

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



# The **Pink** Dollar: Detroit Chamber Grows Queering Our Taxes

Page 18



# *Mr. Jackson* *If You're Nasty*

## Cheyenne Jackson on Botox, His 'Bi Phase' & Getting His Butt Grabbed By Lady Gaga

February 28, 2016  
VOL. 2408 | FREE

[WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM](http://WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM)

Retired Gay Judge Has  
Eyes on Disgraced State  
Rep's Old Seat

PAGE 10

LGBT-Friendly Businesses  
Anticipate Same-Sex  
Wedding Expo

PAGE 22

Lesbian Couple, Former  
Detroiters, Imprisoned  
in Kuwait

PAGE 12



DRINK.  
DANCE.  
MINGLE.  
REPEAT.

# AXIS LOUNGE

March 1 • 7pm

93.9 The River presents a FREE River Show with

## KALEO

Space is limited to first come first serve | 21+



MGM GRAND  
DETROIT

An MGM Resorts Luxury Destination

[axislounge.com](http://axislounge.com)

M life

If you bet more than you can afford to lose, you've got a problem. Call 1-800-270-7117 for confidential help.



# Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com



## COVER STORY

26 Mr. Jackson if you're nasty

## NEWS

- 10 Replacing Gamrat
- 12 New report shines light on LGBT people in criminal justice system
- 12 Lesbian couple, former Detroiters, imprisoned in Kuwait
- 13 New LGBT health center to open in fall
- 17 Statehouses fighting transgender choice in school facilities

## OPINION

- 14 Parting Glances
- 14 Editorial: Election is about SCOTUS
- 15 Viewpoint: Michigan Notable Book Awards are discriminatory
- 15 Creep of the Week: Manny Pacquiao

## COMMUNITY

- 22 LGBT-friendly businesses anticipate March 20 Wedding Expo
- 23 All-woman Flint football league created
- 25 Play about homeless women veterans makes Midwest premiere

## LIFE

- 28 Screen Queen
- 29 Cool Cities: Lansing
- 30 Happenings
- 31 The Frivolist
- 33 Puzzle and comic
- 34 Classifieds

### THE PINK DOLLAR

## QUEER OUR TAXES TAXPAYER GUIDE

See page 20

### ELECTIONS 2016



See page 10

### COMMUNITY



## Flint creates all women's football league

See page 23

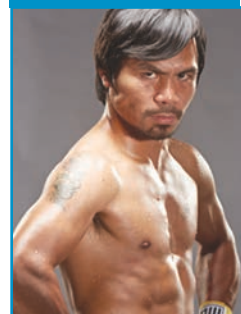
### THEATER



## 'Low Hanging Fruit' makes Midwest premiere

See page 25

### CREEP OF THE WEEK



## Manny Pacquiao

See page 15

VOL. 2408 • FEBRUARY 25, 2016  
ISSUE 953

#### 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



Copyright 2015 Pride Source Media Group, LLC

#### 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.

**page intentionally left blank**

**page intentionally left blank**

**page intentionally left blank**

**page intentionally left blank**

**page intentionally left blank**



SATURDAY MARCH 12, 2016

20<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL

MICHIGAN  
Lesbian • Gay • BISEXUAL • TRANSGENDER  
COMEDYFEST

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  
blocks 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



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

MIDTOWN  
LAFAYETTE PARK  
SHERWOOD FOREST  
INDIAN  
VILLAGE  
DOWNTOWN  
ROSEDALE PARK  
BOSTON-  
EDISON  
UNIVERSITY DISTRICT  
PALMER WOODS

**Austin Black II**  
REALTOR, CITY LIVING DETROIT

If you're buying or selling in Detroit, Austin is your expert.

With an intimate knowledge of the neighborhoods, personal involvement in the community and a Detroit home address, Austin's a proud part of the city's resurgence.

313.242.7800

CityLivingDetroit.com

Redefining Urban Living



## Presidential Primaries: Nevada, SC Recap

BY LISA KEEN

The Christianity of various Republican presidential candidates became a focus in the South Carolina primary, implicating not only marriage but whether gays should be banned from immigrating to the U.S. Meanwhile, in the Nevada Democratic caucuses, the question of whether Hillary Clinton's support for the rights of LGBT people is sincere or politically motivated resurfaced.

Real estate mogul Donald Trump won the South Carolina primary Feb. 20, easily beating U.S. Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz. The other three candidates each registered respectively only about 7 percent support, prompting one of them, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, to suspend his campaign. The five remaining candidates, including Ohio Gov. John Kasich and neurosurgeon Ben Carson, leapt immediately into the GOP caucuses in Nevada Tuesday.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton won the Nevada caucuses Saturday, beating U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders by 5 percentage points.

It was in the run-up to those caucuses that a Sanders supporter in the audience of an MSNBC town hall told Clinton, "only a decade ago I was a very big supporter of yourself and your husband."

"It actually broke my heart when you said marriage was between a man and a woman. How can we trust that this isn't just more political rhetoric?"

In response to the questioner in Nevada, Clinton acknowledged, "I, like many Americans, have evolved. And, I'm glad I have. I am a 100 percent supporter ... And I am absolutely adamant about protecting marriage equality. And, I think it's significant that the Human Rights campaign, the leading organization in our country to ensure that the LGBT community has the rights they deserve, have endorsed me."

"Now, (Sen. Sanders) said, 'Well, that's because (HRC is) a member of the establishment.' Well, with all due respect, they fight against the establishment every single day, and I've been with them for years, and I will pass the Equality Act, too."

In a press release following the Nevada caucuses, HRC President Chad Griffin called Clinton "another champion for LGBT equality" and said she has "the record, the vision and the strategy to win and lead from her first day in office."

The Desert Sun newspaper in nearby Palm Springs, California, reported HRC "paid for 18 people from the Palm Springs area to travel by bus Thursday to Las Vegas and campaign last-minute" for Clinton. The article also made prominent mention of that Clinton "made no public effort to oppose the Defense of Marriage Act" and, as a Senate candidate "made clear she supported civil unions and nothing beyond that."

The question about Clinton's previous position on same-sex marriage is reminiscent of a well-publicized interview of Clinton by public radio host Terry Gross

See Presidential Primaries, page 16

# Retired Judge David Gernant Has Eyes on 80th District Seat

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

As former State Rep. Cindy Gamrat, R-Plainwell, was facing expulsion from the state House, retired Oregon Judge David Gernant decided it was time to throw his hat in the ring. He'd grown up in southwest Michigan and had returned after retiring from the Oregon bench in 2008. He settled in Plainwell.

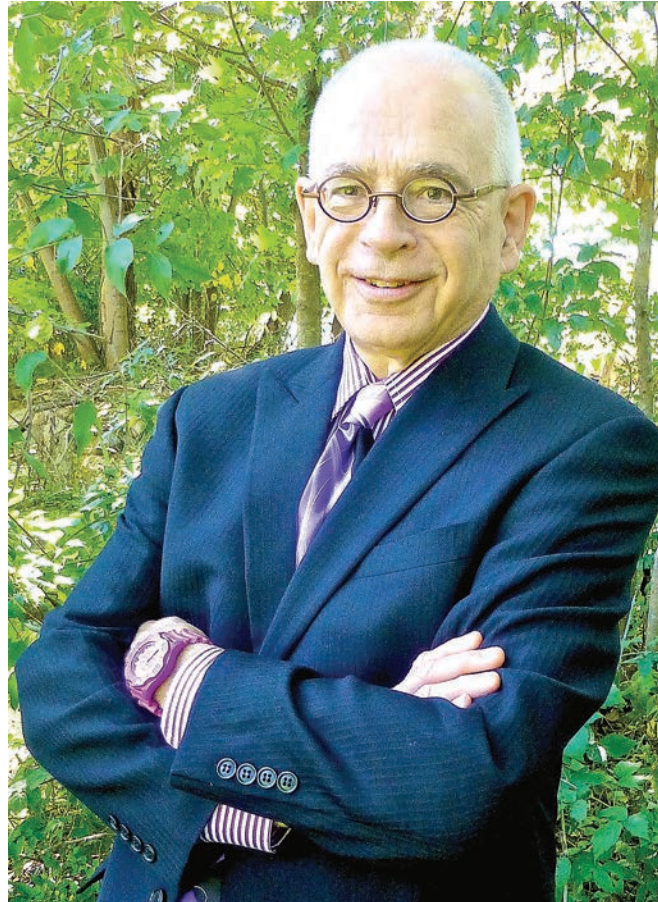
"(Gamrat) doesn't have anything to do with me wanting to run, other than the fact that she imploded all of a sudden in the middle of her term," the Democrat told WWMT in September. "Because of all the attention, I thought it would be nice to give the voters a chance to elect someone with a different background."

Gernant is 72, gay and single. He was married and has two sons and four grandchildren, as well as a special needs great grandchild who is 5. In response to being asked why he returned to Michigan, Gernant said, "The best I can say is: an emotional attachment to where I came from."

Gamrat fell from grace in a spectacular scandal involving an affair with fellow right-wing Tea Party favorite and former State Rep. Todd Courser, R-Lapeer. Courser resigned moments before the state House was to vote on a motion to expel him from the body. Gamrat, a "family values" conservative, held on hoping she could survive an expulsion vote. She did not.

She threw her hat in the ring for a primary held in November, attempting to regain her seat. She lost to Republican Mary Whiteford, a self-described "Christian" and "conservative." She will face Gernant on March 8 to finish Gamrat's term – which ends Dec. 31.

Whiteford did not respond to emails and phone calls asking for an interview with Between The Lines.



However, she does not support amending Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include protections for the LGBT community.

"I do not support expanding a new protected class to Elliott-Larsen," she told the Allegan News in October 2015 just before the primary. "This opens up the workplace to greater trial lawyer activity and puts our businesses in jeopardy when over 90 percent of cases are settled out of court. That said, I do not support discrimination of any kind."

Gernant does support amending the law. "This is a no brainer," he said. "When there is a national right to marry, it's backwards to say you don't have protections. It makes no sense."

The retired judge said that he did credit Gamrat – who was anti-gay – with standing on her own in the face of the GOP leadership. He pledged he too would vote based on evidence, not what leaders told him to do.

The affable man said serving in the state Legislature is something he has "wanted

to do since I was in high school." He said his background as a judge provides him with an opportunity to weigh evidence to come to decisions.

"That's what I am trained to do," he said.

He was shocked to learn that Michigan is one of 34 states to have an HIV-specific criminal law on the books; he said he would support its repeal.

That law makes it a four year felony for a person who knows s/he is infected with HIV to engage in sexual penetration "however slight" without first disclosing their infection. Prosecutors who have used this law have generally not been required to prove criminal intent, or even actual risk of transmission. In one case, highlighted by a University of Michigan researcher Trevor Hoppe, a woman was prosecuted and convicted for placing her labia on the nose of an undercover informant participating in a drug and prostitution investigation at an adult entertainment club the woman worked at.

"This law was passed in 1987 – almost 30 years ago – when there was maximum fear and maximum ignorance about HIV and AIDS," he said. "If it ever served a purpose, it doesn't anymore. Even without it, someone could still be charged criminally for intentionally trying to infect someone with HIV. That's what matters."

Beyond LGBT and HIV affected community issues, Gernant talked passionately about the role of government to improve the lives of citizens. He hammered at the GOP establishment for its role in the Flint water disaster.

He said the crisis was caused by leaders focused "on the bottom line," and took the actions it did "to save a little bit of money."

"The bucks stops with the governor," Gernant said, "and he needs to leave office in my view."

INEO

David Gernant for State Rep. 80th District

>> [www.facebook.com/Gernant/](http://www.facebook.com/Gernant/)

Find hundreds of great LGBT friendly resources.  
Digital edition available at pridesource.com

**Coming Out June 2016**  
**April 15 Publication Deadline**

INTRODUCING ...  
**PRIDESOURCE**  
MAGAZINE

From the Publishers Of  
Between The Lines & Pridesource.com

*A New Lifestyle & Resource Publication For SE Michigan's  
LGBT Community*

# 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 3/31/16*

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  
**f**acebook

**Hagopian + You = SAVE!**

The formula for a clean home is simple - Hagopian always has the best deals to get rugs, carpet and furniture in tip top shape without breaking the bank!

Affordable, competitive prices • Cleaning Specialists average 14 years experience

## HAGOPIAN

Expect the Best... Expect the Purple Truck!  
Oak Park • Birmingham • Novi • Utica • Ann Arbor  
Serving our customers for over 75 years!

1-800-HAGOPIAN (424-6742) www.originalhagopian.com

## RUG CLEANING 2 FOR 1

Bring your rugs to any of our drop-off centers and we'll clean every other one **FREE!**

Ask about our expert rug repair!

## CARPET CLEANING

5 ROOMS **\$109.99**

2 ROOMS **\$59.99**

7' SOFA  
OR 2 CHAIRS **\$59.99**

some restrictions apply



# New Report Shines Light on LGBT People in US Criminal Justice System

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

A new report from the independent Movement Advancement Project in Washington DC is shining a light on the plight of LGBT people caught up in the nation's criminal justice system – and it is not pretty.

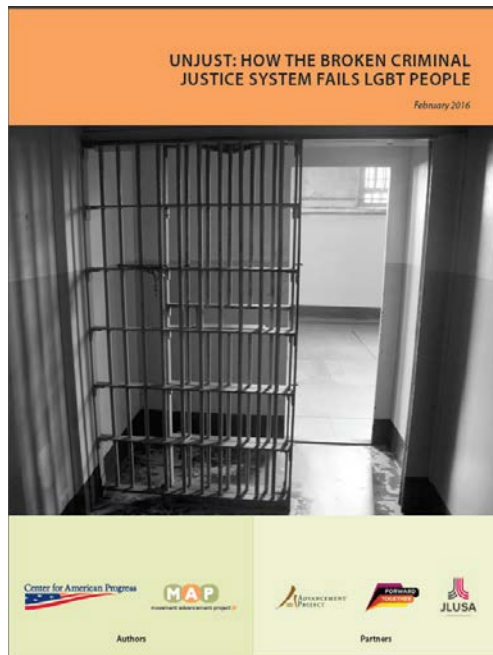
“It used to be a crime to be LGBT in the United States, and while police are no longer raiding gay bars, LGBT people, especially LGBT people of color, are still disproportionately pushed into the criminal justice system. They are treated unfairly within the system and in correctional settings, and face extraordinary challenges in rebuilding their lives,” said Ineke Mushovic, Executive Director of MAP.

The report finds that twice as many people incarcerated identify as LGBT or gender non-conforming than Americans who identify as

such. The numbers are even more skewed in relation to juveniles, the report found.

“I’m glad that MAP is bringing to light the critical issue of LGBT people in the criminal justice system,” State Rep. Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo, said in an interview with BTL. Hoadley is one of two openly gay state lawmakers working in Lansing. “This report shows that our work is not done.”

He noted that Michigan continues to have laws which are used to discriminate



Download the 194 page MAP report @[www.lgbtmap.org/criminal-justice](http://www.lgbtmap.org/criminal-justice)

against members of the LGBT and HIV affected communities. He noted the child welfare system in the state continues to foster discrimination and noted Michigan's HIV-specific criminal laws. Michigan adopted a new law last year which allows private, religious adoption agencies to refuse to help otherwise qualified adoptive parents based on “sincerely held religious beliefs.”

