

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Orlando Victims Remembered PAGE 31

Sorrow & Celebration



Marriage Equality One Year Later

Ron Napier and Andy Soya were married by Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack in her chambers June 10. Soya and Napier are the first same-sex couple to be married in the Michigan Hall of Justice.

Photo by Derek Cookson Photography.

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Indie-pop Star Ladyhawke on Coming Out & Why Orlando Feels 'Very Close to Home'

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To Transgender Movement Leaders, Activism Is an Antidote to Violence

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Actual ATRIPLA patients.

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

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

What is ATRIPLA?

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

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

See your healthcare provider regularly while taking ATRIPLA.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

ATRIPLA can cause serious side effects:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

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

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:

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

TAKING CARE OF

ME

WITH THE STRENGTH OF

WIFE

For adults with HIV-1,

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

In a clinical trial:

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

SELECTED IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

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

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

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

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

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

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

Please see Important Safety Information continued on the following pages.

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

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (continued)

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

What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may cause the following additional serious side effects:

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

Common side effects:

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

Other possible side effects:

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

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

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

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



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Patient Information

Rx ONLY

ATRIPLA® (uh TRIP luh) Tablets

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

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

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

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

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

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

What is ATRIPLA?

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

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

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

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

Does ATRIPLA cure HIV-1 or AIDS?

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

Who should not take ATRIPLA?

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

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

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ATRIPLA?

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

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

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

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH ATRIPLA

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

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

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

ATRIPLA® (efavirenz/emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate)

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

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

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

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

How should I take ATRIPLA?

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

What should I avoid while taking ATRIPLA?

- **Women should not become pregnant while taking ATRIPLA and for 12 weeks after stopping it.** Serious birth defects have been seen in the babies of animals and women treated with efavirenz (a component of ATRIPLA) during pregnancy. It is not known whether efavirenz caused these defects. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are pregnant.** Also talk with your healthcare provider if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because ATRIPLA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control. Efavirenz, a component of ATRIPLA, may remain in your blood for a time after therapy is stopped. Therefore, you should continue to use contraceptive measures for 12 weeks after you stop taking ATRIPLA.
- **Do not breastfeed if you are taking ATRIPLA.** Some of the medicines in ATRIPLA can be passed to your baby in your breast milk. We do not know whether it could harm your baby. Also, mothers with HIV-1 should not breastfeed because HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in the breast milk. Talk with your healthcare provider if you are breastfeeding. You should stop breastfeeding or may need to use a different medicine.
- Taking ATRIPLA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as ATRIPLA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines, including prescription and nonprescription medicines and

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

What are the possible side effects of ATRIPLA?

ATRIPLA may cause the following serious side effects:

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

Common side effects:

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

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

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

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

Other possible side effects with ATRIPLA:

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

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

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

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

How do I store ATRIPLA?

- **Keep ATRIPLA and all other medicines out of reach of children.**
- Store ATRIPLA at room temperature 77°F (25°C).
- Keep ATRIPLA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. If you throw any medicine away make sure that children will not find them.

General information about ATRIPLA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use ATRIPLA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give ATRIPLA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

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

Do not use ATRIPLA if the seal over bottle opening is broken or missing.

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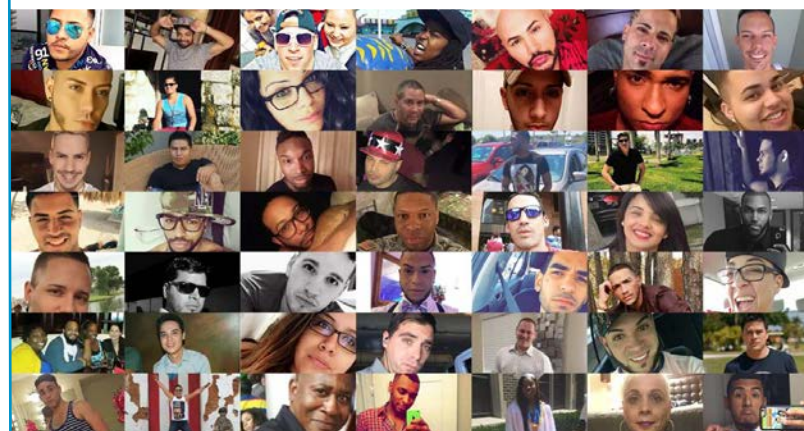


