across the ocean to the teeming metropolis of Belleville. His near-sighted grandmother and faithful dog follow his trail and are taken in by a trio of eccentric jazz-era divas. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Feb. 19. 734-764-2538. www.ums.org/performance/the-triplets-of-belleville/

Editor's Pick



Paula Poundstone comes to East Lansing's Wharton Center next week. Sponsored by Michigan Public Radio, the show features the comedian

known for "Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me" on NPR. Over the span of her career, Paula has amassed a list of awards and accolades that "stretch the length of a great big tall guy's arm."

Never one to stereotype herself as a "female comedian" or limit herself to comedy from a "female" point of view, in the early '90s she was the first woman to win the cable ACE for Best Standup Comedy Special and the first woman to perform standup at the prestigious White House Correspondents dinner where she joined the current president as part of the evening's entertainment.

Poundstone performs at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 18 at the Wharton Center's Cobb Great Hall in East Lansing. Tickets begin at \$38. For more information, visit www.whartoncenter.com or call 517-432-2000 or 1-800-WHARTON.

THEATER

"Chesapeake" by Lee Blessin An absurdly hilarious tale of politics, performance art, and pooches. Pay What You Want, Suggested Donation of \$20. Theatre Nova, The Yellow Barn, 416 West Huron Street, Ann Arbor. Through Feb. 28. 734-635-8450. theatrenova.org

Butler Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through March 13. 313-868-1347.

The Odd Couple Tickets: \$19-43. The Purple Rose Theatre, Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Through March 30. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

College/University Theater

Love's Labour's Lost By William Shakespeare. Hilberry, Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through March 13. 313-577-2972. www.hilberry.com

Professional

Chicago Starring John O'Hurley. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Feb. 9 - Feb. 14. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Art Museum "Empire by Andy Warhol" The presentation at Cranbrook Art Museum is shown in relation to "Lou Reed, Metal Machine Trio: The Creation of the Universe." Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Dec. 1 - March 13. 877-462-7262. www.cranbrookart.edu

Cranbrook Art Museum "Lou Reed, Metal Machine Trio: The Creation of the Universe" Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. Dec. 1 - March 26. 877-462-7262. www.cranbrookart.edu

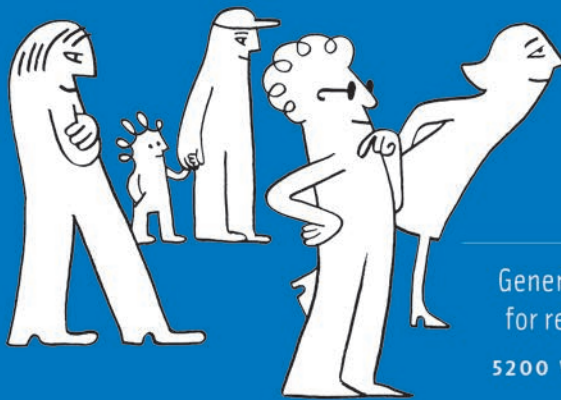
Flint Institute of Arts "From Heart to Hand: African American Quilts from the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts" Throughout history, quilts have held an important and cherished place in our culture, particularly in the American South. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Jan. 24 - April 10. 810-234-1695. www.flintarts.org

Orchards Childrens Services "Orchards Ambassadors Re-Launch" Come be our Valentine this year and give the gift of love to our Orchards foster children. Join us, Feb. 11 at Valentine Distillery (161 Vester Ave., Ferndale) from 6pm-10pm for our biggest event yet Orchards Ambassadors Relaunch! Tickets are \$25 and include 2 complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres. All proceeds go towards our Community Outreach Programs To purchase your ticket now, please RSVP to Sabrina Matsil smatsil@www.facebook.com/events/157721011254956/

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT



DETROIT
INSTITUTE
OF ARTS



FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!
Saxophonist, composer and music historian Mike Monford performs with his trio for an evening filled with jazz.
Rivera Court, 7 & 8:30 p.m.

ARTIST DEMONSTRATION
Spend Valentine's Day with Detroit multimedia artist Donald Calloway as he displays some of his work and helps visitors create monotype heart prints.
Prentis Court, Sunday, Noon - 4 p.m.

NOW ON VIEW
50 YEARS OF COLLECTING
Through June 18

General admission to the Detroit Institute of Arts is free for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

5200 WOODWARD AVENUE | 313.833.7900 | DIA.ORG

Shuffle Thursday, February 18 7:30 p.m.



SHUFFLE is the unique concept of letting the audience decide what pieces will be performed, like an iPod on shuffle.

All of SHUFFLE's members are accomplished chamber musicians and graduates of some of the country's most prestigious music programs. They have also performed throughout the world as both soloists and collaborative musicians, winning numerous accolades along the way.