State Sen. Steve Bieda, D-Warren, said the report was important. He's been working with the GOP majority to address criminal justice reform in the state as the only Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

“We need to make sure that justice is blind,” Bieda said in a phone interview. “We need to make sure that justice is actually just.”

He called for a repeal of Michigan's HIV-specific criminal law, which he called “outdated,” and also said the state needs to remove obsolete laws that are no longer enforceable because they have been declared

See US Criminal Justice System, page 16



Monique Coverson and her partner Larissa Joseph were sentenced to 20-25 years in prison for possession of a pound of hash. The couple claims that when their home was raided last May only an ounce of synthetic marijuana, which is legal in Kuwait, was found. Photo: Facebook

## Lesbian Couple, Former Detroiters, Imprisoned in Kuwait

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Monique Coverson, a former Detroit, spent seven years in the Army, most of it stationed in Kuwait. After active duty, Coverson and her partner Larissa Joseph returned to Kuwait to work as military contractors. On May 8 of last year, shortly before the pair was scheduled to return to the states for a Mother's Day visit, the home the couple shared was raided by Kuwaiti authorities. At that time, authorities allegedly found an ounce of a tobacco-like substance. Upon testing, it was allegedly found to be K2, a form of synthetic marijuana which is legal in Kuwait. But as the two sat in a Kuwaiti jail, the charges began to escalate. By the time they were tried in January, the couple was charged with being in possession of a pound of hash. Found guilty, they were sentenced on Jan. 12 to 20-25 years in prison.

Coverson's mother, Michelle Jackson, believes the hash was

planted on her daughter and the charge was false. She has created a change.org petition asking President Obama and the U.S. government to intervene and assist her daughter. So far, the petition has received over nearly 148,000 online signatures

“I am begging the US Government to do what it can to get my daughter and her partner out of jail and back to the States,” Jackson said in the petition. “They have clearly been targeted by the Kuwaiti government for their lifestyle and could spend half their lives in prison for it.

“This whole ordeal is a nightmare,” Jackson continued. “One minute, I was expecting her for Mother's Day, and the next, I was told she was in prison. Everything I have learned has been through her friends and her lawyer, who has only called to demand more money – money for services he hasn't rendered. Right now, I would do anything just to hear her voice.”

Coverson's sister, Shelby Township resident Ashley Frank,

said she is worried about her sister.

“I'm fearful about what this is doing to her mental state,” Frank told WDIV Channel 4. Frank said the U.S. government has a responsibility to help her sister.

“This is a chance for America to give back to a veteran who has given to them,” she said.

### How the Public Can Help

To sign the change.org petition, visit [www.change.org/p/free-monique-and-larissa-campaign-us-citizens-wrongfully-imprisoned-in-kuwait](http://www.change.org/p/free-monique-and-larissa-campaign-us-citizens-wrongfully-imprisoned-in-kuwait). To assist in financially supporting Coverson's family with her legal fees, visit a gofundme page the family has set up at [www.gofundme.com/mjk93pgk](http://www.gofundme.com/mjk93pgk). Finally, the family has set up a Facebook page in support of the couple. That can be found at [www.facebook.com/freemoniqueandlarissa](http://www.facebook.com/freemoniqueandlarissa).

# New LGBT Health Center to Open in the Fall

## HELP Offering Expanded Services at Current Location

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

**DETROIT** – Health Emergency Lifeline Programs (HELP) has announced they are developing a community-based health center with a dedicated focus on meeting the needs of the LGBT community in Metropolitan Detroit. The new 24,000 square-foot facility, to be called the Corktown Health Center, is scheduled to open in September.

“Corktown Health Center will implement a medical home model integrating primary care, behavioral health and a selection of medical specialties,” said Teresa Roscoe, HELP’s executive director. “Supportive services designed to enhance health and well-being, reduce barriers to care and promote positive outcomes will be integral to the center’s holistic approach.”

Anthony Williams, HELP’s chairman of the board, agreed.

“I think what’s going to make it a little different from other health centers will be the support services component,” he said. “HELP has been around for some time, and one of the things we’re really good at is support services for the HIV/AIDS community. We think that kind of model of care, with the clinical component, will make the difference in the quality of services you see and in the outcomes associated with improved health in the LGBT community.”

Williams said the center will be the first of its kind in Michigan.

“It will be very similar to models in Fenway in Boston and Howard Brown in Chicago,” he added.

So why does the LGBT community need its own health center? The answer to that question can be found in a recent survey conducted by the organization Lambda Legal. Out of more than 5,000 respondents, over half of the LGB respondents and over 70 percent of the transgender respondents reported experiences of discrimination in healthcare. A HELP preliminary local assessment found that even more prevalent than blatant discrimination is the experience of provider discomfort, insensitivity, lack of knowledge and unconscious bias.

“I think it’s a lack of knowledge and preparation from providers sometimes (that causes the problem),” said Roscoe. “A person goes in to see a gynecologist and the question primarily is, ‘What are you doing for birth control?’ And if you’re a lesbian woman and that’s the question that is asked, that cannot necessarily be embracing to your experiences. What are your needs as a patient when coming to me? Because it’s making a



HELP Executive Director Teresa Roscoe and Anthony Williams, the agency’s chairman of the board, pose outside of HELP’s current office in Corktown. The entire building behind them will comprise the new 24,000 square foot health center they are planning. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

presumption as a person goes in. It doesn’t mean that the provider is bad or intending to be discriminatory or intending to cause any discomfort to that patient. But that intent doesn’t have to be there for that person to be uncomfortable or feel that they have to out themselves to their provider who they don’t necessarily feel is embracing of that.”

HELP is currently trying to raise \$526,000 to open the health center.

“I don’t think it’s much of a hard sell,” Roscoe said. “I think people recognize the need. We’re in the midst right now of a development campaign and fundraising. So if anyone is interested in donating or participating in that way, they’re very welcome to provide their support. But most people that we’re talking to are really excited about the idea. They see the need and the value in doing this here in Detroit and dollars are starting to come in.”

The goal is to build a model that is basically self-supporting.

“It’s anticipated it will be 60-65 percent kind of revenue generating, and the other percentage will be associated with grants and so forth,” said Williams. “When you have that kind of model, people are more apt to contribute because they know it’s a long term sustainable model. So overall we don’t think we’re going to have a problem with that piece of it.”

Though the center is not scheduled to open until September, HELP has already started operating a comprehensive HIV/AIDS clinic at

their current location. Thanks to a partnership with St. John Hospital, HELP has a doctor and a nurse coming to the clinic three days a week. While currently they have three exam rooms, six more will be added to the expanded clinic for a total of nine. The new fully-staffed clinic will be open seven days a week.

While much is already planned for the new health center, much is still to be decided.

“We’re having two community forums which are really open discussions that will help us gather information and continue to shape the vision and how we’ll structure services,” Roscoe said. “We have a lot of things already in mind, but we’re wanting to make sure we’re on the right track.”

The first forum will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9 at Hospice of Michigan, which is located at 400 Mack Ave., Detroit. The second will take place from 10 a.m. until noon on Saturday, March 10 at Affirmations in Ferndale.

For more information about HELP and the Corktown Health Center, visit [www.helpoffice.org](http://www.helpoffice.org).



**Partridge Creek** is pleased to welcome **Angela Viviano, FNP**

Obstetrics & Gynecology



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

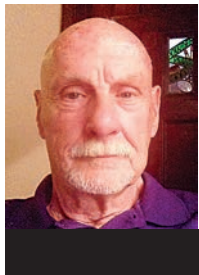
**NORTH OFFICE:**  
WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP  
58851 Van Dyke, Suite 100,  
Washington Twp., MI 48094

**Center: Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOOG**

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](http://partridgecreekobgyn.com)



## My Black History CT Remembrance

# Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

When Detroit-born, Cass Tech graduate Bernard Johnson died, age 60 in 1997, the New York Times carried a quarter-page obit celebrating his life as “a Renaissance man in dance.”

Little bigger than a metronome minute – at 5-foot-4 – he started dancing at age 11. We became friends during our CT senior year, and were part of an integrated black/white circle of gay art and music students who gathered after class to “dish” and let our hair down at a nearby Dunkin’ Donuts Shop in downtown Detroit.

(As art students we were free to roam all seven floors, freehand drawing in pencil and charcoal, mastering the intricacies of one- and two-point perspective. During warm weather we sketched, painted watercolors, socialized in shady nearby Cass Park.)

Bernard Johnson majored in fashion design, and much envied for renderings of furs, fabrics, dresses, accessories. In the late-1950s there were few CT male students majoring in fashion design. He was also known as an interpreter of ballet and modern dance, invited by our senior art/design instructor Donald Thrall to perform for an all-school talent extravaganza.

Though we didn’t know it then, this was a preview performance for a long and successful career in dance, choreography, film set and costume design, stretching over 40 wonderfully creative years.

Bernard wore a discreetly brief costume, and his body was painted a shimmering gold. When he stepped stage center into the spotlight, there was an expectant hush among the 1500 students gathered in the balconied auditorium. He posed. Smiled expectantly. Snapped into stunning. Full! No-let-up! Choreographic mastery!

Music was Les Baxter’s LP recording of “Le Sacre Du Sauvage.” Live bongo drummers drummed Bernard through each flashing movement. Performance was primitive. Limber. Elastic. Gleamingly muscular! When he took several well-deserved bows, sweating glitter from an energetic and orgiastic cadence, everyone stood, whistled, applauded.

Though we didn’t know it then, this was a preview performance for a long and successful career in dance, choreography, film set and costume design, stretching over 40 wonderfully creative years.

“I believe in the power of metaphysics,” he confided. “Be the best. Associate only with the best. These are the principles I was raised on.” He was fun company. Just a bit “swish” and campy. He carried his books like a well-bred debutante. But he was not to be trifled with, as a classmate who called him “Miss Swish” during bell change soon found out.

Bernard – who had an impeccable sense of timing – knew just when, where and how to settle a score. In the midst of our design class he loudly confronted the offending dimwit. “If it’s not too much trouble to put that brain you’re sitting on in gear, I’d like words with you.” We held our breath. One by one he read the guy’s beads. We savored every delicious put down.

His accolades are many: fantasy costume designs, many Broadway musical performances; teaching at the University of California at Irvine; induction into the Black Film Makers Hall of Fame; close friendships with Josephine Baker, Judy Garland, pre-controversial Bill Cosby, Lena Horne, Harry Belafonte, Aretha Franklin; international tours, command performances for King Hassan II of Morocco.

For us CT art students – straight, gay, questioning – Bernard Johnson, though short of stature, was someone we all looked up to.

Charles@pridesource.com



## BTL Editorial

# Presidential Election is about the Supreme Court

The U.S. presidential election this year is about the United States Supreme Court. Make no doubt about that. Yes, there are issues from income inequality to foreign policy at play as well; but those concerns are all dwarfed by, and in many instances controlled by, the presidential responsibility of filling vacancies on the Supreme Court.

A president can act, but the Supreme Court can rule those actions unconstitutional and therefore void.

In the coming four years, at least two justices could retire from the court creating vacancies that could shift the ideological bend of the court either to the right or the left – and that depends on who is elected president in November and which party controls the Congress.

The court has shifted dramatically to the right since 2000. It has given us Citizens United, which allows corporations and others to poison our politics with money – unregulated and often secret money. It has given us decisions that have substantially undermined affirmative action and it recently put on hold plans by the EPA to require coal burning electricity generating plants to stop pumping mercury and other poisons into the

It’s about SCOTUS – and shaping the course of the court for decades to come. That requires all hands on deck to support, promote and elect progressives

environment.

The ideology of the person who becomes president-elect in November will dictate the judicial temperament of the court for a generation to come.

And that means when casting ballots March 8 in the primary here in the state, we need to keep in mind that the make up of the Congress is just as important – some might argue more important – than whom we place in the Oval Office. Why? The U.S. Senate gets to advise and consent on judicial nominees, up to and including appointments to the nation’s highest court.

No greater example of the impact on SCOTUS nominees can be found than what is unfolding in

Washington today. Justice Antonin Scalia died suddenly while on a trip in Texas. This left a vacancy on the high court. Republicans, who control both chambers, immediately announced they would not confirm anyone President Barack Obama, a Democrat, appointed. That has set off a constitutional stand-off which will leave the high court down one justice likely for the remainder of this year.

That showdown is exactly the danger of electing an opposition Congress and president. We’ve watched, since the GOP took control of the House in 2010 and then the Senate in 2014, how Obama’s proposals have landed in the legislative body with a resounding thud and then proceeded to collect dust. In fact, the GOP has had an agenda to oppose and damage Obama’s initiative since he was elected president in 2008, even before they took control of Congress.

The high court is placed to review any number of important progressive issues in the coming years. Restrictions on abortion, religious freedom laws, marriage laws, gun laws, discrimination laws, environmental and immigration laws all stand ready on the edge of being overturned or gutted. Without



OPINION BY LEV RAPHAEL

## Michigan Notable Book Awards are Discriminatory

Every year since 2004 the Library of Michigan has publicized as many as 20 Notable Michigan books “reflective of Michigan’s diverse ethnic, historical, literary and cultural experience.”

But that diversity has a major blind spot. No book with major LGBT content has ever been among the books that are celebrated and publicized statewide. That fact was confirmed to me by one of the judges, who had no explanation.

Here’s what the 2016 Library of Michigan press release has to say about the awards for 2015’s books:

“The MNB selections clearly demonstrate the vast amount of talent found in writers focusing on Michigan and the Great Lakes region,” State Librarian Randy Riley said. “The list continues to offer something for everyone – fiction, short story collections, history, children’s books, politics, poetry and memoirs.”

Well, something for almost everyone.

This program actually stretches all the way back to 1991 under different names. It sponsors statewide author tours for the winning authors, so it’s

a big deal. Here’s how the Detroit Free Press puts it:

“While no cash award comes with making the list, there is a real economic reward for writers and publishers in terms of increased sales. Emily Nowak, marketing and sales manager at Wayne State University Press, said appearing on the list can lift sales by several hundred copies. For regional titles with small press runs of between 1,000 and 3,000 copies, that’s a significant boost and could push a title into a second printing. Many Michigan libraries often buy multiple copies of books that appear on the list.”

And then of course there’s the free publicity, which has no valuation, and the invitations to speak that an award generates, and the prestige. But evidently since 1991 there hasn’t been a single book with major LGBT content published by a Michigan press or written by a Michigan author worthy of recognition.

Think about it: No notable LGBT books by talented queer authors in Michigan in almost 25 years worthy of recognition by the judges of this program.

The Library of Michigan’s

**Think about it: No notable LGBT books by talented queer authors in Michigan in almost 25 years worthy of recognition by the judges of this program.**

web site claims that the awards “help build a culture of reading here in Michigan.” Perhaps so, but the culture being built is limited in its diversity.

Before the Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage, Rolling Stone rated Michigan as one of the five worst states in the country for gay rights because of hate crimes, but there are other forms of oppression, including forced invisibility.

David Bowie put it well in his song “Time”: “keeping dark is hateful.” Isn’t it well past time the sponsors and judges of the Michigan Notable Books stepped into the 21st century, out of the darkness and into the light?