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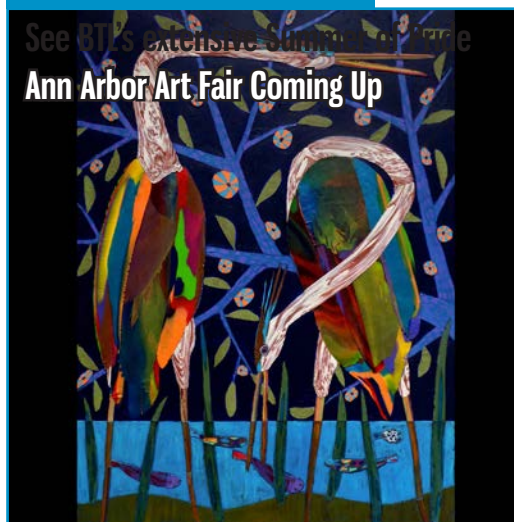
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By Sam Potter

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

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

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

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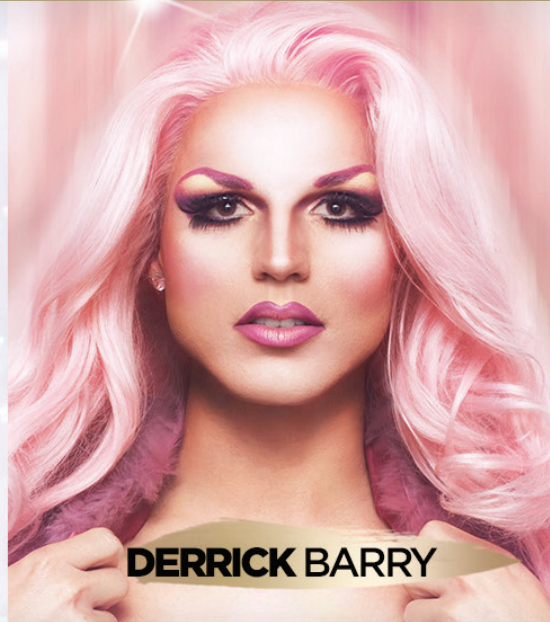
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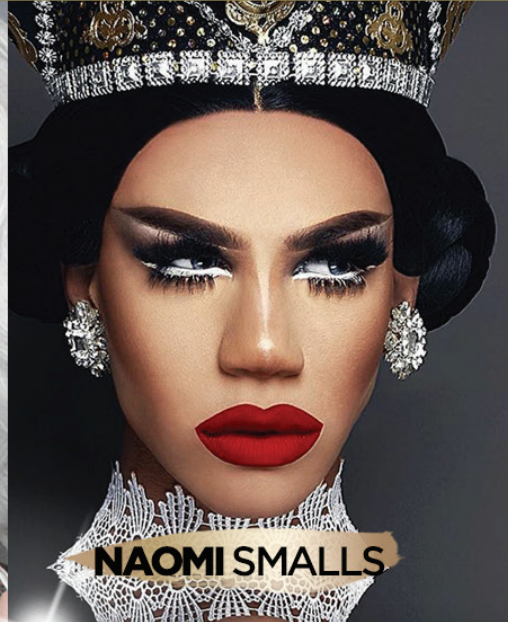
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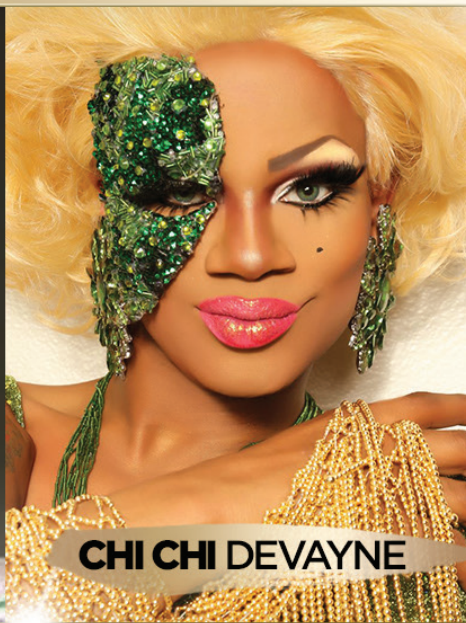
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SHOW SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Job Training For Older LGBTs Coming Up

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT – SAGE Metro Detroit will host its first job training program, SAGEWorks Employment Boot Camp, to help 10 LGBT older adults obtain the skills needed for today's workplace.

The two week intensive training program begins July 18 and runs through July 29 and seeks to expand participants' job hunting skills and career options. Classes are free and will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hannan House in Detroit. The intensive training is aimed at job seekers aged 40 and up.

