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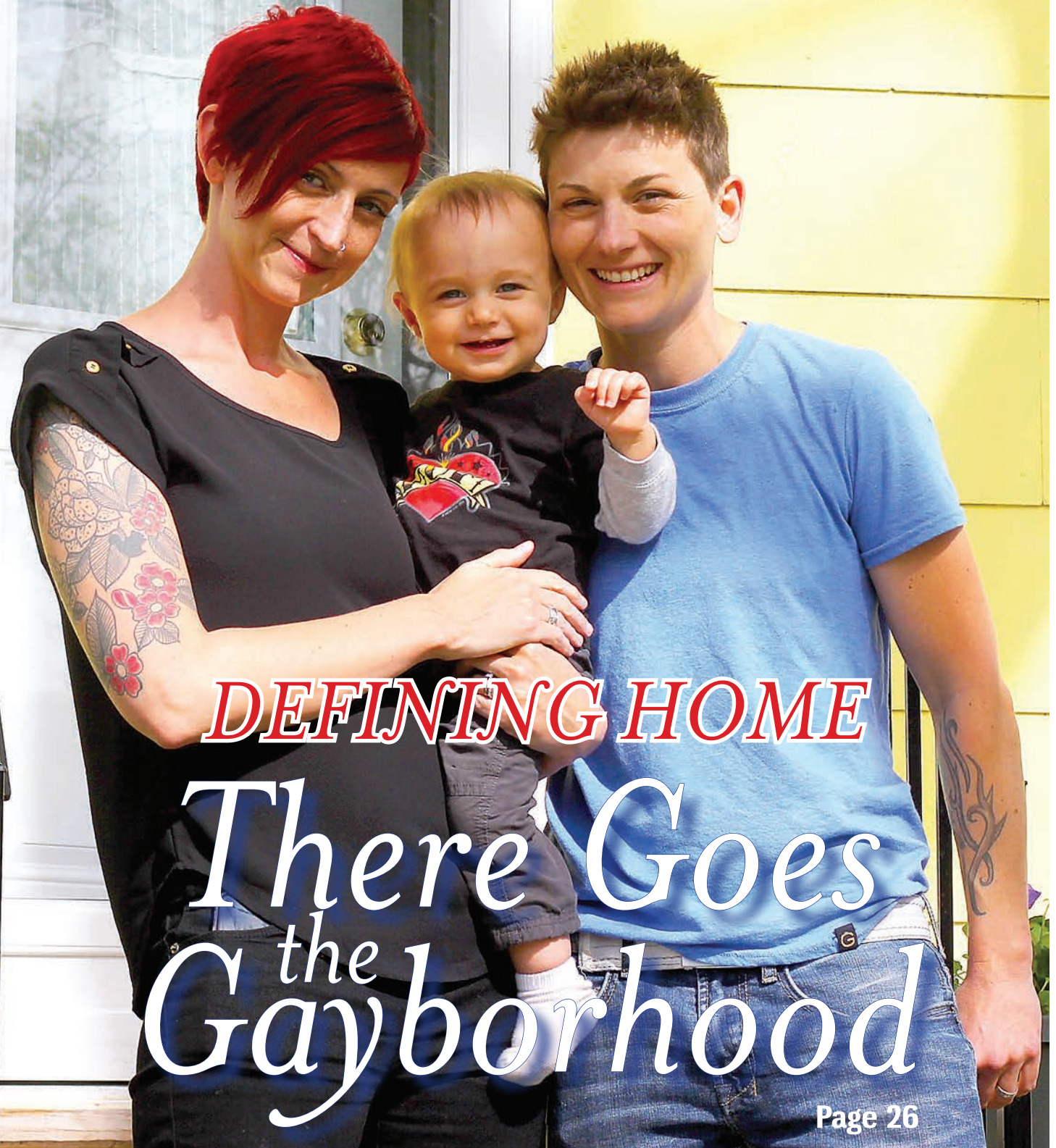
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Actual ATRIPLA patients.

ATRIPLA has been chosen by more than 500,000[†] people with HIV and their doctors. In the US, ATRIPLA is the #1 prescribed[§] one-pill, once-daily HIV treatment.

TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR OR VISIT ATRIPLA.COM TO FIND OUT MORE.

What is ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA[®] (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) is a prescription medication used alone as a complete regimen, or with other anti-HIV-1 medicines, to treat HIV-1 infection in adults and children at least 12 years old who weigh at least 40 kg (88 lbs).

ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections.

See your healthcare provider regularly while taking ATRIPLA.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

ATRIPLA can cause serious side effects:

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed lactic acidosis (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:

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

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity), with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death.

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

- skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- urine turns dark
- bowel movements (stools) turn light in color
- don't feel like eating food for several days or longer
- feel sick to your stomach (nausea)
- have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain

- You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), for a long time.

- If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a "flare-up" of your hepatitis. A "flare-up" is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need close medical follow-up for several months to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you need to discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

You and your healthcare provider should decide if ATRIPLA is right for you. Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

TAKING CARE OF

ME

WITH THE STRENGTH OF

WIFE

For adults with HIV-1,

Undetectable viral load is a goal, and ATRIPLA has the power to help get you there.

In a clinical trial:

- ATRIPLA has been proven to **LOWER VIRAL LOAD** to undetectable* in approximately 8 out of 10 adult patients new to therapy through 48 weeks compared with approximately 7 out of 10 adult patients in the comparator group†
- ATRIPLA has been proven to **LOWER VIRAL LOAD** to undetectable* through 3 years in approximately 7 out of 10 adult patients new to therapy compared with approximately 6 out of 10 adult patients in the comparator group†

SELECTED IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed build up of lactic acid in the blood, which can be a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.
- Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems, with liver enlargement and fat in the liver, which can lead to death.
- If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA. Serious birth defects have been seen in children of women treated during pregnancy with efavirenz, one of the medicines in ATRIPLA. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control, while on ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping ATRIPLA. Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective.

- **Are breastfeeding: Women with HIV should not breastfeed** because they can pass HIV and some of the medicines in ATRIPLA through their milk to the baby. It is not known if ATRIPLA could harm your baby.
- **Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **Have bone problems.**
- **Have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection.** Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA or may switch you to another medicine.
- **Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol**
- **Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures.** Seizures have occurred in patients taking efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, generally in those with a history of seizures. If you have ever had seizures, or take medicine for seizures, your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or monitor you.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

- ATRIPLA should not be taken with:
Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine),
COMPLERA® (emtricitabine/rilpivirine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate),
EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine),
Epivir® or Epivir-HBV® (lamivudine),
Epzicom® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine),
STRIBILD® (elvitegravir/cobicistat/emtricitabine/tenofovir DF),
Trizivir® (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine),
TRUVADA® (emtricitabine/tenofovir DF), or VIREAD® (tenofovir DF), because they contain the same or similar active ingredients as ATRIPLA. ATRIPLA should not be used with SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) unless recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Vfend® (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.
- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

Please see Important Safety Information continued on the following pages.

*Undetectable was defined as a viral load of fewer than 400 copies/mL.

† In this study, 511 adult patients new to therapy received either the meds in ATRIPLA each taken once daily or Combivir® (lamivudine/zidovudine) twice daily + SUSTIVA® (efavirenz) once daily.

‡Symphony Health Solutions, PatientSource APLD and Source® PHAST Prescription Monthly, counts are cumulative and equalized. January 2007–February 2015.

§Symphony Health Solutions, Source® PHAST Prescription Monthly, equalized counts, July 2006–May 2015.

ATRIPLA[®]
(efavirenz 600 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/
tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) Tablets

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take ATRIPLA. Tell your healthcare provider about all prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, or herbal supplements you are taking or plan to take.

What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may cause the following additional serious side effects:

- **Serious psychiatric problems.** Severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior have been reported by a small number of patients. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide, and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness.
- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems, or take other medicines that may cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.
- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems, including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** Lab tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia), which could lead to fractures. Also, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may lead to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your bones or may prescribe medicines to help your bones.

Common side effects:

- Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate). These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach; they tend to go away after taking ATRIPLA for a few weeks. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. These symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol and/or mood-altering (street) drugs.
- If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, and/or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.
- Rash is a common side effect with ATRIPLA that usually goes away without any change in treatment. Rash may be serious in a small number of patients. **Rash occurs more commonly in children and may be a serious problem.** If a rash develops, call your healthcare provider right away.
- Other common side effects include: tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

Other possible side effects:

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some people taking anti-HIV-1 medicines. Increase of fat in the upper back and neck, breasts, and around the trunk may happen. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these changes in body fat are not known.
- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen.
- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. If you notice any symptoms of infection, contact your healthcare provider right away.
- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness, and indigestion.

This is not a complete list of side effects. Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

You should take ATRIPLA once daily on an empty stomach. Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.

Please see the following Patient Information for more information about these warnings, including signs and symptoms, and other Important Safety Information.



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Patient Information

Rx ONLY

ATRIPLA® (uh TRIP luh) Tablets

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with ATRIPLA (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate).

Please also read the section “**MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA.**”

Generic name: efavirenz, emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (eh FAH vih renz, em tri SIT uh bean and te NOE' fo veer dye soe PROX il FYOU mar ate)

Read the Patient Information that comes with ATRIPLA before you start taking it and each time you get a refill since there may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment. You should stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking ATRIPLA. **Do not change or stop your medicine without first talking with your healthcare provider.** Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about ATRIPLA.

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

- **Some people who have taken medicine like ATRIPLA (which contains nucleoside analogs) have developed a serious condition called lactic acidosis** (build up of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of lactic acidosis:**
 - You feel very weak or tired.
 - You have unusual (not normal) muscle pain.
 - You have trouble breathing.
 - You have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting.
 - You feel cold, especially in your arms and legs.
 - You feel dizzy or lightheaded.
 - You have a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Some people who have taken medicines like ATRIPLA have developed serious liver problems called hepatotoxicity**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:**
 - Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
 - Your urine turns dark.
 - Your bowel movements (stools) turn light in color.
 - You don't feel like eating food for several days or longer.
 - You feel sick to your stomach (nausea).
 - You have lower stomach area (abdominal) pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analog-containing medicines, like ATRIPLA, for a long time.
- **If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking ATRIPLA, you may get a “flare-up” of your hepatitis. A “flare-up” is when the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before.** Patients with HBV who stop taking ATRIPLA need close medical follow-up for several months, including medical exams and blood tests to check for hepatitis that could be getting worse. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

What is ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA contains 3 medicines, SUSTIVA® (efavirenz), EMTRIVA® (emtricitabine) and VIREAD® (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate also called tenofovir DF) combined in one pill. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and SUSTIVA is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI). VIREAD and EMTRIVA are the components of TRUVADA®. ATRIPLA can be used alone as a complete regimen, or in combination with other anti-HIV-1 medicines to treat people with HIV-1 infection. ATRIPLA is for adults and children 12 years of age and older who weigh at least 40 kg (at least 88 lbs). ATRIPLA is not recommended for children younger than 12 years of age. ATRIPLA has not been studied in adults over 65 years of age.

HIV infection destroys CD4+ T cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

ATRIPLA helps block HIV-1 reverse transcriptase, a viral chemical in your body (enzyme) that is needed for HIV-1 to multiply. ATRIPLA lowers the amount of HIV-1 in the blood (viral load). ATRIPLA may also help to increase the number of T cells (CD4+ cells), allowing your immune system to improve. Lowering the amount of HIV-1 in the blood lowers the chance of death or infections that happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

Does ATRIPLA cure HIV-1 or AIDS?

ATRIPLA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS and you may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV-1 infection, including opportunistic infections. You should remain under the care of a doctor when using ATRIPLA.

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

Together with your healthcare provider, you need to decide whether ATRIPLA is right for you.

Do not take ATRIPLA if you are allergic to ATRIPLA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredients of ATRIPLA are efavirenz, emtricitabine, and tenofovir DF. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- **Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant** (see "What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?").
- **Are breastfeeding** (see "What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?").
- **Have kidney problems or are undergoing kidney dialysis treatment.**
- **Have bone problems.**
- **Have liver problems, including hepatitis B virus infection.** Your healthcare provider may want to do tests to check your liver while you take ATRIPLA or may switch you to another medicine.
- **Have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.**
- **Have ever had seizures or are taking medicine for seizures.**

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may change the effect of other medicines, including the ones for HIV-1, and may cause serious side effects. Your healthcare provider may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect ATRIPLA. For this reason, **it is very important to let all your healthcare providers and pharmacists know what medications, herbal supplements, or vitamins you are taking.**

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

- ATRIPLA also should not be used with Combivir (lamivudine/zidovudine), COMPLERA®, EMTRIVA, Epivir, Epivir-HBV (lamivudine), Epzicom (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine), STRIBILD®, Trizivir (abacavir sulfate/lamivudine/zidovudine), TRUVADA, or VIREAD. ATRIPLA also should not be used with SUSTIVA unless recommended by your healthcare provider.
- Vfend (voriconazole) should not be taken with ATRIPLA since it may lose its effect or may increase the chance of having side effects from ATRIPLA.
- ATRIPLA should not be used with HEPSERA® (adefovir dipivoxil).

It is also important to tell your healthcare provider if you are taking any of the following:

- Fortovase, Invirase (saquinavir), Biaxin (clarithromycin), Noxafil (posaconazole), Sporanox (itraconazole), Victrelis (boceprevir), or Olysio (simeprevir); **these medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with ATRIPLA.**
- Calcium channel blockers such as Cardizem or Tiazac (diltiazem), Covera HS or Isoptin (verapamil) and others; Crixivan (indinavir), Selzentry (maraviroc); the immunosuppressant medicines cyclosporine (Gengraf, Neoral, Sandimmune, and others), Prograf (tacrolimus), or Rapamune (sirolimus); Methadone; Mycobutin (rifabutin); Rifampin; cholesterol-lowering medicines such as Lipitor (atorvastatin), Pravachol (pravastatin sodium), and Zocor (simvastatin); or the anti-depressant medications bupropion (Wellbutrin, Wellbutrin SR, Wellbutrin XL, and Zyban) or Zoloft (sertraline); **dose changes may be needed when these drugs are taken with ATRIPLA.**
- Videx, Videx EC (didanosine); tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) may increase the amount of didanosine in your blood, which could result in more side effects. **You may need to be monitored more carefully** if you are taking ATRIPLA and didanosine together. Also, the dose of didanosine may need to be changed.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

- Reyataz (atazanavir sulfate), Prezista (darunavir) with Norvir (ritonavir), Kaletra (lopinavir/ritonavir), or Harvoni (ledipasvir/sofosbuvir); these medicines may increase the amount of tenofovir DF (a component of ATRIPLA) in your blood, which could result in more side effects. Reyataz is not recommended with ATRIPLA. **You may need to be monitored more carefully** if you are taking ATRIPLA, Prezista, and Norvir together, or if you are taking ATRIPLA and Kaletra together. The dose of Kaletra should be increased when taken with efavirenz.

- Medicine for seizures [for example, Dilantin (phenytoin), Tegretol (carbamazepine), or phenobarbital]; your healthcare provider may want to switch you to another medicine or check drug levels in your blood from time to time.

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take ATRIPLA. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all medicines that you take.

Keep a complete list of all the prescription and nonprescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking, how much you take, and how often you take them. Make a new list when medicines or herbal remedies are added or stopped, or if the dose changes. Give copies of this list to all of your healthcare providers and pharmacists **every** time you visit your healthcare provider or fill a prescription. This will give your healthcare provider a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

How should I take ATRIPLA?

