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**7 HARD TRUTHS THE LGBT COMMUNITY MUST
ADDRESS IN THE WAKE OF THE ORLANDO MASSACRE**

LARGE TURN OUT FOR 'WE ARE ORLANDO' VIGILS

**NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY JUNE 27:
TAKE THE TEST!**

A close-up portrait of Lena Dunham, looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. Her hair is blonde and pulled back.

LENA DUNHAM
MANS UP

**'GIRLS' CREATOR ON RECOGNIZING 'SEEMINGLY MUNDANE' LGBT ISSUES
& THE INFLUENCE OF HER SISTER'S QUEERNESS**

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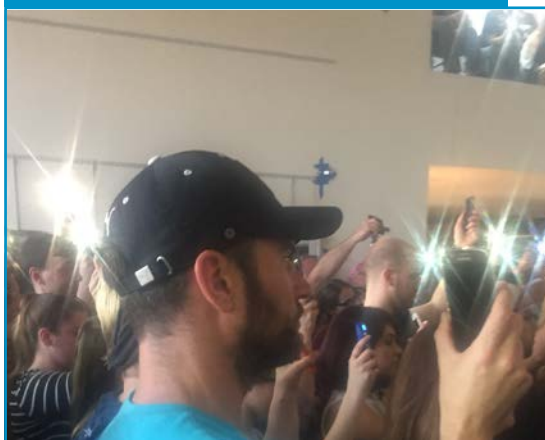
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Please consider making a donation of any size to the family and victims. Follow links at www.weareorlando.org

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Good Morning Vietnam

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Trump and the LGBTs

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NEWS BRIEFS

Equality Michigan Gets New Brand

DETROIT – As part of LGBTQ Pride Month, Equality Michigan is rolling out its new logo and materials to the public, including an updated brochure, a victim services info/linkage card and new websites for both the Equality Michigan (c3) and Equality Michigan Action Network (c4) websites.

Some of these items were formally released at Motor City Pride including the new logo, a brochure and a victims services card. The organization will launch the new website and a new poster campaign later this month. Both were crafted by Change Media, a Michigan-based design firm, and are designed to

increase awareness of EQMI's victim services work and encourage more survivors to report the bias, discrimination, harassment and violence they experience, including victims of intimate partner violence.

As part of its commitment to transparency, EQMI plans to release an overview of its work, both ongoing and achieved, during the first six months of this year and invites viewers to share thoughts about what EQMI could be doing better as the organization evolves to serve the community and meet the political realities faced in the state.

Visit www.equalitymichigan.org for more information.

New Employer Resource to Help End Transgender Employment Discrimination

WASHINGTON- On June 6 the National LGBTQ Task Force and the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights published a first-of-its-kind resource to help eliminate workplace discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming people. The guide, titled "Valuing Transgender Applicants and Employees," provides in-depth best practices intended to help employers across the nation create a genuinely inclusive and welcoming workplace environment for transgender people.

"Everyone, including transgender people, deserve a fair chance at a good paying job and the ability to provide for themselves and their families," said Victoria Rodriguez-Roldan, Trans/Gender Nonconforming Justice Project director, National LGBTQ Task Force. "Transgender people face formidable discrimination and harassment in the workplace. This new resource provides vital recommendations for employers and human resource specialists looking to ensure that transgender people are treated with dignity and respect in the workplace."

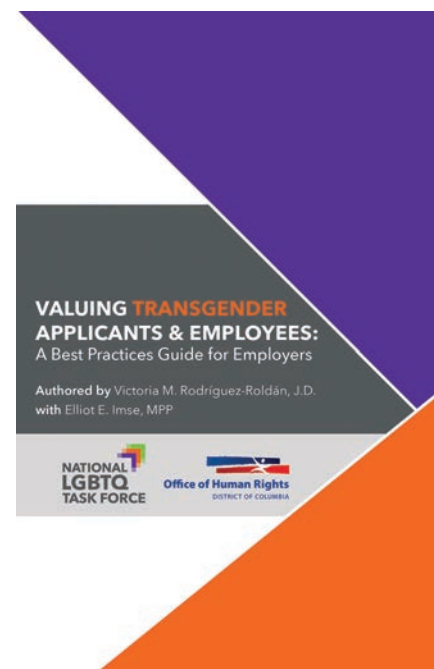
In the U.S., 90 percent of transgender people report experiencing harassment, discrimination and mistreatment in the workplace, according to the 2011 National Transgender Discrimination Survey report. In 2015, the D.C. Office of Human Rights report "Qualified and Transgender" revealed that 48 percent of employers surveyed appeared to prefer at least one less-qualified applicant perceived as cisgender over a more-qualified applicant perceived as transgender.

"While many jurisdictions across the nation do not have explicit protections for transgender workers, in the District of Columbia we are fortunate to have a strong law that prohibits employment discrimination against transgender people," said Monica Palacio, director of the D.C. Office of Human

Rights. "Yet many times employers that want to create welcoming environments are unsure of how best to do that. We believe this best practices guide will be an important starting place for those employers that want to build transgender-inclusive workplaces."

Currently, 19 states and the District of Columbia have explicit workplace nondiscrimination protections based on gender identity and expression. Among the most progressive and comprehensive nondiscrimination laws that include gender identity or expression is D.C.'s Human Rights Act (HRA).

Download or read the entire resource at www.thetaskforce.org/valuing-transgender-applicants-employees.





Goal: 100 for National HIV Testing Day

BY TODD HEYWOOD

The CDC estimates that the lifetime risk that a black man who has sex with men will contract HIV is 1 in 2. Latino men who have sex with men have a lifetime risk of 1 in 4. And recently, a study from Emory University found the men who have sex with men have a rate of HIV infection 57.5 percent higher than other men in the U.S. Transwomen are 49 times more likely than any other group of women in the world to be infected with HIV.

"It's important to recognize that there is a health crisis, and it is a crisis," said Judi Brown Clarke, president of Lansing City Council and a featured emcee for a PrEP panel planned on June 25 at Spiral nightclub. "We all have a role to play in ending this epidemic."

AIDS Service Organizations and health departments across the state and the nation are gearing up to offer free and confidential HIV testing this coming week to mark National HIV Testing Day.

In Lansing, located in Ingham county, which has the second highest HIV prevalence rate in the state, the Lansing Area AIDS Network is gearing up for events on June 25. The official Testing Day is June 27.

In Lansing the agency will offer free and confidential HIV testing at Diversity Psychological Services, an office facility located within a block of the city's two gay bars.

"Our goal is to test 100 high risk individuals," said Dwayne Riley, prevention manager.

But the agency won't just be doing testing. It is also hosting a panel discussion about Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) from 7 pm to 9 pm at Spiral Dance Club. The panel discussion will include individuals who are currently taking the medication - which is up to 99 percent effective in preventing an HIV-negative person from contracting the virus if it is taken daily - as well as Dr. Erik Wert. Wert is the medical director of the Ingham County Community Health Center and one of the only physicians in Ingham offering PrEP prescriptions.

Riley said that since January his agency has worked diligently to counsel clients who are HIV negative about PrEP and to refer them

to Wert. Riley said his agency has run into roadblocks in locating physicians willing to write prescriptions for the drug.

"It's one of the biggest issues," he said. "In Ingham county there are not too many locations willing to prescribe PrEP."

He said one of the biggest issues in the prescription process is a lack of "culturally competent care to meet the needs of the LGBT community and people of color."

Brown Clarke is not the only city councilmember participating in the testing day events. Jody Washington, whose ward covers the locations of the bars, will be there as well. She declined to comment, other than to note that she will be there to "help end the stigma." She sponsored a resolution last week honoring National HIV Testing Day. It passed unanimously by the City Council.

National HIV Testing Day Event, June 27, In Lansing

4 p.m. to midnight - Free confidential HIV testing Diversity Psychological Services

7 p.m. to 9 p.m. - PrEP Panel Discussion at Spiral, facilitated by Lansing City Council President Judi Brown Clarke, and featuring Dr. Erik Wert, medical director of the Ingham County Community Health Centers.

4 p.m. to midnight - various events in Old Town including Spiral and Esquire to promoting testing and to raise funds for the Lansing Area AIDS Network

For More Information email Dwayne Riley DRiley@Laanonline.org, or 517-394-3719 ext. 130

Around Michigan

Several Michigan health departments and community-based organizations will provide HIV testing opportunities through mobile clinics, outreach bars, parks, churches and community-wide events now through the end of the month. Below is a list of sites throughout Michigan where you and your loved ones can get tested for HIV.

For more information, call 800-872-AIDS or visit www.michigan.gov/hivstd.

See Testing, page 15

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www.pridesource.com

Affirmations Community Center was filled to overflow capacity. Attendees used cell phones to create a candle effect during the vigil. BTL photo: Charles ALexander

“Islamophobia, xenophobia and homophobia come from the same place of hatred and exclusion. Our communities are often not separate ones but convergent ones. LGBT Arab-Americans have been marginalized on multiple levels as they are doubly vulnerable because they are both Arab and LGBT.”

– Nour Sulaiman, representative from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee of Michigan, expressed solidarity with the LGBT community.

Large Gathering at Affirmations Honors Lives Lost in Orlando

BY AJ TRAGER

FERNDALE – On June 12 the LGBT community experienced what President Obama has called an "act of hate" and what many are calling a direct attack on the LGBT community. The massacre that took place at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida resulted in the murder of 49 people and the injury of 53 others. It has impacted hundreds of thousands of LGBT lives across the country. On June 14 over 700 people gathered at Affirmations to honor the LGBT men and women who were murdered and injured. It was one of many vigils across the state this week, along with hundreds more across the country.

Michigan's largest LGBT community center, Affirmations, was filled to capacity inside, with hundreds more people gathered outside. Law enforcement officers were stationed at both entrances to the center - as well as on the roof - to ensure safety. The room was silent, save the sounds of tears and sniffing, as faith, community and political leaders spoke at the vigil honoring the victims.

Affirmations Executive Director, Susan Erspamer and Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow, senior pastor at the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit, opened up the vigil.

"It's overwhelming seeing everyone here

and I know not everybody could get in. It really warms my heart that there are so many people here today," Erspamer said. "Thank you for being here as we mourn the lives lost and those that have been injured during Latin night at Pulse nightclub in Orlando. Our hearts go out to all the friends and family touched by this horrific act. We know their lives and our lives will never be the same again."

Erspamer was followed by a welcome from Stringfellow and Deacon Angela Marie Lippard from Christ The Good Shepherd church.

In an impassioned speech, Rabbi Jeffrey Falick of Congregation for Humanistic Judaism and president of the American Humanist Association of Southeast Michigan, called out national and local political leaders who, since the shooting at Pulse, have come forward to show their solidarity for the LGBT community.

He added, "When narrow-minded and bigoted religious leaders and politicians, who for years have demonized and dehumanized our community for the way we love and the way we live, now take their victory laps on the bodies of our dead while they demonize and stigmatize another group of people, they despise all in the cynical pursuit of power. Power which they will then exploit," Falick

said.

Since last Sunday, conversations and news reporting surrounding the event have shifted from grief and heartbreak to Islamophobia and tightening gun control laws.

As the investigation probes into the shooter's history and the facts surrounding the night of the massacre continue to be uncovered, investigators are discovering that despite having called 911 during the attack to pledge his allegiance to ISIS, Omar Mateen appears to be a "typical mass shooter," rather than an individual radicalized by ISIS. Early reports painted Mateen as a practicing Muslim man of Arabic heritage who had been radicalized by ISIS. However, Mateen had a history of violent behavior and was not described as particularly religious by his family and ex-wife.

Nour Sulaiman, representative from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee of Michigan, expressed solidarity with the LGBT community and criticized some of the national dialogue.

"Islamophobia, xenophobia and homophobia come from the same place of hatred and exclusion. Our communities are often not separate ones but convergent ones. LGBT Arab-Americans have been marginalized on multiple levels as they are doubly vulnerable because they are both Arab and LGBT. In these

“I literally never want to hear again that LGBT people in the bathroom are a threat to public safety.”

– Openly gay State Rep. Jeremy Moss attended the rally. He responded to the massacre with this tweet that went viral.

trying times we cannot afford to be divided," Sulaiman said. "These deplorable actions do not represent Islam or the views of the Muslim community at large. We strongly repudiate any person or group that uses any ideology to defend their violent actions. The shooter alone is responsible for this deplorable hate crime," she continued.

"Our movement started as a peaceful response to violence against us. And almost 50 years later, here we still are being peaceful in the face of violence against us," Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan said.

Despite years of lobbying, the Michigan legislature has yet to amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act (ELCRA), and

add sexual orientation and gender identity and expression to a list of protected classes that would extend protections in state housing, employment and accommodation.

"Lawmakers in Lansing and around the country use words against us," White continued. "I'm frustrated when lawmakers paint us as a threat to public safety and when lawmakers in Michigan fail to pass laws in our state that send a clear signal that we are full and equal participants of this state."

There is a vocal group of Michigan lawmakers actively engaged in trying to extend state protections for LGBT Michiganders. A few of those lawmakers and political leaders came out to show their solidarity with the LGBT community including State Sen. Steve Bieda, D-Macomb County; Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown and State Rep. Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield.