A number of factors contribute to older adults staying in the workforce longer or having to re-enter the job market after retirement. Studies have shown that LGBT older adults have a much harder re-entering the workplace and experience greater harassment and discrimination compared to their heterosexual peers - especially transgender men and women.

Research shows that discrimination across the lifespan, and thinner support networks, contribute to higher poverty rates for LGBT people and LGBT elders in particular. One study found that same-sex elder couples face higher poverty rates than their heterosexual peers - 9.1 percent to 4.9 percent.

In addition to fighting poverty, LGBT older adults encounter safety net programs in their later years that deny same-sex couples the

same benefits as married heterosexual peers and they experience unequal treatment under the law for being LGBT. For example, under Michigan law it is perfectly legal for an LGBT employee to be fired for simply being LGBT. Some employment protections are granted through the federal government, however.

SAGEWorks Employment Boot Camp will be taught by Operation Able, a Detroit-based non-profit, which for years has been a leader in helping mid-career older adults obtain work and remain employable during their lifetimes. Topics covered include the realities of today's job market; resume and interview instruction; conducting a modern job search; social media and networking; and stress and anger management.

Participants receive a textbook and will work on computers at the training site. Applicants should be highly motivated in their search for employment and have basic computer skills. Lunch will be provided at each session.

Potential candidates are required to complete a registration form at www.sagemetrodetroit.org. The application is for trainings in both Detroit and New York City, so make sure to check the Detroit box.

For more information contact Judy Lewis at jlewis@sagemetrodetroit.org or Jay Kaplan Kaplan at aclumich.org. Hannan House is located at 4750 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

ILGA-Europe Reaction to UK Referendum Result

STATEMENT FROM PRESS RELEASE

ILGA-Europe have always strongly believed in the power of activists and allies to work together for a common goal, namely to improve life for LGBTI people across Europe. Over our 20 year history, we have supported the work of our dedicated UK membership, and learnt just as much from them in return. So, as a European network of human rights activists, we naturally regret the fact that the UK will no longer be a voice for progress in the European Union.

As we pointed out in the run-up to the BREXIT vote, the UK and the EU have a long history of complementing and building on the work of the other when it comes to advancing LGBTI equality. Anything that limits this shared work is clearly a concern for us.

From ILGA-Europe's perspective, the message that must be taken from the UK referendum result is the need for more solidarity, not less. For greater compassion, not concentrating on what divides us. For celebrating our common humanity, not withdrawing to an insular worldview.

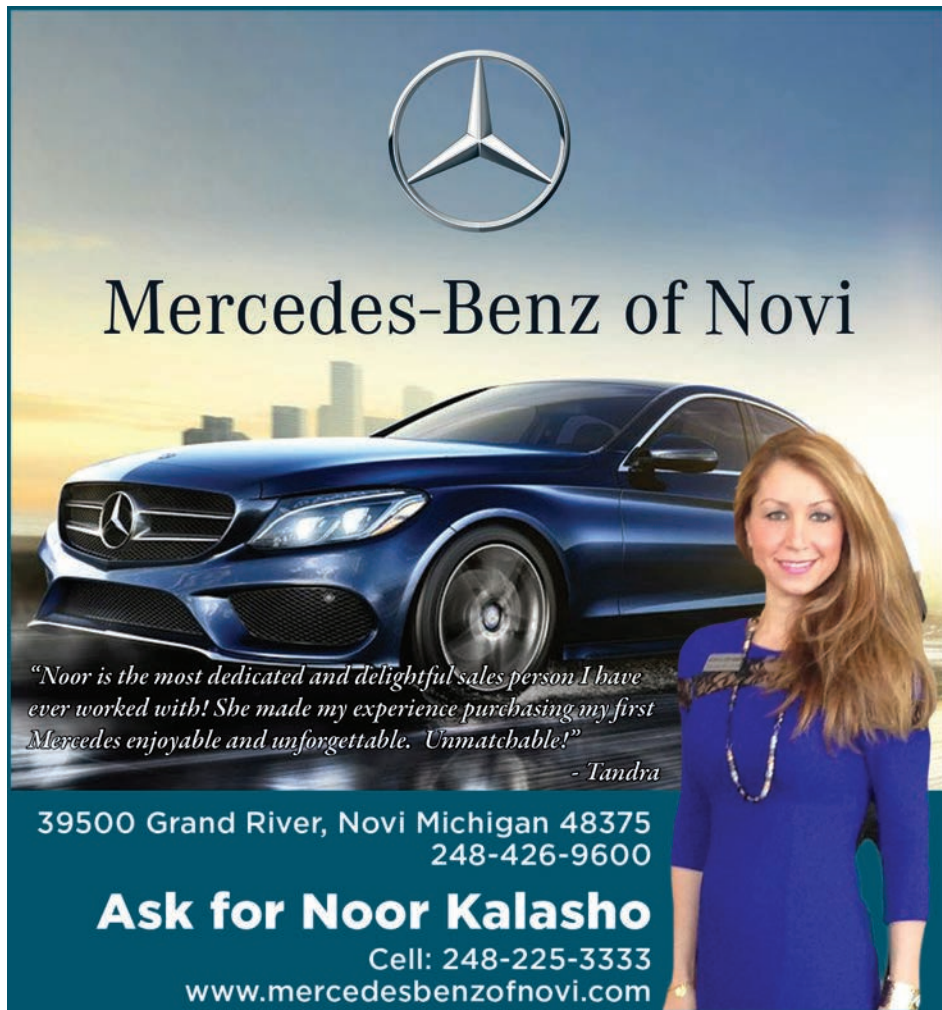
Human rights organisations must come together to articulate a clear vision for the sort of Europe we want, one that is based on our shared vision of social justice, equality, freedom and diversity.