- Take the exact amount of ATRIPLA your healthcare provider prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your healthcare provider tells you to stop.
- You should take ATRIPLA on an empty stomach.
- Swallow ATRIPLA with water.
- Taking ATRIPLA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- Do not miss a dose of ATRIPLA. If you forget to take ATRIPLA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of ATRIPLA, contact your local poison control center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your healthcare provider if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your ATRIPLA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to ATRIPLA and become harder to treat.
- Your healthcare provider may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take ATRIPLA.

What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?

- **Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping it.** Serious birth defects have been seen in the babies of animals and women treated with efavirenz (a component of ATRIPLA) during pregnancy. It is not known whether efavirenz caused these defects. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your healthcare provider if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control. Efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, may remain in your blood for a time after therapy is stopped. Therefore, you should continue to use contraceptive measures for 12 weeks after you stop taking ATRIPLA.
- **Do not breastfeed if you are taking ATRIPLA.** Some of the medicines in ATRIPLA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV-1 should not breastfeed because HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in the breast milk. Talk with your healthcare provider if you are breastfeeding. You should stop breastfeeding or may need to use a different medicine.
- Taking ATRIPLA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as ATRIPLA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines, including prescription and nonprescription medicines and herbal products, without checking with your healthcare provider.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

- Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 to others.
 - **Do not share needles or other injection equipment.**
 - **Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.**
 - **Do not have any kind of sex without protection.** Always practice safe sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may cause the following serious side effects:

- **Lactic acidosis** (buildup of an acid in the blood). Lactic acidosis can be a medical emergency and may need to be treated in the hospital. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get signs of lactic acidosis.** (See “What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?”)
- **Serious liver problems (hepatotoxicity)**, with liver enlargement (hepatomegaly) and fat in the liver (steatosis). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any signs of liver problems. (See “What is the most important information I should know about ATRIPLA?”)
- **“Flare-ups” of hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection**, in which the disease suddenly returns in a worse way than before, can occur if you have HBV and you stop taking ATRIPLA. Your healthcare provider will monitor your condition for several months after stopping ATRIPLA if you have both HIV-1 and HBV infection and may recommend treatment for your HBV. ATRIPLA is not approved for the treatment of hepatitis B virus infection. If you have advanced liver disease and stop treatment with ATRIPLA, the “flare-up” of hepatitis B may cause your liver function to decline.
- **Serious psychiatric problems.** A small number of patients may experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking ATRIPLA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems may occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your healthcare provider right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your healthcare provider can decide if you should continue to take ATRIPLA.
- **Kidney problems** (including decline or failure of kidney function). If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider should do regular blood tests to check your kidneys. Symptoms that may be related to kidney problems include a high volume of urine, thirst, muscle pain, and muscle weakness.
- **Other serious liver problems.** Some patients have experienced serious liver problems including liver failure resulting in transplantation or death. Most of these serious side effects occurred in patients with a chronic liver disease such as hepatitis infection, but there have also been a few reports in patients without any existing liver disease.
- **Changes in bone mineral density (thinning bones).** Laboratory tests show changes in the bones of patients treated with tenofovir DF, a component of ATRIPLA. Some HIV patients treated with tenofovir DF developed thinning of the bones (osteopenia) which could lead to fractures. If you have had bone problems in the past, your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bone mineral density or may prescribe medicines to help your bone mineral density. Additionally, bone pain and softening of the bone (which may contribute to fractures) may occur as a consequence of kidney problems.

Common side effects:

Patients may have dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with ATRIPLA. These side effects may be reduced if you take ATRIPLA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your healthcare provider right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if ATRIPLA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash may be common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your healthcare provider right away. **Rash may be a serious problem in some children.** Tell your child’s healthcare provider right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking ATRIPLA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, gas, and diarrhea.

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

Other possible side effects with ATRIPLA:

- Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.
- Skin discoloration (small spots or freckles) may also happen with ATRIPLA.
- In some patients with advanced HIV infection (AIDS), signs and symptoms of inflammation from previous infections may occur soon after anti-HIV treatment is started. It is believed that these symptoms are due to an improvement in the body’s immune response, enabling the body to fight infections that may have been present with no obvious symptoms. If you notice any symptoms of infection, please inform your doctor immediately.
- Additional side effects are inflammation of the pancreas, allergic reaction (including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat), shortness of breath, pain, stomach pain, weakness and indigestion.

Tell your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you notice any side effects while taking ATRIPLA.

Contact your healthcare provider before stopping ATRIPLA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with ATRIPLA. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of ATRIPLA and all the medicines you will take.

How do I store ATRIPLA?

- **Keep ATRIPLA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**
- Store ATRIPLA at room temperature 77°F (25°C).
- Keep ATRIPLA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
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For Kari Kildow, the city of Ferndale has come to mean family. It's where she first met her partner, Emily Hopkins, and where they've created a cozy, "thrift-store chic" home for their 1-year-old son, Leo. Photo: Emell Derra Adolphus

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Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

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EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief
Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

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

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Elder Gay Man Killed Over Alleged Unwanted Sexual Advance

GROSSE POINTE FARMS – A 49-year-old handyman from Warren has been charged in the stabbing of a 69-year-old interior designer from Grosse Pointe Farms.

Daniel Clancy, 69, passed away April 27 from injuries received during a March 6 altercation. The Detroit News reports that Clancy was found bleeding on the sidewalk outside of his home following an attack by David Scott Corzilius. Police said Corzilius stabbed Clancy repeatedly and then took some household items, including valuable paintings, which he then tried to sell at a pawn shop.

During a March 11 hearing, Grosse Pointe Farms Lt. Richard Rosati testified that Corzilius told police his original motive was to steal from Clancy but was upset over an alleged incident that occurred earlier the same day where Clancy tried touching his butt. According to Corzilius' reported police statement, he and Clancy fought and Clancy defended himself with a knife; however, Corzilius was able to take the knife from Clancy.

Corzilius' defense attorney, Timothy Doty, told the Detroit News that Corzilius is bipolar and suffers from substance abuse. Corzilius was undergoing hospitalization for a drug overdose when he was arrested.

Corzilius is charged with attempted murder, armed robbery and home invasion. He remains in custody on a \$1 million bond.

Clancy's memorial mass will be held at 1 p.m. on May 5 at Sts. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church located at 438 St. Antoine, Detroit. Clancy's long-time partner in business and in life for 35 years was the late Jack Perlmutter who passed away in January of last year. Clancy was known for his genuine kindness, infectious laughter and as a well-known raconteur.

Training for Mental Health Professionals Offered

FERNDALE – Longtime psychotherapist and executive director of Transgender Michigan Rachel Crandall will host a clinical training May 10 for mental health professionals working with transgender clients.

Participants in the training will learn how to create a safe, therapeutic environment for their clients; learn how to facilitate the client in telling their story; and will learn how to empower their client to make their own decisions.

Case managers and case workers are also welcome to attend. The training will be held from 1-4 p.m. at the Affirmations Community Center located at 280 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Seats for the clinical training are offered at \$60 a slot. To register, visit transgendermichigan.givezooks.com/events/tg-clients or call 517-420-1544.

Crandall has been working in therapy for over 30 years and has been training therapists in trans identities since 1981. The training is a service of Transgender Michigan.

MCC-D Pastor to Receive Doctorate Degree

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

FERNDALE – Reverend Roland Stringfellow, pastor of Metropolitan Community Church–Detroit for the past two years, will soon be adding the word “doctor” to his title. On May 22, he will graduate from the Pacific School of Religion with a doctorate degree in ministry.

“I wanted to pursue this degree in order to expand my knowledge on LGBT theology and how current political issues, such as the fight for marriage equality and challenging harmful religious liberty laws, have used religion as a tactic for discrimination,” Stringfellow said.

The aftermath to the Supreme Court decision on marriage equality, said Stringfellow, made earning this degree extremely timely.

“Many people realize that at the center of the opposition to LGBT equality has been the religious convictions of people,” he said. “This degree will allow me to continue to help LGBT people and our allies recover from the spiritual violence of condemnation, as well as challenge the misinterpretations of religious text when they have been used as weapons.

“Spiritual violence occurs when people inflict harm – intentional or not – toward others in the name of practicing their religion,” Stringfellow continued.

The title of the popular minister's doctoral thesis is “Liberating Religious Liberty.”

“I examined the history of ‘religious liberty’ in the United States and its importance to protect religious minorities,” Stringfellow explained. “However, as we have seen in states such as Indiana, North Carolina, Mississippi and Michigan, to name a few, religious and political conservatives

have claimed this ‘religious minority’ status to say they have been harmed by the advancement of LGBT equality. Yet this is a way they deny LGBT people their liberties. Thus we get lost in issues such as ‘bathroom bills’ against transgender individuals that



The soon-to-be Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow will graduate from the Pacific School of Religion with a doctorate degree in ministry May 22. BTL photo: Jason Michael

mask bigotry in the name of religion. My thesis offers many strategies on how to engage communities to create dialogues with people who believe their religious convictions allow them the right to deny services to people they disagree with.”

Stringfellow said he is now considering writing a book based on his thesis.

“The thesis itself is 240 pages and a

book unto itself,” he said. “Based upon my research and writing, I actually want to use a website (www.religiouslibertyforall.org) to help those searching for ways to organize a challenge to religious liberty laws so they can easily access this information. I have also organized public forums nationwide to discuss this issue of ‘Liberating Religious Liberty’ with progressive religious leaders.”

Having been involved in the fight for LGBT equality for many years, Stringfellow is intimately aware of the tricks frequently played by the religious right.

“I saw how conservatives had been laying the groundwork to challenge these new laws by using a page from their old playbook of ‘religious conviction’ as a way of resisting the high court’s decision,” he said. “We have seen this tactic used to deny liberties to African-Americans, women and others who they have disagreed with. I was frustrated with how religion is constantly co-opted by people – both conservatives and liberals – to justify their dislikes against those they disagree with. As a pastor, I care about how people are mistreated by religion and I want to help create healing and reconciliation for those who have been harmed. It is my hope this thesis will aid with this.”

And now that it's completed, Stringfellow said he hopes he is done with school.

“This is my fifth degree – an undergraduate, three masters’ and now the doctorate – and I do hope I am finished with school as a student. However, as a life-long learner, I would not mind teaching in addition to my role as pastor to help students in theological study understand how religious texts are meant to create life, not to cause alienation and death. I especially believe this is vital for LGBT populations who have been alienated by religious communities.”

State Board of Education to Hold Final Public Meeting on LGBT Guidelines

LANSING – The State Board of Education Office of School Support Services will hold its final meeting May 10 for parents, youth and community members to make public comment on a proposed set of guidelines that would make K-12 schools more inclusive for LGBT youth, especially for trans and gender non-conforming youth.

The “Statement and Guidance on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students” was first introduced earlier this year by John Austin, president of the Michigan State Board of Education, and was further outlined in a Feb.


23 memo from the Michigan Department of Education to the state board.

The LGBT guidance was created after schools and teachers requested best practices recommendations to create a more supportive learning environment for LGBT students in Michigan K-12 schools. The guidance recommends adopting policies that would protect LGBT students from harassment, designate a staff member who can provide students with information or support related to LGBT issues, call for students to be addressed by their chosen name and pronouns that “correspond with their gender identity,” provide support for

the formation of Gay-Straight Alliances, and more.

The public comment portion of the state board meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Hannah Building located at 608 W. Allegan Street, Lansing. Professional attire is recommended for those wishing to make public comment.

The Michigan Organization for Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH) will be meeting nearby to discuss talking points for those in favor of the proposed LGBT guidance. Contact Taryn Gal for more information at taryn.gal@moash.org.



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LGBT Rights Protesters Vow to Keep Fighting Mississippi Law

BY JEFF AMY

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) – Hundreds of supporters of lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender rights protested Sunday against a new Mississippi law they call discriminatory, saying they're not giving up their fight.

The law, which takes effect July 1, is to allow religious groups and some private businesses to deny services to same-sex couples and transgender people.

More than 300 people marched from the state Capitol to the governor's mansion in Jackson, the capital city, bidding to keep up pressure on Gov. Phil Bryant and other Mississippi leaders who support the law.

"We need to show him loud and clear we're not going away," Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, told the crowd gathered outside the white columned-mansion.

The only signs of activity inside the mansion's wrought iron fence were a few State Capitol police officers walking around.

Bryant and other supporters have said the law reinforces the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of religion. They also said opponents are overreacting, and that Mississippi needed to take action after the Supreme Court legalized gay marriage.

The law would allow a church group to decline services including housing or adoption to gay couples. Private businesses could refuse marriage-related services such as room rentals, cakes, photography or flowers. Any employer or school could refuse to allow a transgender person to use the bathroom of their choice.

Among government employees, clerks could refuse to issue marriage licenses and judges could refuse to marry gay couples. In both cases, governments are supposed to ensure licenses and marriages are "not impeded or delayed."

No state or local laws compelling services for LGBT persons had been passed in Mississippi. The measure prohibits cities and counties from passing such ordinances.

Speakers at Sunday's rally included the leader of the Mississippi chapter of the NAACP, an executive with the state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, and an Episcopal priest who was a plaintiff in a successful lawsuit to abolish Mississippi's ban on same-sex couples adopting children.

Many of the speakers likened the struggle against the law to the fight against 1960s era segregation of African-Americans.

"I don't like the repeat of this movie, when a Mississippi governor decides they want to make a name for themselves by attacking the dignity of an entire group of people," said Ben Jealous, former national president of the NAACP.

Jody Owens, managing attorney for the Southern Poverty Law Center in Mississippi, encouraged people who experience discrimination to call his organization, laying possible groundwork for a lawsuit or lawsuits.

"We need to know who's been targeted and why," Owens told the crowd.

After the rally, Owens said opponents might challenge the law by arguing about the general stigma it casts on particular groups. Yet he also said more concrete examples would make for stronger legal cases.

Gender Politics Playing a Big Role for Trump, Clinton

BY NANCY BENAC

WASHINGTON (AP) – She has no stamina. She shouts. She's got nothing going for her but being a woman.

Donald Trump, after toying with gender politics off and on during the campaign, is all in on a mission to undercut Hillary Clinton's credentials by syncing up his say-anything campaign strategy with his alpha-male persona.

The same Republican presidential candidate who mocked "little" Marco Rubio, dismissed "low-energy" Jeb Bush and promises to "cherish" and "protect" women as president is dismissing the former senator, secretary of state and first lady as little more than a token female who's playing the "woman's card."

"Frankly, all I'm doing is stating the obvious," Trump insisted, when pressed about whether his latest Clinton take-downs were sexist. "Without the woman's card, Hillary would not even be a viable person to run for city council."

That message may resonate with one subset of the electorate and touch off outrage with another. But for many other voters, Trump's line of attack is simply baffling when America is trying to deal with far more complex matters of gender, such as gay marriage and transgender rights.

"It's a very simplistic notion of gender," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. She said Trump is "putting out there a notion of masculinity" that fits with popular images of the presidency. "He is playing the gender card but not connecting it to policy, instead connecting it to his own macho image and his bravado."

Trump's messages about women represent a tangle of views, said Stanley Renshon, a political psychologist at the City University of New York.

There's the Trump who has no qualms about advancing women within his business enterprises, the Trump who disparages women just because "I can say whatever comes to mind," and the retrograde Trump who never outgrew an adolescent fixation with desirable and beautiful women, Renshon said.

"I don't think he knows how to talk

about them in a modern sensibility way," said Renshon, adding that the billionaire businessman is not used to having his utterances corrected by anyone.

Trump rival Ted Cruz says the GOP front-runner's attacks on Clinton are unsurprising.

"Donald Trump has a real problem with strong women," Cruz said. "It's one of the reasons he can't win a general election."