Moss is one of two openly gay members of the Michigan House of Representatives. His tweet following the news of Orlando went viral and was retweeted over 79,000 times. Moss wrote, "I literally never want to hear again that LGBT people in the bathroom are a threat to public safety."

White encouraged members of the audience to stand up and join an LGBT organization, including Equality Michigan, in fighting back against bigotry and hatred by educating the public and finally amending ELCRA.

Lilianna Angel Reyes, youth program manager at Affirmations, shared her initial reaction to the horror, telling those gathered, "When I first heard the news, I didn't truly process it. I felt like I couldn't in that moment. For me it was because I constantly, as a Latina trans woman, live in fear. The act of violence wasn't surprising to me. But it was still heartbreaking."

Clubs have been considered essentially safe spaces for LGBT individuals for years, although they have historically seen their share of violence. In the week since the Pulse attack, some news sources recalled the 1973 arson attack on a New Orleans gay bar that left 32 patrons dead - an event that went largely unreported at the time and a crime that has never been solved.

Reflecting on the shooting at Pulse, Reyes reminded people of the importance of safe spaces and said Affirmations will serve as a safe space for all those who need it.

"In a space where we were to be safe. In a month that we are supposed to be proud. We are taken out. I say we because 'We are Orlando.' It could've been any one of us," she reflected. "It could've been Gigis, Pronto, The Woodward, Menjos, our families could be the ones mourning right now. I think it's



Nour Sulaiman



Stephanie White

“ Our movement started as a peaceful response to violence against us. And almost 50 years later, here we still are being peaceful in the face of violence against us. ”

– Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan

so important now that we practice self-care."

Others in attendance included the plaintiff couple from Michigan's legal case that fought against the state's same-sex marriage ban, Jayne and April DeBoer-Rowse and their five children, as well as Dave Coulter, mayor of Ferndale; a representative from Oakland County Prosecutor; a representative from the Oakland County Treasurer's office; the Michigan Muslim Council and Barbara McQuade, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. In addition to Affirmations, community partners included ACLU of Michigan, BTL, Black and White Men Together, EQMI, Ferndale Pride, Gender Identity Network Alliance, PFLAG Detroit, Ruth Ellis Center, Stand With Trans and Trans Sistas of Color.

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CATHERINE OPIE

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Andy Warhol to Elizabeth (Self-Portrait Artist) from the 700 Nimes Road portfolio, 2010-2011, pigment print, Courtesy of the artist, Regen Projects, Los Angeles, and Lehmann Maupin, New York & Hong Kong

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LEAD EXHIBITION SPONSOR

National 2015 Hate Crime Report Shows Significant Disparities

BY TODD HEYWOOD

The 2015 Hate Crime Report from the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects reports significantly higher victimization of youth, people of color, and particularly transgender individuals.

The report, released June 13, found 1,253 bias incidents in 11 states, including Michigan. That included 24 hate motivated murders, an increase of 20 percent over 2014 incidents. The majority of those murdered were transgender or gender nonconforming, the report said.

“Hate violence, including bias, discrimination, criminalization of our communities, and the presumption that violence against LGBTQ people is somehow permissible, is being written into our laws at an alarming rate,” said Beverly Tillery at the New York City Anti-Violence Project. “Now is the time to hold our institutions and policy makers accountable. We cannot allow the codifying of violence against our communities through harmful legislation.”

The report highlights why the Orlando massacre in the LGBT nightclub Pulse June 12 was particularly traumatic to the community across the country.

“Private residence (37%) followed by the street (21%) and the workplace (12%) were the most common places that survivors reported experiencing hate violence,” the report noted. “Other places included non-LGBTQ specific venues (6%), shelters (4%), and police precincts, jails or police vehicles (2%).”

The report noted that one percent of the crimes occurred in LGBTQ specific venues.

Nearly two-thirds of victims reported knowing their attacker.

“People of color and undocumented survivors were more likely to experience physically violent forms of hate violence,” a press release on the report noted.

In the Michigan specific section of the report, Equality Michigan reported an 11 percent decrease in the number of incidents reported to the agency.

“This decline is in accordance with the past three years, where we’ve seen the number of reports decreasing slightly each year,” the report noted. “This may indicate that there have been fewer incidents of violence. However, over these four years there have also been dramatic shifts in our department’s staff in addition to high turnover in the organization overall – this means less capacity for outreach to LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities throughout the state.”

As on a national level, Equality Michigan reported the majority of victims were under the age of 30. The agency also noted three murders.

LGBT Older Adult Summit Looks at Challenges, Intergenerational Solutions

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – More than 150 LGBT people gathered June 18 for the 6th Annual LGBT Older Adult Summit at the MSU Detroit Campus. Much of the conversation and workshops focused on topics like how to obtain financial security in older age, legal issues for singles and couples post marriage equality and what role older adults can play in the continuing struggle for full civil rights. However, the tragedy in Orlando was never far from people’s minds. Each speaker spoke to the grief and outrage felt by the LGBT community, and used the Summit’s collective gathering to offer solace, comfort and hope.

“The reason we want to have hate crimes legislation is because when someone commits an act of hate against an entire group of people its not just the victims who suffer, it’s the entire community that becomes traumatized and terrorized,” said Kat LaTosch, president of the board of the new SAGE Metro Detroit, in her opening remarks. SAGE Metro Detroit, the organizer of this year’s Summit, is the successor organization to the Older Adult Coalition. Last year SAGE Metro Detroit was approved as one of 29 chapters of SAGE (Services & Advocacy For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders), the nation’s largest and longest serving organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older adults.

The day-long conference opened up with a breakfast sponsored by PharMor Pharmacy followed by opening remarks and an invocation moderated by Judy Lewis. Jan Stevenson, co-publisher of *Between The Lines*, then gave an empowering keynote address and impressed on the attendees that they have an important role to play in determining the future of the LGBT movement.

“We know what to do. We, the SAGE elders, we know it because we’ve been doing it for years. We know how we got here and we know what to do because through experience, trial and error and witness, we know what works, what backfires and we know how to measure real change because we’ve born witness to it,” Stevenson said. “We need to celebrate and we need to build on marriage equality’s victories. We need to stand up to violence and tyranny and we need to help our young LGBT people



Volunteers staff the information table at the summit. Right, longtime summit organizer Judy Lewis with keynote speaker Jan Stevenson. BTL photos: AJ Trager

transition to adulthood.”

A lot is at stake in the upcoming year for LGBT men and women, along with activists working to create and build pro-LGBT policies and legislation. Stevenson suggested that the young activists today and the LGBT elders form a partnership and learn from one another, building off of the work that was accomplished by LGBT elders. It is long said that if history is not shared it gets lost.

“Had it not been for those decades of activism, getting people accustomed to the concept of civil unions, visibility of LGBT parents and families, showing people that everybody has an LGBT coworker somewhere and that that person is contributing to your economic security, without that groundwork marriage equality never would’ve happened. And it’s our generation that did that work.”

Following Stevenson’s remarks, a number of workshops took place, including a panel discussion on what current legal rights there are for same-sex couples, presented by attorneys Adrienne Watts, Jane Bassett and Henry Grix. Lisa Whitmore Davis from the AARP discussed a fraud watch network, caregiving workshops and upcoming calendar of events by the agency; a panel focused on financial planning for LGBT individuals and families was presented by LauRyn Williams, financial advisor for Waddell & Reed and a presentation on ageism was presented by Vincent



Tilford, executive director of Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation.

Ina Birko is a return participant to the LGBT Older Adult Summit. She went to the first summit in 2011. Comparing the two events, Birko told BTL that she likes the new format and updates the organization has made to the summit and appreciates the topics that SAGE chose to present to attendees, particularly those surrounding taxes and estate planning.

“It’s important to have LGBT summits like this one, because people don’t know what is available,” Birko said. “I don’t know what’s going on. My friends know more about it because they’re married. I haven’t a clue. I need to know what’s available to me and going over it is very, very important - and providing us with access to information.”

The lifetime achievement award was presented to Atiba Cohen & Carolee Moss. Unfortunately, both women passed away unexpectedly within the last year. Atiba’s surviving partner accepted the award on her behalf.

► Testing Sites

Continued from p. 5

Tuesday, June 21

Lenawee County Health Department
1040 S. Winter St.
Suite 2328
Adrian, MI 49221
8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 22

Livingston County Department of Public Health
2300 E. Grand River
Suite 102
Howell, MI 48843
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Appointments preferred, but walk-ins accepted.

Thursday, June 23

Gospel Against AIDS
Walgreens
501 South Ballenger Highway
Flint, MI 48532
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Unified
Walgreens
2170 Washtenaw
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Wellness Services, Inc.
Walgreens
2815 Davison Road
Flint, MI 48506
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Matrix Human Services
Walgreens
30852 Woodward Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48073
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

{BOLD Friday, June 24}

Gospel Against AIDS
Walgreens
501 South Ballenger Highway
Flint, MI 48532
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Unified
Walgreens
2170 Washtenaw
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Wellness Services, Inc.
Walgreens
2815 Davison Road
Flint, MI 48506
3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Lenawee County Health Department
1040 S. Winter St.
Suite 2328
Adrian, MI 49221
8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 25

Gospel Against AIDS
Walgreens
501 South Ballenger Highway
Flint, MI 48532
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wellness Services, Inc.
Walgreens
2815 Davison Road
Flint, MI 48506
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Wellness Services, Inc.
Flint Pride
311 E. Court St.
Flint, MI 48502
2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Mercy Health Prevention Practices
The Wheels of Mercy
Smith Ryerson Park
650 Wood St.
Muskegon, MI 49442
12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Lansing Area AIDS Network
Diversity Psychological Services
1310 Turner St.
Lansing, MI 48906
4 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Lansing Area AIDS Network
PrEP Panel Discussion
Spiral Night Club
1427 Turner St.
Lansing, MI 48096
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Lansing Area AIDS Network
Red Party Fundraiser
Spiral Night Club
1427 Turner St.
Lansing, MI 48906
10 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Unified
Dancing In The Park
Palmer Park
Detroit, 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Monday, June 27

Jackson County Health Department
Walgreens
1314 N. West Ave.
Jackson, MI 49202
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Thomas Judd Care Center
Traverse City Mayor's Office
400 Boardman Ave.
Traverse City, MI 49684
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Jackson County Health Department
Walgreens
1314 N. West Ave.
Jackson, MI 49202
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Barry-Eaton District Health Department
Barry County Office
330 W. Woodlawn Ave.
Hastings, MI 49058
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Barry-Eaton District Health Department
Eaton County Office
1033 Health Care Drive
Charlotte, MI 48813
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Genesee County Health Department
McCree South
630 S. Saginaw St.
Flint, MI 48502
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Genesee County Health Department
Burton
G-3373 S. Saginaw St.
Burton, MI 48529
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Van Buren Cass District Health Department
Hartford Clinic
57418 CR 681
Suite A
Hartford, MI 49057
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Van Buren Cass District Health Department
Dowagiac Clinic
302 S. Front St.
Dowagiac, MI 49047
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Kent County Health Department
South Clinic
4700 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
Kentwood, MI 49508
8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
12:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Saginaw County Department of Public Health
1600 N. Michigan Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48602
8:15 a.m. - 12 p.m.
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Health Delivery, Inc.
Bayside Health and Dental Center
3884 Monitor Road
Bay City, MI 48706
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Health Delivery, Inc.
Bridgeport Community Health and Dental Center
6297 Dixie Highway
Bridgeport, MI 48722
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Health Delivery, Inc.
Community Health Center
501 Lapeer Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Health Delivery, Inc.
Hearth Home Prevention and Outreach Center
732 Hoyt St.
Saginaw, MI 48601
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Health Delivery, Inc.
Janet Street Academic Community Health Center
1522 Janet Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48601
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Health Delivery, Inc.
Old Town Saginaw Community Health Center
804 S. Hamilton St.
Saginaw, MI 48602
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Tuesday, June 28

Kent County Health Department
South Clinic
4700 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
Kentwood, MI 49508
8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
12:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Wednesday, June 29

Genesee County Health Department
McCree South
630 S. Saginaw St.
Flint, MI 48502
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Kent County Health Department
South Clinic
4700 Kalamazoo Ave. SE
Kentwood, MI 49508
8 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
12:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Thursday, June 30

Van Buren Cass District Health Department
Woodlands Substance Abuse Clinic
960 E. State St.
Cassopolis, MI 49031
12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

For more information, call
800-872-AIDS or visit www.michigan.gov/hivstd.

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A Glimpse of Shocking Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

There were two newspaper kiosks in once-busy downtown Detroit in the 1960s. One situated at Grand Circus Park. One, at Campus Martius, across from the still-standing, landmark 1877 Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

Each month I'd stop at the closest stand, sneak a look up and down Woodward Avenue, and wait for the perfect unobserved moment to buy a copy of "Grecian Guild Physique Pictorial."

I kept this potent visual aphrodisiac in a brown paper bag when traveling home, sneaking a peek between bus stops. (I was once seen over my shoulder by an attractive guy who slipped me his phone number and an unused transfer. I did not get off at the next stop.)

The vice officer who entrapped me when I was 23 was attractive. He said he had seen me around. He offered me a lift home. (There was no mention of sex.) When I went to his blue Ford Thunderbird, it was locked. His partner ran on the scene, called me a fag, yelled dramatically, "You're under arrest!"