*Lev Raphael is the author of 25 books in genres from memoir to mystery. Follow Raphael on Twitter @LevRaphael. This piece was originally published on The Huffington Post.*

but get confirmed to the benches across the country. Whether former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton or U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders is the nominee and ultimately the president-elect in November, if they do not have a Congress that will partner with them to push progressive policy solutions and judges, we will be stuck for another two years with Washington gridlock, political bickering and the continued dissection by a thousand cuts of the progressive ideals of Roosevelt.

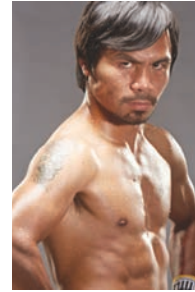
It’s about SCOTUS – and shaping the course of the court for decades to come. That requires all hands on deck to support, promote and elect progressives who will work hand and hand with whomever is president to make sure progressive and liberal ideals are enshrined in our laws, and upheld by judges and justices that understand government is not a social evil, but a necessary partner in improving the lives of every American.

## Creep of the Week

### Manny Pacquiao

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

Let’s pretend that it’s your job to get punched in the head over and over and over again by muscular men who train for hours every day with



Manny Pacquiao

the specific goal of hitting you harder. Granted, you also hit these men in the head, but that doesn’t change the fact that getting punched is your job. And you do this for years.

It might not surprise the people around you if, after awhile, you started saying really stupid shit.

Which leads us to professional boxer and Philippine Senate candidate Manny Pacquiao.

Earlier this month during a debate televised by Filipino station TV5, Pacquiao, who is running for Senate, and the other candidates were asked about their views on same-sex marriage, which is illegal in the Philippines. Pacquiao’s answer was clearly the result of being punched in the head too many times.

“It’s just common sense,” he said. “Do you see animals mating with the same sex? If you have male-to-male or female-to-female (relationships), then people are worse than animals.”

Later he posted a Bible verse about putting gays to death on his Instagram account.

Well, not the first time LGBT people have been compared to animals. And not the first time someone has pointed to non-human species for evidence that being a homo is unnatural.

It is not, as Pacquiao claims, “common sense.” What is common, however, is the well-documented instances of animals other than humans getting, as scientists put it, “gay up in this bitch.” Pacquiao might want to add Bruce Bagemihl’s 1999 book “Biological Exuberance: Animal Homosexuality and Natural Diversity” to his reading list (that is, if he can still read after being used as a human punching bag for years). Bagemihl includes a multitude of examples of same-sex pairings across many species.

Pacquiao faced some pretty steep consequences for his “worse than animals” comment. Nike dropped

Pacquiao faced some pretty steep consequences for his “worse than animals” comment. Nike dropped him. He also lost his nuts. Or, more specifically, Wonderful Pistachios quickly distanced themselves from Pacquiao.

him. He also lost his nuts. Or, more specifically, Wonderful Pistachios quickly distanced themselves from Pacquiao even though he was in a TV ad for them in 2012.

He was also punched in the head (figuratively) by actor, pro wrestler and human brick wall Dave Bautista, who called Pacquiao a “fucking idiot.”

“My mom happens to be a lesbian so I don’t fucking take that shit,” Bautista told TMZ Sports. “I don’t think it’s funny ... If anyone called my mother an animal I’d stick my foot in his ass.”

Asked if an apology from Pacquiao would help, Bautista said no. “You can’t come back from that, man. There’s no coming back from that.”

“I still look up to him as a fighter,” Bautista said. “But as far as his opinions, he can stick that shit up his ass.”

Pacquiao did apologize, for what it’s worth. And it’s not worth much. He posted an apology on social media. “Please forgive me for those who I’ve hurt,” he said. “But this does not change my position against same-sex marriage. That’s what I believe. My only mistake is comparing gay people to animals.”

Does Pacquiao have a right to his own opinion? Of course he does. But he doesn’t have a right to his own facts. The comparison of gay and lesbian people to animals isn’t just offensive because it’s crude, it’s offensive because the “homosexuality isn’t found in nature, so being gay is just a sick choice” argument is 100 percent bullshit. This idea that people could just as easily choose to be heterosexual if they weren’t so hot for pervert sex has led to so much unnecessary harm for LGBT people.

So I’m with Bautista about where Pacquiao can go stick his apology.

### ► BTL Editorial

Continued from p. 14

a Congress to partner with the vision and values of whomever is elected president in November, that president will be severely hampered, and the progressive legislative agenda gutted.

Let’s be clear. We’re progressives. We want to see the Court shift to the left. So we also want to make sure that liberal and progressive judicial nominees not only get hearings,

## ► US Criminal Justice System

Continued from p. 12

unconstitutional.

“When we’re talking about reforming a complexing system, like this, you need a yes and strategy,” said Hoadley. He called on lawmakers to repeal obsolete laws as well as laws – such as the gross indecency laws – which criminalize otherwise consensual sexual activity between adults.

Bieda said he would like to have representatives of MAP come to a Senate Judiciary Committee to brief state lawmakers on the findings of the report and possible solutions. Hoadley applauded that idea.

“This would be a great opportunity to have a joint committee meeting,” between House and Senate Judiciary Committees, he said. “We could also have policy meetings on this.”

The chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, State Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, said the Senate cannot solve all the issues with the criminal justice system but did call for more training by law enforcement related to LGBT related issues. He’s a former county sheriff.

“I also support clean slate legislation,” Jones said. Those laws would allow those convicted of non-violent crimes to wipe their records clean after a set amount of time.

Hoadley said Jones’ idea was certainly on track to addressing reintegration of those convicted of crimes and sentenced to prison into society.

“We have to really think about how we integrate people into society after their rehabilitation,” he said. He discussed working with a person living with HIV who was convicted under Michigan’s HIV-specific law. That person was being forced to disclose their HIV status as a result of having to disclose the felony conviction to potential employers. It significantly limited that person’s job prospects.

MAP officials were pleased to hear Michigan lawmakers were taking the report seriously.

“A goal of this report is to lift up the ways in which LGBT people interact with the criminal justice system to ensure comprehensive reforms,” said Naomi Goldberg, Policy Analyst for the Movement Advancement Project. “Legislative efforts to reduce recidivism rates, such as clean slate legislation combined with vital protections against discrimination, would greatly improve the lives of formerly incarcerated LGBT people. And training, ongoing education and improved procedures for law enforcement, court staff, prison and staff, and probation and parole officers would greatly improve the safety of LGBT people.”

## ► Presidential Primaries

Continued from p. 10

on “Fresh Air” in June 2014. It also echoes the concerns raised by Log Cabin Republicans in a recent video it posted before the New Hampshire primary. The video shows various excerpts of Clinton in 2002 and 2004 saying she did not believe gay couples should be allowed to marry, and included Log Cabin’s message, “Hillary Clinton: Wrong on gay rights when it mattered.” The video, which does not indicate that one excerpt is Sen. Clinton speaking against an anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment, appears to be getting wide circulation to Democrats.

Capitol Public Radio in Nevada found a lesbian who was for Sanders and a transgender woman who was leaning toward Republican Donald Trump. The report indicated LGBT issues came up during a campaign event by Clinton in the rural town of Elko.

## Trumping Consistency

While Clinton is being needed to explain the difference in her opinion on same-sex marriage between 2002 and today, Republican frontrunner Donald Trump is gliding to victory despite his inconsistencies on the subject.

On Feb. 4, before the New Hampshire primary, he told New England Cable News journalist Sue O’Connell that LGBT people could expect continued progress on LGBT civil rights if he becomes president. But nine days later, after the death of the U.S. Supreme Court’s most notoriously anti-LGBT justice, Antonin Scalia, he told CNN, “Justice Scalia is a fantastic man” and that, if president, he, Trump, would want the next nominee to the court to be “as close to (Scalia) as possible.” He also mentioned as a potential nominee federal appeals court judge Diane Sykes, of the 7th Circuit. Sykes wrote a decision in 2006 that granted the Christian Legal Society a preliminary injunction to be recognized as a student group at the Southern Illinois University School of Law despite its policy against allowing gay members.

His inconsistencies run both ways. He accepted GOProud’s invitation to speak at a CPAC conference event in 2011, eliminated a beauty pageant rule requiring contestants be “naturally born female,” said he has “many fabulous friends who happen to be gay,” and accepted gay actor George Takei’s invitation to lunch to discuss same-sex marriage and attended the wedding of a gay couple.

Yet he was the first choice among born-again and evangelical Christian voters in South Carolina, where a Public Policy Polling survey just days before the Feb. 20 primary found that 31 percent of Trump supporters “would support a ban on homosexuals entering the country.” (Interestingly, only 17 percent of Cruz supporters liked the idea and, among



Trump was the first choice among born-again and evangelical Christian voters in South Carolina, where a Public Policy Polling survey just days before the Feb. 20 primary found that 31 percent of Trump supporters “would support a ban on homosexuals entering the country.” Trump also prevailed in South Carolina despite starting a highly publicized fight with the Pope.

all South Carolina primary voters, only 20 percent did so.)

Then, there was Trump’s highly publicized row with the pope. Trump started it: In a Feb. 11 Fox Business News interview, he criticized the pope for planning a prayer service on the U.S.-Mexico border Feb. 18 to draw attention to the difficulties Mexicans face when they want to enter the U.S. Trump called the pope a “very political person” and suggested he was holding the border event at the behest of the Mexican government.

A reporter on the pope’s plane from Mexico to Rome Feb. 19 asked the pontiff about Trump’s comments.

According to a Vatican transcript, a reporter noted that Trump had characterized the pope as a “pawn in the hands of the Mexican government” and that Trump, if elected president, “intends to construct” a wall along the border and to deport 11 million immigrants.

“I would like to ask, first of all, what you think of these accusations and whether an American Catholic can vote for such a person,” stated the reporter.

“I thank God that he has said I am a politician, as Aristotle defined the human being as an ‘animal politicus,’” replied the pope. “At least I am a human being! And that I am a pawn ... perhaps, I do not know. I will leave that to our judgment, to the people. A person who thinks only of building walls, wherever that may be, and not bridges, is not Christian. This is not in the Gospel. With regard to what I would advise, to vote or not to vote: I would not like to become involved. I would say only that this man is not Christian.”

Media reports quickly multiplied, focusing on the pope’s statement that Trump was “not Christian,” and that prompted Trump to respond that it was “disgraceful” for a “religious leader” to question a person’s faith.

Exit polls of more than 2,000 voters surveyed as they left the in South Carolina found that 76 percent of voters in the South Carolina Republican primary said that “shared religious beliefs matter” to their decision on who to vote for. Broken down further, the polls indicated that “shared religious beliefs matter” “a great deal” to 43 percent of the South Carolina voters. They mattered “somewhat” to another 33 percent of voters. And 24 percent said such beliefs mattered “not much” or “not at all.” Of those who said the shared religious beliefs mattered a “great deal,” 32 percent voted for Cruz, 27 percent for Trump and 20 percent for Rubio.

And yet Trump won, and Cruz – who won Iowa with his largely evangelical base of support – dropped to third place.

The Cruz campaign suffered another loss this week, too. The campaign’s senior communications director, Rick Tyler, tried to denigrate the senator’s competition in the South Carolina presidential primary by making a Twitter post Feb. 11 that said, “Trump and Rubio are with Obama on gay marriage.” That obviously didn’t work since both Trump and, by a very thin margin, Rubio beat Cruz. In that Twitter post, Tyler was simply parroting what Cruz himself had implied to a South Carolina audience that day. But on Monday, Cruz announced that he had asked for Tyler’s resignation. The offense? Tyler posted a video on Twitter of Rubio gesturing toward a Bible in front of a man and the caption on the video indicated that Rubio was telling the man, “Not many answers in it.” It was later determined Rubio had actually said the Bible had “all the answers.”

Tyler said he posted the video without checking it for accuracy, adding, “I regret that mistake.” Cruz’s campaign has already been under fire for dishonest campaign tactics.



# Statehouses Fighting Transgender Choice in School Facilities

BY LISA LEFF

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—In clashes over which restrooms and locker rooms transgender students should use, the U.S. Department of Education has warned public schools that a 1970s sex discrimination law makes it illegal to deny them access to the facilities of their choice.

Schools around the country, some fearing federal investigations that could cost them millions in funding, generally have yielded to the guidance. Now, a backlash is brewing.

The South Dakota Legislature last week became the first to pass a bill that would require transgender children and teenagers to use the school facilities that correspond to their “chromosomes and anatomy” at birth. Lawmakers in at least 22 other states have introduced similar legislation at odds with the government’s interpretation of the U.S. law, the Human Rights Campaign said in a policy brief Monday.

Gay rights groups are pressuring South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard to veto his state’s bathroom access bill while working to stop others from advancing. But with federal courts still considering the issue, and none so far validating the government’s reasoning, the statehouse-level defiance could test the limits of the Obama administration’s advocacy on transgender rights.

“Local control on this issue has taken a huge, huge hit,” said Republican state Rep. Fred Deutsch, the author of the South Dakota legislation. “This bill pushes back against federal overreach and intrusion into our lives, and is an attempt to regain control of something as basic and common sense as privacy rights for our children while at school.”

The Education and Justice departments determined in 2013 that transgender students were entitled to federal civil rights protections under its reading of Title IX, the 1972 law that bans sex discrimination in education. The analysis arose from a complaint by a transgender middle school student against a Southern California school district, which agreed to settle the case by updating its policies.

Since then, the Education Department has reaffirmed its position in memos advising school districts of their responsibilities under Title IX and in other complaint resolutions.

The most recent was reached in December with a suburban Chicago school district that agreed to allow a transgender high-schooler access to the girl’s locker room once private stalls were installed.

“Title IX’s sex discrimination prohibition extends to claims of discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity and OCR accepts such complaints for investigation,” the department’s Office for Civil Rights told districts in a 2014 memo on sexual violence.

The courts so far have been less accommodating. A federal judge last year dismissed a lawsuit brought by a transgender student at the University of Pittsburgh who was expelled for using the men’s locker rooms and bathrooms. A federal judge in Virginia also rebuffed a transgender teenager’s request for an order requiring his high school to allow him to use the boys’ restrooms. Both decisions have been appealed.

Jennifer Smith, an education lawyer in Chicago who represents a number of Illinois school districts, said the lack of legal clarity has left her clients unsure how to craft compliant and thoughtful policies.

“They look at the Pittsburgh case, they look at what OCR has said, they look at state and local laws, and it’s really gray. No one knows what to make of it,” Smith said. “We are making as practical decisions as we can in a really unsettled area of law.”

Gay rights advocates say they will sue to overturn the South Dakota law if the Republican governor doesn’t veto it. Though the courts are still weighing school facility use, transgender employees have brought successful sex discrimination claims under the 1964 Civil Rights Act and due process clause of the Constitution, according to Dru Levasseur, who directs the Transgender Rights Project at LGBT legal group Lambda Legal.

“We know that transgender people are protected under federal law, and there seems to be some kind of gap of, ‘Well, you are protected but maybe that doesn’t apply to restrooms,’” Levasseur said. “You can’t live your life if you don’t go to the restroom, so there cannot be some kind of separate rule.”

*Associated Press writer James Nord in Pierre, South Dakota, contributed to this story.*

Let Me Be Your Roofing Expert.