Trump's issues with women in the campaign extend well beyond Clinton.

He has mocked the face of onetime GOP rival Carly Fiorina, who's now Cruz's running mate. He's retweeted an unflattering image of Heidi Cruz, the Texas senator's wife, juxtaposed with a glamorous photo of his wife, Melania. He engaged in a long-running dispute with Megyn Kelly of Fox News in which he dismissed her as a "lightweight" and "bimbo," and described her at one point as having "blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever."

He was just as unfiltered in his thoughts about women and their appearances before entering politics. In 1996, Trump reportedly described a Miss Universe who had gained weight as "an eating machine." He described Rosie O'Donnell as "my nice fat little Rosie" in a 2006 spat. In 2012, he tweeted that Huffington Post editor Arianna Huffington was "unattractive both inside and out."

None of this has seemed to bother Trump's loyal followers in the GOP primaries. But it could be a different matter in the general election, when Republican candidates typically suffer from a gender gap. In every presidential election since 1980, a greater proportion of women than men preferred the Democratic candidate.

"The challenge for Republican candidates has been trying to make some inroads into that women's vote," Walsh said. "And it's hard to imagine that Donald Trump, as of right now, is well positioned to be the Republican candidate to make those inroads, given the things that he's said."

A woman's candidacy can cut both ways with voters.

In an Associated Press-GfK poll in February, 14 percent said a female

candidate would be at least somewhat less likely to get their vote. Likewise, 19 percent said a woman would be at least somewhat more likely to get their vote.

In the primaries, Trump has drawn a disproportionate amount of his support from men, with an average of 44 percent of men and 36 percent of women supporting him in states where exit polls were conducted.

Further, in a recent AP-GfK poll, women (66 percent) were slightly more likely than men (60 percent) to say they definitely would not vote for Trump in a general election.

Karlyn Bowman, a public opinion analyst at the American Enterprise Institute, cautioned that both Trump and Clinton "have a problem with gender in this election."

"Trump's is more serious," she added, pointing to his high unfavorable ratings with women, who make up a larger share of the electorate than do men.

Clinton, she said, shows significant weakness with white men, particularly white working-class males.

The question in November, Bowman said, will be whether party loyalty will trump gender politics.

"Party is really powerful in the end," she said.

Clinton is betting on gender.

After playing down women's issues in her 2008 campaign against Barack Obama, this time Clinton is embracing the historic nature of her candidacy and playing up her roles as grandmother and longtime advocate for women. She happily addressed Trump's accusations that she was making much of her candidacy as a woman.

"If fighting for women's health care, and paid family leave, and equal pay is playing the woman card," she said, "then deal me in."

As for Trump's intemperate remarks, Clinton told CNN's "The Lead with Jake Tapper" that she "could really care less."

"I have a lot of experience dealing with men who sometimes get off the reservation in the way they behave and how they speak," she said. "I'm not going to deal with their temper tantrums or their bullying or their efforts to try to provoke me."

Secretary of State, Her Staff, to Skip Tennessee Meeting

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) – The Washington secretary of state says no one from her office will attend a national conference in Tennessee in part because of a bill signed by the governor there allowing counselors to refuse to treat patients based on the therapist's religious or personal beliefs.

Republican Secretary of State Kim Wyman said in a statement April 27 that after consideration she will not go to the National Association of Secretaries of State summer meeting.

She also cited the state primary election happening shortly after the meeting and modernizing state systems as reasons for her to stay in Washington state.

Supporters say the bill protects the rights of therapists and allows them to refer patients to more appropriate counselors. Opponents say the legislation is part of a wave of bills around the nation that legalizes discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people.

Tennessee Governor Signs Religious Counseling Bill into Law

BY SHEILA BURKE AND ERIK SCHELZIG

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) – Tennessee's Republican governor said April 27 that he signed a bill into law that allows mental health counselors to refuse to treat patients based on the therapist's religious or personal beliefs.

"As a professional, I should have the right to decide if my clients end goals don't match with my beliefs – I should have the right to say somebody else can better serve them," Gov. Bill Haslam said in a phone interview with The Associated Press. "Lawyers can do that, doctors can do that. Why would we take this one class of professionals and say you can't do that?"

The American Counseling Association called the legislation an "unprecedented attack" on the counseling profession and said Tennessee was the only state to ever pass such a law. Opponents say the legislation is part of a wave of bills around the nation that legalizes discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people.

Haslam said he consulted several counselors on both side of the issue and that they all told

him that "this isn't about taking on or not taking on LGBT clients, because even the ones who said they think the bill is needed said they never actually turned someone down for this reason."

The governor said the decision by the ACA to update its 2014 ethics code took away therapists' ability to make decisions based on their values. Haslam emphasized that the law only applies to counselors in private practice and does not allow them to turn away people who are in imminent danger of harming themselves or others. It also requires that the counselors refer patients to other therapists if they decline to treat them.

The ACA has called the legislation discriminatory.

"We're just profoundly disappointed in the governor's decision and very disheartened by the fact that this was even passed by a legislative body anywhere in this country in the 21st century," Art Terrazas, director of governmental affairs for the ACA, said. He said the governor was wrong because doctors and other professionals can't just refuse to help people because of their personal beliefs.

Vulnerable people, Terrazas said, will be harmed as a result of a measure that gives therapists wide room to refuse to treat people.

The law says licensed counselors in private practice cannot be forced to serve a client as to the "goals, outcomes, or behaviors that conflict with the sincerely-held principles" of the therapist. It also shields therapists who use the law from being sued, prosecuted or punished by a licensing authority.

Supporters say the bill protects the rights of therapists and allows them to refer patients to more appropriate counselors.

The sponsor of the bill said the law restores what counselors did prior to the ACA updating its ethics code.

"That's what they had to do prior to 2014," Sen Jack Johnson, R-Franklin, said. "And keep in mind: no one, including the American Counseling Association, has been able to show that anyone was harmed by it."

The ACA vowed to work to change the law. "Even though this law is now signed and on the books, Terrazas said, it doesn't mean it cannot be repealed and doesn't mean that we're going to stop fighting."

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Violence Follows California Trump Rally, 17 Arrested

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS AND AMY TAXIN

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) – Raucous protesters of Donald Trump took to the streets in California in violent demonstrations leading to 17 arrests as the Republican presidential contender brought his campaign to conservative Orange County.

While Trump held a rally at a fairgrounds amphitheater, dozens waved anti-Trump signs outside in mostly peaceful protests and traded insults with masses of the candidate's supporters who had lined up to see him. Later in the evening, however, the protests swelled and grew rowdy and spilled into the streets.

One Trump supporter had his face bloodied in a scuffle as he tried to drive out of the arena. One man jumped on a police car, leaving its front and rear windows smashed and the top dented and other protesters sprayed graffiti on a police car and the Pacific Amphitheatre's marquee.

Dozens of cars – including those of Trump supporters trying to leave – were stuck in the street as several hundred demonstrators blocked the road, waved Mexican flags and posed for selfies. Some protesters badgered Trump's fans as they walked to their cars in the parking lot.

Police in riot gear and on horseback pushed the crowd back and away from the venue. There were no major injuries and police did not use any force. The crowd began dispersing about three hours after the speech ended.

Seventeen people were arrested, said Costa Mesa police Sgt. Mike Manson.

Earlier in the evening, a half-dozen anti-Trump protesters taunted those waiting to get into the venue. Trump supporters surrounded one man who waved a Mexican flag and shouted "Build that wall! Build that wall!" – a reference to Trump's call to create a barrier between the United States and Mexico to stop illegal border crossings.

At one point, seven shirtless women wearing Bernie Sanders stickers over their breasts entered the square outside the amphitheater. They said they were protesting Trump's lack of engagement on issues of gender equality and women's rights.

"I feel like he wants to make America great again, but certainly not for women, for the LBGTQ community or for the lower class," said one of the women, Tiernan Hebron, referencing the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. "He has, like, done nothing to help with gender equality or women's rights or reproductive rights or anything."

Trump has drawn large crowds across the country as he has campaigned for the White House and some of his events have been marred by protests and scuffles. The Pacific Amphitheatre was filled to its capacity of about 8,000 and a couple thousand more were turned away, said Orange County Sheriff's Lt. Mark Stichter.

Earlier this week, a Trump rally in nearby Anaheim turned contentious when his supporters and protesters clashed, and several people were hit by pepper spray. Trump was not present.

Ly Kou, 47, of Ontario, said she likes Trump because he has vowed to put the country first.

"It's obvious that America loves Trump," said Kou, who is from Laos, as she pointed at the waiting throng. "This thing about him being racist? Look around the crowd."

Presidential Candidates Speak Out on 'Bathroom Laws'

LGBT Community Turns Out for Clinton in April 26 Primaries

BY LISA KEEN

North Carolina's new law to bar transgender people from using public restrooms that correspond with their gender identity became a recurring theme in the 2016 presidential campaign this past week.

Republican presidential hopeful Ted Cruz was the only one of the five remaining presidential candidates to state support for the so-called "bathroom laws."

Republican frontrunner Donald Trump said he thought people should be able to "use the bathroom they feel is appropriate" then later said he thought it was a matter for each state to decide. Ohio Gov. John Kasich said he "wouldn't have signed the law." Both Democratic presidential candidates, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, called the laws discriminatory.

But Cruz went before reporters and rallies repeatedly to express his support for the laws and to mock Trump for opposing them.

"If Donald Trump dresses up as Hillary Clinton," Cruz said to a rally of supporters in Indiana April 24, "he still can't go to the girls' bathroom."

The audience laughed and applauded.

But his joke went over about as well as former presidential hopeful Marco Rubio's joke did about the size of Trump's hands. Out of 111 delegates up for grabs in the five states April 26, Cruz won one. Kasich won five. Trump won 105.

Trump won all five of the primaries in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware. He now has 77 percent of the 1,237 delegates he needs to secure the Republican presidential nomination.

On the Democratic side, Clinton won four out of five states. Sanders won Rhode Island. She now has 90 percent of the 2,383 delegates she needs to secure the Democratic presidential nomination. Sanders issued a statement, saying his campaign would continue but suggesting it was more focused now

on the "fight for a progressive party platform..."

Most evidence indicated the LGBT community's support in the April 26 primary states was behind Clinton, as it has been in most previous primaries. In Pennsylvania, for instance, Clinton carried the endorsement of the 60,000-member Equality Pennsylvania group, as well as that of the Philadelphia

Most evidence indicated the LGBT community's support in the April 26 primary states was behind Clinton, as it has been in most previous primaries.

Gay News and openly gay State Rep. Brian Sims.

"Among all the candidates, Secretary Clinton has the most comprehensive and compelling plan to achieve full equality for LGBT people in Pennsylvania and across the country," said Equality PA Executive Director Ted Martin. "She has called for a comprehensive ban on discrimination against LGBT people at the federal level, a ban on the terrible practice of 'reparative therapy' for LGBT minors, and a fully-fledged plan to combat HIV/AIDS, including a plan for an AIDS-free generation. She's fighting for us, so we are proud to be fighting for her to become the next president of the United States."

Also endorsing Clinton was the Liberty City LGBT Democratic Club. Club co-chair Tony Campisi said Clinton "has been a lifelong advocate for equality for all."

In Delaware, openly gay State Sen. Karen Peterson supported Clinton and was a member of her campaign's Delaware Steering Committee.

In Maryland, Clinton won the endorsement of openly gay State Delegate Maggie McIntosh and openly gay State Sen. Rich Madaleno. But former gubernatorial candidate Heather

Mizeur, who is also a superdelegate in Maryland and who supported Clinton initially, announced April 14 that she was endorsing Sanders.

The bathroom law focus got a surge of attention on April 21 when a question from the audience of NBC's "Today" show asked Trump to "speak about the North Carolina bathroom law."

Trump said one of the best answers he heard about the issue was a commentator saying, "Leave it the way it is ... There have been very few problems. Leave it the way it is." Trump noted the "strife" over the new law, including many businesses leaving the state.

"People go – they use the bathroom they feel is appropriate. There has been so little trouble and the problem with what happened in North Carolina is the strife and the economic punishment that they're taking."

"Today" co-host Matt Lauer asked Trump if he has any transgender people working for him. Trump said, "I don't know. Probably do. I don't know."

"So if Caitlyn Jenner were to walk into Trump Tower and wanted to use the bathroom, you'd be fine with her using any bathroom that she chooses?" asked Lauer.

"That is correct," said Trump.

In an odd choice of words, given the focus on the bathroom laws this week, Trump claimed in his Tuesday night victory speech that, "If Hillary were a man, I don't think she'd get 5 percent of the vote."

"The only thing she's got going is the woman's card," said Trump. "And the beautiful thing is women don't like her."

In fact, a CNN poll in mid-March found that 73 percent of women voters had a negative view of Trump. Asked how they would vote in a general election contest between Trump and Clinton, two out of three women said they would vote for Clinton. And exit polls from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Connecticut, according to CNN, showed "Hillary Clinton won handily among women."

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BTL and Me (Among Other Things)

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I started writing my Parting Glances column in 1999. Its premise was simple enough: choose an important LGB – and occasionally T – historical event that actually changed things for us, or challenged us to speak out on behalf of homosexual human rights, during the 20th Century.

The initial Parting Glances columns were 125 words in length. Many of these included my first-hand reminiscences of what it was like to be gay – but highly closeted – way back then. (I came out during my senior year at Cass Technical High School in 1956. I was a commercial art major.)

I also wrote interviews for BTL and tongue-in-cheek (singular, not plural), humorous pieces. As for the interviews: when I was writing for Ten Percent, an earlier Detroit LGBQ publication (now OutPost), I interviewed Jan Stevenson, then first director of Affirmations LGBT Center.

Jan apparently liked what I had to say about her and her insightful, her innovative, her strategic leadership – Jan, are you reading this? – and when she partnered with BTL co-publisher Susan Horowitz, who purchased Between The Lines 23 years ago, Jan asked me to write for the paper.

I of course said an enthusiastic yes! I have been with Between The Lines and Pridesource.com since day one. I estimate that I have written about 750,000 words for the paper, and about 600 Parting Glances columns, increased since 2002 to 650 words each!

(Footnote here: the previous owner of Between The Lines was a self-styled Radical Faerie who wanted BTL to be a militant, in-your-straight-face biweekly. Susan Horowitz saw the purpose of BTL to be more newsworthy and ecumenically outreaching. An important reason why I agreed to participate.)

As for my art, I was just last week mentioned by Detroit's weekly Metro Times for my art pieces appearing almost daily on Facebook since 2010. I estimate that, during the allotment of time, I have completed about 1,000 images. I average a new piece about every two days. Storage is becoming a problem.

I have lived a very fortunate life. I have, because of my artistic talent and being gay – yes, being gay! – for more than 60 years, met many creative and gifted gay and straight men and women in my life: musicians, dancers, artists, poets, impersonators, LGBT entertainers.

Fortunately, I had the guidance of wise mentors – one, my first partner at 19 – who stressed the importance of choosing and making a career and continuing my education at Wayne University. (I started writing for the Wayne Collegian in 1959)

My professional writing and ongoing creating of art might not have happened if one life-saving event had not taken place for me. Choosing sobriety. In 1981, I came face to face with the realization that my alcohol abuse, daily bingeing, had gotten out of control. I stood at the edge of a nightmare pit.

Hospitalization, rehab and group therapy extended over the next year of concentrated recovery. While in recovery at Cottage Hospital, an unexpected, ultimately rewarding door of opportunity happened. In initial therapy, we were told to go through magazines and cut out pictures indicative of our feelings.