We are not just talking about the LGBTI movement, but all human rights and equality groups, whether that is the women's rights movement, environmental initiatives, development organisations, or sexual health and reproductive NGOs. More than ever, we all need to come together, standing stronger and more unified in our resolve to translate this vision into reality.

Predictions about what will happen as a result of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union are fanciful at this point.

But our commitment to working with our members in all parts of the United Kingdom to drive forward equality there, and across the entire continent of Europe, is one thing that will never be in doubt.

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Charles Pugh on the night he was elected as Detroit City Council President in 2009. BTL file photo: Andrew Potter

Charles Pugh Arrested in New York

Former Detroit City Council President Charged with Criminal Sexual Conduct in Detroit Case Dating Back to 2003

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

NEW YORK – Once the second most powerful man in Detroit politics, former Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh was arrested June 13 in New York on six counts of criminal sexual conduct. Authorities are alleging Pugh had an inappropriate relationship with a young teenager he met while working here in Detroit as a reporter and anchor at Fox 2 news in 2003–2004. The boy, who is not being identified, was 14 years old at the time the two met.

Pugh's fall from grace has been long and painful since he fled Detroit in 2013 following allegations he sexually groomed a teenager through his Charles Pugh Leadership Forum mentoring program at Frederick Douglass Academy for Young Men. Though no charges were filed, the young man at the heart of this case, Khody Sanford, took Pugh to civil court. The allegations and subsequent case cost Pugh his career and professional reputation in Detroit. Ultimately he lost the case and was ordered to pay Sanford \$250,000 in damages. Pugh initially appealed the verdict before eventually agreeing to begin paying the plaintiff.

Living in Manhattan since news of the Sanford case was released, Pugh, whose once impressive career as a journalist was also destroyed by the scandal, has allegedly been working in various restaurants for the past three years. It was in New York – Harlem to be specific – that he was arrested through cooperation between the Detroit Police Department and the U.S. Marshals service. Authorities now hope to extradite him back to Detroit and begin legal proceedings.

“Despite what the defendant has meant to the city in the past, and the positive work he did here, we cannot and will not turn a blind eye to these alleged facts,” said Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy in a statement.

Between The Lines has learned that the man in the new case, who is now 27, first met Pugh when as a member of the Mosaic Youth Theatre he appeared on the weekend news program Pugh was anchoring. Sources say the young man initially inquired about becoming an intern. Though that never came to happen, the boy would go on to build a relationship with Pugh that included visits to Pugh's downtown Detroit town house where authorities are alleging the inappropriate relationship developed.

Now, Pugh is to be charged with three counts of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree and three in the third. While criminal sexual conduct in the third degree is punishable by up to 15 years in prison, the maximum sentence for a first degree conviction is life.

HOPE Fund Awards \$60k to Three Groups Working to Improve LGBT Lives

BY AJ TRAGER

DETROIT – The HOPE Fund, housed at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM), recently approved \$60,000 to be divided into three grants supporting programs that help LGBT individuals.

Three grants of \$20,000 each were awarded to the Community Health Awareness Group, Progress Michigan and the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The bi-annual grants are typically given to organizations located in Michigan, however in this cycle a New York City-based organization will receive one of the three grants designated for June.

“Typically grants are only awarded to organizations that are headquartered in southeast Michigan. This organization (Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund) has been working in southeast Michigan and is growing its presence in the area,” Surabhi Pandit, program officer for CFSEM, told BTL. “This grant is helping strengthen their capacity to have a staff person for outreach work.”