The 6" x 8" fuel for my fantasy life (or, was it, more subliminally, 6" x 9"?) cost \$1.50. There were no full-front nude images. Only suggestive posing pouches. Oiled sleek bodies. Magnificent outdoor settings. It worked nonetheless. Monumentally so!

Some of the photos carried cryptic markings. These indicated top or bottom, straight or gay, whether a professional photographer's model, or a hustler privately available. Not that it did me or my friends any

good. But it was camaraderie of a secret shared from straights.

How times have changed! There's so much erotica, porn and acrobatic, vibratory, cucumber silliness on the Internet – 90,000 online porn sites – that it constantly borders on being ho-hum boring. Go tumblr kink of choice.

(My initial weekly 105 hours of X-rated viewing has dropped to a mere 25, with fewer cold showers in between. Care to compare notes?)

The Internet, of course, is giving the post office a run for the money. But there was a time in the 1960s when magazines like "Physique Pictorial" could not be sent through the mail. Censorship was pervasive. Terrifyingly so.

To send nude photos or suggestive letters meant arrest. My high school artist buddy Gordon Barnard (aka Rita Hayworth) was a member of the Grecian Guild, a fan club for supposedly discrete networking. The postal authorities steamed open one of his "more suggestively worded epistles," and he was hauled into court, warned and fined.

Back then – without the convenience of Grindr and DoMeMary – bars were the only place to meet gays to make sexual assignments. The best bars were those with a back entrance. Coming or going incognito was an important plus.

One had to be wary of vice officers. Unless a bar paid them off, and a few did, there was a risk of being arrested for looking at an undercover cop a few seconds too long. It was his word against yours, and most of the time your shamefaced explanation didn't count in court.

The vice officer who entrapped me when I was 23 was attractive. He said he had seen me around. He offered me a lift home. (There was no mention of sex.) When I went to his blue Ford Thunderbird, it was locked. His partner ran on the scene, called me a fag, yelled dramatically,

See next age



BY DAVID FURNISH

Viewpoint

This Year Pride Matters More Than Ever

Love is the bedrock of our community and the source of our strength and progress. Pulse itself was founded as an act of love. Barbara Poma opened Pulse 12 years ago to honor her brother, a gay man who died of complications from AIDS.

gay man who died of complications from AIDS. She wanted the club to embody the energy of his life and, more than anything, to serve as a place of love and acceptance for the LGBT community. It did that, and more. Pulse became a refuge, a place of community.

Growing up in Toronto, I found solace and safety in clubs like Pulse and in the people who gathered there. In certain parts of the United States, community gathering places like Pulse are the only safe spaces for LGBT people. For that reason, they often evolve to serve more than their original purpose. Nightclubs like Pulse become hubs for HIV prevention, breast cancer awareness, immigrant rights, and LGBT advocacy work.

Particularly in the fight against HIV and AIDS, which is inextricably

tied to the Pride movement, the LGBT community's compassionate response has achieved extraordinary results. By loving people who use drugs instead of denigrating and stigmatizing them, we are more likely to prevent HIV and help people build the lives they want. By embracing HIV-positive people, we short-circuit the stigma that fuels the epidemic. By loving and fighting for the rights of undocumented immigrants, or by shouting with pride that Black Lives Matter or that women's rights are human rights, we are creating a world where an end to AIDS is possible.

If the success of the Pride movement has taught us anything, it's that the only way to stop the hate, to stop the killing and the dying, is with love, compassion, and respect.

See next age



Positive Thoughts

Good Morning Vietnam

BY DIANE ANDERSON-MARSHALL

My stepfather came back from Vietnam in the mid-'70s, a broken man with post-traumatic stress disorder and health complications that grow more dire the older he gets. His PTSD has lasted 40 years; he couldn't "just let it go" as some people have admonished. I was talking with my friend Scott recently and couldn't help but notice the similarities between the two men, veterans of wars they didn't want to participate in, both still suffering from PTSD. Scott, however, never served in the military. He is a veteran of the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s and '90s, that first wave of battle before the enemy was known but not before his comrades were all killed.

Scott has AIDS. He's OK when I call it stage three HIV, as many activists and scientists now do to remove the stigma – after all, AIDS is simply the last stage of HIV disease – but he doesn't want the world, and the LGBT community especially, to know he's living with AIDS, and has been for 30 years or so.

Nobody listens to old gay guys living with HIV. Our world, from the prevention workers to the gay clubs to LGBT media, has focused on the fastest growing group getting HIV: young gay and bi men under 30. There's good reason for that both from a prevention standpoint and a sense of racial justice. Young gay and bi men, especially those of color, have the highest risk of HIV among all young people,

Nobody listens to old gay guys living with HIV. Our world, from the prevention workers to the gay clubs to LGBT media, has focused on the fastest growing group getting HIV: young gay and bi men under 30.

and while African-Americans only represent 33 percent of people under 24 in the national population, they account for 57 percent of new HIV infections among those aged 13–24. For young black trans women the stats are even worse; 56 percent of all black transgender women already have HIV.

Yes, it's critical we reach these young men and women, because without intervention the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has predicted that half of all black gay and bi men will have HIV in their lifetimes. Nobody is modeling numbers for trans women, but I'd venture to say it's even worse.

The number of people living with HIV over 50 is growing as well, both because antiretrovirals are keeping long-term survivors alive now and because

See Positive Thoughts, page 15

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

"You're under arrest!"

You were expected to behave in Detroit's gay bars (there were seven or eight downtown in the 1960s). No touching. No kissing. No holding hands. No dancing. I recall the excitement when a private club – the former Detroit Press Club, located above a burlesque theater – permitted same-sex dancing with its \$25-a-year membership. Wowiee!

Today's LGBTs take so much for granted. But we

► Pride Matters

Continued from p. 10

We've seen, time and again, how compassion makes our community stronger and healthier. That's why today, in the wake of horrendous tragedy, and every day, we must press on with our work to show the world that we are as vibrant, united, and proud as ever. We must continue to be agents of tolerance, compassion and dignity, even – especially – in the face of evil.

It's so easy to hate. It's easy to hate people who

all need to be reminded there was a time when we had no newspapers, no churches, no gay centers, no Pride marches, virtually no positive visibility. Nothing but each other. We made do. And many don'ts.

Friendly tip for living from an oldster: Take nothing – or no one – for granted. Do-do happens when you don't pay attention. Watch your step! The trumpet blares in the distance. Don't say you haven't heard it blowing. (No pun intended.)

Charles@pridesource.com

you don't really know. It's easy to hate people who look different, who pray different, who love different. But we cannot give into the hate. Differences don't matter. We're all human beings. We're all Orlando.

That's the truth we celebrate during Pride Month, and it's why now, more than ever, Pride matters. Hate took the lives of our family and friends. Love is how we must honor their memory.

David Furnish is the chairman of the Elton John AIDS Foundation. This op-ed originally appeared in *The Advocate*.

Creep of the Week

Donald Trump

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

So much anti-LGBT dumb fuckery has emerged after the shooting of 102 people, of which 49 were killed, by a man with a military-



Donald Trump

style assault weapon at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando. There has also been much love and support for LGBT people and rainbow flags a'flyin' literally and

figuratively. And that's nice. But, man, the anti-gay stuff is just especially exhausting to read through and think about right now.

But I do it for you, dear reader. And while there were a lot of potential Creeps, many of them were pretty small fish all things considered. So I chose a big fish, albeit one with very tiny hands.

As has been established, one of the first things Donald Trump did after the shootings was to hop on Twitter and basically congratulate himself "for being right on radical Islamic terrorism." Granted he followed that with "I don't want congrats," but I doubt that. As one of the most narcissistic people ever to run for president, I'll bet he gets a boner every time he's praised.

On June 12, the Tweet that came before read, "Horrific incident in FL. Praying for all the victims & their families." Which is an appropriate thing to say. But it doesn't really mean shit because from that moment on Trump has been using the Orlando shooting for political gain, namely by crafting the narrative that President Obama and soon-to-be-President Hillary Clinton are somehow softies for terrorists and that since terrorist groups like ISIS hate LGBT people, Obama and Clinton basically hate LGBT people, too.

"Hillary Clinton can never claim to be a friend of the gay community as long as she supports immigration policies that bring Islamic extremists to our country and who suppress women, gays, and anyone else who doesn't share their views or values,"

On June 14 Trump tweeted, "Thank you to the LGBT community! I will fight for you while Hillary brings in more people that will threaten your freedoms and beliefs."

Trump said in a June 13 speech.

In other words, since Trump, who doesn't even support marriage equality, hates Muslims he's a far better choice for gays.

"Ask yourself who is really the friend of women and the LGBT community. Donald Trump with actions, or Hillary Clinton with her words?" Trump continued.

I don't know what actions Trump is talking about since he has no "actions" to show for his supposed support of LGBT people. He has not done a single thing but run his mouth about how much he hates brown people. It looks like Trump is engaging in some magical thinking here. Apparently he believes that everything he says comes true. I for one am very relieved that is not the case.

On June 14 Trump tweeted, "Thank you to the LGBT community! I will fight for you while Hillary brings in more people that will threaten your freedoms and beliefs."

Not sure what he's thanking LGBT people for, but support certainly isn't it. LGBT voters support Clinton by a mile. Some individual LGBT people have expressed their support for Trump following the Orlando shooting. Fear makes people do stupid things.

And Trump is happy to capitalize on fear. In fact, his campaign wouldn't exist without it. On June 17 he promised via Twitter, "More attacks will follow Orlando."

Perhaps Trump has dreams where he stops the next attack, flying through the air and stopping bullets with his bare tiny hands, but as far as actual policies go, all Trump has is anti-Muslim rhetoric that inflames hate and inspires bigotry. You can't fight hate with hate, and yet that's all Trump has to offer. And LGBT people have had more than enough hatred, thank you.

The Frivolist 7 Hard Truths the LGBT Community Must Address in the Wake of the Orlando Massacre

I'm using my editorial allowance this time to dissect the aftermath of the largest mass shooting in U.S. history and our loved ones' reaction to it; the response by the media; and how we, as a unified people, must take a stand to tell those who oppress us that enough is enough.

BY MIKEY ROX

For the past few years that I've penned this column, I've kept it light and fluffy. It's called The Frivolist after all, and my goal is to entertain with innocuous content that focuses on the fun stuff in life. I've written about movies, music, fashion and fitness here – all of which, in the grand scheme of things, are rather inconsequential.

Then Orlando happened.

Forty-nine of our LGBT “family” members were gunned down simply for being LGBT, along with another 50-plus injured, and in reflection of June 12's early-morning events I didn't think it appropriate to use this space to reveal the latest summer gadgets. Instead, I'm using my editorial allowance this time to dissect the aftermath of the largest mass shooting in U.S. history and our loved ones' reaction to it; the response by the media; and how we, as a unified people, must take a stand to tell those who oppress us that enough is enough. We are in this together until we are not, and that fate should never be up to another human being. Thus, here are a few bitter pills to swallow if you don't want to be a statistic.

1. There's Still Little Focus on Mental Illness

Sane people don't walk into a nightclub with a capacity crowd in the middle of the night and open fire a la Tony Montana. Yet the three major talking points on both mainstream and social media following the massacre were gun control, terrorism by Muslim extremists and lax immigration laws – even though the latter is moot because the gunman, who I will not glorify by name, was born in the United States. We must start addressing our country's epidemic of mental illness, no matter how difficult the conversation is, so we can



effectively diagnose and treat it before it's too late. That's not to say that the other soapboxes are irrelevant – they aren't – but mental illness played a part in this tragedy, and we can't keep brushing it under the rug.

2. There Are People in Power in This Country Who Want Us Dead

It's not hard to find an American member of the clergy who has at one time or another – maybe during a Sunday sermon or perhaps in a video that's surfaced online – called for the condemnation and, in some cases, execution of LGBT people. They exist. Despite their seeming abundance, however, they're relatively few in numbers, and they're often viewed as fringe members of the religious community. Who we should be more concerned about, however, are the elected officials who we've put in power that are facilitating a deep-seated disdain and hatred toward LGBT people and other minority groups. People like the Trumps, Ted Cruzes and Dan Patricks of the world are a problem, and they cannot be absolved of their bloodstained rhetoric any longer.

3. Bitching About Gun Control on Social Media Is Useless

If gun reform is important to you, push your issue with policy change. Updating your status about how this never would've happened if

AR-15s and similar assault weapons weren't readily available and legal to obtain makes zero difference – especially to those who have been and will be buried by their families because their bodies are full of bullets.

4. The Silence of Your Non-LGBT Friends Is Deafening – But Also a Wake-Up Call

You might have noticed something disturbing the day of and after the Pulse nightclub attack: Your LGBT friends and allies mourned this tragedy while much of the rest of your network either remained silent or skirted the issue of decades of villainizing our community. If they did have an opinion, it was about guns and Muslims and terrorists. This in itself should be a wake-up call to you that you know and love people who do not care if gay people are murdered in mass – and you need to start separating yourself from their deadly ideology.