In my alcoholic haze, I misunderstood. I created several collages. A nurse actually wanted to buy one. A year or so later I had my collages matted and framed. An artist friend suggested I enter them in competition for the Detroit Artist Market exhibition jurying. I did. Three pieces were accepted in a 1983 showing.

I have since then been creating art and BTL articles to share. One creation at a time. (Sometimes two.) One blessed – and happily sober – day at a time.

Charles@pridesource.com



Viewpoint

It's a Stacked Deck, but We've Got That Woman Card Up Our Sleeve



BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Life started out simple, or so it seemed. There were two boxes – female/girl and male/boy.

It was all supposed to be simple from there. We would walk down that female/girl path from that first breath to our last without variation. There were supposed to be few curves in this female/girl path, but that path was never a viable way for any woman.

You see, this female/girl path has always been filled with inequities and inequalities. Even if we stayed on the “path,” the sign posts of “you can’t,” “you won’t” and “you aren’t” thwarted our efforts at every turn. They told me I couldn’t, I wouldn’t and I wasn’t and like so many of my sisters I planted my hands firmly on my little female/girl hips and said, “I know I can, so I think I will.”

I am African-American, female, queer, an artist, activist, and so much more. I choose to live all of these aspects of my life out and authentically. You get the picture – I do a lot of things.

The lines of my life are more than criss-crossing. Some days the lines are so blurred, it’s like I’m standing on the central island of a crazy intersectional roundabout pulling me in so many directions it’s at best challenging, if not totally overwhelming.

I’ve got a full house in the game of “diversity and inclusion” but despite my education, accolades and perceived opportunities, the deck has still been stacked against me, because when too many look at that central

See Woman Card, next page

When they look at our gender identity, their woman card says lesbian love/relationships are “experimental” or for their prurient interest. When forced to face the legitimacy of our LGBTQ relationships, they insert the hate card to attack our families and insert their woman card, supposedly to protect women and girls, to attack our transgender brothers and sisters. With their “woman” card comes oppression, misogyny, disempowerment, repression and would turn back the hands of time not just for women but also for the country.

► Woman Card

Continued from p. 16

island of my roundabout, they still see that female/girl box.

We can go to space, lead companies, head foundations, serve in the military and, yes, raise families – but we are still women.

They see that female/girl box and deal their “woman card.” Their woman card says, “Women can’t be effective leaders.” Their woman card says we can’t make decisions about our own bodies. Their woman card says our work isn’t worth the same amount as our male counterparts. In their deck, the “woman” card is the joker and this joker must be tamed, never wild.

The “pink brick road” may be wider and go further than it did in the past, but the glass ceiling and the limited view of the abilities and value of a woman’s worth remains intact. If you had any doubt, just listen to the rhetoric of the current campaign.

At a forum at George Mason University earlier this year, Ohio Gov. John Kasich told a crowd that he won his 1978 election because women “left their kitchens” to support his campaign. When Fox News’s Megyn Kelly attempted to hold Trump accountable for his misogyny in a presidential debate, he dismissed the question as stupid and impertinent. Trump has referred to women he doesn’t like as ‘fat pigs,’ ‘dogs,’ ‘slobs,’ and ‘disgusting animals.’ Sen. Ted Cruz envisions a federal government under his administration that “works to defend the sanctity of human life and uphold the sacrament of marriage.”

When they look at our gender identity, their woman card says lesbian love/relationships are “experimental” or for their prurient interest. When forced to face the legitimacy of our LGBTQ relationships, they insert the hate card to attack our families and insert their woman card, supposedly to protect women and girls, to attack our transgender brothers and sisters. With their

“woman” card comes oppression, misogyny, disempowerment, repression and would turn back the hands of time not just for women but also for the country.

But we have our own “woman” card. We’ve been keeping it up our sleeve as we’ve played each hand. We have overcome our fear of stepping into the intersections of our realities and our coming together to flex our collective muscle.

We are throwing down our “woman” card and leading the movements – like “Black Lives Matter.”

We are throwing down our “woman” card and fighting for women’s healthcare.

We are throwing down our “woman” card demanding safety for all women and girls, both cisgender and transgender, not only in bathrooms but in schools, neighborhoods and everywhere.

We are throwing down our “woman” card for environmental and economic justice and for families – all families.

We are throwing down our “woman” card because empowering women is a powerful strategy for reducing poverty and achieving other development goals globally.

GOP frontrunner Donald Trump accused Democratic presidential frontrunner Hillary R. Clinton of trying to play the “woman” card to which she responded, “If fighting for women’s healthcare and paid family leave and equal pay is playing the woman card, then deal me in.”

Come November, we all need to be marching to the voting booth humming that Sister Sledge anthem – “We Are Family!” Yes, we are family, and I need every sister with me. It’s time for all of us to play that “woman” card up our sleeve, and not just win this election but also change the whole game.

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

Creep of the Week

Ted Cruz

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI



Ted Cruz is creepy. That’s not only a widely held opinion, it’s scientific fact. George Washington University neurology professor Dr. Richard E. Cytowic wrote in *Psychology Today*, “It’s hard to look at Ted Cruz’s face.” It’s kind of like that old joke: “Hey, does your face hurt, because it’s killing me!” Except Cytowic isn’t kidding. Cytowic takes years of experience reading faces and comes to the conclusion that Cruz’s face pretty much compels people to look away.

Of course, what a politician looks like isn’t really what matters (unless that politician is a woman, amirite?). What matters more is the company they keep and what they stand for. And if you’re LGBT or LGBT adjacent, you probably already know that Cruz’s face is the least of your worries.

Cruz is totally obsessed with transgender people right now. It won’t be long before he holds a press conference inside of a Target ladies’ room kicking open every stall door looking for “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” era Tim Curry.

He’s even sparring with Caitlyn Jenner, who posted a video on her Facebook page where she uses the women’s restroom at a Trump hotel. At the end of the video she looks into the camera and says, “By the way, Ted, nobody got molested.” Though I have to take issue with her use of “take a pee” three times in such a short clip – POINT MADE.

The Cruz campaign has been blasting Donald Trump for dismissing this whole transgender bathroom panic. In a campaign commercial, eerie music plays over a black and white image of some stall doors with the words, “Should a grown man pretending to be a woman be allowed to use the women’s rest room?”

The answer is, of course, “No.” Because that’s not even the issue here. Unless, of course, you believe – like Cruz – that transgender people don’t exist. They’re just loonies playing dress up and trying to take up skirt photos of your daughters and wife.

Then the video shows an image of Trump, also black and white, saying that he won’t take on “the PC police.” The ad leaves the viewer with Trump’s face next to the words, “He’s one of them.”

Ted Cruz is totally obsessed with transgender people right now. It won’t be long before he holds a press conference inside of a Target ladies’ room kicking open every stall door looking for “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” era Tim Curry.

Now, is Cruz merely calling Trump a member of the “PC police,” or is he also kinda sorta insinuating that Trump is a cross-dressing predator?

“This is not a matter of right or left, or Democrat or Republican. This is common sense,” Cruz told CNN. “And frankly, the concern is not of the Caitlyn Jenners of the world, but if the law is such that any man, if he feels like it, can go in a woman’s restroom and you can’t ask him to leave, that opens the door for predators.”

Ah, yes. The concern is not of the Caitlyn Jenners of the world. What does that mean, exactly? Is Cruz saying that trans men and women can pee all they want so long as they “pass” in public? Because Caitlyn Jenner follows traditional feminine conventions – not to mention the fact that she has the money for plastic surgery, hormone replacement therapy and whatever else she needs – she can pee where she wants?

Everybody else? Pee at home. And only at home. No, seriously. That’s Cruz’s position on this issue. Problem solved. Everybody go home. Literally.

But don’t worry, Cruz hates LGB people, too. His list of endorsements reads like a Creep of the Week Family Reunion. He’s a man who isn’t afraid of the hate in his heart. Not to mention the fact that he has a scientifically ugly mug.



By Sam Potter

IF YOU suffer from low back pain and sciatica, you are one of over 20 million adults in the USA with this often crippling spinal condition.

Shooting, stabbing and burning pains from the low back, sometimes with additional pain through the buttocks and down the legs are all symptoms of a pinched nerves often called "sciatica".

In severe cases, it can lead to muscle wasting, numbness and constant tingling down to the tip of the toes. Left untreated, the intense pain can rapidly wear you down and drain the joy out of life.

That is, until now...

Recent advances in the treatment of sciatica and lower back pain have led to the development and huge success of Non-Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care.

The excellent results of this treatment have been published in major medical journals. With success rates as high as 90% some back surgeons recommending their patients try this treatment first before having back surgery.

In Livonia, you can try Non-Surgical Re-constructive Spinal Care at the Kramer Chiropractic – the office low back pain and sciatica relief expert Dr.Gregory Kramer.

Gregory and his team of fully trained spinal care specialists have helped over 3,000 patients find relief from their agonising spine based problems .

According to Gregory, "We use a combination of ultra-advanced technology, not found elsewhere in Livonia, for precisely

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Patient Sister Marie. from Dearborn says, "I could not walk, stand , sit , work, sleep for 7 or 8 months!

I was given various drugs but many I was allergic to and the others only lasted a hour and then pain returns again.

Dr.Kramer has restored my health and allowed me to work and live healthy!

Thank god I called your number It's like a miracle to me.

Your invitation for a comprehensive consultation and examination to pinpoint the cause of your low back pain and sciatica...

The Observer&Eccentric has teamed up with the spine therapy specialists at Kramer Chiropractic, to help readers find relief from their persistent back and sciatic pain.

All you have to do to receive a thorough diagnostic examination with the most advanced technology in the world and a comprehensive easy to understand report on your state of health is call 248-615-1533.

Mention this article (CODE: BOS37SCID5) and Greg will happily reduce his usual consultation fee of \$195 to just \$37. But hurry, due to obvious reasons – this is a time limited offer – with only 100 reader consultations available at this exclusively discounted rate.

My advice, don't suffer a moment longer...

Find out if Non-Surgical Re- Constructive Spinal Care can help you, book a consultation with Greg and his team now by calling 248-615-1533, they are waiting to take your call today.

They actually treat the cause of your health problem, not just your symptoms.

That's why hundreds of grateful patients tell them "You gave me back my life!"

Over the years, they've treated thousands of patients with back problems and sciatica. The vast majority of them have enjoyed superior, lasting relief. In fact, many who've

suffered and have tried other remedies have told them they gave them back their lives!

Call them now and get a full and thorough examination to pinpoint the cause of your problem for just \$37, the normal cost of such an exam is \$195 so you will save \$158!

Don't suffer from the pain and immobility any longer. Discover the natural treatment that can eliminate the cause of your problem and give you the safe, lasting relief you deserve.

Call them now on 248-615-1533 and cut out or tear off this valuable article now and take it to your appointment. You'll be entitled to a comprehensive examination to diagnose the cause of your problem – and you'll be on your way to safe, lasting relief! Don't delay your important diagnosis and treatment another moment!

You can even call on the weekend and leave a message on their answer machine to secure your spot as they promise to return all calls; and during the week they are very busy, so if they don't pick up straight away do leave a message.



Sciatica Relief Expert Greg Kramer, says: In 20 years of practice, I've never seen a treatment as effective as Non- Surgical Re-Constructive Spinal Care for patients with sciatica or lower back pain. All Federal Guidelines Are Followed.



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Become A Pride Volunteer

Get involved with Motor City Pride by joining our "Pride Team" as a volunteer! We have a number of positions, shift times and days available to fit any schedule. Volunteering at pride is a great way to meet other people and become involved with the pride movement. Volunteers receive free admission to the festival, a t-shirt, snacks, food and much more! Individuals can sign up to volunteer at

<http://www.signupgenius.com/index.cfm?go=s.signup&urlid=20f044bac-a92fa4fe3-motor&view=standard>

Motor City Pride Parade

Presented by the FIAT Brand

The Motor City Pride Parade is the highlight of the weekend for many festival attendees. Join us as thousands gather in the streets of Detroit to celebrate and make our presence in the community known. Floats, Queens, Cars & more the parade bring together a fantastic cross section of groups, companies and entertainers for an exciting march to Hart Plaza!

**The parade will
step off at noon on
Sunday, June 12, 2016.**

Exhibit locations are filling up!

Motor City Pride is the largest gathering of the LGBT community in the state of Michigan and is a terrific place for your company or group to connect and get noticed. There are a variety of different exhibit options and price points available to fit any size group. We have booth space available for small non-profit groups, vendor spaces for those looking to sell products, spots for larger groups & companies looking to make an impact.

The vendor application can be found at Register.motorcitypride.org

Live Entertainment

Motor City Pride is proud of our five stages of entertainment that offers a large and diverse entertainment lineup over two days of the festival. The lineup for 2016 will be released in a few weeks.

Admission

There will be a \$5.00 cover each day of the festival. There is no charge for children 12 and under.

Stay Informed

Festival information can be found at www.motorcitypride.org

Follow us on Facebook at Motor City Pride for updates and features on acts performing at the festival.

Motor City Pride is sponsored by the following companies that support our goal

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Bill Would Require Colleges to Reveal Religious Exemptions

BOSTON (AP) – Congresswoman Katherine Clark is pushing legislation she says will help members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community make more informed decisions about college.

Clark’s bill would require the U.S. Department of Education to publicize colleges and universities that apply for or receive exemptions from federal civil rights protections for students on the grounds of religious freedom.

The Massachusetts Democrat says at least 56 colleges and universities have pursued the exemptions since 2013. She says the exemptions enable discrimination against LGBT students in student admissions, financial aid, housing, sports and clubs.

The bill would require institutions that have applied for exemptions to say so on their websites.

Clark says religious institutions of education have the right to exercise faith, but the surge of discrimination disguised as faith is disturbing.

Oregon Bakery Owners File Appeal in Gay Wedding Cake Case

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) – Oregon bakery owners who denied service to a same-sex couple are arguing that a state ruling ordering them to pay \$135,000 in damages violates state and federal laws.

The Oregonian reports (<http://bit.ly/1rBSNBY>) that bakery owners Aaron and Melissa Klein filed a brief with the Oregon Court of appeals last week arguing the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries violated the Kleins’ rights as artists to free speech, their rights as Oregonians to religious freedom and their rights as defendants to a due process.

Damages were awarded in July for emotional suffering caused by Sweet Cakes by Melissa, which three years ago refused to make a wedding cake for Laurel and Rachel Bowman-Cryer. The bakers said their refusal was prompted by religious beliefs.

Omaha Man Found Guilty of Burning Couple’s Gay Pride Flag

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) – An Omaha man accused of stealing a gay pride rainbow flag and burning it has been found guilty.

The Omaha World-Herald reports that 24-year-old Cameron Mayfield was found guilty April 27 of arson. Prosecutors said that the charge was prosecuted as a felony, not a misdemeanor, because the incident was investigated as a hate crime.

Mayfield was accused of taking the flag from the porch of a lesbian couple who lived near him, setting it on fire and waving it in the middle of the street in March 2015.

James Martin Davis, who is Mayfield’s attorney, argued the act was a drunken prank and not a hate crime.

“Just because the victims are gay doesn’t make it a hate crime,” Davis has said.

Mayfield had testified that he thought the flag was a spring ornament, not a gay pride flag, and that he had no idea that the his neighbors were gay.

Prosecutor John Alagaban was more than a bit skeptical. He pointed out that Mayfield passed three or four neighbors’ homes – and all the flags hanging on their homes. The prosecutor also pointed out all the steps Mayfield took to steal the rainbow flag.

“His actions were too purposeful to not be targeting this couple and that item,” Alagaban said.

Mayfield faces up to two years in prison.