Tickets: \$39 JCC Members: \$37

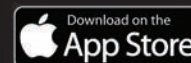


theberman.org/shuffle
248.661.1900



The Jewish
Community Center
of Metro Detroit

The Berman App is Available



THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!



ALL XXX
DVD RENTALS
AS LOW AS \$1.25
EVERY DAY!

BUY
ADULT DVD'S
STARTING AT
\$5.95

EVERY TUES & FRIDAY
NEW
RELEASE
DAY



UPTOWN SALE

\$10 off
any \$50 purchase

\$20 OFF
any \$100 purchase

REGULAR PRICED MERCHANDISE ONLY!

FEB 15-29, 2016

VALENTINE'S DAY SALE
20% OFF!

ALL REGULAR PRICED NOVELTIES,
TOYS & LOTIONS
FEB 11-14, 2016



Rush - Jungle Juice Platinum - Maximum Impact - Swiss Navy Lube Silicone - Uninhibited 2-Ring Harness - Wii Vibe - Lucid Dreams #14 - Dual Bunny Teaser - Butterfly Kiss Pink - Titan Enlargement System - The Exotic Water Garden Massager

UPTOWN
BOOKSTORES
ADULT VIDEO

2 LOCATIONS

WWW.UPTOWNADULTVIDEO.COM

16541 Woodward Ave.
at McNichols next to "Deja Vu"
Highland Park
313.869.9477

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

Hours:
Mon-Sat 9am - 10pm
Sun Noon - 8pm

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



Tuesday

Karaoke and 1/2 off wine



Friday

Bistro Fridays
Special menu
a la carte, or prix fixe 4-course
meal for \$20



Wednesday

\$1 off beer and free pool



Saturday

turnIT \aut\
club night at the \aut\ BAR
Progressive Drink specials



Thursday

Trivia with Terry and
Thirsty Thursday
1/2 off beer and well
drinks with Student ID



Sunday

Salsa Night
\$1 tacos
Salsa lessons.



315 Braun Ct, Ann Arbor
(734) 994-3677 | www.AutBar.com

Like Us On



317 Braun Ct, Ann Arbor
(734) 663-0036 | www.GLBTBooks.com

The LGBT Market. DELIVERED.

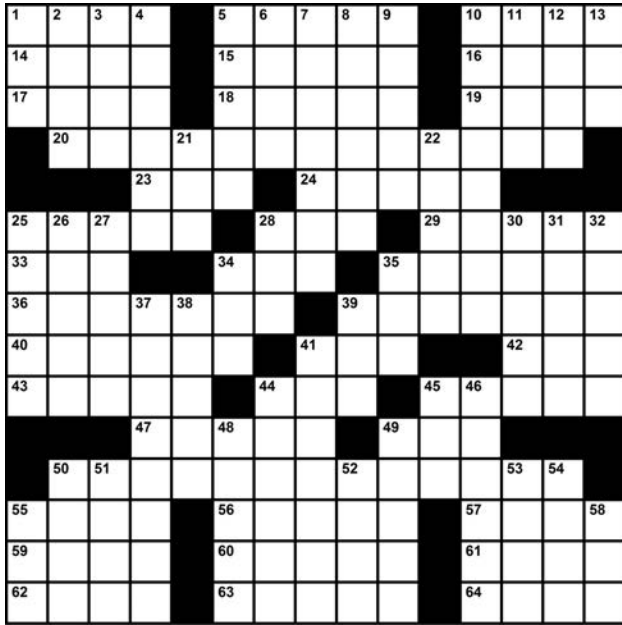
ATLANTA | BOSTON | CHICAGO | DALLAS
DETROIT | FT. LAUDERDALE | LOS ANGELES
NEW YORK CITY | ORLANDO | PHILADELPHIA
SAN FRANCISCO | WASHINGTON, D.C.

Advertise in America's premier LGBT publications today.