5. It Doesn't Get Better – And We Need to Stop Pretending It Does

Dan Savage's rainbow-tinted “It Gets Better” approach to LGBT discrimination helped ease our pain a few years ago when LGBT suicide was a top story in the news cycle, and while that nonprofit marketing gimmick wasn't even true back then, it's

practically nonexistent now. No matter how much progress we make in terms of legislation for our civil liberties, the conservative right and its radical cohorts continue to establish us as demons. As a result, there are proverbial bounties on all our heads – and we need to get our heads out of our asses about it. We are Orlando; this could've happened to any one of us – and if we don't wise/rise up, it will.

6. Allowing Anyone to Marginalize You Must End Now

You don't need to apologize for who you are anymore. Like, ever. If somebody doesn't like who you are because you're gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, that's their problem, not yours. Stop apologizing to your relatives, friends, coworkers and pastors. You don't owe anybody anything, but you should start demanding respect. Otherwise, cut them out of your life. Their political and religious views are poison, and it can kill you.

7. We All Need to Take a Course on How to Survive a Mass Shooting

There's no end in sight for America's scourge of mass shootings. It will happen again and again and again. And until every assault weapon is melted down, you are in danger. If the government won't protect you, you have to protect yourself – and step one is enrolling in a course on how to survive a mass shooting. They're growing in abundance, because, well, that's our reality now, and it's in your best interest to be prepared. Your life may depend on it.

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

... there are proverbial bounties on all our heads – and we need to get our heads out of our asses about it. We are Orlando; this could've happened to any one of us – and if we don't wise/rise up, it will.

Aftershocks of Orlando: Is GOP in 'Solidarity' with LGBT Community or Squirming Over Trump's Embrace?

BY LISA KEEN

The aftershocks of a mass shooting at an LGBT nightclub June 12 continued to rattle through the 2016 presidential campaign during the past week.

Almost every day, Donald Trump claimed that LGBT voters would support him because he wants to ban Muslims who, he says, "murder gays." He made several vague statements that many interpreted as suggesting that President Obama had "something" to do with the Orlando attack. Then former Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain explicitly claimed that President Obama was "directly responsible" for the Orlando attack.

Hillary Clinton's campaign struck back, posting a video on Twitter at twitter.com/HillaryClinton Friday that reviewed the many previous statements Trump has made that indicate he would not be particularly supportive of the LGBT community. And even some high profile Republicans struck back, saying they could not support Trump.

Add to this: A co-founder of a now-defunct gay conservative group who has harshly criticized Trump supporters in the past is now circulating a letter to seek LGBT support for Trump.

Chris Barron, co-founder of GOProud, confirmed that he is circulating a letter seeking LGBT support for Trump, but declined to release the letter and did not respond to other questions about his efforts by deadline. In a statement to CNN, Barron said Trump's remarks following the Orlando shooting were a "game changer."

"I have no doubt that Donald Trump would be better for LGBT Americans," Barron told CNN. "Hillary Clinton wants to continue a reckless foreign policy that has made the world less safe for all Americans, including LGBT Americans. She can find plenty of time to crucify Christians in the U.S. for perceived anti-gay bias, but when we've got ISIS throwing gay people off of buildings, when we have Muslim states that are prescribing the death penalty for people who are gay, I would think this would be something that a friend of the LGBT community would be able to speak out on, and Hillary Clinton (is) unable to do so." Barron also penned an essay for CNN, published June 17.

The other co-founder of GOProud, Jimmy LaSalvia, had a much different take on the idea

of voting for Trump.

"The untenable GOP coalition includes anti-gay bigotry, and those voters aren't going to let Trump embrace the LGBT (community) in any substantive way," said LaSalvia. "I suspect that we have seen the extent of (Trump's pro-LGBT statements) with his recent comments that specifically mention LGBT voters. The anti-gay forces in the GOP won't let him go further without backlash."

"LGBT voters know better than most what it's like to have our lives used as political pawns," added LaSalvia. "Trump's divide-and-conquer style campaign, pitting some Americans against others, isn't going to play well with LGBT voters. We've been on the wrong side of those attacks before."

Log Cabin Republicans national President



Chris Barron, co-founder of GOProud, confirmed that he is circulating a letter seeking LGBT support for Trump. Center, the other co-founder of GOProud, Jimmy LaSalvia, had a much different take on the idea of voting for Trump. Left, Log Cabin Republicans national President Gregory Angelo was yet a third take on Trump's remarks following Orlando. He says the candidate seems to be trying to play "unifier of the GOP's various wings."

Gregory Angelo was yet a third take on Trump's remarks following Orlando. He says the candidate seems to be trying to play "unifier of the GOP's various wings."

"Only time will tell if his gambit pays off," said Angelo.

Rich Tafel, former president of the Log Cabin group, said, "Now (that) the GOP nominee is courting gays too," his remarks are marking the "last gasp of the culture wars from the '90s."

Republicans, he said, "are wondering if this guy isn't about to turn on them on one of their key issues, anti-gay bigotry...I don't expect they'll speak out against Trump on this stuff because they've kept their mouths shut on his vulgar behavior before. They must be squirming."

Many Republicans are squirming and some are even announcing they won't support Trump, though none are citing his pro-LGBT remarks as a problem. GOP leaders have

chastised Trump for repeating his call for a ban on Muslims entering the U.S. following the Orlando shooting by an American-born citizen whose parents came from Afghanistan. He's also repeatedly claimed that an American-born citizen whose ancestors came from Mexico cannot objectively preside over litigation against Trump, who has notoriously called for building a wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

On the Monday after the Orlando attack Trump gave a speech saying, "Our nation stands together in solidarity with the members of Orlando's LGBT community."

"A radical Islamic terrorist targeted the nightclub not only because he wanted to kill Americans, but in order to execute gay and lesbian citizens because of their sexual orientation," said Trump, according to a

Trump Better for LGBT?

And on Thursday, at a rally in Dallas he said, "LGBT is starting to like Donald Trump very much now."

"You tell me who's better for the gay community and who's better for women than Donald Trump," said Trump.

By Friday, Trump seemed more riled up than usual. Sweating visibly at the podium he said that, "if some of those wonderful people" in the Orlando club had had guns "strapped to their waists or right to their ankle, and this son of a bitch comes out and starts shooting and one of the people in that room happened to have (a gun) and goes 'boom, boom'-you know what? That would have been a beautiful, beautiful sight folks."

The crowd at the Woodlands, Texas venue cheered wildly, but most polls show Clinton with a 6 to 12-point lead over Trump, and reports are circulating that some Republican Party delegates are looking for a way to nominate someone other than Trump at the national convention next month.

Other top Republicans are putting some distance between themselves and Trump. During Trump's romp through Texas last week, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott had "previously scheduled activities" that his office said prevented him from meeting

with Trump. Republican Gov. John Kasich of Ohio said he can't support Trump, and Gov. Larry Hogan of Maryland said he wouldn't even vote for Trump. So did U.S. Rep. Fred Upton of Michigan. One-time Republican U.S. Sen. Larry Pressler of South Dakota penned an opinion piece for *The Hill* newspaper saying he is endorsing Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

"The Orlando shooting convinced me that many Republicans/Independents/citizens have a responsibility to speak out now to get some background check legislation passed. Secretary Hillary Clinton has been very courageous on this subject - she has stood up to the NRA," wrote Pressler.

Pressler added, "many of my fellow Republicans and Independents have whispered to me the same feelings, but they say they will simply quietly not vote in the presidential

See Aftershock, page 14

Advocacy Groups Call for Unity in Wake of Orlando Mass Shooting

WASHINGTON, DC, June 13 - The National LGBTQ Task Force along with 52 other groups today called for unity in the wake of the mass shooting that took place in Orlando last weekend. The attack that has caused outrage across the nation and the world happened at Pulse during the LGBTQ nightclub's Latino-themed night. Forty-nine people were murdered, the majority of which were Latino and Black LGBTQ people. The groups released the following statement in four languages. Find the the Arabic, French, and Spanish version online. The English version of the statement follows:

We the undersigned organizations working on the front lines of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) movement share in the profound grief for those who were killed and many more who were wounded during Latin Night at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Their lives were lost or forever altered in this devastating act of violence targeting LGBTQ people. Our hearts go out to all the family and friends touched by this horrific act. We know their lives will never be the same again.

This national tragedy happened against the backdrop of anti-LGBTQ legislation sweeping this country and we must not forget that in this time of grief. Unity and an organized response in the face of hatred is what we owe the fallen and the grieving. Collective resolve across national, racial and political lines will be required to turn the tide against anti-LGBTQ violence. Our response to this horrific act, committed by one individual, will have a deep impact on Muslim communities in this country and around the world. We as an intersectional movement cannot allow anti-Muslim sentiment to be the focal point as it distracts from the larger issue, which is the epidemic of violence that LGBTQ people, including those in the Muslim community, are facing in this country.

The animus and violence toward LGBTQ people is not news to our community. It is our history, and it is our reality. In 1973, 32 LGBTQ people died in an arson fire at an LGBTQ Upstairs Lounge in New Orleans. More than forty years later, similar acts of anti-LGBTQ violence are commonplace. Crimes motivated by bias due to sexual orientation and gender identity were the second largest set of hate crimes documented by the FBI in 2015 (over 20 percent). Murders and violence against transgender people globally have taken more than 2000 lives over the last nine years. Bias crimes against US immigrant populations, which include significant numbers of LGBTQ people, have increased over the past decade as anti-immigrant rhetoric has escalated.

For those of us who carry multiple marginalized identities, the impact of this violence and discrimination has even more severe consequences. These intersectional identities and their ramifications are apparent at every level in the Orlando tragedy, which disproportionately affected Latino/a members of our communities, and has xenophobic consequences that threaten LGBTQ Muslims. According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), there were 24 reports of hate violence related homicides in 2015, and 62% of those victims were LGBTQ people of color. Transgender and gender nonconforming people made up 67% of the homicides, the majority of whom were transgender women of color. The violence against transgender and gender nonconforming people has continued into 2016 with 13 reported individual homicides this year alone. NCAVP research on hate violence shows that LGBTQ people experience violence not only by strangers, but also in their everyday environments by employers, coworkers, landlords and neighbors. The Orlando shooting is simply an extreme instance of the kind of violence that LGBTQ people encounter every day.

As LGBTQ people who lived through the AIDS crisis, we know what it looks like and

feels like to be scapegoated and isolated in the midst of a crisis that actually requires solidarity, empathy and collaboration from all quarters. We appeal to all in our movement and all who support us to band together in rejecting hatred and violence in all its shape shifting forms. Let us stand united as a diverse LGBTQ community of many faiths, races, ethnicities, nationalities and backgrounds.

Signed,

Arcus Foundation
Believe Out Loud
BiNet USA
Bisexual Resource Center
Center for Black Equity, Inc.
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
The Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals
The Council for Global Equality
Courage Campaign
Equality Federation
Family Equality Council
Freedom for All Americans
Freedom to Work
GLBTQ Legal
Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)
Gay Men's Health Crisis
The Gill Foundation
GLAAD
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GLSEN
Genders & Sexualities Alliance Network

The Harvey Milk Foundation
Human Rights Campaign
interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth
The Johnson Family Foundation
Lambda Legal
MAP
Marriage Equality USA
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National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council of La Raza
National LGBTQ Task Force
National Minority Aids Council (NMAC)
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance
The New York City Anti-Violence Project
Out & Equal Workplace Advocates
OutRight Action International
The Palette Fund
PFLAG National
Pride at Work
Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)
Southerners on New Ground (SONG)
SpeakOUT Boston
The T*Circle Collective
Tarab NYC
Transgender Education Network of Texas
Trans People of Color Coalition
Transgender Law Center
The Trevor Project
The Williams Institute

► Aftershock

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election.”

Trump seemed to acknowledge last week that Republican leaders are distancing themselves from him, saying he may be “forced” to proceed without GOP leadership support.

“The Republicans, honestly, folks, our leaders, our leaders have to get tougher. This is too tough to do it alone,” said Trump, according to a Washington Times account. “But you know what? I think I’m going to be forced to. I think I’m going to be forced to... We have to have our Republicans either stick together or let me just do it by myself. I’ll do very well.”

The Democrats have their own split to contend with, though it is not nearly so dramatic as that of the Republicans.

U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, who mounted a strong challenge to Clinton during the Democratic primaries, is continuing to withhold his support from the party’s nominee despite losing the final primary in Washington, D.C. June 14.

But most prominent Democrats have gotten behind Clinton, and one openly gay member of Congress who held off on taking sides in the Clinton-Sanders battle - Mark Pocan of

Wisconsin - endorsed Clinton last Thursday. President Obama endorsed Clinton on June 9, as did a favorite of Sanders’ supporters: U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

Obama

And the rancor between Democrats and Republicans continues, even over the Orlando shooting.

Attending a memorial event Thursday for the victims of the June 12 Orlando shooting, President Obama said the massacre was both an “act of terrorism” and an “attack on the LGBT community.”

“You can’t make up the world into ‘us’ and ‘them’ and denigrate and express hatred towards groups because of the color of their skin, or their faith, or their sexual orientation and not feed something very dangerous in this world,” said Obama.

“...We have to end discrimination and violence against our brothers and sisters who are in the LGBT community - here at home and around the world, especially in countries where they are routinely persecuted. We have to challenge the oppression of women, wherever it occurs - here or overseas. There’s only ‘us’ - Americans.”