New Killings in Bangladesh Leave LGBT Community Full of Fear

NEW DELHI (AP) – The killing of two gay rights activists in the Bangladeshi capital has driven the country’s already secretive and small gay community underground, wondering if they can trust a government that considers their status to be criminal, rights groups said.

Police detectives say they are working with evidence including a mobile phone, documents and witness testimony to solve the case, in which a gang of young men fatally stabbed a theater actor and the editor of Bangladesh’s only LGBT rights magazine, who also worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development.

But with these being the latest killings in an ongoing wave of violence targeting atheist writers and outspoken moderates, members of Bangladesh’s minority groups and civil society worry they’re not safe, while rights groups question the government’s repeated claims that the situation is under control.

That fear is especially strong among members of Bangladesh’s largely closeted gay community.

“They have gone into hiding. They are feeling particularly vulnerable,” said Meenakshi Ganguly of Human Rights Watch. “Being gay is hard enough in conservative societies.”

After the government advised those at risk to simply lay low and avoid offending others, she said, “LGBT people are hardly likely to have faith in a government that pretty much denies the LGBT community exists.”

Already, five people have been killed this year, after nine were slain in 2015. But while authorities have arrested suspects in some of those cases – mostly low-level operatives following orders in allegedly carrying out the attacks – none has yet been prosecuted, and authorities have yet to identify the masterminds. Police say they are waiting until investigations are complete before taking any suspects to court. For the 2013 killing of an atheist blogger, a court has sentenced two men to death and six others to time in prison.

The attacks follow a similar pattern: a group of young men wielding knives or machetes approach their victim as his guard is down, perhaps while he is strolling down the street or relaxing at

home. The men spew hateful language, then hack and stab at the victim before disappearing, often without a trace.

Nearly all of those killed are considered soft targets: atheist bloggers, foreign aid workers, a university professor, and now gay rights activists.

Nearly all the attacks have been claimed by transnational Islamist extremist groups, including the so-called Islamic State and various affiliates of al-Qaida.

The government has dismissed these claims of responsibility, saying these groups have no presence in the Muslim-majority nation of 160 million in South Asia. Instead, it says the attacks are part of a campaign by domestic groups aligned with political opposition parties who want to undermine Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s secular government and restore Islamic rule. It has yet to publicly present any evidence of such a campaign.

The opposition has denied the allegations, saying they are being scapegoated for Hasina’s failures in maintaining security.

“These attacks are politically motivated, well-planned to destabilize the country,” retired Maj. Gen. Abdur Rashid, a security analyst, told The Associated Press. But that doesn’t mean the effort isn’t coming from abroad or coordinated with international groups, he said. “This is designed to create sense of insecurity among people

so they get terrified, and they are succeeding in doing that.”

Responsibility for Monday’s attack was claimed by the AQIS-affiliate Ansar al-Islam, which said its victims were targeted as “pioneers of practicing and promoting homosexuality.”

One of the victims, Xulhaz Mannan, was one of the most prominent gays in Bangladesh as a leading activist and editor of the *Roopbaan*, a LGBT rights magazine he launched in 2014. Bangladesh outlaws homosexual relations, punishable by up to life in prison.

Mannan had openly described how difficult it is to be gay in Bangladesh. In a 2014 blog entry, he called Bangladesh “a country where the predominant religions identify a same sex lover as a sinner, the law of the land as a criminal; social norms as a pervert; culture as imported – how should life be for LGBTs in Bangladesh?”

With police apparently struggling to prevent more targeted attacks, many members of civil society have become spooked into moving abroad or going underground.

Human rights lawyer and activist Sara Hossain, a friend of Mannan, ridiculed the government’s repeated statement that they have the situation under control.

“If it is so, then why people are being killed in every 24 hours?” she asked.

US Urges Action by Bangladesh to Prevent Killings

WASHINGTON (AP) – Secretary of State John Kerry called on Bangladesh’s leader to step up law enforcement to prevent a wave of killings targeting liberal voices, the State Department said Friday amid fears that the traditionally moderate South Asian nation is under threat from Islamic extremists.

Kerry called Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on April 28 and offered U.S. support for the investigation into the slaying of Xulhaz Mannan, a U.S. Agency for International Development employee and gay rights activist, and Tonmoi Mahub, a theater actor.

Their killings were the latest in spate of bloody attacks on secular writers, bloggers, foreigners and religious minorities that began in 2013 but have intensified in the past year. Hasina’s government has blamed the political opposition for the attacks although al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have been claiming responsibility.

“The secretary urged Prime Minister Hasina to ensure a thorough investigation of all of these incidents, and to redouble law enforcement efforts to prevent future attacks and protect those who are at risk,” the department said in a statement.

While authorities have arrested suspects in some cases, none have been prosecuted, and authorities have yet to identify the masterminds.

A woman with her hair styled up, wearing a white, strapless, beaded wedding gown with a full, ruffled skirt. She is holding a large bouquet of white flowers. The background is a dark, solid color.

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Detroit Couple Talks DIY Wedding, Getting Through Darkness and More

BY AJ TRAGER

INDIAN VILLAGE – Not many folks plan a wedding for a Tuesday evening, but for newlyweds Jermaine Moore and Matirio Matters, the rainy day of April 5 was the only one they would accept.

The couple met 17 years ago at a holiday party but didn't start dating until two years later on April 5. They share a home with their three cats on Detroit's east side, which was completely rearranged to accommodate for the 42 guests that arrived for their wedding.

Matters and Moore began planning their wedding a year in advance at the 2015 LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo, hosted by Between The Lines Newspaper. They knew that they didn't have a huge budget to spend on wedding accouterments but wanted to ensure that their day was as spectacular as their union.

"A lot of work went into the planning. Last year's wedding expo helped a lot because we were able to meet a great photographer that we liked. We got a lot of info from last year. When it was time to work on the planning, I pulled out the bag from last year's expo and we got to work," Moore said.

Despite going to the Wedding Expo and hooking up with vendors like Tappers who made their rings, Moore and Matters ran into significant trouble putting their wedding together when Matters came down with a debilitating case of pneumonia which then led to a severe case of laryngitis, which he is still battling.

Moore, however, wasn't going to stop preparation for anything and spent the four months before the wedding deep cleaning the house, preparing and installing the decorations, ordering the chairs, watching YouTube videos to get a feel for how to make boutonnieres and bouquets, and acquiring many of the extras that couples don't expect to need before they plan a wedding.

"He did a really good job," Matters said. "He was working and then took some overtime. Before work he was running around, and then at the same time he was taking care of me. It was really, really good what he did."

Due to thorough planning they were able to transform their home, get the rings, rent tuxes and put together the bouquets all for around \$2,000.

Unexpectedly, their good friend Nkéngé Burkhead became an ordained minister so she could read their wedding ceremony. As a surprise she added in her own poem written as an homage to affirming commitment and the love shared between the happy couple.

"For me, it doesn't feel any different because of the time that we have been together and the things we have together. We're going to be together for the next

Moore told BTL.

His partner, however, did not feel the same. For Matters, officially getting married has made him feel closer to Moore and says it now feels like a legitimacy of their bond.

"It is constantly in my head that he's not my partner and not my boyfriend; he's actually my husband," Moore said. "I feel different in my heart. Nothing should change about our expectations.



Matirio Matters and Jermaine Moore on their wedding day.

"Now I need to go to my HR representative and update my file so that it reads husband, not partner. Things like that have crossed my mind. It's a sense of officially belonging to someone."

– Jermaine Moore

We know who we are. The thing about us is from the time we've been together we've changed, adjusted and adapted. That makes me feel that we're different and that there's going to be longevity because of that reason – the fact that we know how to adapt."

The couple says the key to a lasting relationship is that, even in the darkest arguments, they both know that they want the relationship to work and are therefore willing to compromise. It also helps that they are able to put their own egos in check when dealing with disagreement.

"You have to really want a relationship, and you have to be willing to listen to your other half," Moore said. "You have to be willing to get an understanding of their feelings and different situations and things like that. In disagreements, both of you have to be willing to listen and communicate openly with one another."

30 years. It didn't feel any different. But now I need to go to my HR representative and update my file so that it reads husband, not partner. Things like that have crossed my mind. It's a sense of officially belonging to someone. It's still weird having a wedding ring on that finger. It takes some getting used to,"

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Study Shows No Differences in Family Relationships, Child Health Outcomes Between Same-Sex and Different-Sex Parent Households

LOS ANGELES – Households with same-sex parents show no differences from those with different-sex parents with regard to spouse or partner relationships, parent-child relationships, or children's general health, emotional difficulties, coping and learning behavior according to a new report by researchers affiliated with the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law, the University of Amsterdam and Columbia University.

"This study is the first to use a nationally representative survey to compare the two types of households by focusing only on those with parents that have been in a continuous relationship," said lead author Henny Bos, Ph.D.

The study, titled "Same-sex and Different-sex Parent Households and Child Health Outcomes: Findings from the National Survey of Children's Health," compared family relationships, parenting stress and child outcomes in households with female same-sex parents versus different-sex parents.

Ninety-five same-sex parent households were matched to 95

different-sex parent households on eight demographic characteristics – parental age, education, U.S. birth status and current geographic location, and the studied child's age, gender, race/ethnicity and U.S. birth status.

"In recent years, several courts have thrown out the testimony of witnesses who have attempted to draw conclusions by comparing children of same-sex parents who were not continuously coupled, and whose children had experienced family transitions (parental separation, adoption, foster care, etc.), with children of different-sex parents in stable families," said UCLA Professor of Law and Faculty Director at the Williams Institute, Douglas NeJaime. "In these cases, courts have either rejected these comparisons as invalid research or rejected the expertise of the witness trying to make such comparisons."

Although the study found no differences in family relationships and child outcomes, same-sex parents reported more parenting stress.

"Future investigations might explore

whether the cultural spotlight on child outcomes in same-sex parent families is associated with increased parenting stress," said psychiatrist and co-author Dr. Nanette Gartrell, visiting scholar at the Williams Institute. "Some of our earlier studies have shown that lesbian mothers feel pressured to justify the quality of their parenting because of their sexual orientation."

The study used data from the 2011-2012 National Survey of Children's Health, a nationally representative population-based survey on children's health approved by the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The study is published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*, the official journal of the Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics.

Read the full study at http://journals.lww.com/jrnldb/Fulltext/2016/04000/Same_Sex_and_Different_Sex_Parent_Households_and.1.aspx.

Study Says LGBT Inclusion in Films Static, Diversity Drops

BY LINDSEY BAHR

LOS ANGELES (AP) – Hollywood films remained static in their inclusiveness of LGBT characters in 2015, but the racial diversity of those characters fell dramatically, according to the findings of GLAAD's annual study.

In a survey released Monday by the advocacy group, 17.5 percent of last year's films from the seven major studios contained characters who were lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Though unchanged in total percentage from last year, the racial diversity of the LGBT characters has plummeted. Last year, 32.1 percent of the LGBT characters portrayed in the 126 films were people of color. This year, it's down to 25.5 percent.

The revelation comes at a time of increased scrutiny around the inclusion of people of color in Hollywood films, following a second year of all-white Oscar nominees in the acting categories and a damning USC report about the "whitewashed" industry.

Many times, too, the LGBT characters are used solely as a punchline targets, said GLAAD's President and CEO

Sarah Kate Ellis.

"Hollywood's films lag far behind any other form of media when it comes to portrayals of LGBT characters," Ellis said. "The film industry must embrace new and inclusive stories if it wants to remain competitive and relevant."

While television continues to make strides with shows like "Orange is the New Black" and "Transparent," films are also missing the mark in their representation of transgendered characters.

Only one major studio film featured a transgender character – the critically derided Reese Witherspoon and Sofia Vergara buddy comedy "Hot Pursuit." Even worse, it's an increase from last year.

For the four years that the study has been done, each of the seven major studios are given a grade of "good" "adequate" or "failing" for their slates. Lionsgate Entertainment, which had the most films with LGBT characters out of the seven, 20th Century Fox, Sony Pictures, and Universal Pictures were all deemed adequate. Paramount Pictures and Walt Disney Studios, however, were given a failing grade because

none of their 2015 films included LGBT characters.

The report provides LGBT-focused synopses on many of the films counted, and many which were not, giving explanations as to why portrayals were positive or negative, or lambasting films for "gay panic" jokes.

Going forward, an "adequate" grade will no longer be acceptable, according to the report. Next year GLAAD will hold the studios to a higher standard with the use of a five-star scale.

The studios' art house divisions, like Focus Features and Fox Searchlight, fared better overall. Of the 46 films surveyed, 22 percent were LGBT-inclusive, up from 10.6 percent last year with releases like "The Danish Girl," "Grandma" and "Chi-Raq."

Notable 2015 films like the lesbian romance "Carol" and the transgender sex worker drama "Tangerine" were acknowledged in the report, but not included in overall percentages because they were from specialty and independent distributors and studios.

Online: www.glaad.org



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DEFINING HOME



John Corvino and Mark Lock have been proud residents of Sherwood Forest since 2002. BTL photo: Andrew Potter



For Kari Kildow, the city of Ferndale has come to mean family. It's where she first met her partner, Emily Hopkins, and where they've created a cozy, "thrift-store chic" home for their 1-year-old son, Leo.

“Honestly, home to me is really wherever Emily is.”

There Goes the Gayborhood

Where Metro Detroit LGBT Couples are Putting Down Roots and Why

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

There's more to home than simply where you lay your hat. For many LGBT couples of Metro Detroit, home starts with welcoming communities and open minds.

For Kari Kildow, the city of Ferndale has come to mean family. It's where she first met her partner, Emily Hopkins, and where they've

created a cozy, "thrift-store chic" home for their 1-year-old son, Leo.

"Most people want to live in a nice safe neighborhood. Being an LGBT person, the neighborhood might be safe, but you never know if it is safe to be LGBT there," says Kildow. "Honestly, home to me is really wherever Emily is."

The 700-square-foot east Ferndale home Kildow shares with Hopkins has been in Hopkins'

family for generations – "It was built in about 1940," she says – and is in a neighborhood where the couple feels modern families can thrive.

"We don't want to live somewhere where we are the only gay couple, let alone the only gay couple with children," says Kildow. "(Ferndale) is a place where we can be together and feel safe and comfortable."

See *Gayborhoods*, page 28

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“ We definitely considered the LGBT-friendliness of the neighborhood. Detroit’s historic neighborhoods are generally quite LGBT-friendly, and Sherwood Forest has even exceeded our expectations. ”

– John Corvino

► Gayborhoods

Continued from p. 6

When considering where to live in Metro Detroit, many couples are turning to historic neighborhoods and are finding themselves pleasantly surprised.

John Corvino and his partner Mark Lock have been proud residents of Detroit’s Sherwood Forest since 2002.

“We definitely considered the LGBT-friendliness of the neighborhood,” says Corvino. “Detroit’s historic neighborhoods are generally quite LGBT-friendly, and Sherwood Forest has even exceeded our expectations.”

Although they are in a neighborhood of classic homes – theirs is a 1937 Tudor-style home measuring approximately 3,000 square feet – Corvino has found the neighbors to have a modern mindset.

“I actually think this is one advantage to Metro Detroit’s not having a full-fledged ‘gayborhood,’ such as, for example, Chicago’s Boystown,” he says. “We mix with different people; we get to know one another. And that personal interaction is a big part of what’s driving progress on (LGBT) issues.”

When Nick Piotrowski and his partner John Davis made the move to their 1,600 square foot home in Detroit’s Green Acres neighborhood in 2014, the area was perfect because of its potential.