Dale Vigiliarolo  
248  
**544-0413**  
fax 248 544-0188

Let Me Help You Understand Your Roof Quotes.

**LAKEPOINTE**  
ROOFING & SIDING  
**248.544-0413**

Come Home To A Feeling Of Pride.

**LakePointe Construction, Inc.**



**GERRY BANISTER**  
RE/MAX® Showcase Homes



**Gerry Banister**  
RE/MAX Hall of Fame

Serving the real estate needs of our community for 30 years. Over 550 real estate transactions - experience counts!

**REAL ESTATE / REAL SERVICE / REAL RESULTS**

RE/MAX Showcase Homes  
219 Elm Street, Birmingham, MI 48009  
248-645-1589 (24/7) • gerrybanister@aol.com

[www.GERRYBANISTER.com](http://www.GERRYBANISTER.com)



Find us on Facebook  
Between The Lines Newspaper





**Monique Woods**  
Agency LLC

**(248) 626-6300**

5640 West Maple Ste. 202  
West Bloomfield  
moniquewoods@allstate.com



You're in good hands.

© 2016 Allstate Insurance Company.

## PINK DOLLAR

# The 2016 Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

BY AJ TRAGER

**DETROIT** – Eleven members of the Metro Detroit workforce have gathered together in 2016 to work on providing LGBT friendly networking and employment opportunities for the region as well as additional certifications for Detroit based businesses.

The Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce has been recognized as as nonprofit since October of 2013. Over the years there have been several attempts at creating an LGBT focused chamber of commerce in the area, and after losing more than half of the board members that signed on to serve the chamber in the last year, the new momentum of 2016 will illicit more opportunities for local workers and businesses to get and stay connected with one another.

Last year the LGBT Chamber was integral in providing networking opportunities for large and small companies alike. In the upcoming months, the chamber will continue to work with the Detroit mayor's office to establish a stronger bond between local LGBT or ally businesses and the contract work hired by the city.

In order to strengthen this bond, the chamber is working with the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and the city of Detroit to provide certifications for businesses in the area who are seeking to be an official LGBT owned or operated business.

But the process isn't easy. Vice President of the Board Jan Stevenson told BTL, "It's a rigorous process with national vetting." To her knowledge there are only a few in Metro Detroit that are certified as an official LGBT business: Pride Source Media Group, the publishers of Between The Lines is one of them.

The city of Detroit gives a great deal of priority to minority businesses. If any business in the area is at least 51 percent

### INFO

**Detroit Regional  
LGBT Chamber  
of Commerce**

>> [www.detroitlgbtchamber.com](http://www.detroitlgbtchamber.com)



Board member Mary Fuller, right, with friends at the Chamber's M3 Mixer, hosted by Comerica Bank last March.

**“** The existence of an LGBT chamber makes working in Michigan more attractive. It provides networking opportunities across specialities and it reinforces the Detroit workforce. **”**

– Jan Stevenson, BTL co-publisher and vice president of the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

owned, operated and controlled by racial or ethnic minorities they can apply for the Michigan Minority Suppliers Certification and get preference for contract and job opportunities in the Detroit area.

Not long after its bankruptcy, the city of Detroit is progressing out of its financial funk and is improving the quality of life from installing new streetlights to establishing new businesses in storefronts that have stood vacant for years. The city has even developed a plan that will provide a \$100,000 payout to businesses filling

vacant spots.

But like most of the state, businesses are concerned as to how the city is keeping and maintaining millenials and recent college graduates. A 2013 study produced by the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce found that 40 percent of college graduates leave the state after receiving their degree from an accredited Michigan college.

“The existence of an LGBT chamber makes working in Michigan more attractive,” Stevenson said. “It provides

See next page

## ► LGBT Chamber

Continued from p. 18

networking opportunities across specialties and it reinforces the Detroit workforce.”

In the spring of 2015, the LGBT Chamber of Commerce partnered with Pride Source to put on an LGBT career fair. The event was a total success, offering businesses a chance to showcase their inclusivity and target an employee market that not many companies harness. While the location of the 2016 LGBT Career Fair has yet to be determined, the chamber will host a career fair to help Michigan students establish themselves in the workplace.

## Membership Development

In the next couple of months the LGBT Chamber will host a series of events all dedicated to membership development. Stevenson tells BTL that the chamber has had some difficulties in the past gaining new members due to administrative issues within the group. The problems have been remedied and a new board leads the group.

The Michigan Employee Resource Group, in partnership with the chamber, will host a social event at 6:30 p.m. on March 3 at the Detroit City Distillery located at 2462 Riopelle in downtown Detroit. The evening event is for interested parties of all kinds to attend to further their ties to MERG as well as gain information on how to strengthen the ERG group within their company.

On March 6 the chamber will host a Pride Night at the Pistons. Tickets are \$60 and will offer attendees the opportunity to meet the chamber and network with other companies in the area while enjoying an open bar and plenty of food while watching the game in an executive suite.

The chamber will host their second annual Pride Day at the Tigers June 7. Details for the event are still being developed. Of the sports events put on by the chamber in 2015, Pride Night at the Tigers was the most well attended with over a thousand LGBT Metro Detroiters gathered to cheer on their beloved ball team.

The LGBT community is an integral part of the workforce, in every discipline. LGBT visibility in the business community does and will continue to give back to the community by maintaining employees and relationships in the state.

To learn more about the chamber and to get information on upcoming events, visit [www.detroitlgbtchamber.com](http://www.detroitlgbtchamber.com).

Chamber board members include Kevin Heard (Michigan.com), Jeremy Grant (Comerica), Brad Bell (real estate), Gabrielle D'Angelo (Merrill Lynch), Mike Odom (Marx Lane), Christina Stephens (Quicken Loans), Ben Winner (General Motors), Mary Fuller (Microsoft), Dr. Harley Etienne (University of Michigan), Rev. Roland Stringfellow (Metropolitan Community Church), Diane Harbour (Harbour Tax and Accounting), and Jan Stevenson (Pride Source Media Group).



Board member Jeremy Grant, right, talks with a potential chamber member at the M3 event hosted by General Motors last January.

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

Kuderik and Associates PLLC  
Certified Public Accountants  
Certified Valuation Analyst

32121 Woodward Ave.  
Suite 202  
Royal Oak MI 48073

## “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**



*This year get the best return possible*

COMPLETE ACCOUNTING SERVICES  
COMPLETE TAX PREPARATION  
for individual, partnership, and corporate  
FINANCIAL PLANNING

**AMERITAX**

★ ★ ★ PLUS ★ ★ ★

Can't wrap your head around your finances and taxes?  
Come in and see Alan for your best possible tax return

*Alan T. Semonian, C.P.A.*

**248.584.1040**

3336 West 12 Mile Road • Berkley, MI 48072  
Fax 248.399.6902 1-800-TAX-ALAN • TaxAlan@aol.com



GM WORLD HEADQUARTERS at Renaissance Center  
MILLENDER CENTER Downtown Detroit

[www.AshleysFlowers.com](http://www.AshleysFlowers.com)

**313-259-5000**

*We Deliver Around the World.*



**SINE & MONAGHAN**  
REALTORS®

**Brad Bell**  
Associate Broker  
Cell: 248-835-4644  
[www.bradbellrealestate.com](http://www.bradbellrealestate.com)

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

Residential Sellers & Buyers  
Relocation Specialist  
Select Commercial Properties

RealLiving

**Serving the Real Estate Needs of Michigan's Gay and Lesbian Community for 30 Years!**

- Full Service Residential Real Estate
- Nationwide Gay Friendly Agent Referrals
- Foreclosures, Short Sales, First Time Buyers.



**Lynn L. Stange**  
Realtor Associate  
70 W. Long Lake Rd.  
Troy, MI 48098

**248.561.6967**  
[LLStange@aol.com](mailto:LLStange@aol.com)



*"There really is a difference"*

**PINK DOLLAR**

## Queering Your Taxes

BY AJ TRAGER

**A**pril 18 is tax day, and many LGBT individuals from around the country will find this year's tax return a little different from previous years.

Last year, married LGBT couples living in Michigan were required to file up to five tax returns: one federal tax return and multiple state returns. With marriage equality now legal nationwide, forcing Michigan to recognize same-sex marriages, married LGBT couples can now file jointly in states like Michigan that didn't previously recognize LGBT unions.

BTL reached out to local tax professionals and accountants to get the scoop on what has changed for LGBT married couples with less than two months until deadline.

Couples that are just cohabiting and are not married should continue filing separate returns; however, if married, one cannot file a single tax return. If the parties do not want to file a joint return, another option is to file married filing separate, which does not incur the same tax rate as two individuals who are single. "The MFS status has a less favorable tax rate than filing single," Diane Harbour owner of Harbour Tax and Accounting said.

"Whether or not to get married is a very personal decision, and as a tax preparer and consultant, I would never consider giving advice as to whether one should marry or not. I would, however, explain to the couple that once you are married you may not file 'single' on your tax return. Taxpayers need to understand going into a marriage that there is a 'Marriage Penalty' to consider as far as their taxes are concerned," Kathy Mazzara, owner of Briggs Tax Service, told BTL.

For married couples, the only options for filing taxes are married filing separate or married filing joint. The decision to file one way or the other depends on the couple's particular tax situation. For instance, married filing separate is the least beneficial tax treatment, and the couple needs to consider the possibility of losses or losing some credits.

An example of this would be if a couple has student loan interest, tuition from secondary education or tax free U.S. bonds; the credit or deduction they may have been entitled to as MFJ status gets lost when filing for MFS, Mazzara explains. Taxes get even murkier when Social Security is taken into consideration. In some instances, a taxpayer may be responsible for repaying taxes up to 85 percent of their Social Security payments, depending on the amount of additional income the taxpayer has.

Mazzara and Harbour both suggest that couples come in to see a tax specialist or accountant with help filing their 2015 taxes. Other scenarios such as medical expenses, prior taxes due, child support, etc., can affect how a taxpayer files their return. It may be advantageous for a couple to file MFS to keep each other's funds separate, or it may not – every scenario is different.

Mazzara says that the process of filing taxes, while revolutionary for same-sex couples, is not rich in sentimentality.

"Filing your tax return doesn't seem to be a very emotional matter," Mazzara said. "The clients that I have that are LGBT have discussed their situations with me, we ran the numbers on which would be the most financially advantageous to them and filed the return. I have not experienced sentimentality in being able to finally file as a married couple."

See next page



As the end of the tax season approaches, both Harbour and Mazzara caution LGBT couples against filing jointly because they can. It's an emotional situation to finally file jointly after living together for possibly 40 years, however, each situation is different and there are plenty of LGBT inclusive tax professionals prepared to help LGBT couples.

Harbour has a different experience – she's witnessed couples be thrilled when they walk into her office during this year's tax season.

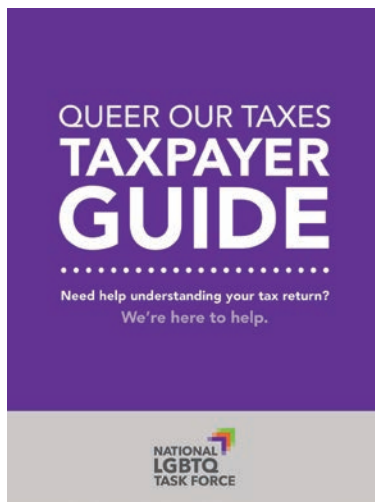
"For so many reasons it is related to the fact that they have children. Sometimes there is that spouse that isn't working and if they had no income in the past, they weren't being claimed at all because they weren't married. The clients are thrilled that we have this right to file jointly. I think some of the clients realized that they will eventually be able to share Social Security benefits and other things of that nature," Harbour said.

As the end of the tax season approaches, both Harbour and Mazzara caution LGBT couples against filing jointly because they can. It's an emotional situation to finally file jointly after living together for possibly 40 years, however, each situation is different

and there are plenty of LGBT inclusive tax professionals prepared to help LGBT couples.

LGBT individuals are disproportionately affected by poverty and are often times the most in need of income tax information. For help with 2015 taxes, the National LGBT Task Force has launched a preparation guide for LGBT individuals. The new resource is intended to guide LGBT people with questions they might want to ask when sitting in front of their tax preparer or program. This resource is the first-of-its-kind guide aimed to help the LGBT community navigate the credits and deductions that can greatly affect someone's return on taxes.

To access the taxpayer guide, visit <http://queerourtaxes.org>.



**LGBTQ Taxpayer Checklist can be downloaded at <http://queerourtaxes.org>**

The National LGBTQ Task Force prepared the report in time for 2016. It identifies a host of issues LGBTQ people should consider when preparing their taxes.

### INFO

**Locate More Financial Service Resources Online at [Pridesource.com](http://Pridesource.com)**



## We're Invested in Our Community

MSUFCU members know they can rely on their local credit union to save them money. In 2015, members saved over \$9,000,000 in interest by refinancing their high-rate loans from other financial institutions to MSUFCU.

Join your friends and neighbors at MSUFCU and see how much you can save.

Not an MSU employee? Not a problem. There are many ways to join.



[msufcu.org](http://msufcu.org) • 517-333-2424



## BRIGGS TAX SERVICE

**IT'S TAX TIME!**

**Married in 2015? Have Questions? Give Us a Call!**

Your Neighborhood Tax Specialist since 1959  
Federal, State, City, and e-File  
Individual and Small Business Returns



Professional Tax Office  
Federal Returns, State Returns,  
Individual - Corporate  
Partnerships - Trusts  
Affordable Care Act

MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE  
\$20 OFF YOUR TAX RETURN!



**18020 Mack Ave  
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230**

**313.884.2270  
[www.BriggsTax.com](http://www.BriggsTax.com)**

# LGBT-Friendly Businesses Anticipate March 20 Wedding Expo

**DETROIT** – Last year was all about hope. At this year's Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo on March 20 in Detroit, it's full speed ahead for LGBT couples planning their weddings and other life celebrations, thanks to last year's U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage.

"Last year, there was so much excitement about the possibility that the court rulings would be favorable," said Irene Lignos, Director of Conference and Catering Sales at MotorCity Casino Hotel, the site of this year's event and a Platinum Sponsor. "Since that time we have had various inquiries from the



BTLfile photo: 2015 BTL Expo. Photo: Andrew Potter

## INFO

The BTL Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo is from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 20 at the MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit. Tickets are just \$10 each. For a full list of vendors, event sponsors and more details visit [btlweddingexpo.com](http://btlweddingexpo.com), where tickets are also available. For updates, follow [www.facebook.com/UltimateLGBTExpo](http://www.facebook.com/UltimateLGBTExpo) on Facebook, @BTLExpo on Twitter and @BTLEXP0 on Instagram.

>> [www.BTLWeddingExpo.com](http://www.BTLWeddingExpo.com)

LGBT community regarding wedding space and hotel accommodations. I understand the show has already significantly grown in size and we look forward to celebrating this happy time with so many of our clients and friends."

The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary

Expo is, indeed, going to be bigger and better than ever, starting with its new venue. Hosted for the sixth year by Between The Lines, the event will feature over 100 vendors – maximum capacity – special guests and plenty of surprises, all in MotorCity's state-of-the-art ballroom and Sound Board Theater. The hosts are planning for hundreds of attendees.