The president praised the “outpouring of

“You can’t make up the world into ‘us’ and ‘them’ and denigrate and express hatred towards groups because of the color of their skin, or their faith, or their sexual orientation and not feed something very dangerous in this world.” - Pres. Obama

love that so many across our country have shown to our fellow Americans who are LGBT, a display of solidarity that might have been unimaginable even a few years ago.”

But that same day, U.S. Sen. John McCain told a gaggle of reporters that he thinks President Obama is “directly responsible” for the Orlando mass shooting in an LGBT nightclub because he enabled ISIS to grow when he pulled U.S. troops out of Iraq. McCain later used Twitter to “clarify” his remark, saying he was not referring to President Obama himself, but to “President Obama’s national security decisions” as having led to the rise of ISIS.

► Positive Thoughts

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new infections are growing for a variety of reasons. And in an ageist world and a youth-centric culture, this group has been largely left to fend for themselves, which is perhaps why it seems, anecdotally, the suicide rate is higher.

Take my friend Scott. He's saying what a lot of these people over 50 have been saying: that they aren't being listened to, seen, or addressed. They are living long lives, but they are experiencing early aging (researchers say people with HIV age 14 years faster, despite living as long as non-poz peers).

Scott's had Sculptra in his face to remove signs of wasting (a 10 percent loss of body weight) and he's had surgery to remove fat from his back (the dreaded buffalo hump some anti-HIV medications cause). He has a catheter that sometimes leaks (another drug side effect) thanks to bouts of Kaposi's sarcoma and anal cancer; fighting the latter with radiation and chemo took a toll on his immune system. Today he wears adult diapers, something that stops him from dating. His ego can't take it. His longtime partner died of AIDS complications years ago. He's lonely and isolated and sometimes battles depression.

But equally often he's mad as hell. In large part, because like my stepfather, he's been forgotten, as are the others who survived the first wave of the AIDS epidemic. He's never really grieved (there's no time) even though he lost dozens of friends, faced elected officials who suggested a vast quarantine system for people like him and realized how uncaring the world could be.

He's also misunderstood, he says.

While the younger gay and bi men he meets treat HIV as a chronic manageable condition like diabetes, he's had a different experience beginning with a constant fear of death in the early days. Young gay poz activists are sexy and healthy looking; Scott is not. He was the guinea pig, one of many who took the first HIV drug: AZT (azidothymidine), which was fast-tracked by the FDA in 1987 as thousands were dying.

People with HIV were thrilled to have something, even if that something was as flawed as AZT was back in the day. The early dosing was too high (1,500 mg vs. around 300 mg later) and quite toxic. Many (perhaps most) who took it still died. But people often halved their doses and shared it with friends who didn't have access, which is what Scott did. Taking 750 mg may have saved his life. But it didn't save him from AIDS.

He was diagnosed with AIDS as soon as the term changed from Gay-related immune deficiency (GRID) to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). HIV stage 3 or AIDS happens when a person's CD4 cells falls below 200 cells per cubic millimeter of blood. If you don't get treatment, people with AIDS generally only live one to three years. But, with treatment, you can live many years, sometimes going in and

out of the clinical diagnosis of AIDS, but often never getting your CD4 count up high enough because of previous damage from opportunistic infections.

Nowadays, we – the HIV and LGBT media, health advocates, and more – push for medication adherence, treatment as prevention and undetectable viral loads. (Your viral load is how much HIV is in your blood; when it's below 50, it is undetectable and you have less than a 1 percent chance of passing HIV to others). And when we report on gay men living with AIDS for years, commenters on social media often write scathing comments about these poz folks blaming them for not being adherent, not caring, "spreading AIDS," and so on. What these ill-informed critics don't get, what we don't report often enough, is that many of these GBT folks with HIV take their medication religiously; perhaps they always have. They may have never left the AIDS stage of HIV infection. In 2013, 27 percent of the 26,688 AIDS diagnoses in the United States were people 50 or older; of the deaths related to AIDS complications that year, 37 percent were people over 55.

Older people who get diagnosed today with HIV are more likely to actually be at stage 3 when they find out. Gay men like Scott who have lived with it since the earliest days of the disease didn't ask for AIDS, either. They were the guinea pigs who took the earliest of the drugs – it wasn't until the mid-'90s that we had decent drugs, wasn't until the last decade we had the best combination antiretrovirals. What that means is that much like those Vietnam vets (who also were subjected to untested chemicals), Scott and his fellow long-term survivors went through hell with their bodies so that young people today have the option to take a single pill a day and stay healthy and happy and undetectable. It's an option that's not available to Scott, but it's one he helped create for all of you.

It took decades before Vietnam veterans got their own much-deserved memorial. So much loss and anguish surround the survivors of those who perished or are still MIA but presumed dead from that war. The same is the case with the war on AIDS. We have quilts and memorials in the works, things that'll let us honor the thousands of our friends and fellow queers who died. But for Vietnam vets and long-term HIV survivors alike, there's never been an emphasis on those who made it home, those who survived. No right to grieve, no time to wallow. They're just supposed to count themselves lucky and shut the hell up.

But maybe they've been talking all along and it's us who hasn't been listening.

Diane Anderson-Minshall is the editor in chief of Plus magazine, editor at large for The Advocate, and founder and chief storyteller at Retrograde Communications, an editorial services and content curation firm.

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Slipstream's 'Midsummer,' Set in a Gay Bar, Re-Thinks and Re-Tools

Horror of Pulse Massacre Reverberates on a Metro Detroit Stage

BY JENN MCKEE

At a Slipstream Theatre Company rehearsal for "A Midsummer Night's Dream" earlier last week – following emotional conversations about Sunday morning's massacre inside an Orlando gay nightclub – a cast member pointed out that seeing actors lying on the floor with their eyes closed might be too resonant and disturbing.

Why? Because the Ferndale-based Slipstream, about a year ago, had planned to set their all-male production of Shakespeare's comedy in a gay nightclub.

"There's this moment when all the lovers are sleeping on the ground," said Slipstream artistic director/actor Bailey Boudreau. "... And it was pointed out to us by this kid in the cast – he'd pulled someone aside and said, 'It kind of looks like they're dead when they're on the ground.' It was the scariest thing."

That moment ended up being one of a handful of staging choices that needed to be carefully re-evaluated, discussed and tweaked by Boudreau, director Luna Alexander and the cast in the week leading up to "Midsummer"'s opening.

"In the play, of course, our characters are fortunate enough to get up, with a fairy's blessing," said Alexander. "Remembering what's happened, we hope that maybe we can help with the healing."

Shakespeare's comedy tells the story of four lovers who get lost during the course of a midsummer night. While trying to find their way, a spirit enchants the young people so that their affections get confused, and a traveling band of actors gets mixed up in the supernatural chaos too.

Slipstream's press release for the show reads, "set in the only place where fairies become bartenders, elvish monarchs turn into drag queens, a shot boy named Puck serves elderflower cocktails, and the butt of the joke is everyone's favorite Bottom! Follow two sets of hapless lovers as they enter Wood's - the only gay bar around Athens, Ohio."

Whether the production would (or should) go forward at all was a question raised by Slipstream's executive director, Jennifer Jolliffe.

"She'd mentioned that if we wanted to cancel the show, that was understandable, and she'd be more than willing to do that, and that

we'd figure something out, financially," said Alexander. "But neither of us (Boudreau and Alexander) really thought of doing that. ... It just reminded us, 'Oh, yeah. This is why we do this. We find solutions to problems instead of giving up on them.'"

They didn't have much time to chew on the problem, though. Slipstream had closed its production of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" on Sunday, June 12, and "Midsummer" was scheduled to open on Saturday, June 18.

"We had to market it, and market it quick, but any marketing felt wrong," said Boudreau. "So we were thinking of every iteration possible regarding how to market it without being tacky."

Yet this isn't the first time that current events have intersected with what's on Slipstream's stage.

"That whole life imitating art imitating life line has been getting blurry," said Alexander. "Even when we did 'Ubu (Rex,' an absurdist classic about a vulgar, dim-witted fool who aims to seize the crown) – we decided to do that play a year ago, and we both thought that Trump would be out of the running months in advance. So doing it at the time when he was gaining more and more momentum was bizarre. With this incident, it was more of a weird shock."

Originally, Slipstream's "Midsummer" had been planned as a silly, campy romp, "to mock what gay bars had become," said Boudreau. "It'd been fun, but we decided if that was really the intent, we clearly couldn't do that anymore. ... We took out references to how ludicrously sexualized gay bars are – we toned that down, and we added a moment of solidarity. There's a perfect time for it, and with the structure of the show, it makes sense. When the drag queen is crowned, she didn't have a solo number, where the whole cast could join in. ... So literally a musical number decided (the show not being canceled)."

What's the song? "I Am What I Am," from the musical "La Cage aux Folles."

But even with this added moment of acknowledgment, Alexander and Boudreau, throughout the final week of "Midsummer" rehearsals, knew they had to somehow thread the needle of keeping the show fun while also being sensitive, but not getting too preachy.

"That was my first concern. ... What I was seeing and hearing from my friends around the



“We want to remind the community that we can stand together, and that there are safe places, and refuse to bow down to hate. There's something incredibly powerful about refusing to stop dancing, and refusing to cancel a show, and keeping on with our lives.”

– Slipstream artistic director/actor Bailey Boudreau

country was that people wanted to celebrate our community and feel strong and feel like we're together," said Boudreau. "People are mourning, but they also want to feel pride during Pride Month."

"On Monday, we talked about how the show now has a serious undertone, but we still need to give the audience an opportunity to breathe and laugh and remember," said Alexander.

Another "Midsummer" adjustment involved toning down its stereotypes and on-stage nudity; and replacing the opening song, which was originally an Ethel Merman tune. "It was sort of ushering in a night full of absurdity and ridiculousness," said Boudreau. "But after talking about it, we changed it to 'Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves,' because that's less about saying, 'We're making fun of something,' and more about saying, 'We're all welcome, we're all wanderers.' And, you know, it's Cher."

On Sunday, Alexander spoke by phone to a friend who lives across from the Stonewall Inn in New York, "and he said, 'This is like a jolt. It's like a reminder that you have to have community, and the community has to come together,'" said Alexander. "We thought, 'That's the direction we take the show in. We want to remind the community that we can stand together, and that there are safe places, and refuse to bow down to hate. There's something incredibly powerful about

refusing to stop dancing, and refusing to cancel a show, and keeping on with our lives."

Indeed. But doing so still takes a lot of courage.

"One of the most heartbreaking things in the cast discussion was when one of the straight actors, who has been an advocate for gay rights, ... asked if we would have a security detail," said Boudreau. "He was worried about a copycat. ... I cry when I talk about it, because it hurts that an ally now feels in danger for being an ally."

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In Wake of Orlando Massacre, LGBT Venues Ramp Up Security

BY TODD HEYWOOD

In the aftermath of the Orlando massacre, the staff at Spiral Nightclub in Lansing have begun talking about guns. Not banning them, but rather getting them.

"I've had staff who know I have guns, ask me to shoot with them," said Sam Courtney, the bar's manager. "They are talking about getting guns."

Courtney said while no official decision on security responses at the club have been made, the massacre on June 12 in a gay nightclub, Pulse, in Orlando has his team re-thinking their security measures. During that shooting, 49 patrons were killed and 53 others injured. Police killed the gunmen as he tried to flee the bar through holes they had blown in the exterior walls of the nightclub.

"Security staff used to mingle and clean up dishes," Courtney said. "Now there is a new attention to security in general, and an active shooter in particular. It's being aware of who's out of place, which is too bad because we want this to be a crazy inclusive place."

He said staff have discussed "how do we keep our own community safe?"

"We're going to be here," he said "You're not taking this away from us."

While discussions with his team had

revolved around what additional security measures to implement, and private discussions about arming themselves, Courtney said the club has been contacted by a security specialty organization that is offering to train staff on a variety of crisis related issues.

The shift in attention is new for the staff of the club. Courtney said that normally his team will confront verbal fights "maybe every six months, at most."

Courtney, who said he was straight, noted that he is witnessing the community "ramping up security," and acknowledges the discussion of personal guns is part of that, as well as strange.

"People are unsure. People are making choices that are contrary to their progressive values, to their nonviolent values," he said.

Courtney said he has not officially met with Lansing Police Department officials, but on the night of the massacre, LPD Chief Michael Yankowski was present at Spiral for the memorial release of lanterns. Two uniformed officers were stationed outside the bar as well. Police officials have said they are increasing patrols around Spiral, and the other gay nightclub in Lansing, Esquire.

Jody Washington, a city councilmember who represents the ward in which the gay bars in Lansing are located, said she was "sad" that

the community felt "unsafe." Washington said she will be working with LPD to make sure special attention is brought to the bars.

Also last week, Detroit Police officials announced they had met with bar owners in that city to discuss safety.

In Fort Worth, Texas, officers from that police department have been visiting bars in the community. And while that might be helpful for some in the community, another sort of scheme to offer protection has also surfaced in the Dallas community.

White nationalist Jason Lee Van Dyke – who co-authored a legal brief to the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals against marriage equality and invoking the long held "western cultural beliefs" including execution of gay people – is offering weapons and self defense training for the LGBT community.

"Also, as this class is officially being hosted by a 501(c)(3) organization (Texas Marksmen, Inc.), there will be no discrimination as to who is permitted to take the class," Van Dyke wrote in a Facebook event posting over the weekend. "What this means is that, although we are marketing this opportunity only to the LGBT community, anyone who is legally permitted to take the course that wishes to attend will be welcome."