“The city was important to us, in that (it) is a diverse in all senses of the word neighborhood. Racial, socioeconomic, sexual orientation, ownership status, age, and a mix of family structures was really important



When Nick Piotrowski and his partner John Davis made the move to their 1,600 square foot home in Detroit’s Green Acres neighborhood in 2014, the area was perfect because of its potential. BTL photo: Andrew Potter.

for our community,” says Piotrowski. “Thinking of community in a social justice sense was (also) part of our focus; fighting injustice and being a part of a community where we could connect with other people was important, and the city is really the best place to do that.”

While it’s important to feel embraced by your community, it’s just as important to find a community you are willing to embrace, Piotrowski says. Only then will you see your neighborhood as a home.

“I think of home as the environment that we make for ourselves that is really reflective of our lives, both in terms of physical setting, but also in terms of the memories and traditions that we hold and celebrate within it.”

Check out events and advertisers in many Metro Detroit “gayborhoods” by checking out BTL’s Cool Cities feature every week or by going to <http://pridesource.com/coolcities.html>.



While it’s important to feel embraced by your community, it’s just as important to find a community you are willing to embrace, Nick Piotrowski says. Only then will you see your neighborhood as a home.



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Traveling to a Home Around the World

BY AJ TRAGER

When Ken Russell, a London native, spent a summer in San Francisco a little over a decade ago, the experience of exploring the city and spending time with a talented drag queen named Rosie changed his life. During his first trip to the city he rented an apartment south of Market Street that was “gloomy, grim and depressing” and overlooked a high wall at the side of the freeway. He was unsure of his trip and wondered “what on earth he agreed to.”

However, San Francisco had more to offer, and Russell quickly saw the expansive opportunities that lay before him in the Castro District when he walked along Henry Street and landed in an apartment with a “For Sale” sign, where he met Rosie. He spent the rest of the summer with her, and has returned year after year. He still keeps his bike at her place.

A few years later, Russell created Home Around the World, a site where home exchangers, guests and hosts could find one another and spend an extended vacation in the home of an LGBT or ally friend. By simultaneously swapping a home with another member, travelers will stay in comfort and enjoy being a tourist whilst living like a resident.

Russell sat down with BTL to discuss the opportunities that await members of Home Away From Home.

What kinds of experiences/benefits are available for members (that they can't get from hotels, hostels, etc.)?

By joining a club of like-minded people, our members sleep around the world without ever losing the comforts of home. Staying in upmarket hotels and eating in fancy restaurants is great, but on a vacation it can be ruinously expensive and it's almost always an impersonal experience. And unless you're just relaxing in a resort, how often do you return from a vacation feeling exhausted?

Hotels encourage their guests to leave their room and be out during the day, which is fine if you have the stamina to schlep around and explore all day long. Personally I'd rather live life at my own pace, sleep late if I choose to, sightsee at my leisure, take new pleasure in shopping for food in supermarkets, meet local people and just enjoy all the comforts a home can offer.

By staying in a home, it's easy to experience new cultures and really begin to understand what it's like to live like a local and not travel as a tourist. You'll not only save a ton of money, but you'll have far more rewarding experiences. And what you'll save on expenses means you can have more vacations throughout the year. It's a win-win!



There are no current members from Michigan. If someone were to sign themselves up and offer their home, what kinds of things would you suggest they include in their page?

Michigan is world renowned for its Midwestern hospitality, natural beauty, vineyards, picturesque beach towns and of course Douglas and Saugatuck, two of the most gay friendly small towns in the country. What's not to love?

Our listing design ranks amongst the best of any mainstream or LGBT accommodation site and enables members to provide a balance of information about their homes and area. A listing is your advertisement, so it's worth spending a little time getting it right. Apart from promoting the best of Michigan, it's also

important to upload some images of your home and area. Supply personal information including your holiday likes, preferences and what you're looking for so our members begin to know more about who might be swapping with them and living in their home. The personal touch is very important to encourage contact from other members.

Why is this home exchange network important for LGBT travelers?

When Home Around the World started, our clientele was the LGBT traveler, based on the concept that like attracts like. It seemed only natural to cater for our own community. However, a few years ago I began receiving emails from gay-friendly people disappointed

that they might be barred from joining. Thankfully, times were rapidly changing and so it was an easy decision to open the site up to our “LGBT-friendly” friends.

Our members are singles and couples of all ages and backgrounds and they offer a variety of homes from the simple and comfortable to the simply luxurious, and the one thing they have in common is the warm welcome they offer each other.

This might be an unsettling idea for some folks who may be concerned with the security of their things. What are HATW's policies regarding broken or stolen goods?

It is quite natural to be hesitant about inviting people we don't know to stay in our homes – just don't forget your exchange partner no doubt shares your own anxieties! With careful communication, however, the reality of home swapping is quite different.

Swapping your home involves first establishing a friendship based on mutual trust. As your communication develops through emails, photographs and phone calls, strangers soon become friends. Once that friendship and trust has been established, the anxiety truly disappears. It's like swapping with a member of your own family without all the accompanying stress!

In all the years we've been in business, we have never received any reports of damage. We impose no rules or boundaries, except that our members are respectful of other people, their homes and their possessions. And that's not too much to ask.

Are there any other things that potential users should know about?

Most members are looking for simultaneous swaps but non-simultaneous swaps are also popular. They can provide an ideal way for new members – who might be hesitant about making their first direct swap – to stay with another member first and then return their hospitality at a later, mutually convenient time. The site also provides “The Essential Guide to Home Swapping,” a useful step-by-step guide to assist all our virgin home swappers eager to make their first swap.

Once a member, all home exchangers qualify for an optional free host listing if they would also like to have occasional paying HATW guests in their home. We also advertise vacation rentals as some of our members also own second homes and there are generous discounts on renewals and additional listings.

Get started at www.homearoundtheworld.com. Russell is offering an exclusive free 2-year membership upgrade for BTL readers. To get the discount, mention BTL when signing up for a membership.

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Making Detroit Feel More Like Home

The Heidelberg Project in Focus

DEFINING HOME

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – From fast food wrappers to decrepit couches, metropolitan areas often struggle with trash.

Detroit Mayor Duggan, at the 2016 Motor City Makeover campaign kickoff held April 19, said that the city is dramatically cleaner than a few years ago.

“There’s far less trash, there’s far less graffiti and there are far fewer vacant buildings,” Duggan said. “But we have a long way to go. Government can’t do everything, and we’re asking people to pitch in.”

One organization has been committed to cleaning up the negativity in the city for the past 30 years: the Heidelberg Project.

The concept started in 1986 with an artist, Tyree Guyton, who returned to the street he grew up on only to find it in disarray, riddled with drugs and deep in poverty. What used to be a diverse, working class neighborhood had become a community characterized by violence, abandonment, despair and poverty.

As a response to ongoing blight and decay in the neighborhood, Guyton and his grandfather began cleaning up the vacant lots on Heidelberg Street. He then transformed the street by using the found objects he collected to create art installations on vacant homes, sidewalks and trees.

“We use things and recycle things, but ultimately we’re hoping to save the human spirit,” Jenenne Whitfield, executive director of the Heidelberg Project, told BTL.

Over the course of its lifetime, the Heidelberg Project has experienced some rocky moments from theft and vandalism to a series of fires in 2013 that decimated 12 of the artistic sites. Today only three remain.

“The message is the work isn’t so much about preserving things, it’s about celebrating joy and hope in the individual. The fires are about a sacrifice. Let us show you how we can resurrect and respond and that it won’t be catastrophic,” Whitfield said.

The spaces where the fire-engulfed homes once stood have since been transformed with the help of the many Heidelberg Project volunteers.

Preserving the Heart and Soul of Detroit

“This work has been about so much more than just art, but it’s the catalyst,” Whitfield told BTL.

Whitfield is a born and raised Detroiter. In 1993, after years of working as a banker and climbing the corporate ladder, she dropped the high paying gig and settled into her seat at the Heidelberg Project. She’s been with the company for 23 years and firmly believes that art has the power to create change in one’s



own life and helps to transform the heart of an individual.

“What we have done with the project is welcome all people. Especially those that feel something from that street – from the discarded pieces that have been given new life,” she said. “We want to embrace Detroit and to us, Detroit is Metro Detroit. We want to learn how to better put our arms around

ourselves and our culture and appreciate the city. That’s for the people that have been here and those that are coming here.”

The organization’s mission begins with the belief that all citizens, from all cultures, have the right to grow and flourish in their communities and that to redevelop and sustain

See Heidelberg in Focus, page 34

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NATURE'S GARDEN CENTER



Founder of the Heidelberg Project Tyree Guyton (center) with some of the many volunteers who donate their time and energy to cleaning up Heidelberg Street. Photo by Geronimo Patton.

► **Heidelberg in Focus**

Continued from p. 34

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"There really is a difference"

a community, members must embrace the diverse culture and artistic attributes as the essential building blocks for a fulfilling and economically viable way of life.

As the city of Detroit and the surrounding Metro Detroit area continue to develop and build stronger community networks, the Heidelberg Project serves as a reminder for the public to reconnect with the the essence of what it means to be a Detroitier – to fight for visibility and the destigmatization of the area.

"We're not a part of a quick fix. It took a lot of time to beat people down in communities where they felt they had no hope. You can't heal the city until you heal the minds of the people. You build a bunch of new houses and some retail, but there's no economic base – no jobs. You cannot sustain that. We're starting at ground zero so to speak. The idea is that you first have to get people used to other kinds of people, and help them understand that they have value and can be participants in the revitalization in their community," Whitfield said.

The evidence of their work is not necessarily seen in new development but instead is seen in the energy of the people within the community. Whitfield believes that to truly revitalize a city, one must start with the men and women that live there.

Midtown and other sections of downtown Detroit are feeling the effects of the efforts to bring new businesses and fresh minds to the city's business infrastructure and the economic market. As a native of the city, Whitfield believes that the Detroit community will best thrive by establishing local thought leaders at the planning table who can demonstrate how Detroit can be a new city that is more equitable.

"People make the world go round, not things. You can bring in big money and you can force people out, but you'll be surrounded by a pool of poverty. And if we don't find a way to raise the level of consciousness, that's going to turn inward. You'll see a riot and people pushing out folks. This



is a different kind of city," she said.

However, Detroit is home to many people that are committed to the community and share in their interests for health food, community gardens, community organizing, stronger schools and learning more about other people.

"What I'm feeling and pushing for and what Heidelberg is pushing for is a shift in consciousness. And you can't be afraid," she said.

30 Years of Heidelberg

In celebration of 30 years, the project began a monthly campaign in August 2015 that shares tidbits about education or a "blast from the past" launched from the Heidelberg archives. The team wants to educate the city first on the accomplishments of the last 30 years while celebrating the current atmosphere the project has helped to create on Heidelberg Street and throughout the city.

As for Guyton's artistic work, the Heidelberg Project has partnered with Shinola and Detroit Bikes to design an installation centered around clocks. The watch project is still in the planning stages.

To learn more about the project or to find out how to volunteer, visit www.heidelberg.org.



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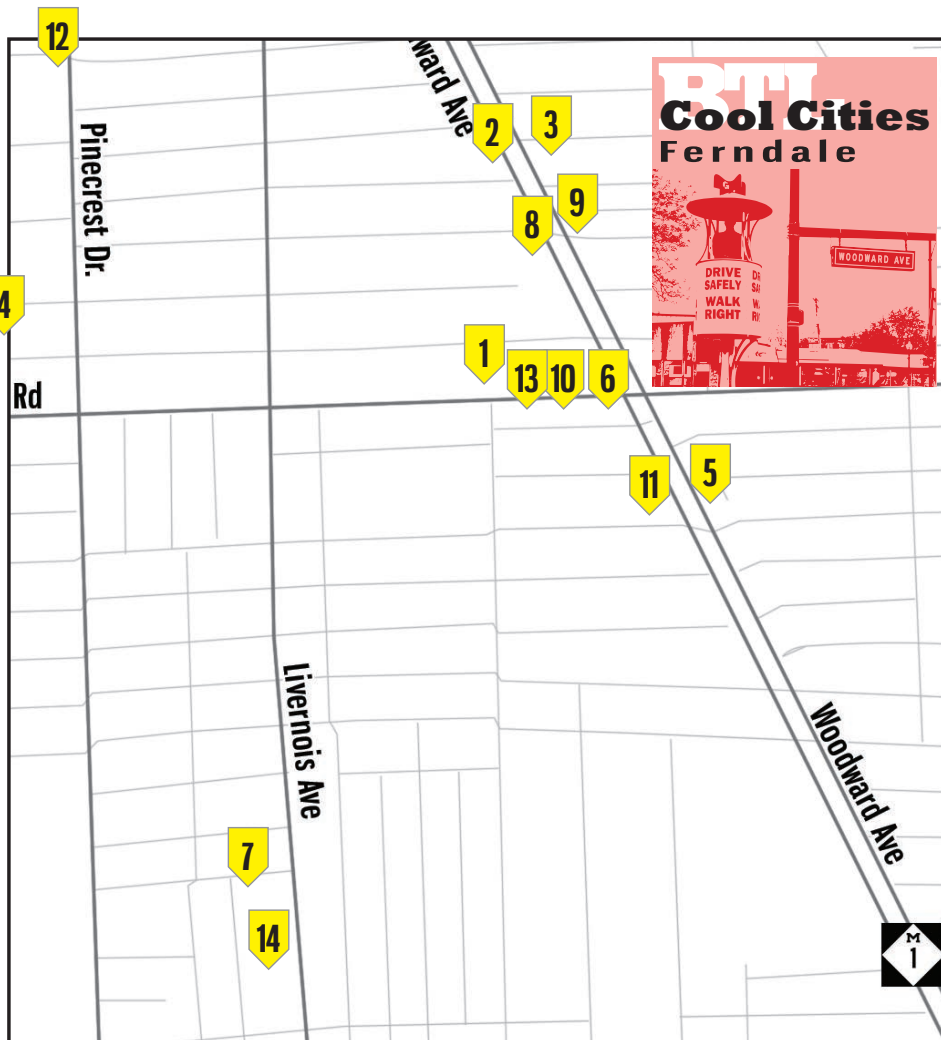
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Affirmations to Host Spring Bash 2016

Affirmations' Spring Bash, Casino Royale, celebrates LGBTQ+ community in style.

Affirmations hosts its annual Spring Bash this year under the theme "Casino Royale." The twist in theme comes after a year of new things for the LGBTQ center in Ferndale, including the installment of Susan Erspamer as its executive director.

"Career-wise, joining this dynamic organization and being in-charge of leading change, was not a gamble. Affirmations is on the cusp of impacting the LGBTQ+ communities in a big way. We have multiple engaging and interactive programs designed to serve diverse populations. For example, our XTL Youth WorkForce Development is a 24-week initiative focused on empowering LGBTQ+ youth in the Metro Detroit area with the soft and hard skills necessary for successful workforce navigation," says Erspamer. This year's Spring Bash, Casino Royale, will be held on Saturday, May 7 at the MGM Grand Detroit, located at 1777 Third Ave., Detroit. Hundreds will attend the annual black tie gala which features curbside parking, a seated gourmet dinner, entertainment, a live auction and a raffle.

During the VIP reception, sponsored by MGM Grand Detroit, four awards will be presented to well-deserving members of the community who have played a part in creating more equal tomorrows for LGBTQ+ individuals. The awards are the Jan Stevenson Award, the Lorna Utley Outstanding Ally Award, the Charles Moyer Philanthropy Award and a Volunteer of the Year Award, which is new this year.