According to Lignos, the event will be not only informative but fun and celebratory, with multiple demonstrations on stages around the venue. One of the main events will be a bridal fashion show, hosted as in previous years by B. Ella Bridal of Plymouth – but with a fresh twist.

"We're excited to have strolling models in a larger venue, for a little more interaction this year," said Brittany Blase, owner of B. Ella Bridal. "We're super-excited about this year's expo to celebrate the community that has always given so much to the bridal and event industry – and to the cause of marriage equality itself. Everyone we've worked with is so earnest and from the heart."

The inclusive vendors on site will showcase everything couples need to plan their upcoming celebrations, including weddings, anniversaries, vow renewals, graduations, bar and bat mitzvahs, adoptions, baby showers and more. But some vendors will look beyond, to services couples and families need in their daily lives.

BNI Biz.Networx of Southfield, for example, is coming as a team featuring a variety of businesses that are involved with their networking organization. This includes their "wedding mafia" such as a fitness trainer, travel agent, event coordinator, chef and makeup coordinator – to an insurance agent, loan officer, title agent and more.

"Now that marriage equality is here,

people are looking at the next steps in their lives and we're excited to be part of it," said Tina McNeal-O'Brien, a real estate broker and president of BNI Biz.Networx. "As an African-American woman married to an Irishman, if you look back 50 years that wouldn't have been possible for me. It's all about progress and change. It's about love and it's about family."

Although the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo is inclusive – you don't have to be LGBT to join in all the fun – there's no doubt that the LGBT community will be at the center of the celebration.

"This year, we are able to extend the full range of goods and services we offer to the gay community," said J. Robbin Yelverton, who is the co-owner of Blumz by JR Designs in Detroit and Ferndale, along with life partner Jerome Raska. "We are a full-service wedding shop that, in addition to beautiful flowers, provides services such as tuxedo rental, invitations, specialty linens and more. I'm even an officiant and have been 'marrying' people for years. It's nice to finally be able to do the same for the gay community."

Vendors won't be the only attraction at the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo. The event will feature live music, demonstrations, prize giveaways and much more – all hosted by a talented, charming emcee, Jason Bowen.

"I'm excited for the chance to do this event – something I feel close to, that's important to me," said Bowen, a professional actor, singer and host (not to mention a stilt-dancer). "Because of the Supreme Court ruling, our country is going in a direction we should have been going in for a long time. I've always believed you have to be on the right side of history."

## YOUR HEALTH CARE TEAM FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS!

*Specializing in Medicine for Our Lifestyle since 1980*



**Dr. Paul Benson's Be Well Medical Center**

(248) 544-9300 • [doctorbewell.com](http://doctorbewell.com)

*Everything Has Changed ... We Can End HIV*

**BEWELL.AWARE.org**

CHECK OUT OUR STI & HIV PREVENTION WEBSITE

# Flint City Riveters Born Out of Need for Fairness

BY AJ TRAGER

**FLINT** – In an effort to raise fairness and provide more chances for people to get involved in the sport, Louise Ogadinma and three others decided to start their own all-girls football team in Michigan's seventh largest city.

The Flint City Riveters were born out of a need for fairness. For many, football is an outlet, a way to relax and get away from the business of everyday life. Some of the Riveters found it hard to focus and have fun on their former teams, which lacked a sense of what it means to work together without worrying what is going on behind the scenes – like bags and money being stolen.

Ogadinma didn't want to tolerate that behavior anymore. It was throwing off her sense of sportsmanship and she was ready to feel like she was a part of a team. She and the other three co-owners collected \$2,000 to launch the Riveters and quickly started advertising and looking for people to join.

Now, a year later and with the help of three excellent football coaches, the 26 Riveters are busy with squats and suicide runs as they prepare for their first competitive season. They have practiced every Saturday since they convened in October and according to Ogadinma, they are "rip, roaring and ready to hit the field."

"Our team's experience is all over the place. The only people who have experience with football are the owners – everyone else is brand new. But they have played a sport before. The majority of the girls have played softball. We have one girl that's a softball coach; some have played volleyball. They are very athletic. Some are not as athletic, but they fit in just as well. They have stamina," she notes. "We have great coaches who are teaching them the ins-and-outs and teaching them drills. The new girls don't feel intimidated. Every practice we have, they are all pumped. It is so refreshing."

Ogadinma has only been playing football for a handful of years. She didn't play as a kid and took the sport up in 2013 when she decided to get her weight under control. She saw that one of Michigan's all-girl football teams was looking for players and decided to tackle the sport. She was ready to be confident again. And playing football gave her that.

"It makes me feel strong and confident. When I'm playing and on the field, I feel like I could do anything," Ogadinma said. "I am confident now. I really got into it. It's the adrenaline and being on the field. I play a sport that guys don't expect females to play. That's one sport in general, but when I tell them I play football, they say, 'No way.' I play tackle football. The only difference is we are females. It brings power and makes me feel strong."

Ogadinma said that of the 26 teammates, only five or six don't identify as LGBT. In a short confession to BTL, Ogadinma said that there has been no issues with teammates dating one another and that, if they are involved romantically, that energy doesn't negatively affect their game play.

## Flint Aid

With the recent water-catastrophe in Flint, the team wanted to give back. Not all members live in Flint, but since the Riveters are based in the area, they wanted to volunteer some of their time and help out where they could.

"They need the help. And for us being based out of Flint,

I felt like it was important that we be a part of that. I am all about volunteering. I like helping people, that's my thing," Ogadinma said.

In an effort to lend a helping hand and get their name out there, they spent a day helping to put water on a truck. Ogadinma wished she and the team could've done more. She has a 7-year-old daughter and couldn't imagine if she received chronic issues because of drinking home tap water.

"If I could fix pipes, I'd go in there myself. It's heartbreaking to read all the stories. It's not fair because a lot of them have development issues because of that," she said. "The residents didn't even know what was going on. They have all these



issues and they are going to have a hard time as they get older because those issues are never going to go away. The whole situation is sad."

There are currently two other Michigan teams competing in their league, Detroit Dark Angels and West Michigan Mayhem. The Riveters will compete in eight games beginning in April: four home and four away. Their first game will be April 2 against the Detroit Dark Angels.

The colors for the Flint City Riveters include black, silver, purple and white and will feature the image of a riveter. The tackle football team is not currently accepting new members since the season starts in seven weeks, but Ogadinma would like interested parties to come and attend one of their games to become acquainted with the team and see what it's all about. If all goes well this year, interested parties will have a chance to run with the Riveters next year in the 2017 football season.

Their first game against the Detroit Dark Angels will be at 7 p.m. on April 2 at John Glenn High School. John Glenn High School is located at 36105 Marquette St. in Westland.

For more information, visit their website at <http://flintcityriveters.com> or contact the team owners by email at [flintcityriveters@gmail.com](mailto:flintcityriveters@gmail.com).

## 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](http://www.christinecantrell.com)  
[christinecantrellphd@gmail.com](mailto:christinecantrellphd@gmail.com)





**Lori Macdonald**

Your RV sales professional for over 13 years  
248-349-0900 X 7079  
25000 Assembly Park Dr., Wixom, MI 48393



**Beyer Insurance Agency Inc**  
Lisa Beyer, President  
209 S. Center  
Northville, MI 48167  
Bus: 248-347-4480

## More coverage. Less spendage.

**Discounts up to 40%\***

Get more. Spend less. It's that simple when you get car insurance from us.

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

CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7.



\*Discounts may vary by state.  
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL  
0901127.1

## Metro Detroit Softball League Launches Newly Designed Website

BY BTL STAFF

Metro Detroit Softball League (MDSL) officially launched their newly designed website on Wednesday, Feb. 17 to prepare for the upcoming 2016 summer softball season beginning on May 1. The website will allow new players that are interested in joining the LGBT organization to register online, where it is expected the league will have the largest amount of participants in league history with 30 teams and approximately 550 players joining. More information about the league and how to register can be found at [mdsl.org](http://mdsl.org).

The website was redesigned for both players and managers so they can easily access the information needed for the 2016 season. Additionally, the softball league was able to create an easier registration process to allow more participants to join the organization. "We are always looking to reach out to members of the LGBT community and increase the diversity and social atmosphere of our league," Commissioner Robert Hellar said.

The MDSL is open to all persons who wish to play softball, regardless of sexual orientation, gender or gender identity. In addition, over 30 local businesses and supporters have sponsored the league, making the organization affordable for all players.

"MDSL relies on the generosity of our sponsors to keep the player fees quite reasonable and at the same time, the players are able to give back to the sponsors by supporting their businesses," Hellar said.

MDSL offers a 14 week season starting on May 1 and ending on Aug. 28. Each team plays two games on Sundays at Borden Park in Rochester Hills. After the games are finished, players are encouraged to attend "bar-of-the-week" hosted by the league's sponsors. This allows players to give back to the sponsors as well as meet other LGBT persons in the Detroit community.

The Metro Detroit Softball League is the only gay and lesbian

softball league in the Metro Detroit area serving Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Since 1985, this organization has offered recreational and competitive level play in different divisions for members of the LGBT community and its allies.

## Pistons Pride Night Coming March 6

**AUBURN HILLS** – The Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce has teamed up with the Pistons to promote Motor City Sundays on March 6.

Motor City Sundays give fans and the Pistons a chance to showcase their shared pride in celebration of all things Detroit and family.

The Detroit Pistons will wear their Motor City Pride jerseys exclusively for all Sunday home games, the Chamber announced. Doors will open early for Sunday tip-offs to give families and friends a chance to wrap up the weekend together and enjoy a Detroit Pride-centric game night experience.

The Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber has reserved Club 300 for all LGBT attendees who wish to network and enjoy the game. Tickets for the 300 club space at the March 6 game are \$60 and include all you can eat and drink. Beer and wine are included.

"This Pride night is different from the rest because we will all be together in a suite with great food, drinks and conversation," says Kevin Heard, board president of the chamber. "We host these events to meet other members of our community that are doing phenomenal things. Business owners, executives and advocates all come out to not only enjoy the game but also have conversations and create strategy on how to make the city more inclusive."

To purchase tickets for the March 6 game, go to [pistons.com/pridenight](http://pistons.com/pridenight). Use the promotional code: pride.

For more information, contact Abe Alcodray at the Pistons by phone at 248-371-2014 or email at [aalcodray@placenet.com](mailto:aalcodray@placenet.com).

Look for upcoming announcements about the chamber's second annual Red Wings Pride night and other group nights.

## Ann Arbor: Sports Charity Launches Online Tournament Fundraiser

Brackets For Good's online tournament launches in Ann Arbor Feb. 26.

Indianapolis-based Brackets For Good pairs with corporate and nonprofit sponsors to host online, bracket-style fundraising tournaments in philanthropic communities around the United States each March. Brackets For Good has helped raise more than \$1.3 million for local charities since its 2012 kick-off contest in Indianapolis. Participating nonprofit organizations compete to out-fundraise their opponents, earn increased exposure and have a chance to win \$10,000 from generous corporate sponsors. Nonprofits keep 100 percent of donations received during tournament play no matter how many rounds they last.

After expanding from the Indianapolis area to the Louisville, Kentucky area in 2015, Brackets For Good announced Feb. 12 the addition of three new markets and their surrounding areas in 2016: Minneapolis, Ann Arbor and St. Louis. A pep rally ahead of the launch of the online tournament will kick off the excitement and announce pairings for round one.

The tournament runs from Feb. 26-April 1, and can be accessed by going to [annarbor.bfg.org](http://annarbor.bfg.org).

Starting Feb. 26, LGBT people and their allies are invited to donate online to help their favorite nonprofit organization advance in Brackets For Good and get one step closer to \$10,000. These donations can be made by visiting [annarbor.bfg.org](http://annarbor.bfg.org). One point comes from \$1.

Title sponsor for the 2016 Ann Arbor Tournament is Valeo Financial Advisors; division sponsors are Zingerman's Community of Businesses and philanthropic community, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, United Way of Washtenaw County and James A. & Faith Knight Foundation.

Beyond raising dollars for nonprofits, Brackets

For Good has brokered partnerships with other associations to help participating nonprofits beyond the tournament itself. The IUPUI School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) in Indianapolis will provide participating nonprofits with expertise in the area of program and organizational evaluation. Top-rated donor management software DonorPerfect's involvement in the tournament will allow participating nonprofits to cultivate donor relationships while saving administrative hours.

### Who Should I Donate To?

A variety of LGBT and LGBT-friendly nonprofits are competing in the event. A few organizations to consider donating to include:

- Ann Arbor Civic Theatre
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
- Neutral Zone
- Arbor Opera Theater
- The Arts Alliance, Inc.
- Kerrytown Concert House
- Wild Swan Theater
- Riverside Arts Center
- Ann Arbor Art Center
- Ozone House
- The Brass Tacks Ensemble
- The Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan
- The Corner Health Center
- Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County
- Unified - HIV Health and Beyond

*The tournament runs from Feb. 26-April 1, and can be accessed by going to [annarbor.bfg.org](http://annarbor.bfg.org).*

## Lesbian Gay Community Network of Western Michigan becomes the Grand Rapids Pride Center

Grand Rapids Pride Center, an LGBTQ resource center, announces this week that the Lesbian Gay Community Network of Western Michigan has officially changed its name to the Grand Rapids Pride Center.

The Lesbian Gay Community Network of Western Michigan, known as The Network, has recently undertaken an extensive rebranding effort to better align with their mission, "Empowering our LGBTQ Community through supportive services and awareness."

"We are excited about this name change as it will allow us to be more in line with today's diversity/inclusiveness initiatives and resources that we offer," said Mike Hemmingsen, Board President.

*The center is located at 343 Atlas Ave. Southeast in Grand Rapids. Find out more at [www.grpride.org](http://www.grpride.org).*

For a full list of which nonprofits are featured regularly in BTL, visit [www.pridesource.com/directory.html](http://www.pridesource.com/directory.html).

>> [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)

## Name Change Presentation at Affirmations

**FERNDALE** – The Queer Legal Project will present its first ever Name Change Clinic on March 5 at Affirmations. The Name Change Clinic will provide attendees with all the skills and resources needed to legally change their name in Michigan.

The clinic will address the legal needs of the LGBT community, especially the trans community, who often times do not have access to competent legal advice. During the presentation, organizers will walk through the process of changing one's name and will provide printed materials of all the forms necessary so participants can follow along. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session for follow up questions about the process.

This is the first legal clinic for QLP, who hopes to continue these clinics on a regular basis, based on interest and support of the LGBT community.

The Queer Legal Project will begin at 1 p.m. March 5 at Affirmations. For more information visit the Facebook event page at [www.facebook.com/events/820593164716356](http://www.facebook.com/events/820593164716356).

*Affirmations is located at 290 West 9 Mile Road in Ferndale.*





Photo by Evans Tasiopoulos of the Theatre Company

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The Theatre Company of the University of Detroit Mercy and Matrix Theatre Company recently announced their first joint production, Robin Bradford's "Low Hanging Fruit." The production is the Midwest premiere of the work.

San Francisco based playwright Robin Bradford wrote "Low Hanging Fruit" after being inspired by articles in reference to the dramatic rise in homelessness amongst military women who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. Through her research she spoke to many people, including active and retired military personnel, government employees, volunteers in the private sector and homeless people living on the street. Bradford said her intention with the play was "to shed light on what can happen after we say, 'Thank you for your service.'"