Van Dyke was the legal advisor for the

Young Americans for Freedom Michigan State University chapter when that group was listed by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a hate group. It was listed as such for extreme anti-immigrant, anti-Islam, anti-Semitic, racist and homophobic programming. Van Dyke was not a student at the time – he'd been booted out of MSU for a gun charge. He attempted to have his court record in 54-B District Court expunged, but part of the record – the register of actions – remained in the computers. BTL obtained this document which shows Van Dyke faced domestic violence charges as well as weapons charges. The record shows the domestic violence charge was dropped and he was found guilty on the gun charge.

Philip Rodney Moon has been monitoring the activities of Van Dyke and others from that hate group since it veered from conservative political postures to white supremacy ideology and events.

"Van Dyke has shown himself to be homophobic, far beyond the usual tone seen in mainstream conservative conversation," said Moon. "He's freely used offensive speech against LGBT opponents and partnered with the white nationalist group Traditionalist Youth Network to oppose marriage equality in 2014. Van Dyke's outreach is not done with the interests of the LGBT community in mind."

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Lena Dunham. Credit: Mark Schaffer/HBO

Lena Dunham Mans Up

'Girls' Creator on Recognizing 'Seemingly Mundane' LGBT Issues & the Influence of Her Sister's Queerness

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

"Suited" is the perfect fit for Lena Dunham.

Producer of the thought-provoking documentary about the powerful relationship between fashion and identity, Dunham knows firsthand that bending the gender rules by wearing a suit can be a transformative experience. During this year's annual Met Gala, the multi-hyphenate – actor, author, director, social activist, feminist, out and proud proponent of the word "no" – rocked an androgynous look, sporting black-tie attire and slicked-back hair as if she were a GQ cover model. The masc moment was classic Dunham – meaning, yet another strong statement. Known for her Emmy Award-winning HBO series "Girls," the 30-year-old has

made it her life's mission to tear down societal standards.

Backing "Suited" only seemed natural, then. During Jason Benjamin's directorial debut, airing now on HBO (the film initially premiered in January at Sundance), transgender and genderfluid suit-buyers uncover a deeper sense of self as they find garments that speak to their identity at Bindle & Keep, a Brooklyn-based bespoke men and womenswear company.

Dunham's genderqueer sister, Grace, appears in the documentary while on a quest for a "dark wool suit ... to run around in."

Dunham recently phoned for a candid conversation about how Grace's gender subversions have influenced her to challenge Hollywood norms. During the

interview, the actor also elaborated on the "strength" she gained from wearing her own tailored suit, seeking to break stereotypes with her zeitgeist coming-of-age dramedy "Girls," and being so gay adjacent she calls her significant other, fun, 's lead guitarist Jack Antonoff, her "partner."

I'm gonna try not to cry again just thinking about one of the doc's subjects, 12-year-old Aidan Star Jones. I'm not transgender, but I felt like I was watching a version of myself.

That makes me so happy! And by the way, I've seen the movie a million times and I still weep every time I watch it. I weep every time my sister comes on screen. I just weep because I love that it's kind of a feel-good movie. People are

expecting this gritty documentary and I'm like, yes, there are moments of that, but really it's the family movie I would want to watch if I thought that queerness was more accepted in the world of family movies, which I hope it will be soon.

In what ways did you find yourself empathizing with some of the people who visited Bindle & Keep?

I don't identify as queer in my sexuality, but I have a lot of really close relationships with queer people, and queer culture has been hugely influential. Like so many disenfranchised women, queer culture has been a huge part of my coming of age.

Like I said, I'm a straight girl, but what I really empathized with was

the need to find yourself in fashion when there aren't representations of you. I know that when I entered high school and became a chubby girl – I'd always been a little skinny kid and then suddenly I gained 40 pounds in four months and didn't know what to do with my body and didn't feel like there was a place (for me). I could either walk into a Lane Bryant and sheath myself in something that didn't make me feel like myself at all or I could continue to wear my too-tight hot pink sweatpants. I didn't feel like there was a place for my body to be seen or known or understood.

So, for me, what's been really powerful as an adult has been having my clothes tailored, which is something I only started doing once I started going to red-carpet

events, and even though I've had that experience, I actually had a Bindle & Keep suit made for our Sundance premiere. The experience of putting on something that just fucking fit was so remarkable, and I looked in the mirror and there was this strength that came from not trying to hide any part of myself. So, I think we can all relate to that feeling of trying to find the look – of fashion being a way to try and express yourself, and not feeling like there's any place to turn in the commercial marketplace where your identity's being accepted. In that way, fashion turns from something that is very superficial to something that is extremely emotional.

Recently, I finally fit into a shirt that I'd been wanting to fit into for a long time, so I get it.

It's amazing. It's so subtle but it's so important. My dad has always been into tailoring. He's a real suit guy. My friends will be like, "I saw your dad and I knew it was him from far away because he was wearing this super sharp suit at 10 a.m. on a Wednesday heading to the grocery store," and this made me really understand that part of the reason my dad does that is because it makes him feel that he can own his identity. Something that I love in our family is, my dad has all these suits and then my sibling, Grace, who's in the movie, will take his old suits and tailor them to her body.

It's funny, when we were little girls my dad always wanted to dress us in a super androgynous way. If we were alone with him for the day, it was a plaid shirt, jeans, sneakers; he just thinks androgynous fashion on women is super cool. One of the first presents that he bought each of us: He got me a suit in eighth grade; he got my sister a suit in high school. He would really push the-ladies-in-suits angle. My mom came up in New York in the '80s wearing a power suit, so the idea of suiting as something that kind of already defies gender lines, I already felt like I had an understanding of. This (movie) obviously takes it to a whole new level.

How do you hope the stories that you are a part of telling, such as "Suited" and your work as creator of "Girls," can enrich and embolden the lives of the LGBTQ community?

I think my biggest hope – and my (creative) partner Jenni Konner's definitely coming from the same place – is just that these stories make people feel seen. That was always our goal with "Girls." I went into HBO and said, "Hey, I don't see any shows that represent my friends." And then when we put it on,

and we got our own critiques about what we were representing, we were going, "Wait, a bunch of other people feel that way too," because I didn't see kind of my weirdo, anxious, chubby self on television. Other women didn't see complex women of color represented on television; other women went, "Hey, I'm Asian and I've never seen a character who doesn't just have her nose in a book and is playing the violin." We're always just trying to push back against stereotypical representation or play with it in an intelligent way.

And what I loved about "Suited": This is about an aspect of queer life – we spend so much time thinking about, and rightfully so, these huge issues like marriage equality, raising families, job discrimination; this is a much more seemingly mundane issue. For the queer community and members of the gender nonconforming community, it actually ripples to every part of their life. Because you see, if (doc subject) Everett (Arthur) doesn't get a suit then Everett doesn't feel confident and Everett's not gonna get a job and Everett's not gonna show that, hey, a gender nonconforming trans lawyer is an option in the South. It goes so far. I just hope people see it and go, "I'm seeing myself represented whether I'm queer or not in these characters, and this is a version of the queer story that I haven't seen before."

How has having a sister who identifies as a gender nonconforming person changed your perspective on yourself and your sexuality?

This is an overused word, but Grace is a really brave person. Grace very much came into the world – age 3 – being like, "I don't wanna wear a dress and I'm being myself." Grace always makes a joke that she was briefly straight from the ages of 7 to 10. She very much came into the world with this radicalized approach to being a woman. She did an interview recently in the New York Times in which she was having a conversation with her friend Nicole Eisenman, who is also a queer woman, and they asked Grace about her pronouns and Grace was like, "I'm a gender nonconforming person but I'm OK with being called 'she' because I like to really push the boundaries of what 'she' can be, and that really resonated with me. Because even though I consider myself female and I have a more binary approach to my sexuality, I think that Grace's idea about expanding the definition of what 'she' can mean has really opened me up.

Before Grace became so deeply embedded in her identity, I think that I was still thinking of the world as... I accepted the idea of transness but I

felt like I didn't understand the idea of a person whose gender and sexuality could contain elements of everything that they'd seen. It's funny: You know, I wore a tuxedo to the Met Ball this year and it was such a great feeling to go to a big fashion event where you're surrounded by girls in gowns and feel this kind of strength that comes from being feminine while owning some masculine attributes.

How did it feel to be the odd man out, so to speak?

It's this very ineffable thing where you're like, "I feel cool, I feel sexy, I feel like myself." I felt a little bit at the Met Ball – I'd go up to ladies and be like (deepens voice to resemble a man), "You look great!" (Laughs) I was owning these kind of masculine clothes I had on and it felt really good, and I feel without Grace in my life I wouldn't. I think, especially when you're working in Hollywood, there's a real pressure to conform to femininity in a traditional way, especially if you don't look like what people think a TV star should look like. When I was first getting styled I'd go, "I just wanna wear a really pretty dress and really pretty makeup, so when I go to an event people think, 'Oh, she's way prettier in person than I thought she would be.'" That's all I wanted. And now, Grace has made me feel like I can go in with a fucking suit with my hair messed up because the rules have changed.

I love that you've taken her lead. Speaking of people who've influenced your world, I talked to Jack a few years ago.

Mmm! My partner.

Yes, your partner. Is that what you call him?

(Laughs) I use partner because I like it. We're not married, but also, he's not my boyfriend. I feel like it's another one where I'm like, I'm kind of down with the queer community. I have my partner! He's my partner!

Your refusal to marry until your sister could was admirable, and you wrote a wonderful essay after the Supreme Court ruling last June. It's been a year since the ruling. Have you thought about what you might have the queer people in your wedding party wear?

That's an amazing question, and actually, Jack and I have talked about it and we've always said that when we get married we want our wedding party to just be our two sisters in tuxedos. Jack has a straight sister, I have a queer sister; they'd be our best men / women and we'll call it a day. That's our dream.

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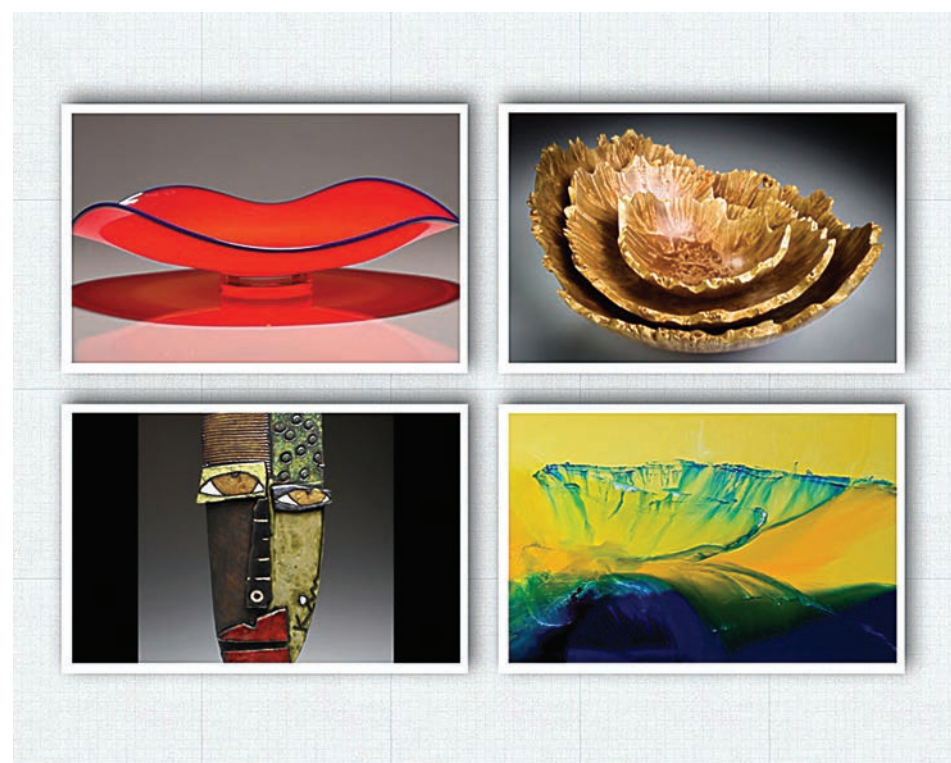


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Ann Arbor Art Fair Brings New Dates, Artists

The Ann Arbor Art Fair is one of Michigan's finest summer traditions and one of the largest outdoor art fairs in the nation. Each year, thousands of artists compete for a limited number of spaces in one of the four art fairs that make up The Ann Arbor Art Fair. For the first time in the 57-year history of The Ann Arbor Art Fair, the art fair will open on a Thursday (July 21) and end on a Sunday (July 24).

"Over the years the art fair has evolved into one of Michigan's greatest summer traditions and expanded to over 1,000 competitively juried artists covering 30 city blocks," said Karen Delhey, art fair spokesperson. "To help leverage its popularity and to accommodate the crowds, we have moved the date."

More than 500,000 are expected to visit Ann Arbor over the four-day event to enjoy and purchase a wide range of media including painting, drawing, glass, sculpture, mixed media, jewelry and more, not to mention the chance to enjoy Ann Arbor in the summer time. Visitors will be treated to artist's demonstrations throughout the event, art activities for all ages and three-stages full of music and dance performances. There will be artists demonstrations, activities for children and three stages full of music and dance performances, including Art Fair After

Hours on Saturday, July 23.