Comerica Bank is a lead sponsor of the event. Between the Lines/Pride Source Media Group and Hour Magazine are exclusive media partners. Additional sponsors include Dominos, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Beaumont Healthcare System and General Motors. The community wins big when individual, corporate and local business sponsors support this organization and the important work it does on an ongoing basis for the LGBTQ+ community. Some of the programs and services spearheaded by Affirmations include a seven session Relationship Skills Class, monthly Healthy Living Series with guest speakers, LGBTQ Learning Labs, Healthcare Provider Training, Carl Rippberger Youth Drop-In Center and Sexual Health Testing. Additionally, Affirmations is now providing concierge style service and information via its Welcome and Resource Desk. This desk serves as a hub of activity and is staffed by trained volunteers who are knowledgeable about local and national resources.



EVENT INFO

Spring Big Bash

Tickets for the fundraiser can be purchased at www.GoAffirmations.org/CasinoRoyale or by calling 248-398-7105. Sponsorship inquiries may be directed to Katie Koch, Director of Development at: kkoch@goaffirmations.org. Affirmations is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.

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Pop Dreamboat on Standing Up For LGBT Rights, His ‘Very Welcoming’ Gay Club Experience and His Man Bod

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Boys do Nick Jonas sometimes, but it’s mostly girls.

They dress up as the pop star, emulating his rousing onstage persona and donning denim that looks practically painted on. Yes, if we needed further proof about why the 23-year-old former Jonas Brothers is a celebrated beacon in the LGBT community, for his abs and for his advocacy – for standing up against the North Carolina “bathroom bill” by canceling two upcoming gigs there – look to the drag kings. Those kings are sure to find even more fodder for their glitzy acts on “Last Year Was Complicated,” Jonas’ second solo album.

In our new interview, Jonas talked candidly about last year – his year of “growth.” And although he was congested – yes, even the perfection that is Nick Jonas deals with

allergies that are “terrible” this time of year – he was more than happy to dish on LGBT rights, the night he and brother Joe ended up at a West Hollywood gay bar, and touching his... face.

I’ve never asked a guy this question – I’m always asking female artists who are being impersonated by men – but there are Nick Jonas drag kings, so we must talk about this.

(Laughs)

I know, right? What’s it like to know that lesbians are dressing up in Nick Jonas drag? Also, what tips do you have for a Nick drag king who wants to perfect their Nick Jonas drag act?

Well, it’s an honor, you know, first of all. I feel very honored! (Laughs) I think the tips would be, make sure the jeans are fairly tight – not too tight, but tight enough. And I do a

lot of face touching, I’ve noticed, so maybe incorporate that into the act and it’ll all work.

When do you touch your face the most?

When I’m singing, when I’m talking. It’s kind of a strange thing I do.

I spoke to your brother Joe recently and he mentioned getting down at the gay clubs with you. What’s a night with you and Joe like at the gay club?

It was very fun! We were out at The Abbey in LA.

Good place, good drinks.

Good drinks! And it was just a good environment overall. People were very welcoming and we had a good time and we hung out and had a couple of drinks. And they played our music too, which is always

nice when you’re at a club. The DJ was being friendly. (Laughs)

Was this a promo obligation?

No, it’s just where we ended up. It wasn’t promo at all.

Who gets hit on more: you or Joe?

We were kind of isolated, in our own sections off to the side, so we weren’t able to interact that much, but I’m not sure. He was also with his girlfriend at the time, so maybe he was getting less attention.

What would you say to straight guys who might not feel as comfortable going to a gay club as you are?

In the same way I feel like there’s no difference with my fans, gay or straight, the same thing applies to the club. And you can have a good time anywhere you go if you

just choose to have a good time. I think it's a unique environment to be in – and it's a fun place and they play great music, (laughs) and as long as you're willing to go in and have fun, I think it's all good.

Some straight guys worry they might be the object of some man's affection.

Insecurity drives a lot of really poor decision-making. I think as long as you can be confident and comfortable in your own skin and who you are then you don't really have to be worried about that.

When did you become comfortable in your own skin?

It's a continual thing, continual growth. Just like everybody else, there are some days when I don't feel great in my skin. I do my best to grow. But I think when I came into my body, you know, and started building muscle and realizing that in a lot of ways physically I had become a man, that's when I became comfortable and confident. Getting into fitness was helpful.

When did being accepting and loving to the LGBT community really become important to you? Was there a person or a moment that really drove you to become the advocate that you are?

It was my early Broadway days and being kind of immersed in the community at an early age and really seeing that there was no difference. The key was accepting and loving people from all different walks of life. It was just a priority at an early age and also because my parents were really open and loving and laid it out for us that there was no difference. I think that was a healthy environment to be in at an early age.

What do you make of speculation that you are gay?

I think people are gonna make their assumptions regardless, you know? And I'm a heterosexual male who's playing two gay characters on TV shows and really doing my best to be the most accepting and loving person I can be because I think that's the way we all should be. So, if people have opinions or thoughts on my sexuality, that's on them. I know who I am and I'm comfortable with who I am.

You stepped in for Iggy Azalea last year and headlined Pittsburgh Pride when she canceled her headlining performance after LGBT groups pulled out in protest of her past homophobic tweets. What was it like playing your first Pride event?

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It was a lot of fun! I think there was a real warmth because of the fact that I kind of jumped in last minute and covered, so I think people were really pumped about that. The show itself was great. It was a lot of LGBT community people and it was good. They were a great crowd. And I'll tell you what, I think it was one of my favorite shows of last year. There's something to be said about surprising people!

Last year seemed to be pretty darn good for you, but your new album, "Last Year Was Complicated," begs to differ. What was the biggest hurdle you had to overcome last year?

It was a real year of growth, going from being in a group with my brothers for years to traveling alone, being alone all the time – it was intense at first. Then, on top of that, the breakup I had last year was, well, complicated (laughs), it was tricky. It required me to really dig in deep and lay out all my thoughts and feelings in my music, which, for me, is the best outlet possible.

Beyoncé is obviously experiencing this with her new surprise album "Lemonade," but I wonder, for you, how do you feel when you release a body of work and the public dissects it and relates it back to your personal life?

I can't comment for Beyoncé or speak for her, but as an artist I think it's so important to lay your heart and feelings out in your music, and if you want to be an open book in that way, it's a great outlet to be able to do it. For me, I'm just thrilled to have that outlet to pour my heart into because it's a good way to process my feelings and emotions.

Do you keep the gay community in mind when you make music?

I think you have to create and have it be authentically you and kind of worry about what people are going to think afterwards, or who might be listening. That's what I've tried to do: tell the stories the best way I can first, (so they) are the most honest. If I have to go back and edit afterwards, I will, but for the most part what I write in that room that day is what ends up on the record.

See Nick Jonas, page 43



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The heterosexual men at the secluded 1950s hideaway, Casa Valentina, indulge in their secret desire to dress and live as women - if even for just a weekend. Front, left to right: Jeff Davison (Jonathan/Miranda), Martin Reinecker (Isidore/Charlotte), David Lusk (Judge/Amy); back, left to right: Dale Feldpausch (Theodore/Terry), Scott Welborn (George/Valentina), Suzette Ho (the Judge's daughter, Eleanor), Chris Polhill (Albert/Bessie). Photo by Lance Luce

Arts-Loving Attorney Brings New Fierstein Play to Detroit

Jay Kaplan strikes again at Stagecrafters

BY AMY J. PARRENT

Jay Kaplan is like an entertainment and equality superhero. By day he's an advocate (in all senses of the word) for LGBT rights, at night an advocate for and promoter of the arts.

Kaplan is well known in the LGBT community and among civil rights activists as the lawyer for ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project. And when he leaves his day job behind, he's one of the stars of Oakland County's thriving community theater scene.

Kaplan has directed or acted in dozens of plays for groups like the Village Players of Birmingham and Royal Oak's Stagecrafters. He keeps up on what's happening in theater

around the country. (Yes, he scored tickets to "Hamilton" when it was still at the Public Theatre.) He looks for interesting new works, and has been responsible for bringing some of the most adventurous recent plays to our area, like the upcoming Stagecrafters' 2nd Stage production of Harvey Fierstein's "Casa Valentina."

"2nd Stage does more contemporary plays and themes," Kaplan said. "They're not as familiar. It's important to bring new theater here. There are a lot of good writers."

He said that non-musicals rarely tour to spots like the Fisher these days. Even when there are good professional productions, here or elsewhere, he said, "Commercial theater is expensive - not a lot of people can afford to go. Or maybe shows don't do well, but still have merit, and deserve a wider audience. It's great when you have the opportunity to bring (such shows) to audiences."

"I'm so grateful 2nd stage exists," he added.

This is the sixth show Kaplan has directed for Stagecrafters over a 14-year period. He also oversaw productions of "Grey Gardens" and "A Man of No Importance," among others, and acted in productions of "March of

the Falsettos," "Merrily We Roll Along" and "Ruthless."

"I started out as kind of a shy kid," said Kaplan. "Performing was a great way to get outside of myself. I was singing around the house, in the basement."

Even a childhood teacher he credits with opening his horizons to public performing had the wonderfully theatrical name of Miss Prendergast. "She played everything by ear," he recalled. "She'd hear a song on the radio, then teach the kids the song. I remember how fun it was, the excitement of being onstage, that adrenaline. It gave me more self-confidence to not be self-conscious."

And what led from performing to directing? "Sometimes I had ideas about how I might like to do it, how I thought a character could be interpreted," he said. "I like to work with actors on their motivation, to talk about it, to be supportive of the actor."

But where do "amateur" theater people find the time and energy for this?

"We're lucky we have a lot of community theaters in just a 10-mile radius in Oakland County," Kaplan said. "But we're competing for a relatively small pool of talent. People's

PREVIEW

Casa Valentina

Stagecrafters at the Baldwin Theatre

415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak

8 p.m. Wednesday, May 4 (pay-what-you-can)

8 p.m. Friday, May 6

8 p.m. Saturday, May 7 (post-show talkback)

2 p.m. Sunday, May 8

8 p.m. Thursday, May 12 (half-price student night)

8 p.m. Friday, May 13

8 p.m. Saturday, May 14

2 p.m. Sunday, May 15

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www.stagecrafters.org

lives are so busy - this was my busiest year at work. Shows take eight weeks of four-times-a-week rehearsals, three to four hours a night. It's a substantial sacrifice. It takes away from family, social opportunities, downtime."

But then there are the achievements. For instance, Stagecrafters' "Casa Valentina" is possibly the first community theater

See Fierstein to Detroit, page 45

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, May 5

Mariachis, Tamales & Murals 7 a.m. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo the Detroit way with Step On Bus Tours. Learn about the Hispanic culture that can be found here in Detroit while dining in authentic Mexican restaurants. Listen to live mariachis bands and take a tour of the spectacular Mexicantown murals. Our Cinco de Mayo tour includes carnitas and nachos snacks, a trip to the Mexicantown bakery, the Mexican market, and a visit to the Latino Cultural Center and so much more! Make sure to reserve your spot as soon as you can! Step On Bus Tours, 215 W Troy St. Ste 2046, Ferndale, 248-619-6692. steponbustours@gmail.com www.steponbustours.com/home.html

Naked Men's Yoga 6:30 p.m. Naked Men's Yoga. Ann Arbor. massage4@aol.com http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga

Friday, May 6

Hopes & Dreams Gala 6 p.m. This signature event will celebrate HAVEN's 41st year of serving victims of domestic and sexual violence. Tickets: \$175+. HAVEN, 200 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. 248-322-3705. https://www.haven-oakland.org/events/gala-event

Saturday, May 7

Casino Royale: Spring Bash 2016 Featuring Hank Winchester. Tickets: \$195-500. Affirmations, Detroit. kkoach@goaffirmations.org www.Goaffirmations.org

Color Me Rad Detroit 7 a.m. Registration: \$40-55. World AIDS Day Detroit and Color Me Rad, 1900 Atwater St., Detroit. gaybe.am/rad

Perennial Plant & Craft Sale 9 a.m. Proceeds to general fund and to Unbound Nicaraguan students Julio and Nadieska. Williamston United Methodist Church, 211 S. Putnam, Williamston.

Gamenight 6 p.m. Gay Geeks Social Group. TBA. www.Meetup.com/gay_geek_social_group/events/229566945/?rv=ea1&af=event&af_eid=229566945&https=off

As We Go On 7 p.m. A show to benefit Ozone House, The Corner Health Center and Neutral Zone three organizations who show up for our community's LGBTQ youth every day. Tickets: \$10. Ozone House, 310 E. Washington, Ann Arbor. https://ozonehouse.ejoinme.org/queeryouththeatre

Sunday, May 8

Royal Oak In Bloom 7 a.m. Free Admission. Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce, 211 S. Williams St., Royal Oak. 248-547-4000. jennifer@royaloakchamber.com www.RoyalOakChamber.com

18th Annual Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival 2 p.m. Every year, the caliber of new films surpasses past festivals and now in its 18th year, The Lenore Marwil Jewish Film Festival will once again, amaze with new stories and topics explored in films from around the world. The Festival runs May 8-19 and will have 32 films and feature talkbacks from Academy Award nominated film directors. (Roger Sherman and Oren Jacoby) The films will entertain, teach and make you cry, laugh if that doesn't wet your movie appetite, how about classic Jewish Deli or the Search for Israeli Cuisine. Tickets

can be purchased through The Berman Ticket Office 248-661-1900 (Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.) or online at www.jccdet.org. Individual Tickets \$12, Matinee Pass good for five screenings of 2 p.m. shows (JCC Member \$40 Non-Member \$45) Patron Pass includes two tickets to every film plus the patron night reception on Monday, May 9. The Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 248-661-1900. www.jccdet.org

Casa Valentina 2 p.m. Play explores identity struggle and "the girl within." Tickets: \$18. Stagecrafters, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. 248-541-6430. www.Stagecrafters.org

Monday, May 9

Transgender Day of Visibility Art Show Pittmann-Puckett Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

Thursday, May 12

Holland Tulip Festival 7 a.m. Since 1929, the small city of Holland, Michigan has blossomed with literally hundreds of thousands of tulips - and an equal number of tulip-lovers who attend the annual Tulip Time Festival. This trip is everything tulips as we meet our Dutch Guide who will take us past tulip fields where we can get out and take pictures. Guide will explain how Holland came to be the capital of tulip fields in Michigan. There will be opportunities to get off the bus and see tulips. Not to mention a Church buffet lunch. Our docent-led motor coach tour will take us past extraordinary colorful gardens and to the Dutch Market Platz for shopping. Go behind the scenes as we explore Veldheers tulip farm and the De Klomp Wooden Shoe Factory. We will have time to stroll downtown and see some back alley street dancing. Cost includes transportation via motor coach, lunch, and admissions. \$75 person Step On Bus Tours, 215 W Troy St. Ste2046, Ferndale. 248-619-6692. steponbustours@gmail.com www.Steponbustours.com/trips.html

Gilda's Big Night Out 6 p.m. Gilda's Club Metro Detroit is pleased to present Gilda's Big Night Out which will be held on Thursday, May 12 at the Max Fisher Music Center in Detroit. This evening features a strolling dinner, music,

an awards ceremony, silent and live auctions with signature entertainment. Tickets can be purchased online at www.gildasbignightout.org. Tickets are \$100, \$200, and \$500. All proceeds fund our mission of ensuring anyone impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community totally free of charge. Gilda's Club Metro Detroit, an affiliate of Cancer Support Community, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 248-577-0800. kgrams@gildasclubdetroit.org www.gildasbignightout.org

Friday, May 13

The Magic Flute 7 p.m. "The Magic Flute" is an opera in two acts by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Taking place in a mythical land between the sun and the moon, it is a quest for enlightenment and honor - a mystical story about the power of love. A young prince discovers a magical flute and a girl who will make him whole. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's fantastical and hilarious tale draws you into a world of magical fantasy, complete with a giant serpent, a secret brotherhood, and a lovesick bird catcher. Join Step On Bus Tours as we travel to see a dress rehearsal of this fantastic opera. On the bus there will be short DVDs helping the traveler understand the performance. Typically, there are no hiccups in the rehearsal, however, if there are, the singer will correct the mistake immediately - which is why it is a dress rehearsal. After performance, travelers go to the Hard Rock Cafe where they will hear a speaker discuss various aspects of the opera. \$75 person. Step On Bus Tours, 215 W. Troy St. Ste 2046, Ferndale. 248-619-6692. steponbustours@gmail.com www.steponbustours.com/trips.html

Saturday, May 14

Relay for Life 8 a.m. Run for Your Life Fun Run (5K) 8 a.m. More events, including Bark for Life, throughout the morning. Relay for Life, 105 E. Bennett St., Saline. grunch11@cloud.com www.Relayforlife.org/salinemi

Meet Your Best Friend at the Zoo Dogs, cats, puppies and kittens from more than 30 animal welfare organizations will be available for adoption. Free (standard admission rates into the zoo apply). The Michigan Humane Society and The Detroit

Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak. 248-283-1000. www.Michiganhumane.org

Dignity Detroit's 42nd Anniversary Dinner Dance 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$50-350. None will be sold at the door. Dignity Detroit, 23400 Park St., Dearborn.