"Low Hanging Fruit" tells the story of four ex-military women broken and damaged by their experiences and the ways they find to survive and cope on the streets through their friendship.

"For me, the real story is not only the shameful abandonment of the women who have served

**“**For me, the real story is not only the shameful abandonment of the women who have served our country, but also the power of friendship to support and sometimes heal us, even when we are badly broken.**”**

- Lisa Hodge Kander, director of the Detroit production

our country, but also the power of friendship to support and sometimes heal us, even when we are badly broken," said Lisa Hodge Kander, director of the Detroit production.

"Low Hanging Fruit" had a critically-acclaimed world premiere run at the Zephyr Theatre in Los Angeles in 2014. The Detroit production will feature local professional

associate guest artists Angeles Vara Pichetter as Maya, Denise Graham as Alice, and Theatre Company Alumni Karen Kron as Cory and Travis Reiff as Tito. Additional cast members include UDM theater students Autumn Russell as Yolanda, Sidney Mains as Canyon, and Avera Smith and Alexander Kendzuiuk as police officers.

Performances will be held at The Marlene Boll Theatre at the Boll Family Y.M.C.A. March 3-20. The production is a part of a larger initiative to raise awareness and support for female homeless veterans in the Metro Detroit area. The project will feature five different post-show audience enrichment events. Matrix Theatre Company will be leading these events, which will center on topics around female homeless veterans. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 3 p.m. on Sundays. Ticket prices are \$25 for general admission, \$22 for senior citizens, \$15 for veterans and \$10 for students. "Low Hanging Fruit" contains adult themes, strong language and is not recommended for young children.

"Low Hanging Fruit" tells the story of four ex-military women broken and damaged by their experiences and the ways they find to survive and cope on the streets through their friendship.

## Audience Enrichment Events

In addition to the 12 performances of "Low Hanging Fruit" March 3-20, and a clothing and goods drive, the project will feature five audience enrichment events. They include:

Sunday, March 6: A panel discussion following the show entitled "Same War, Different Battle: Women Soldiers, Women Veterans and Homeless."

Saturday, March 10: A story booth event before and after the show. Volunteers will have their responses recorded for an archival collection.

Sunday, March 13: A panel discussion following the show entitled "Healing Through Art."

Thursday, March 17: Pub Trivia Night following the show at The Detroit Beer Co. Teams will compete to earn prizes as they test their knowledge on homelessness and facts pertaining to female veterans.

Sunday, March 20: A panel discussion following the show entitled "Mother, Daughter, Sister, Soldier: Family Matters."

# crust

a baking company

artisan breads



cookies

fruit pies



cream pies

viennoiserie



muffins and scones

pastry



sandwiches

special event cakes



salads



104 W. Caroline at River, Fenton, MI  
[crustandbeyond.com](http://crustandbeyond.com) 810-629-8882



a Euro-bistro restaurant serving the most unique collection of Incredible Edibles and Notable Potables in southeastern Michigan.



125 W. Shiawassee at Adelaide  
 Fenton, Michigan 48430  
 810-629-8862  
[www.lunchandbeyond.com](http://www.lunchandbeyond.com)

Monday-Thursday 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.  
 Friday and Saturday 7:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.  
 Sunday 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

# Mr. Jackson

## If You're Nasty

### Cheyenne Jackson on Botox, His 'Bi Phase' & Getting His Butt Grabbed By Lady Gaga

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**H**as Lady Gaga touched *your* butt lately? It's a box Cheyenne Jackson can happily check off after his recent run on "American Horror Story: Hotel," playing a bisexual fashion designer who, by the grace of Gaga, got felt up by Mother Monster herself. Of course the screen and stage singer-actor's resume is far more extensive: Jackson has starred in a wide range of projects including "30 Rock," HBO's Liberace biopic "Behind the Candelabra," "Glee" and the 9/11-inspired "Flight 93," portraying late gay hero Mike Bingham.

Jackson's latest is "Day Out of Days," directed by Zoe Cassavetes, the daughter of filmmaker John Cassavetes and actress Gena Rowlands. In the film, now streaming via Digital HD and VOD, he plays a gay dermatologist lending his expertise to friend Mia (Alexia Landeau) as she tries to survive age-obsessed Hollywood. As an out gay man, Jackson knows the struggle, but he's stopped caring.

In a new interview with Jackson, the actor discusses his "fuck it" attitude at 40 (no more Botox for him), the butt-grab GIF Lady Gaga sent him and his passionate feelings on the Hollywood closet.

**You've played just about every variation of gay. How do you know if a gay character is right for you?**

I never pick something based on if it's gay or not. I just pick something if the character's right for me. I play a pretty healthy mix, although these days I've been playing a lot of bisexuals. I was bisexual on "Horror Story" and then I just finished a film where I also played bisexual, so I'm in a bi phase right now. Honestly, just the part has to

appeal to me. I really do love that there's such a broad spectrum I've played: gay guys who were more straight down the middle, and – though I hate this phrase – "straight acting," and all the way to "Behind the Candelabra" where I was just, you know, super cunt-y.

**When it comes to roles in general, how many scripts do you end up passing on?**

I make no bones about it: I'm not in a world where I just get offered all of these movies by any means. I've never put a number on it. I would say maybe five to seven offers a year and I'll do a few. It just depends. Doing a movie, especially an indie movie, you really have to love the subject and you really have to love the writer / director. It's such a labor of love – and I know it's an overused phrase – but it is if you're gonna be putting your blood, sweat and tears into it. And also, I don't wanna take time away from my husband and my home and my family just to do a little thing.

**While shooting "Love Is Strange" with Alfred Molina and John Lithgow, it was said that you informed them on gay vernacular, such as what it means to be a "bear." As the gay guy on set – maybe sometimes the only one – do you find yourself schooling your straight co-stars on everything gay?**

Oh, well, I've never been *the* gay actor on set – maybe I'm the only *openly* gay actor. But yeah, listen, I'm happy to be the go-to if people wanna know what shit means. I've been out since I was 19, so I gotta do something with all this information I have!

**You suggest that you've worked with many closeted gay actors, and we talk a lot about the Hollywood closet. Where do you stand on that?**

It's a personal thing. I mean, everybody should do their own thing, what is right for them. I hate it when people try to pull people out of the closet – who wants that? It's not good for them, it's not good for us; for whatever their own reasons are, they're not ready. Just leave people to do their own thing on their own time. I fully believe that. I mean, I came out when I wanted to because it was my time, and I hate the

whole witch-hunt aspect. Just mind your own business.

### Regarding "American Horror Story": Can we expect you in future seasons?

I hope so. We don't know yet. I think we'll all be finding out in the next few months.

### How aware are you that you've made just about every gay man jealous by having your butt touched by Mother Monster?

(Laughs) Oh, I knew! I knew as we were shooting it. We got to that scene, and it wasn't in the script exactly like that. But Gaga is so playful and comfortable with scenes like that and with her body. She was really fun and she put me at ease because I had never done a scene like that. So, we were just kind of playing around and she and I have such a comfort with each other, so between set-ups I laid down for a minute and she just started, you know, rubbing my butt and I'm like, "Ooh!" The director was like, "Oh, great; let's just do that," and that became a thing and I thought, "Oh, shit. I can see the screen caps now."

### You know, there's actually a GIF out there.

I know. She sent it to me that night. (Laughs)

### Who was guiding who during that sex scene?

It was definitely a give and take. I was nervous going into it because I had never really done nudity onscreen, but she's just great. I echo what everyone else says about working with her: She's a total pro.

### I was surprised to hear that you hadn't done a sex scene up until that point.

I mean, I've done kissing scenes and I've done post sex scenes and pre sex scenes, but nah. I'm definitely not shy about it. I'm totally into it. And since "Horror Story," I've already done a film where I have sex with a woman and *then* I have sex with a man. So, I'm hitting it.

### What's the film?

It's called "Hello Again." Michael John LaChiusa – it's based on his musical. Really great cast: Rumer Willis, Audra McDonald, Martha Plimpton and Tyler Blackburn.

### What's next for you?

I have a couple of things in the works. Right now I'm in New York doing "The Secret Garden" at Lincoln Center and I have a couple of other things lined up but can't talk about them because they're not signed on the dotted line. And I'm actually recording (a new album) in March in New York. I don't know if I wanna talk about what's on it yet, but it's definitely some covers and new stuff – stuff I've kind of been touring with the last few years, but I don't wanna say some of the names just yet.

### Like Mia in "Day Out of Days," you're also 40. Have your experiences in Hollywood been similar or different from Mia's? And in what ways?

Yeah, definitely different, because I'm a man. It's a different thing for women. Aging in

Hollywood, as we all know, can be brutal, especially if you're a woman. It's a subject that people have talked about before and even made art about, but I like this particular story that Zoe's telling just because it's from one woman's perspective, and I thought it was pretty great. Personally, I like getting older, and as a man, I like what's happening to my face. Yeah, sometimes it's hard to see more wrinkles and grey hair, which I'm totally getting, but it's way easier for men – way easier.

I've been thinking about this since doing this movie, when you do see the occasional actress who doesn't do anything to her face, like Kate Winslet – I saw something recently, and we're the exact same age – and she has some wrinkles and she looks gorgeous and I loooooove it. Oh my god do I love it. It's so beautiful.

### While we're on the topics of ageism and sexism, I recall your nude leak. I wonder if there's a gender disparity when this sort of thing happens like it did to you a few years ago, when a video surfaced. Do you think there's a difference in the way the public reacts to a male celebrity's leak – in this case yours – versus a woman's?

I'm not gonna speak to that at all.

### Fair. Let's move on. As a gay man, what kind of effect has sexuality had on your career?

That's a good question, but there's really no way to know what would have happened. I have been out my whole career. I came out during my very first big job in "All Shook Up" (in 2005) on Broadway. It was in The New York Times, and I just decided to get it out of the way so it wasn't a thing. What effect has it had? I have no idea. Do I think I have missed out on things because I am gay? Maybe. *Probably*. But there's no way to prove it. And if that's really how something would go down, I wouldn't want that (project) anyway. But things are definitely changing, and it's funny that you say "as a gay man" because I find pressure on gay men, especially in our society, to look young. It's almost like it is for women now. I see all these guys at the gym and everybody's – well, not everybody, but a lot of guys – have a lot of stuff going on with their face.

### Do you feel like you've been pressured to look a certain way?

Of course I feel the pressure – and I succumbed to it. I'm not against saying I used to do Botox and fillers for about three years. I got really into it.

### Why did you decide to stop?

I looked crazy. I didn't look like me. I think especially on men, Botox and filler doesn't make you look younger – I think it makes you look like you have Botox and fillers. It changed the shape of my eyes. I didn't have any wrinkles on my forehead, and it was crazy. And then I started to obsess about every little thing. Then three years ago I was like, "Fuck it. I'm just gonna let my face do what it's gonna do," and I'm so happy I did.

The Theatre Company and Matrix Theatre Company present

# LOW HANGING FRUIT

Midwest Premiere

by Robin Bradford  
Directed by Lisa Hodge Kander

A project supporting local female homeless veterans.  
[www.TheTheatreCo.com](http://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  
\$25 General Admission \$20 Seniors \$15 Veterans \$10 Students  
[www.UDMarts.com](http://www.UDMarts.com)

## Always Something happening at the \aut\ BAR

### Weekly Events and Specials

- Tuesday**  
Karaoke and 1/2 off wine
- Wednesday**  
\$1 off beer and free pool
- Thursday**  
Trivia with Terry and Thirsty Thursday  
1/2 off beer and well drinks with Student ID
- Friday**  
Bistro Fridays  
Special menu a la carte, or prix fixe 4-course meal for \$20
- Saturday**  
turnIT \aut\  
club night at the \aut\ BAR  
Progressive Drink specials
- Sunday**  
Salsa Night  
\$1 tacos  
Salsa lessons.

Like Us On

315 Braun Ct, Ann Arbor (734) 994-3677 | [www.AutBar.com](http://www.AutBar.com)

317 Braun Ct, Ann Arbor (734) 663-0036 | [www.GLBTBooks.com](http://www.GLBTBooks.com)

# Screen Queen

## Grandma, The Wiz Live!

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



### Grandma

Cool if we just let Lily Tomlin play every spunky lesbian grandma? Yeah? Thought so. The iconic comedian-actress is such a fire hose of sass and bottled-up sadness in the little godsend “Grandma” that it’s a travesty she hasn’t had a film role this meaty since 1988’s “Big Business” (your loss, ageist, sexist Hollywood). In the road-trip flick Tomlin plays Elle, a writer who’s just out of a four-month relationship with her “footnote” of a girlfriend (Judy Greer) when her teenage granddaughter (Julia Garner) shows up to drop the preppers bomb. Grandma dusts off the ol’ cruiser and the two of them wheel around on an abortion fundraiser, collecting a few bucks here and there from old flames and friends, including a tattoo artist (Laverne Cox). Directed by Paul Weitz, who also collaborated with Tomlin on 2013’s “Admission,” the great “Grandma” is a feminist vehicle that lets Tomlin run wild with an outrageous blaze of bon mots – at one point she sasses a barista about the redundancy of “drip coffee” – while also plunging deep into the character’s rough-around-the-edges complexities. Tomlin talks about the role during a behind-the-scenes feature and a film commentary.

### The Wiz Live!

“The Wiz Live!” was a disappointment for all the right reasons: It was actually good. If you were looking forward



to another spectacularly bad Carrie Underwood-in-“The Sound of Music” affair, then the surprisingly great and powerful Craig Zadan- and Neil Meron-produced “The Wiz Live!” was a big bummer. No tweet-hating this one, guys. In fact, the all-black stage take on “The Wizard of Oz” kept any and all abominations at bay. Audra McDonald didn’t even need to step in like the Goddess of Musicals that she is, at least not with Mary J. Blige, Uzo Aduba, Queen Latifah, Amber Riley, Shanice Williams and Stephanie Mills raising their voices up somewhere over the rainbow and into the far-off galaxies of greatness... and gayness. That’s right: In addition to Ne-Yo’s super innuendo-laden “Slide Some Oil to Me” number, Oz, in 2016, is a Latifah-run gay discotheque. Follow, follow? Glad to! Just don’t get your hopes up too high – there’s one measly extra.

### Freeheld

In “Freeheld,” Julianne Moore and Ellen Page unify their queerness to portray a powerful true-life story. They play lesbian lovers – a dream team that was bound for big things. But then it came out, and there were no Oscars, and few critics loved it. No wonder: It’s a glorified Lifetime movie. “Freeheld” earnestly tells the story of police officer Laurel Hester as she fights to transfer pension benefits to her partner, Stacie, after being diagnosed with terminal cancer. It’s heavy



stuff that’s heavy handed. The characters are mere shells, and Steve Carell is embarrassingly miscast as a self-proclaimed “big, loud, gay Jew.” As it trudges toward an end, and then another end, and then finally another end, piling on the bawl bait, it’s impossible to feel things if you don’t know who those feels are for. Luckily the more-captivating 40-minute “Freeheld” doc, released in 2007, is among the disc’s extras.

### Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (Signature Collection)

The first princess (and animated lady lead, period) from Disney’s enchanted drove of happily-ever-afters returns to further taint a new generation with the pre-Grindr notion that life is a fairytale and a prince will kiss you and save you and forever your heart will dance and the birds will sing. Cheers to that, and to the suspension of disbelief, am I right? The 1938 classic leads Disney’s Signature Collection, the animated tycoon’s latest from-the-vault series – and in all seriousness, it’s one of Disney’s best. What’s new? Archival footage of Walt discussing Snow White and “Iconography,” a breakdown of Snow White as an “OG Princess,” as one pundit calls her. (Snow White...gangsta...sure!) Also, a panel analyzes the style muses for Disney’s debut princess: Bette Davis and Betty Boop.

## Also Out



### The Danish Girl

The crying in “The Danish Girl” is forever, it seems. Tears of joy, of sadness. Of “I want the Oscar.” Throughout, director Tom Hooper works overtime for all that Academy Award consideration: hot-button topic (trans issues) meets Eddie Redmayne (beloved Oscar winner) meets melodrama (#tears). Loosely playing the first woman to undergo gender-reassignment surgery, Danish painter Lili Elbe, Redmayne carefully navigates womanhood at its most womanly. He’s good. Sometimes even better than that. But, because of the script’s relatively one-note characterization of Lili, it’s Redmayne’s co-star, Alicia Vikander, who projects true greatness, exploring the nuances and complicated reality of a patient and loyal lover. Regarding extras: Just one, which features the crew discussing the film’s journey to the screen.

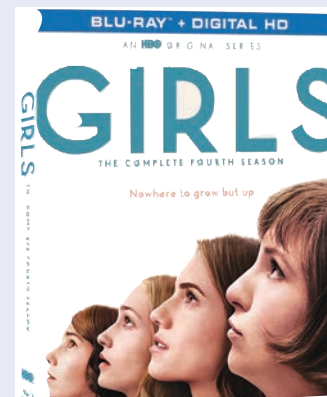
### The Intern

The devil wears... not Prada. As the CEO of her own booming fashion startup, Anne Hathaway, as Jules Ostin, is a rigid boss who’s so self-involved she can’t be bothered with remembering names. She’s also not the nicest. She gets it from her mom. In comes her right-hand man, and his name is Ben (Robert De Niro, who, notably, does yoga in the movie) and he’s widowed and 70 and basically a live-action version of the old man in “Up.” As it turns out, Ben needs Jules as much as she needs him. Like watching a millennial reluctantly help a tech-challenged elder figure out an iPad, the Hathaway-De Niro dynamic in Nancy Meyers’ odd-couple delight is a sweet thing to

behold. Special features are nearly nil. Just a few short bits on set decorations and the other interns.

### Bridge of Spies

Leave it to the ever-sublime pairing of Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg to put a fresh spin on the well-worn espionage subgenre. Together they tell the true story of New York lawyer James B. Donovan (Hanks), who, against America’s wishes, defends a suspected Soviet spy during the Cold War. But when Russians capture a U.S. pilot, Donovan demonstrates to both his country and family that heroic deeds don’t always happen overnight. Graceful, sophisticated, atmospheric – aesthetically, it’s Spielberg at his most Spielberg-y. A fraught, beautifully shot spy drama that builds to a surprisingly emotional closing, “Bridge of Spies” delivers in all respects, with Spielberg and Hanks turning in some of the best work of their respective careers. The supplements include four featurettes.



### Girls: Season 4

We briefly interrupt your “Broad City” binging to let you know that, yes, “Girls” is still on and that, yaaaaaa, it’s so good lately. Four seasons in and finally Lena Dunham’s cast of post-collegiate dawdlers are starting to figure it out. Maturity! Jobs! Rimming...? Why of course. Becoming a healthy, successful adult isn’t just moving to Iowa for your art a la Dunham’s Hannah – it’s getting your butt licked (a la Marnie, who’s still delusional and thinks she has a future as a musician). Revelations are constant. And queer. Zachary Quinto stars as a total schmuck. Plus, Andrew Rannells is still stealing scenes and Adam Driver is still taking his shirt off. The two-disc set includes Dunham’s commentary and gag reels.

# Staged Reading Explorers Challenges Veterans Face Returning Home

BY BTL STAFF

Dubbed “provocative and powerful” by The New York Times, the staged reading of “ReEntry” comes to the Wharton for two gripping performances. The play, by Emily Ackerman and KJ Sanchez, will be produced and directed by Bert Goldstein.

How do you go from battlefields to summer barbecues? What price does a family pay when husbands, wives, sons and daughters go off to war?

Based on interviews and testimony of soldiers and their families, this staged reading of “ReEntry” explores the challenges faced by over a dozen service members and their loved ones as they transition between home and deployment. Honest, moving and surprisingly funny, the reading takes audiences into the world of families and



Marines as they get ready for and return from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Characters directly address the audience as they speak the real words of veterans and their families, give unvarnished answers about what they’ve seen, and tell of the joys, challenges and frustrations of returning home from war.

Backstage calls the work, “Powerful high wattage theater. Scalding, moving and highly entertaining ... (places) hot-blooded life on the stage, a rare accomplishment that deserves to be

lauded and, more importantly, seen.”

The staged reading aligns with the Wharton’s mission statement of: enriching the lives of Michigan residents and strengthening the value of the arts in everyday life by serving as a leading resource for renowned arts entertainment and education programs.

“ReEntry” is for audiences ages 16 and up. This work contains explicit language.

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 26 and Saturday, Feb. 27. Tickets are \$13 for the general public, \$8 for students and military veterans and \$5 for “MSU Students All Zones” with APID.

The Wharton Center for Performing Arts is located at 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing, on the Michigan State University campus. For more information, call 517-353-1982 or visit [www.whartoncenter.com](http://www.whartoncenter.com).

## Cool Cities Lansing

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

**DAVID HARRIS, PH.D.**  
FULLY LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST



**Individual  
Couples  
Family Therapy**

**LANSINGPSYCH.NET**  
adjacent to msu campus

234 MICHIGAN AVENUE, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823  
(517) 337-6545 X 232 FAX: (517) 337-3010

## The Subaru Legacy.<sup>®</sup> Like snow other.



**The 2016 Subaru Legacy.** Go-anywhere Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive + 36 mpg<sup>2</sup>. A 2015 IIHS Top Safety Pick+ with optional EyeSight<sup>®</sup> Driver Assist Technology. It's a sedan that meets winter like a Subaru.



### Williams Subaru

525 N Howard St. Lansing, MI 48912  
517-484-1341 [www.williamssubaru.com](http://www.williamssubaru.com)

## Wag'n Tails Pet Resort

2802 Alpha Access  
Lansing, MI 48910  
Mon-Fri 8 am to 6 pm  
Sat 8 am to noon  
Sun 11 am to 5 pm

## Boarding/ Day Care 🐾 Grooming & Spa



## YOUR PET'S HOME AWAY FROM HOME!

Wag'N Tails Pet Resort has been welcoming pets from the Greater Lansing Area for over 20 years!

### Our Services

To help our guests enjoy their stay, each will receive all the love and attention they crave and deserve. Our services include: 🐾 Dog & cat boarding 🐾 Dog & cat grooming 🐾 Dog Daycare 🐾 Puppy socialization and obedience reinforcement 🐾 Leashed nature walks in Scott's Woods

517-482-7799



[www.wagntailspetresort.net](http://www.wagntailspetresort.net)



PATTERSON  
DOG



CAT  
HOSPITAL

Established in 1844

Glynes D. Graham, DVM  
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

3800 Grand River, Detroit, MI 48208-2866

tel: 313.832.7282 fax: 313.832.4990

www.pattersondogandcat.com



# Naked Men's YOGA



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

Contact Dave at [massage4@aol.com](mailto:massage4@aol.com)  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/  
michigan\\_mens\\_clothing\\_optional\\_yoga](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga)

# PHARMACY UPGRADE



248.542.2300

www.medcartpharmacy.com

1964 West 11 Mile Road, Berkley  
Between Woodward & Coolidge



## Editor's Pick

One of the few openly gay Christian singers/songwriters in the United States, Bobby Jo Valentine, makes a special appearance in Ferndale March 3. The artist, who won "Songwriter of the Year" from the West Coast Songwriters' Association, will give an intimate, acoustic concert of hopeful folk and pop.

Valentine has been called "the nicest guy to ever pick up an acoustic guitar" by LA Weekly. Brian

Lucey of The Black Keys and The Shins said of Valentine, "Five out of five stars. Bobby writes with a sweetness and honest seldom heard in acoustic pop music. Many speak of love and longing, but so few speak with compassion and with such hope."

Valentine will perform at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 3 at the Ferndale First United Methodist Church, 223311 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. The show is free and open to all ages. There will also be a free will offering. Visit [www.ferndalefirstumc.org](http://www.ferndalefirstumc.org).

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Friday, Feb. 26

**2016 Special Autorama Tours**  
10 a.m. Visit the building where Henry Ford designed the Model T! Tours last approximately 1.5 hours and include a short movie. Admission is \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 students and children under 12 are free. Ford Piquette Plant, 461 Piquette St., Detroit. 3138725759. [info@fordpiquetteplant.org](mailto:info@fordpiquetteplant.org) [fordpiquetteplant.org](http://fordpiquetteplant.org)

### Saturday, Feb. 27

**Erotic Poetry & Music Festival**  
8 p.m. An eclectic celebration of the erotic arts! Features music, poetry, art, vendors and more! \$10 and a portion of proceeds benefit Paws with a Cause. Static Network, 715 E. Milwaukee, Detroit. 313-873-2955. [info@staticrecords.com](mailto:info@staticrecords.com) [www.facebook.com/  
events/446601412209837/](http://www.facebook.com/events/446601412209837/)

### Sunday, Feb. 28

**A2CTs Annual Chili Cook-Off**  
2 p.m. Adults: \$20 for 10 chili tastings and 3 beer samples, Chili only \$10. Kids ages 5-10 \$5 for 5 chili tastings, kids under 5 are free. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, 2019 W. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228. [manager@a2ct.org](mailto:manager@a2ct.org) [www.a2ct.org/  
events/chili-cook-off](http://www.a2ct.org/events/chili-cook-off)

### Monday, Feb. 29

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

**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](mailto:khug@goaffirmations.org) [http://goaffirmations.org/  
programs-services/community-  
events-activities](http://goaffirmations.org/programs-services/community-events-activities)

### Thursday, March 3

**Bobby Jo Valentine** 7 p.m. Free. All ages. Openly gay Christian singer. First United Methodist Church of Ferndale, 22331 Woodward Ave., Ferndale.

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

### Saturday, March 5

**A Night with Janis Joplin** 8 p.m. Tickets: \$35.50-79.50. Olympia Entertainment, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611. [www.olympiaentertainment.com](http://www.olympiaentertainment.com)

### Sunday, March 6

**The Trans Day of Activism**  
All day event celebrating trans artists. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/  
programs-services/community-  
events-activities](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/community-events-activities)

**2016 Artistry of Hair & Fashion Show** 2 p.m. 2016 Artistry of Hair & Fashion Show/Sunday, March 6th Experience the 2016 Artistry of Hair & Fashion Show! See exotic Hair, Fashion & Avant Garde through the eyes

of Kevin Carter and his team as they prepare to compete in the Hair Olympics OMC Hairworld in Seoul, South Korea. Experience VIP - Tickets @ \$55 General Admission - Tickets \$35 Artistry of Hair Salon 248-442-9560 Brushed Beautiful, LLC 586-580-1706 Kevin Carter Artistry of Hair, 22001 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield. 586-580-1706. [edwina@  
brushedbeautiful.com](mailto:edwina@brushedbeautiful.com) Website

### Tuesday, March 8

**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](mailto:equality.emu@gmail.com)

### Wednesday, March 9

**Brackets For Good Online Tournament** Starting Feb. 26, online donations to help your favorite nonprofit organization advance in Brackets For Good and get one step closer to \$10,000 can be made by visiting [annarbor.bfg.org](http://annarbor.bfg.org). \$1 equals 1 point. Brackets For Good, Ann Arbor. [www.annarbor.bfg.org](http://www.annarbor.bfg.org)

### JCC of Metro Detroit Hosting Child Development Center Open House

9:30 a.m. The JCC of Metro Detroit is opening its doors and welcoming families to come and learn more about the people and programs at its Sarah and Irving Pitt Child Development Center (CDC). The open house will give families a chance to meet CDC staff and teachers. Tour the CDC facility. Learn about early childhood programs for children ages 2 months to Kindergarten. Experience first-hand CDC learning and growth activities. The Sarah and Irving Pitt Child

Development Center has earned a 4-star rating from the statewide program, Great Start to Quality. This rating ensures that Michigan's youngest children have high quality early learning experiences. Flexible scheduling allows for half-day, full-day and extended day care options. 2016 JCC Child Development Center Open House Details When March 9th and 10th from 9:30-11 a.m. Where JCC of Metro Detroit (6600 W. Maple Rd. West Bloomfield, MI 48322) Who Can Attend Anyone looking for a quality childhood developmental program that includes age appropriate educational and Judaic experiences and family involvement in a safe, warm and loving environment. More information [www.jccdet.org/ccopenhouse](http://www.jccdet.org/ccopenhouse) JCC of Metro Detroit, 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. 248-432-5582. [pittcdc@jccdet.org](mailto:pittcdc@jccdet.org) [www.jccdet.org/pittcdc](http://www.jccdet.org/pittcdc)

## MUSIC & MORE

### Concerts

**St. Andrew's Hall** "Tinashé" Tickets: \$25-30. St. Andrew's Hall, Detroit. March 3. [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

**The Fillmore Detroit** "Hoodie Allen" Tickets: \$20-45. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. March 4. [www.livenation.com](http://www.livenation.com)

**UMS** "The Chieftains" Tickets: \$10-\$60. Hill Auditorium, 825 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. March 5. 734-764-2538. [http://ums.org/  
performance/the-chieftains/](http://ums.org/performance/the-chieftains/)

### Dance

**Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit** "Dance to the Music" Tickets: \$15-24. The Music Hall Center for Performing Arts, 350 Madison St., Detroit. March 4 - March 6. 313-872-6910. [mosaicdetroit.org/our-season/  
singers/](http://mosaicdetroit.org/our-season/singers/)

### 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](http://www.michtheater.org)

### Other

**Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University** "ReEntry" Tickets: \$5-13. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Feb. 26 - Feb. 27. 800-WHARTON. [www.whartoncenter.com](http://www.whartoncenter.com)

See Happenings, page 32



# The Frivolist Best Pitcher Showcase 2016: Oscar-Inspired Cocktails to Get the Party Started



BY MIKEY ROX

Thirsty for Oscar? Watch the 88th Academy Awards go down in history – and hashtags (#becausesomebodyshadworkdone) – with these quenching cocktail recipes inspired by this year’s nominees and Hollywood’s biggest night.

## Red Carpet Ready

4 cups apple cider, chilled  
2 cups cranberry juice cocktail, chilled  
2 cups SPARKLING ICE Crisp Apple, chilled  
1 can (12 oz) frozen orange juice concentrate  
Apple slices for garnish  
Rosemary cranberry sprig for individual garnish, or float fresh or frozen cranberries in punch bowl

In a large bowl, mix all ingredients and let sit overnight. Serve chilled, garnish with rosemary cranberry sprig. Add a splash of vodka or Prosecco for a cocktail modification.