212-242-6863 • sales@nationalgaymediaassociation.com

National Gay Media Association
www.nationalgaymediaassociation.com

Q Puzzle



- heaven”
 39 David Bowie hit of 1972
 40 Use them to play Johnny Mathis records
 41 Cocks and bulls
 42 Chicago trains
 43 A bit, informally
 44 Half of a Greta Garbo monogram
 45 What gay partners can walk in every state
 47 List-maker Schindler
 49 Curry of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show”
 50 David Bowie role in “The Last Temptation of Christ”
 55 Cry of Dorothy
 56 Neighbor of Sudan (var.)
 57 Marilyn Monroe’s sexy pair
 59 Hold, as an opinion
 60 “If ___ Walls Could Talk”
 61 Salt’s saint
 62 Doesn’t rent
 63 Toys that do tricks
 64 Hayes of “Will & Grace”
- 9 Moves toward
 10 Queer
 11 Love of Lesbos
 12 “It ___ Necessarily So”
 13 Doll that “came out” in 1993
 21 “Jumpin’ Jack Flash,” to Mick Jagger
 22 Actress Reese
 25 Aids
 26 “My Own Private ___ “
 27 Stropped item
 28 Muscle Mary’s pride
 30 They don’t use their mouths for talking
 31 ___ fours (doggy-style)
 32 Gaydar, e.g.
 34 Mass transit vehicle
 35 Saucer pilots
 37 Straight and gay
 38 Friar’s affair
 39 Get a load of
 41 Town for fudge packers?
 44 Evita’s cowboy
 45 Be confined to the bed, perhaps
 46 They may be spitting
 48 Litter critter
 49 Streisand’s “Prince of ___ “
 50 “That was close!”
 51 Serious sign
 52 Part of UTEP
 53 Maupin story
 54 Thompson of _Angels in America_
 55 Rene Auberjonois role
 58 Chaz to Cher

Down

- 1 Sarah Schulman novel “ ___ Bohemia”
 2 Don Juan’s mom
 3 R.E.M.’s “The ___ Love”
 4 Source of oral pleasure
 5 Lusty deity of antiquity
 6 Sky sightings
 7 Women who don’t have sex with men
 8 Where a pinball wizard might lurk

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com

Major Tom

Across

- 1 Historic Stonewall event
 5 Reformer Anthony
 10 Top
 14 Word used in dating
 15 In flames
 16 Lake traveled by Ohio ferries
 17 Romeo or Juliet
 18 Puccini opera
 19 Neighbor of Mass.
 20 Androgynous alter ego of
- David Bowie
 23 Egypt and Syr., once
 24 Ford flub
 25 Puts in a position?
 28 “Diamonds ___ a Girl’s Best Friend”
 29 Airport fleet
 33 Childcare writer LeShan
 34 Tiny balls
 35 Stritch of Broadway
 36 David Bowie song with the lyric “Look up here, I’m in




SINE & MONAGHAN
 REALTORS®

RealLiving®

Brad Bell
 Associate Broker
 Cell: 248-835-4644
www.bradbellrealestate.com

20+ years of experience in lending, real estate and home building

Residential Sellers & Buyers
 Relocation Specialist
 Select Commercial Properties

Naked Men's YOGA

Meets in Ann Arbor
TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS 6:30-7:30 PM

Contact Dave at massage4@aol.com
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga

A Tension Getter

Massage Therapy

by David Rosenberg
(734) 662-6282

Therapeutic Massage gets rid of back, neck and shoulder pain

2 Downtown Locations

Ann Arbor 209 West Kingsley
 Berkley W. 12 Mile Road (just west of Greenfield)

(Couple blocks west of main, between Ashley & 1st.)


“I can bring my massage table to your home, too!”

Massage Class for Men

Learn some massage techniques. Meet others in a safe and caring environment.

Thursday at 2 pm.
 Tuesdays & Saturdays at 8pm
 \$10 per session
 209 W. Kingsley St.
 Ann Arbor, MI
 (734) 662-6282

Find me on the Internet at <http://www.trymassage.com>



 Hello? I've got a question.

Talk to a live expert about STDs

800 872 2437

The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline. Live weekdays, 10 am - 6 pm.

How long should I wait before testing?

Where can I find free testing?

Should I take PrEP?

My partner is positive but undetectable. How risky is sex?

I just found out I have HIV. What should I do now?

You Have Questions, We Have Answers

Find Us Online!
www.miunified.org

 www.facebook.com/HIVSTDHotline

 [@michiganhotline](https://twitter.com/michiganhotline)

Volunteer Opportunities - Want to help improve the health of your community? Volunteer with the hotline today! The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline is a program of Unified - HIV Health and Beyond

YOUR HEALTH CARE TEAM FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS!