Tuesday, May 17

International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, Everywhere. Dayagainsthomophobia.org

Alex Gino book signing 6:30 p.m. Author of novel featuring transgender tween, "George." Ferndale Library, 222 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Weneeddiversebooks.org

Wednesday, May 18

Relationship Skills Class This 7-session series is for LGBTQ people and their friends & loved ones. Topics include: exploring relationship values, healthy conflict resolution, establishing boundaries, accountability and building community connections. This series is open to everyone, regardless of relationship status or relationship history. The cost of the series is \$35 per person. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

MUSIC & MORE

Static Network "Detroit Zombie Armageddon" \$10 donation with portion of the proceeds to benefit two local groups in their fight against cancer! The Tangent Gallery, 715 E. Milwaukee, Detroit. 7 p.m. May 7. 313-873-2955. www.facebook.com/events/847306365380455/?active_tab=posts

THEATER

The Trouble with Harry Join us for the Michigan debut of The Trouble with Harry a play based on the Alfred Hitchcock classic! The trouble with Harry is that he's dead. Four small town inhabitants need to work together quickly to deal with being suspects in Harry's death before the Deputy Sheriff catches on to the potential crime. This comedy is full of surprises and dry humour. Monster Box Theatre, 2529 Elizabeth Lake Road, Waterford. Through May 8. 2487871400. www.monsterboxtheatre.com

Editor's Pick



HAVEN, Oakland County's only comprehensive program for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, is celebrating 41 years with its "Hopes and Dreams Gala." The gala will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, May 6 and will be an effort to raise funds for survivors and community education programs and services. In

addition, HAVEN will present the Heart of HAVEN Award to the Detroit Lions, to be accepted by Rod Wood, president of the organization.

"We are very proud to be the presenting sponsor for HAVEN Gala for the third consecutive year," said Mohammad Qazi, president, Ciena Healthcare. "HAVEN's efforts to eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault across Oakland County and the surrounding communities are essential to the wellbeing of survivors and the success of our neighborhoods."

Fine food, drinks and company will be in abundance at the event that incorporates a seated dinner, program emceed by WXYZ Channel 7 anchor Glenda Lewis, silent and live auctions, live entertainment and an Afterglow party. Tickets start at \$175. The event will be held at the Detroit Troy Marriott located at 200 W. Big Beaver Road, Troy. Visit http://haven.preclickbid.com or contact Stephanie Holland at 248-322-3705 for more information.

Civic/Community Theater

Disney's The Jungle Book A2CT Junior Theatre presents Disney's "Jungle Book Kids," directed by Caitlin Rowe. Tickets: \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and children. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. May 13 - May 15. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org/junior-theatre/disney-s-jungle-book

Professional

Heathers the Musical Tickets: \$10-25. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 13 - June 13. 248-545-5545. www.TheRingwald.com

Rogers & Hammerstein's The Sound of Music Directed by Jack O'Brien. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. May 10 - May 22. 313-872-1000. www.Broadwayindetroit.com

ART 'N' AROUND

Detroit's Pioneer Building "PIONEERS" Curated by Peter Gahan, this varied exhibition features painting, photography, mixed media, glass work, encaustic, drawing and fiber. Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 16 - June 25. 313-831-1400. www.Casscafe.com

DIA "Dance! American Art 1830-1960" The exhibition is organized by the DIA and presents more than 90 paintings, sculptures, photographs and costumes brought together for the first time to celebrate and explain the important place of dance in American culture. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. March 20 - June 12. 313-833-7900. www.Dia.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "Birds of a Feather" A few years ago a group of artists - Suzanne Allen, Glenn Corey, Gwen Joy, Sabrina Nelson, and Gary van

Gorp - got together to put on an exhibit at the Majestic Cafe in Detroit. They decided that the unifying theme of the show would be Birds, and hence the title of the show, Birds of a Feather. This year they are back together and include Laura Whitesides Host, Nancy Mosely and Joe Smith as part of the flock to show at Lawrence Street Gallery. One will see a variety of avian subjects ornithological birds, fantasy birds, even English Birds. It's an exhibition that will send you soaring like an eagle. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. May 6 - May 20. 248-44-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

robert kidd gallery "Laurie Tennent" Botanicals: intimate portraits robert kidd gallery, 107 Townsend St., Birmingham. April 9 - May 6. 248-642-3909. www.Robertkiddgallery.com

► Nick Jonas

Continued from p. 39

Outside of "Scream Queen" and "Kingdom," do you see more gay roles in your future?

I think it's about the material. If something comes up and has a great script and a great creative team, I would definitely do it. It's all about the script though. That, for me, is the focus.

When I talked to Joe he said he was working on music with you. He also alluded to the possibility of there being a Jonas Brothers reunion down the line, saying, "it could easily happen." What's the status on the new music? And how do you feel about a Jonas reunion?

Well, he and I live together now. We just moved in together actually. So yeah, we have a music room in the house and we're always writing, whether it's for us, for (his band) DNCE, for my stuff, or just writing for other people. I'm definitely trying to always create. But I'm not sure about a Jonas Brothers reunion. I think that we're all very happy doing our own thing. And our oldest brother, Kevin, is expecting another baby with his wife, so it's exciting times for everybody.

When might we hear some of the music you've

been making with Joe?

It's gotta be right first, so if we get something done and it ends up on a project, that'd be great. But I'm not sure about anything coming out very soon - it's gonna be a little while.

Following in the footsteps of some defiant tour cancellations in North Carolina to protest the state's "bathroom bill," you and your tour-mate Demi Lovato also took a stand, nixing both of your dates in the state. Why did you decide to cancel your shows there instead of, say, going the route that Cyndi Lauper did, which was to keep the show but donate the proceeds to LGBT causes?

It's an incredibly tough situation overall and one that we thought really hard about. Speaking with Demi and the whole team, the thought was, we needed to do our best to take a strong stand, and although it's difficult and it's gonna be a disappointment to our fans who were looking forward to the shows, we feel that it's the right thing to do. Sometimes you gotta go with your gut feeling and do your best to help a situation. Hopefully our fans understand and stand with us. We're trying to do our humble part. A change would be good.

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In a secluded 1950s transvestite hideaway, Judge/Amy (David Lusk) helps Theodore/Terry (Dale Feldpausch) with his wig and makeup as he transforms to "the girl within." Photo by Lance Luce.

► Fierstein to Detroit

Continued from p. 40

production of the play, which first had a limited run at Manhattan Theatre Club in 2014.

"Fierstein wrote the libretto for 'A Catered Affair' which I had directed," Kaplan said. "I got a copy of the ('Casa') manuscript before publication."

Passionate about the piece, he brought the show to the attention of Stagecrafters' play selection committee. When 2nd Stage chose the play, they weren't even sure the rights were available. But the licenser agreed to it.

"It's based on a true story about a resort in the Catskills for cross-dressing men in the early 1960s," Kaplan said. "It was such a repressive time not only for gay people but people involved in cross-dressing."

Cross dressers can identify sexually across the spectrum from gay to straight, and Kaplan is quick to remind that it's completely different from transgender.

"Some do it (cross dressing) because it's fun – a fun way to be different. Some identify with their feminine self, some because it's exciting," said Kaplan. "But what's the impact of them wanting to do it, the need to be yourself? If society doesn't allow you, it takes a toll."

In his day job he sees "incredible discrimination," and asks a critical question: "Why can't we just let people

“*Casa Valentina is based on a true story about a resort in the Catskills for cross-dressing men in the early 1960s. It was such a repressive time not only for gay people but people involved in cross-dressing.*”

– Jay Kaplan

breathe? Let people be who they are? They're not harming anyone."

The compassion the writer shows for the characters of "Casa" drew him into the story, Kaplan said. "None of the characters are cardboard. And it's a very verbal play, lots of language. It's a script for theater, an old-fashioned play in the sense of structure, in the way characters are introduced, the way we get to know about them."

But it certainly deals with political issues. "These people could be arrested if they showed up in public (just as) gay people could be arrested then if they congregated together," said Kaplan.

In the play, the group has to decide if they should go public. And the straight

men argue over whether to allow gay people in the group. The heterosexual leader of cross dressers says in the play that 50 years from now (the '60s) cross dressing will be considered normal, but homosexuality won't. Kaplan said it illustrates the prejudices even within a discriminated-against community.

Sometimes, for instance, he said, "A minute percentage of gay people want to exclude the 'T' from the LGBT struggle. But we all share in common society's oppression. You take marginalized groups, you'll find people striking out against themselves or others."

Kaplan, who grew up in Southfield, has lived in Southeast Michigan his entire life. "I still think I'm going to end up somewhere else," he said. But a University of Michigan undergraduate degree led to a Wayne State University law degree, and eventually the ACLU in this area.

"It was never my desire to be a lawyer. My parents wanted it. I had to find a niche (in the law), and that was social justice," said Kaplan. "I've spent my whole career working for the underdog. I'm lucky to have creative outlet in theater."

"There are so many ways to communicate, but I don't know it's made us better communicators," Kaplan said. "Theater is the oldest art form. There's so much to seeing it live. Plays make people think and feel. That's why it's so important."

May 26 - June 26, 2016

Chapatti

by Christian O'Reilly

When forlorn Dan and his dog, Chapatti, cross paths with the amiable Betty and her nineteen cats, an unexpected spark is ignited. Thus begins a warm and gentle journey of two people re-discovering the importance of human companionship.

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by David Rosenberg
(734) 662-6282

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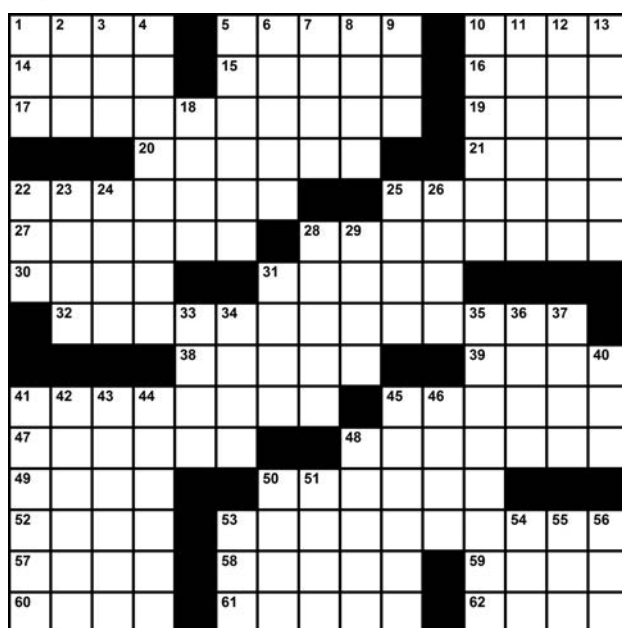
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Find me on the Internet at <http://www.trymassage.com>

Q Puzzle



38 Em and Mame
39 Straight-laced
41 Goes wild at Barney's
45 Drawn-out campaigns
47 See 25-Across
48 John Travolta, in "Hairspray?"
49 Kind of IRA
50 Italian sculptor Pisano
52 Capable of performing
53 Genre of 17-Across
57 Foster role
58 Stallion's sound
59 Rubber-stamp
60 Jennifer of "Dirty Dancing"
61 Parts of floats
62 Director Norman of "Prelude to a Kiss"

22 Candy heart word
23 _Spartacus_ or "Ben-Hur"
24 Hammett hound
25 "Our ___" (movie about AIDS)
26 Where one sleeps with privates
28 River deposits
29 Dutch painter Frans
31 Drag queen ___ Pool
33 Say "So Long, Farewell"
34 Computer glitches
35 Lily Tomlin's Ernestine, for one
36 Early indicator of orientation
37 Sneaky and others
40 Submissions to an editor: Abbr.
41 Freed from the slammer
42 Fitting partner
43 Like a Merry Christmas in St. Louis
44 Far from sacred
45 "Morally straight" boys
46 "___ put hair on your chest!"
48 Capital of Ghana
50 Denial for Nanette
51 Apple that isn't a fruit
53 They go at the bottoms of letters
54 Islands instrument
55 Turned tail
56 Optimist's place for a cock?

Down

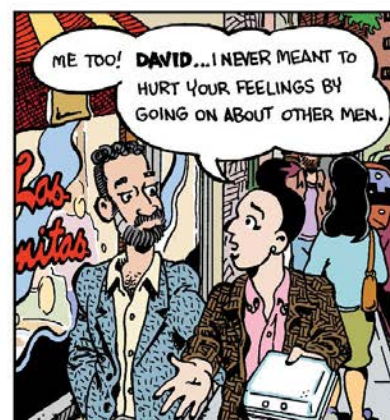
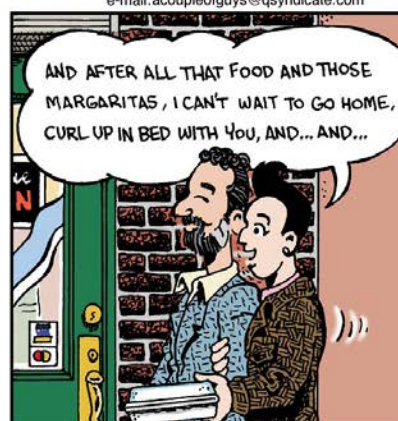
1 What ewes say
2 Prince Valiant's boy
3 Beauty of "Roseanne"
4 Think about Ryan Gosling, perhaps
5 Log Cabin and Stonewall candidate lists
6 Doctor, hopefully
7 Eight for Lorca
8 "The ___ in Winter"
9 Martin of the Daughters of Bilitis
10 Commercial, to Britten
11 Do in the evening
12 Big name in groceries
13 Hangouts for Natalie Barney
18 "I ___ Grow Up"

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com

Canvas Cans

Across

1 t.A.T.u. or R.E.M.
5 Eat out
10 Violates an old military rule
14 Anthropology, to Margaret Mead
15 Desi's daughter
16 Nickelodeon explorer
17 This artist's work was recently stolen from the Springfield Art Museum
19 One of Bernstein's strings
20 Be a sugar daddy to
21 Start of a conclusion
22 One who studies Loewe's partner?
25 With 47-Across, type of art that was stolen
27 Games that surprise
28 Cincinnati gay bar
30 "La Dolce ___"
31 Rock Hudson movie with James Dean
32 Words on the stolen canvases



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