For four days in July, the streets of Ann Arbor transform into an art lover's paradise to experience and enjoy original works of art, street performances, culinary treats and a variety of shops featuring sidewalk sales. From Thursday

July 21 to Sunday July 24 2016, thousands of art enthusiasts will turn out and enjoy engaging with these artists, experiencing their artwork, and embracing the chance to enhance or start their own collection, experience the music and art activities, and explore the eclectic Ann Arbor shops and restaurants.

Some stand out artists include Alice Ham (Berkley, Michigan), Robert Farrell and

Debo Groover (both of Florida).

Event times are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free. Downloadable guide, map, parking options, activities schedule and more can be found at www.theannarborartfair.com. Festival apps are available for iPhone and Android.

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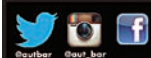
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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, June 23

Good Rainbow Genes An LGBT Pride Month exhibit of the art of well-known Detroit artist and Between the Lines columnist Charles Alexander. A meet-the-artist reception with refreshments will be held on Thursday, June 16 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, **Detroit**. 313-831-1250. www.scarabclub.org

Ladies Night on Livernois 5 p.m. Join shops along the Avenue of Fashion in celebrating Summer Solstice! There will be discounts, refreshments and live music! St. John Providence Health System will offer mammograms! Appointments for a mammogram must be made in advance (by June 4). Email artinmotiondetroit@gmail.com to schedule an appointment. Avenue of Fashion, Livernois Avenue (between 8 Mile & Clarita), **Detroit**. artinmotiondetroit@gmail.com www.facebook.com/NEW-Avenue-Of-Fashion-On-Livernois-1499091960307005/

Rehearsals for Metro Detroit LGBT Chorus 7 p.m. New members welcomed year round. One Voice Chorus uses singing to promote understanding outside of the LGBT community, and unity within it. One Voice Chorus, 1589 W. Maple Road, **Birmingham**. detroitonevoice@yahoo.com http://onevoicechorus.net

Friday, June 24

What Mental Health Providers Need to Know About Transgender Identity 12 p.m. National Association of Social Workers - Michigan Chapter, 2799 West Grand Blvd, **Detroit**. 517-487-1548. cnichols@thechildrenscenter.com www.nasw-michigan.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=812713&group=

Festival of the Moon Features Bell's Brewery, food, music and dancing. 21+. I Love Old Town, **Lansing**. www.loveoldtown.org

Holland PRIDE Film Festival 7 p.m. Featuring the film "Prodigal Sons." Holland Pride, **Holland**. www.Hollandpride.org

Gay Play Series (GPS) 8 p.m. The Newparts Project, the newest comedy from Julia Lynn Marsh will be followed by a discussion on casting for transgender characters with the audience, cast, and playwright. Tickets: \$10. Stick around for a free event, Dustin's Big Gay After Show, featuring Dustin Gardner at 11:30 p.m. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Saturday, June 25

Grounds Crew Workfest 10:30 a.m. Come help prepare the grounds for a family reunion. Work as much as you can. Simple foods and water will be provided. Lansing Lesbians, 14371 McCrumb Road, **Eagle**. www.meetup.com

Holland PRIDE Film Festival 11 a.m. Featuring the films "Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine," "La Mission" and "The Imitation Game." Holland Pride, **Holland**. www.Hollandpride.org

Second Annual Summertime Tie Dye (And Clothing Donation Picnic) 1 p.m. Bring white or light colored clothes to dye and they will provide music, snacks and the dye. Clothing donations

will benefit the Ruth Ellis Center and Gateway Community Services in Lansing. Humans United for an Equal Society (HUES), 1100 Alton Road, **East Lansing**. www.facebook.com/events/1555549934746336/

Flint Pride Suggested donation: \$5. Flint Pride, **Flint**. 810-232-0888. tspringer@wellnessaid.org www.facebook.com/FLINTGAYPRIDE

Doggone Hoedown 2:30 p.m. Bring your pooch for an afternoon of country-themed dog activities to include bales of hay, horseshoes, and more. Free spa service provided by LCS Mobile Pet Spa. Quicken Loans, See website for location details, **Detroit**. www.campusmartiuspark.org/events

Festival of the Sun Will feature a variety of fine wines, beers and cocktails for sampling as well as food, music and dancing. 21+ I Love Old Town, **Lansing**. www.loveoldtown.org

Italian Night Charity Dinner and Silent Auction at Zion Lutheran Church 5 p.m. Join MCB for an Italian charity dinner & silent auction to benefit Affirmations and Ruth Ellis Center. Motor City Bears, 143 Albany & Woodward Street, **Ferndale**. motorcitybears@gmail.com motorcitybears.com

Gay Play Series (GPS) 8 p.m. The original One Act Festival continues with four plays: A Man in Peril, You Too?, Party of Men, and Wallpaper. Tickets: \$10. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Retro Fevre Saturdays 9 p.m. The best dance music from the 80s, 90s, and today mixed by DJ Beau Derek and Prime Minister. Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave, **Ferndale**. 2485411600. events@reddoorclub.com http://www.reddoorclub.com/events/

Super Happy Funtime Burlesque 9:30 p.m. This 12-member touring monstrosity features a live band, a burlesque troupe, and a circus act. This musical production is designed to find your line and cross it with a mix of GWAR and Benny Goodman with touches of SNL and the Price is Right. Get sprayed with glitter and love while playfully degrading taboo subjects like religion, politics, and sex. 18 and over welcome. Tickets: \$10. Blind Pig, 208

S. First St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com/

Sunday, June 26

Day of Decision Celebration Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. www.visitannarbor.org

Paddle Group 1 a.m. Bring a kayak, canoe or whatever floats. The paddle group hits the watersheds known as Brighton, Huron-Clinton, Irish Hills, Jackson, Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas. They paddle for two to three hours most Sundays. Life jackets are required. Yak season is April through October. Yak Womyn, **Ann Arbor**. saphosis@yahoo.com

Gay Play Series (GPS) 3 p.m. The One Act Festival ends with four plays: Angel of the People Mover, Boblo Island Fairies, Happy & Gay, and Not Our Town. Tickets: \$10. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Monday, June 27

Watch Fireworks and Game 6 p.m. Outdoor rooftop, fantastic view and potluck. Ten guests total. Please RSVP by Monday, June 20. Gay Geeks Social Group, 555 Brush St., Apt. 1404, **Detroit**. www.meetup.com

Gay Play Series (GPS) 8 p.m. The festival will conclude with an awards ceremony, a repeat performance of the audience-voted favorite one act and the return of 3 Queer Tenors who will perform Bette Midler: Live at the Continental Baths. Tickets: \$10. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Tuesday, June 28

Care to dance? 7 p.m. Learn to urban ballroom every Tuesday night. Bring a partner, or not. There is no cover charge, but they do ask that you patronize the establishment by purchasing a beverage or a meal from their kitchen. Sisterhood Social Excursions, 8670 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. www.meetup.com

Wednesday, June 29

Healthy Moves: Workout Wednesdays 5:30 p.m. Join the First Responders 4 Fitness, Metro Detroit's emergency

response professionals, who volunteer their services to deliver a variety of free fitness classes and wellness workshops. Quicken Loans, 662 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. www.campusmartiuspark.org/events

See Jane Sing 8 p.m. Suggested for mature audiences. Ann Arbor Summer Festival, 121 Fletcher St., **Ann Arbor**. 734-764-2538. www.janelynchofficial.com

Thursday, June 30

Equality on Tap Date TBD. Bill's Beer Garden, **Ann Arbor**. www.Billsbeergarden.com/

Mix & Mingle 5:30 p.m. Channel 955, 800 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. www.campusmartiuspark.org/events

Healthy Moves: Strength & Cardio Boot Camp 6:30 p.m. Join the Bedrock Wellness Center to work up a sweat and build muscle. Quicken Loans, 662 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. www.campusmartiuspark.org/events

Men's film and discussion group 6:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. mensgroup6@gmail.com GoAffirmations.org

Men's Film Group 6:30 p.m. Men's Film Group, for men ages 18 and up, features a variety of films followed by discussion. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. mensgroup6@gmail.com www.goaffirmations.org

Naked Men's Yoga 6:30 p.m. Naked Men's Yoga, **Ann Arbor**. message4@aol.com http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga

Friday, July 1

Red Hot Fridays 9 p.m. Top 40 and current dance music mixed by DJ Beau Derek and Prime Minister. Enjoy \$3 mixed drinks until midnight and \$1 "we call it" shot specials. No cover charge before midnight. Use the password "Red Hot." Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-541-1600. info@reddoorclub.com www.reddoorclub.com

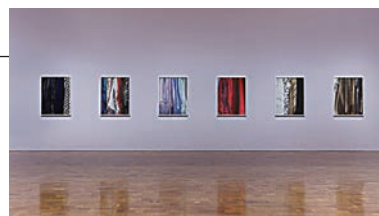
Saturday, July 2

Outdoor Games 12 p.m. Quicken Loans, 662 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. www.campusmartiuspark.org/events

Lesbian Euchre 6 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. lsbandanii@aol.com www.goaffirmations.org

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Editor's Pick



The University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) presents its new exhibition through Sept. 11 in its A. Alfred Taubman Gallery. This exhibition presents new and recent work by Los Angeles-based artist Catherine Opie, one of the essential figures in contemporary photography. The exhibition "Catherine Opie: 700

Nimes Road" is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

Beginning in 2010, Opie spent six months taking photographs at the Bel Air, California, residence of Elizabeth Taylor. The exhibition includes 50 works drawn from two series, "Closets and Jewels" and "700 Nimes Road." Opie's lens captures the essence of the Hollywood legend through her personal objects and mementos, and portrays Taylor's life experience and eccentricity as an illusory subject, one that cannot be specifically designated or precisely described. In the artist's words, the project is not about the relationship to celebrity but about "the relationship to what is human."

UMMA is located at 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. For more information, call 734-647-0524 or visit Umma.umich.edu/view/exhibitions/2016-opie.php.

Hear Me Out

The Healing Power of Beyoncé's 'Lemonade'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Everyone has their own theory about Beyoncé's "Lemonade." Is it about her marriage to Jay Z? Her dad's infidelity? America's pervasive racism and its wrenching consequence: the slaughtering of innocent blacks?

Is it about Orlando now?

It could be. Though the complexities here are rich and thought-provoking, "Lemonade" simply represents resilience. Inspired by Bey's own grandmother-in-law's adversity, it's about soldiering on despite setbacks, be it the calamity of a troubled relationship, the ever-present black struggle, or the grief of 49 lives lost in a gay nightclub. It is, therefore, our album to lean on, music for unearthing an inner fortitude when fortitude seems futile. Beyoncé is, yet again, a beacon of empowerment, and "Lemonade" is next-level liberation.

"Freedom," for instance, marches in like a victorious rally cry. During the song, Queen Bey channels the rawness of Merry Clayton's vocal shred, when the singer memorably sang "rape, murder; just a shot away" in 1969 on Rolling Stone's "Gimme Shelter"; on "Freedom," Bey is carrying on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks; she is the voice of all those oppressed, past, present and future. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes of despair and persecution, a "bulletproof" Beyoncé proclaims, "I break chains all by myself." In that moment, she sounds reborn, which she is.

"Lemonade" sees Beyoncé on the frontlines of change. This is her "Like a Prayer," her "Velvet Rope." Risks abound, from the Jack White-produced goth rock of her patriarchal takedown "Don't Hurt Yourself" to the New Orleans-tinged "Daddy Lessons," a guitar-plucked, percussion-slapped soul ditty that's a testament to Beyoncé as a bona fide artist:

Her talent is basically boundless.

Vocally, too, Beyoncé doesn't play it safe. "Don't Hurt Yourself" smears Auto-Tune all over her velvety voice; she drops to a hypnotically low octave on "6 Inch"; she fashions a reggae inflection on "Hold Up." The production is bold, and Bey's presence throughout is seismic. She is queen. "Lemonade" is her throne.

It also happens to be her best album to date (do it; bow down), advancing the inventiveness of her last avant-garde release, 2013's self-titled "Beyoncé." This one further catapults the former Destiny's Child song slayer beyond bling and bug-

social subtext concerning the Black Lives Matter movement and Southern repression mark the 11-chapter narrative, which also serve as tinted-windows into Bey's own personal life. By now we've all heard of Becky, the mistress with "the good hair," whomever she is; on "Formation," the singer leads a feminist rebellion, dropping that Red Lobster zinger while simultaneously leading humanity down the road to unification. Reconciliation comes in the form of "Sandcastles," the piano ballad that bridges the album's split narrative – angry, icy/hopeful, warm – as it unfolds into "All Night,"

which champions the power of love... all love. (The video appropriately features gay and lesbian couples who are, you guessed it, crazy in love.)

When I interviewed Beyoncé in 2011 for a gay press exclusive, the future of her artistic intentions and inspirations were apparent even though she was discussing the sonic bend of that year's release, "4": "I really focused on making people feel good and feel love and know that there is love out there and goodness exists," she thoughtfully conveyed, as if she were in the early stages of planning

"Lemonade." "I wanted to make a body of work that took risks – to be brave and be myself, and not focus on being cool."