Specializing in Medicine for Our Lifestyle since 1980



Be Well Medical Center
 Dr. Paul Benson
DoctorBeWell.com

Dr. Paul Benson's Be Well Medical Center
 (248) 544-9300 • doctorbewell.com
Everything Has Changed ... We Can End HIV



CHECK OUT OUR STI & HIV PREVENTION WEBSITE


#TIME2KNOW
 CHECK US OUT


MPOWERMENT DETROIT
 18 W BETHUNE
 DETROIT 48202
 313.953.9402

Follow Us


Find Us


GET TESTED





NOW OFFERING INTEGRATED TESTING


- Rapid HIV
- Rapid Hep C
- Gonorrhea
- Chlamydia
- Syphilis

Three Locations to Serve You:

- MAC Offices, Ferndale
- Affirmations, Ferndale
- MAC Offices, New Center

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Time: 1pm-6pm (By Appointment Only)	Time: 2pm-10pm (Walk-in or Appointment)	Time: 6pm-9pm (Walk-in or Appointment)	Time: 9am-noon 2pm-5pm (Walk-in or Appointment)	No Testing Available
Where: Ferndale MAC Office Only	Where: Detroit MAC New Center Office	Where: Ferndale Affirmations Location	Where: Ferndale MAC Office Only	

To make appointments or get more information, call:
1-888- A CONDOM (226-6366)

 MICHIGAN AIDS COALITION
www.michiganaidcoalition.org

Classifieds Call 734-293-7200 ext.15

104 ANNOUNCEMENTS - BUSINESS

LGBT-Friendly Wedding And Party Planning Vendors

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

301 EMPLOYMENT - GENERAL

CARING DRIVERS WANTED

Transport people to prescheduled medical appointments in Wayne County and beyond. Must have reliable 4-door vehicle, cell phone, and access to email or fax. Great way to supplement social security, disability or a pension income. (989) 738-8671

MUST LOVE DOGS !!
Happy Hounds Dog Day Care is now hiring part-time hourly dog lovers. Please call or stop in to fill out application.
734-459-DOGS
673 South Main St.
Plymouth, MI 48170

408 PROF. SERVICES - COUNSELING

Psychotherapy
Sliding fee/No fee
Dale Rogalski
Masters Candidate
Supervised by Dr. Stephanie Williams, Ph.D.
Offices in Pleasant Ridge, 9 1/2 Mile & Woodward, and Plymouth
248-658-8791
248-259-1991
www.plymouthpsychologist.com
Dale@drstephaniewilliams.net

428 PROF. SERVICES - MASSAGE

Licensed Swedish
Auburn Hills
Kansonn
248-672-0669
kanrubu@yahoo.com

1102 EROTICA - MASSAGE

MASSAGE
Massage for men. Safe-Discrete, good prices. Royal Oak Area.
12yrs. Experience.
Call Lee 248-548-6516

FREE TO LISTEN AND REPLY TO ADS
Free Code: 2532

1-888-MegaMates
FIND REAL GAY MEN NEAR YOU
(313) 962-5000
www.megamates.com 18+

ANNOUNCEMENTS - COMMUNITY SERVICES

Michigan LGBT Resources
Find hundreds of resources around the state online and in our digital edition of PrideSource Magazine. Visit www.pridesource.com/directory.html or open the digital edition.



BTL Pet of the Week - Dot

Meet Dot! This 1-year-old Jack Russell Terrier is sweet and affectionate! She has lots of playful energy and would love to run and exercise with you! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations, the MHS Adoption Guarantee and much more. For more information, visit or call the MHS Detroit Center for Animal Care at (313) 872-3400 and provide the pet ID number, 822497

SATURDAY MARCH 12, 2016

20TH ANNUAL MICHIGAN COMEDYFEST
Lesbian • Gay • BISEXUAL • TRANSGENDER

a project of: **EQUALITY MICHIGAN**

ONE HUGE SHOW • 8:00 PM

With almost 1,000 people attending, get your tickets today before they are sold out!

POPPY CHAMPLIN
Providence, RI

KARINDA DOBBINS
San Francisco, CA

JAYE MCBRIDE
Albany, NY

SAMPSON MCCORMICK
Washington, D.C.

Dearborn's Ford Community & Performing Arts Center
15801 Michigan Avenue at Greenfield (just east of Southfield Fwy.) in Dearborn, Michigan

Tickets available at www.comedyfest.org

by phone at 313-537-7000 or at the following ticket locations:

Five15 515 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak • 248-515-2551	Common Language Book Bar 317 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor • 734-663-0036
--	---

HOST HOTEL

Rooms are available just steps from the theater at Courtyard Detroit-Dearborn 5200 Mercury Drive Dearborn, MI 48126 313-271-1400

Mention "Comedyfest" to receive a special room rate of \$94.00 per night on March 11 and 12, 2016.

THANKS TO OUR MEDIA SPONSORS

Between the Lines **METRA** magazine

This is a fully-accessible event. An ASL interpreter will be present. We offer early seating for people with disabilities.



DIAMOND CASTLE

Jewelers since 1902

39955 Grand River Ave Novi, MI 48375
248-442-2440 | diamondcastlejewelers.com



redefining engaged®

Gabriel & Co.
NEW YORK

GABRIELNY.COM