## Winter Vengeance – inspired by ‘The Revenant’

Created at the oceanfront resort Terranea in Los Angeles.  
3/4 oz Baileys  
3/4 oz Avera Amaro  
3/4 oz Cointreau Noir  
Egg white  
1 oz coconut milk

Garnish with coconut snow and rosemary.

## Life on Mars – inspired by ‘The Martian’

1 1/2 oz Ketel One Citroen  
1/2 oz Suze liqueur  
1/2 oz Carpano Antica Sweet vermouth  
3/4 oz fresh squeezed blood orange  
2 dashes Peychaud’s bitters

Garnish with blood orange slice and mint.  
\*created at Terranea

## Fury Road – inspired by ‘Mad Max’

2 oz Pelligroso Silver Tequila  
3/4 oz Heering Cherry liqueur  
1/2 oz lemon juice  
1/2 oz lime juice  
1/2 oz agave nectar  
2 dashes angostura bitters  
1 bar spoon harissa chili paste  
Muddled grilled pineapple that has been soaked in mezcacal  
Pinch of salt

Garnish with grilled pineapple slices/cayenne pepper/salt  
\*created at Terranea

## The Irish Goodbye – inspired by ‘Brooklyn’

Created by Keith Villanueva, bartender at Seattle’s Sazerac restaurant.  
2 oz Tullamore Dew Irish Whiskey  
1/2 oz dry vermouth  
1/2 oz sweet vermouth  
1/2 oz maraschino  
1/4 oz Amer Picon

Stir, strain and serve up. Garnish with lemon peel.

## Spotlight

Created by Andrew Call, bartender at Portland’s Bacchus Bar.  
1/2 oz Angostura bitters  
1/2 oz Soldera sherry  
1 oz lime juice  
3/4 oz rosemary simple syrup

Combine and shake over ice. Strain into a wide coupe glass and top with “creamed wine” (Oregon pinot, lemon and egg whites in a whipped cream canister). Notes: wine and rosemary are both used in religious ceremonies, so this is like an amped up version of holy wine, served in a glass with a spotlight-like rim.

## The Big Short

Created by Bryan Galligos, bartender at Portland’s Bacchus Bar.

1 oz Templeton Rye  
1/2 oz Campari  
1/2 oz dry Curacao  
1 bar spoon Fernet Branca  
2 dashes Peychaud’s bitters  
1 dash Angostura bitters

Combine and shake over ice. Strain into Nick and Nora glass and garnish with a large orange wheel. This packs big flavor into a small glass, hence “The Big Short.”

## Luck in East Berlin – inspired by ‘Bridge of Spies’

1 oz Luksusowa Vodka  
1/4 oz Lemon Juice  
1/4 oz Crème de Cassis

Shake and strain into a flute. Top with Prosecco. Garnish with a lemon peel.  
\*created by Keith Villanueva

## Something Wicked This Way Comes – inspired by ‘Room’

Created by Chad Phillips, head bartender at Seattle’s Pennyroyal bar.  
1 1/2 oz Four Roses Yellow Label Bourbon  
1/2 oz Green Chartreuse  
1/4 oz Fernet Branca  
3/4 oz Lemon Juice  
1/4 oz Simple Syrup  
8 Arugula Leaves

Combine all ingredients in a mixing tin and shake. Strain over rocks. Garnish with an arugula leaf.

## The Old Hollywood

1 oz Amaro Lucano  
1/2 oz fresh lemon juice  
2 oz San Pellegrino Limonata  
Bisol Jeio Prosecco  
Lemon wheel for garnish  
Ice

Mix Lucano, fresh lemon and San Pellegrino. Add 3 1/2-ounce mix to wine glass, fill with ice, top with Prosecco, and garnish with two lemon wheels.



Thursday, 3/3, 8 pm

**Suzanne Westenhoefer**

“America’s funniest lesbian!”  
--Curve




---

Thursday, 3/24, 8 pm

**Patty Larkin**



“A virtuoso guiter player and mood shaper”  
--New York Times

Tickets at the Michigan Union Ticket Office, The Ark Box Office or [theark.org](http://theark.org).  
**734.763.TKTS**  
316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, MI  
[www.theark.org](http://www.theark.org)



**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](http://www.mccdetroit.org)



Find us on: **facebook.**  
Search: MCC Detroit

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**

**MARCH SPECIAL**  
**50% OFF!**  
BUY ONE DVD AT REG. PRICE & REG  
THE SECOND DVD AT HALF PRICE  
**MARCH 1-22, 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

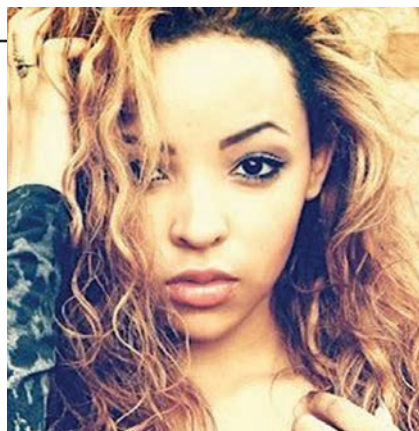
**WWW.UPTOWNADULTVIDEO.COM**

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

## Editor's Pick



For fans of Nicki Minaj, Tinashe comes to St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit on Thursday, March 3. The 22-year-old R&B singer was opener on the sold-out Nicki Minaj show at DTE last summer. Fans of other artists like Jhene Aiko, Sevyn Streeter, Omarion, August Alsina and more should appreciate Tinashe.

In addition to her success as a singer, Tinashe appeared in "The Polar Express" with Tom Hanks and had a recurring role in the show "Two and a Half Men" as Jake's girlfriend Celeste in 2008-2009.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 day of sale and available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). All ages are

welcome. St. Andrew's Hall is located at 431 E. Congress St., Detroit.

### Happenings

Continued from p. 30

### Shows

**Ford Piquette Avenue Plant**  
"2016 Piquette Plant Autorama!"  
Our complimentary hot cocoa bar will be available! . Ford Piquette Avenue Plant, 461 Piquette, Detroit. 10 a.m. Feb. 26. 313-872-8759. [fordpiquetteplant.org](http://fordpiquetteplant.org)

### 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](http://theatrenova.org)

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

**I Am Going To Dance For You Now** This dance concert features thesis research by Sara Yanney and Rachel Miller of Wellspring, Cori Terry & Dancers. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students, free for children 8 and under. Payments are CASH ONLY at the door. The first half of the concert is appropriate for

all ages. The second half of the concert has some adult content. Wellspring Theatre, Wellspring Theatre @ The Epic Center, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Ste. 204, Kalamazoo. 8 p.m. Feb. 27. 317-652-0591. [Sarayanneychan.com/i-am-going-to-dance-for-you-now](http://Sarayanneychan.com/i-am-going-to-dance-for-you-now)

**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](http://www.Purplerosetheatre.org)

### Civic/Community Theater

**Auditions for Disney's The Jungle Book** Free. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. March 1 - March 3. 734-971-2228. [www.A2ct.org/junior-theatre-auditions](http://www.A2ct.org/junior-theatre/junior-theatre-auditions)

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

**Low Hanging Fruit** . The Theatre Company of University of Detroit Mercy and Matrix Theatre Company, The Marlene Boll Theatre, Boll Family Y.M.C.A., Detroit. March 3 - March 20.

[www.TheTheatreCo.com](http://www.TheTheatreCo.com)

### Professional

**agua de luna (psalms for the rouge)** 18+. Matrix Theatre, Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley, Detroit. Feb. 26 - March 20. 313-967-0999. [www.Matrixtheatre.org](http://www.Matrixtheatre.org)

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.Flintarts.org)

## Michigan Non Profit Resource

### Have You Experienced Discrimination?

If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, intimidation, harassment or violence because of sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity, contact Equality Michigan's Department of Victim Services at :

**report@equalitymi.org or call 1-866-962-1147**

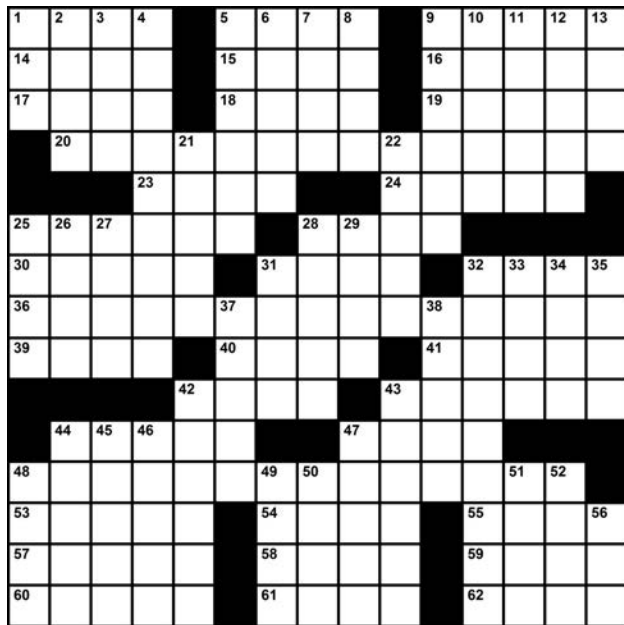
Equality Michigan is working with state legislators to update the Ethnic Intimidation Act to include proper protections for the gay and transgender community.

To get involved in the movement for better hate crimes law, contact [policy@equalitymi.org](mailto:policy@equalitymi.org).

**Hundreds more resources can be found at**  
**www.PrideSource.com**



# Q Puzzle



- 36 End of the comment  
 39 Cathedral of Hope area  
 40 Actor Richard  
 41 Stop with  
 42 Stuff stuffed under G-strings  
 43 Chicago's Peter  
 44 Like a dancer's diet  
 47 Arenas' house  
 48 Character who made the comment  
 53 Make heady  
 54 Laszlo of skincare products  
 55 Songwriter Holly  
 57 Computer lang.  
 58 Put out  
 59 Frequent award for "Modern Family"  
 60 Oceans  
 61 Go lickety-split  
 62 Amount of AZT, e.g.
- 21 Place for a G-string  
 22 Yarn buy  
 25 Mineral that glistens  
 26 One way to come  
 27 Scores for Burke  
 28 Islam's deity  
 29 Stroke it  
 31 They get laid only once  
 32 Brown at South Beach, e.g.  
 33 Gal Friday, e.g.  
 34 Peter the Great, e.g.  
 35 Jazz singer James  
 37 "Fabool!"  
 38 They go down south for the winter  
 42 Rides for a crËche threesome  
 43 "Tru" story subject  
 44 French textile city  
 45 O-o-o-o-klahoma native  
 46 Size of Mapplethorpe's opening  
 47 Skeptical sort  
 48 Anthropologist Margaret  
 49 Not once, to Lord Byron  
 50 Humorist Bombeck  
 51 DeGeneres' "Finding \_\_\_\_"  
 52 Tasty tubers  
 56 Seed spilled by some farmers

## Down

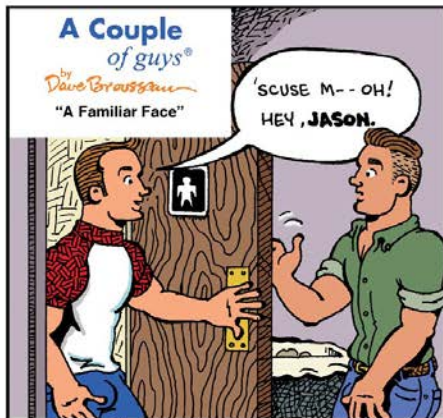
- 1 PC display  
 2 "Hey, sailor!"  
 3 Denial for Nanette  
 4 Saint who said "Give me chastity...but not quite yet"  
 5 Guy that cuts down trees?  
 6 Like someone blown away  
 7 Chihuahua child  
 8 Swirl around three men in a tub  
 9 Brown's "Murder, She \_\_\_\_"  
 10 Moore costar  
 11 Long  
 12 Ram as far up as you can get?  
 13 Poet Teasdale

# Piercing Remark

## Across

- 1 "Boys Don't Cry" character  
 5 Langston Hughes' "Life Is \_\_\_\_"  
 9 Poet Angelou and architect Lin  
 14 Cabbage, to Cocteau  
 15 Sooner city  
 16 Former NFL player Tuoalo  
 17 Porn star Long \_\_\_\_ Silver  
 18 Go down (on)
- 19 How to walk when you're tickled pink  
 20 Start of a comment to Pierce Brosnan's James Bond  
 23 Opponent of Tinkerbell  
 24 Joanna of "Growing Pains"  
 25 It shoots off in a high arc  
 28 Served perfectly, to Mauresmo  
 30 Alaska native  
 31 Precollege ed  
 32 Satisfy fully

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



**IGLESIA MARTELL**  
Law Firm, PLLC

*Holistic Law - Practicing From The Heart.*

Angie Martell, Partner

Experienced attorney and mediator with over 23 years of legal experience.

Specializes in:  
 Divorce & Family Law • Criminal Defense  
 Estate Planning & Elder Law  
 LGBT Issues • Mediation • Civil Litigation  
 Civil Rights • Business Law • Litigation  
 Employee Rights

MEMBER  
 BAR FAMILYLAW  
 INCLR INSTITUTE

117 N. First St., Suite 111, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
[www.iglesiamartell.com](http://www.iglesiamartell.com) | 734-369-2331

**Find us on Facebook**  
**Between The Lines Newspaper**

# 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>

**DETROIT**  
BASKETBALL

**PRIDE NIGHT**  
AT THE PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS

**SUNDAY, MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
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 6<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:AALCODRAY@PALACENET.COM)

Tickets are limited; get them before we sell out!



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

**301 EMPLOYMENT301 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](http://www.plymouthpsychologist.com)  
Dale@drstephaniewilliams.net

**428 PROF. SERVICES - MASSAGE**

**Licensed Swedish**

Auburn Hills  
Kansonn  
248-672-0669  
kanruba@yahoo.com

**1102 EROTICA - MASSAGE**

**MASSAGE**

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



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](http://www.miunified.org)



[www.facebook.com/HIVSTDHotline](http://www.facebook.com/HIVSTDHotline)



@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

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](http://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](http://www.pridesource.com/directory.html) or open the digital edition.



**BTL Pet of the Week - Meet Mustang**

Meet Mustang! This 1-year-old pit bull is an easy going you man! He loves to meet people and is sure to greet them with a big puppy kiss! 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, 823124.



Presented By

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsors



Hosted by Celebrity  
EmCee Jason Bowen



**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**

**BTLWeddingExpo.com**

**Free Parking • Register online today • Tickets \$10**

*Over \$25,000 in Giveaways Including  
Vacation & Entertainment Packages*

**Thanks To Our Community Partners**

**Affirmations • Equality Michigan  
ACLU of Michigan • LGBT Detroit**

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

Choose from any of our  
award winning designs



Customize your own  
unique masterpiece



**DIAMOND CASTLE**

*Jewelers since 1902*

39955 GRAND RIVER AVE  
NOVI, MI 48375  
(248) 442-2240  
[diamondcastlejewelers.com](http://diamondcastlejewelers.com)



**LASHBROOK**

[LashbrookDesigns.com](http://LashbrookDesigns.com)