The cycle is complete. Bey is now the artist she sought to be then, full-fledged, chains undone. Love, too, is still the answer, it seems. Hate and tears and terrorists, be damned. On "All Night," she assures, "Nothing real can be threatened." In that moment, as the narrative of "Lemonade" culminates with the healing power of hope, she's not only a singer, not just a pop star either – Beyoncé is a life force doing her part to keep the love alive.



LEMONADE

a-boos to new, socially-conscious heights. Pop stars, this is your benchmark now. Basically, not only should you surprise-drop your work and create an astonishing visual component, as she has, you must also be the zeitgeist. You mustn't just buck the trends – you must set the trends. You must make an album that plays like an album – remember cohesive narratives? – rather than a stew of singles. You must demonstrate that you can be successful without radio support.

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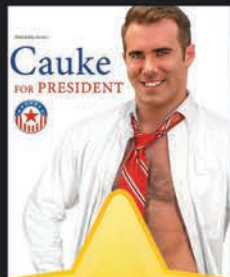
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Resource

Please be sure to check out our special **pet guide** online @ www.pride-source.com

It provides great articles and resources throughout the year that help you care for your pet!

Editor's Pick



Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's Studio Series will present "And Give Us the Shadows," directed by Paul Bianchi, on June 23-24. A dark portrait of a dysfunctional family, "And Give Us the Shadows" portrays a fictitious visit by the sons of Eugene O'Neill on his birthday.

This elegantly translated and whip-smart drama by foremost Swedish playwright Lars Noren makes its Michigan debut at the A2CT Studio Theater and gives local audiences a glimpse into the life of one of America's greatest playwrights, as seen through the eyes of one of Sweden's great writers. The talented cast of "And

Give Us the Shadows" features Mark Bernstein as Eugene O'Neill, Erica Dutton as his wife Carlotta, Russ Thomas as Eugene O'Neill, Jr. and Russ Schwartz as Shane O'Neill, and Jonathan Jue-Wong as Saki.

Performances are Thursday and Friday evening at 8 p.m. and Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m., June 23-24 and June 26. The A2CT Studio Theater is located at 322 W. Ann St. Ann Arbor. All tickets are \$12 for general seating. For additional information, visit www.a2ct.org or call 734-971-2228.

MUSIC & MORE

Concerts

B-93 Nashville singer and songwriter, Clare Dunn. Campus Martius Park, 800 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 9 p.m. June 24. www.campusmartiuspark.org/events

Kerrytown Concert House "Invisible Guy" Jazz. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 28. 734-763-4186. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Juliana Barwick" Special guest Mas Ysa will perform. Tickets: \$12. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 9 p.m. June 23. 313-832-6622. www.mocaddetroit.org

Nu Lo "Heaters" Stef Chura Band, Evan Haywood and Broccoli will also perform. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 9:30 p.m. June 24. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Steve Miller Band" Also performing is Jimmie Vaughan. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 7 p.m. June 24. 248-377-0100. www.dteenergymusictheatre.org

The Carr Center "Evenings in Paradise" Showcase of musical performances and entertainment by local and national jazz and R&B favorites. Paradise Valley Beatrice Buck Park, See website for location details, Detroit. June 7 - Aug. 25. www.downtowndetroitparks.com

Festivals

Kerrytown Concert House "Minifest: Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival In Residence" A classical performance by some of the world's finest chamber musicians. Tickets: \$15-\$35. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. June 17 - June 26. 734-763-4186. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Film & Video

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" The Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Drive, Auburn Hills. 3 p.m. June 25. 248-377-0100. www.palacenet.com

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Alone With Friends Tickets: \$20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through June 25. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

And Give us the Shadows Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. June 23 - June 26. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org/events/and-give-us-the-shadows

Auditions for the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. June 27 - June 28. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org/audition

Dreamgirls Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through June 26. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

Spin Suggested donation: \$20. Theatre Nova, The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through July 10. 734-635-8450. www.theatrenova.org

Professional

Dreamgirls PG-13. Tickets: \$22-24. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through June 26. 248-541-6430. www.Stagecrafters.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "Comics Unbound" Public reception on Friday, June 17 from 6

p.m. to 9 p.m. curated by Anne Drozd and Jerzy Drozd. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. June 15 - June 24. 734-994-8004. www.annaborartcenter.org

Cranbrook Academy of Art "John Glick: A Legacy in Clay" Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 18 - Nov. 30. 877-462-7262. www.cranbrook.edu

Detroit Institute of Arts "The Open Road: Photography and the American Road Trip" Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 17 - Sep. 11. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Detroit's Pioneer Building "PIONEERS" Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 16 - June 25. 313-831-1400. www.casscafe.com

Kerrytown Concert House "Suchness" Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. June 3 - June 29. 734-763-4186. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "Summer Invitational '16" Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. June 29 - July 29. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

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Post #WeAreOrlando - Drop-In Center Safe Place

The Youth Drop-In Center provides a **safe place** for youth, ages 13-20, to engage their peers for networking, fun, **support** and learning. **Open Fridays & Saturdays, 4 pm - 9 pm.** The Center has an XBOX 360 and games, pool table, board games, WIFI, Netflix, and much more. Contact [Tevin Giles](mailto:Tevin.Giles@goaffirmations.org), tgiles@goaffirmations.org for more information and to subscribe to monthly calendars.

XTL Youth Leadership Development Program

A six month program that works with 15 youth, ages 13-20, throughout Metro Detroit to learn valuable leadership skills and advocacy for issues facing LGBTQ youth. **This program has two meeting sites youth can choose from: Detroit and Ferndale.** Youth receive monthly stipends and transportation stipends. Contact [Lilianna Reyes](mailto:Lilianna.Reyes@goaffirmations.org), lreyes@goaffirmations.org to join the new group beginning in July 2016.

XTL Youth Workforce Development Program

A six month program that works with 12 young people, ages 13-24, throughout Metro Detroit to teach them workforce skills. They operate a youth inspired store (Recess: Store, Cafe, and Lounge). Youth are mentored by a Business Advisory Council from representatives from local businesses, financial institutions, automotive industry, and many more. Youth receive monthly stipends and transportation stipends. Contact [Lilianna Reyes](mailto:Lilianna.Reyes@goaffirmations.org), lreyes@goaffirmations.org to join the new group beginning in July 2016.



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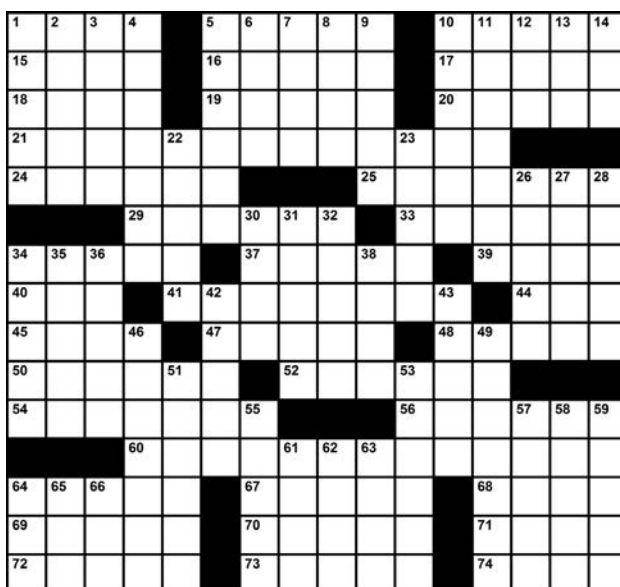
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Q Puzzle



Sulu Says It All

Across

- 1 Paul Rudnick's "The _____ Fabulous Story Ever Told"
- 5 Terence of "Smallville"
- 10 Ridges on Melissa's neck
- 15 Cartoonist Peter
- 16 No longer jail bait
- 17 Property claims
- 18 Rivera's rivers
- 19 Place for your favorite boxers
- 20 Vital carrier
- 21 With 39-Across, T-shirt motto

- of George Takei
- 24 Like a virgin's maidenhead
- 25 Whisper, as a secret
- 29 Tissue problem in "Philadelphia"
- 33 Rachel Maddow, to MSNBC
- 34 Farmer in the hayfield
- 37 "The Queen" producer Rudin
- 39 See 21-Across
- 40 Past
- 41 With 45-Across, nickname for House Bill 2
- 44 Dry, to Ted Allen of "Queer

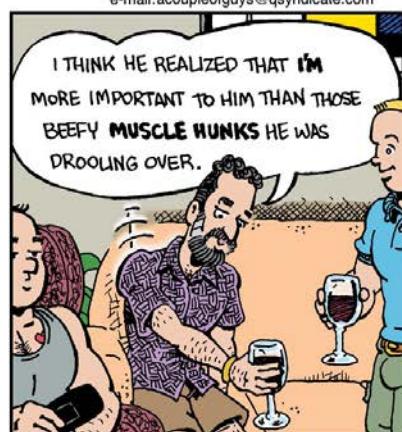
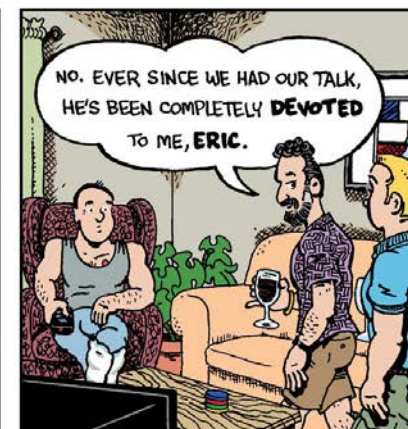
- Eye"
- 45 See 41-Across
- 47 Verb with "protest," to the bard
- 48 Start of a legal conclusion
- 50 In cahoots
- 52 Data for a headhunter
- 54 Gets to the bottom of?
- 56 Annoyances
- 60 State that passed House Bill 2
- 64 "Take it off!"
- 67 Bone-chilling
- 68 Current for three men in a tub
- 69 Dressing for Dr. Kildare
- 70 What the Devil wears, in a movie
- 71 Corp. magnates
- 72 Use them to fork around
- 73 One who scatters seed
- 74 Matador's opponent

Down

- 1 Bloody queen
- 2 Hunter that comes out at night
- 3 Tapir feature
- 4 Like Julia Morgan's models
- 5 Pro-gay perspectives
- 6 Univ. of Maryland athlete
- 7 "The African Queen" author
- 8 Hair of a stallion
- 9 Backup strategy
- 10 Straw-colored
- 11 What the cops read at Stonewall?
- 12 Always, to Byron

- 13 USA rival
- 14 Fed. retirement agency
- 22 Like sourballs
- 23 Urania's sister
- 26 Not only that
- 27 Plates of Bean's
- 28 How Homo sapiens stands
- 30 Words in an analogy
- 31 Earth tone
- 32 Lief's tongue
- 34 Kiddie-lit elephant
- 35 Able to bend over
- 36 Lounges
- 38 They're into diapers
- 42 Office machine
- 43 Reproduction without sex
- 46 Take into the pride?
- 49 Word on a Tammy Baldwin poster
- 51 Flees to become husband and husband
- 53 Erect (or how bottoms take it?)
- 55 Many go down on them
- 57 Straight to _____
- 58 Moon in "Return of the Jedi"
- 59 Affirm orally
- 61 Mark Bingham of United Flight 93
- 62 Sticking point
- 63 Gal Friday, e.g.
- 64 Pepper, for one: Abbr.
- 65 Half a cocktail
- 66 Come quickly

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Employment discrimination against LGBT workers is illegal. It is the mission of the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to stop and remedy unlawful employment discrimination. Call 1-800-669-4000. You can ask for translation assistance.

Although Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 does not explicitly include sexual orientation or gender identity, the EEOC and courts have said that sex discrimination includes discrimination based on an applicant or employee's gender identity or sexual orientation. For example, it is illegal for an employer to deny employment opportunities or permit harassment because:

- A woman does not dress or talk in a feminine manner.
- A man dresses in an effeminate manner or enjoys a pastime (like crocheting) that is associated with women.
- A female employee dates women instead of men.
- A male employee plans to marry a man.
- An employee is planning or has made a gender transition from female to male or male to female.

WHO IS PROTECTED?

All private sector and state/local government employers with at least 15 employees.

Examples of sex discrimination involving sexual orientation include:

- Denying an employee a promotion because he is gay or straight
- Discriminating in terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, such as by providing a lower salary to an employee because of sexual orientation, or denying spousal health insurance benefits to a female employee because her legal spouse is a woman, while providing spousal health insurance to a male employee whose legal spouse is a woman.
- Harassing an employee because of his or her sexual orientation, for example, by derogatory terms, sexually oriented comments, or disparaging remarks for associating with a person of the same or opposite sex.

HOW DO I REPORT WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION?

Please contact Lolita Davis, Enforcement Supervisor and Outreach & Training Coordinator at (313) 226-3783 or Lolita.davis@eeoc.gov. EEOC will investigate complaints of employment discrimination, harassment and retaliation and may act to stop it and seek remedies on your behalf for free. Visit www.eeoc.gov to find out more about laws against employment discrimination.

The anti-discrimination laws give you a limited amount of time to file a charge of discrimination. In general, you need to file a charge within 300 calendar days from the day the discrimination took place. Regardless of how much time you have to file, it is best to file as soon as you have decided that is what you would like to do.

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