Legal Aid

The Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund launched a pilot program in February 2015 providing legal name change services to transgender men and women living in Michigan. The program is now full-time, providing aid to trans men and women, as well as training opportunities for legal professionals to work on these cases.

While the process of changing one's name is significantly easier than changing one's gender marker on official documents - such as state IDs - and costs around \$350, many find the process to be both confusing and time-consuming. Having professional help from someone trained in the legal challenges surrounding the name change process helps individuals file more quickly and more efficiently.

Leadership

The second grant to the Community Health and Awareness Group, located in Detroit, supports the LGBT Detroit Leadership Academy, a program of LGBT Detroit. CHAG is the fiduciary agent for LGBT Detroit. The Leadership Academy a social justice training program for Black young adults between the ages of 18 and 20. The academy began in 2012, and since its inception has integrated a more formalized leadership program, incorporating the expertise of outside speakers and opportunities for those in the academy to participate in other activities and work with partners like the CHAG.

“What we're supporting here is their tangent of that program (Leadership Academy) to develop into a more robust program,” Pandit said. “LGBT Detroit didn't have the capacity to turn what they have accomplished into an income generating model. The model resides in the organization and they are now coming up with conceptual steps to help bring this model to other communities.”

“This is a grassroots approach to development. You don't see a lot of leadership programs that aren't targeting mid to high level professionals,” she continued.

Communication

The third grant was made to Progress Michigan located in

Lansing. The organization serves as a communication team and media hub for the progressive community in the state. The organization has come out in strong support of LGBT organizations and the grant will help Progress Michigan continue to build communications support and direct media for LGBT-specific social justice initiatives around the state.

“The grant is to help them with LGBT work in the region and provide communications work in various capacities, providing LGBT organizations with deep training on how to do their own website and media and how to communicate and do interviews,” Pandit said.

The HOPE Fund

The HOPE Fund was created in 1994 to support LGBT individuals and families through targeted grantmaking, projects and technical assistance. Since its inception, it has distributed nearly \$1.9 million in grants to 134 projects at 50 nonprofit agencies throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair and Livingston counties.

CFSEM is a full-service philanthropic organization with a permanent community endowment built by gifts from thousands of individuals and organizations.

For more information on CFSEM or the HOPE Fund visit www.cfsem.org.

Pope: Gays and Others Marginalized Deserve an Apology

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP) – Pope Francis says gays – and other people marginalized by the church like the poor and the exploited – deserve an apology.

Francis was asked Sunday en route home from Armenia if he agreed with one of his top advisers, German Cardinal Karl Marx, who told a conference in Dublin in the days after the deadly Orlando gay club attack that the church owes an apology to gays for having marginalized them.

Francis responded with a variation of his famous “Who am I to judge?” comment.

He said: “I think the church must not only apologize ... to a gay person it offended, but we must apologize to the poor, to women who have been exploited, to children forced into labor, apologize for having blessed so many weapons.”

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To Transgender Movement Leaders, Activism Is an Antidote to Violence

BY AMY LYNN SMITH

This is part one of a two-part series on transgender activists in Michigan.

In the wake of the devastating attack in Orlando, the LGBTQ community is seeking comfort, strength and hope. Violence is, sadly, nothing new to the community, but the violence at Pulse, a gay nightclub, has brought the world's attention to a problem with which LGBTQ people are all too familiar.

Transgender people are at higher risk of violence than the rest of the community, which is why activists have been working for decades to create safe spaces for them – and stand up to defend the rights of trans men and women. It's a reassuring thought in these perilous times.

Bre Anne Campbell, co-founder and executive director of the Trans Sistas of Color Project is an outspoken leader in this regard.

"We're going to build sisterhood with trans women in Detroit by mobilizing the community to start training for activism," she says. "Everyone's activism is important, from the front of the line to the back. I want to be intentional about framing the conversation that everyone is an activist."

Campbell is no stranger to activism. Over the last 12 years, she's worked on HIV advocacy

with several organizations, and was diagnosed with HIV herself in 2010, just two months before she began transitioning.

"My HIV activism was the beginning of my work on transgender advocacy, although I didn't realize it at the time," Campbell says.

Intersectionality is important to Campbell, just as it is to Lilianna Angel Reyes. As a transgender woman of Mexican heritage, she wants all aspects of herself to be embraced and celebrated – and she wants the same for everyone else.

Just a couple of weeks before the Pulse shooting, Reyes spoke about the sobering problem of violence against transgender people.

"All trans lives have to matter," she says. "When we start to devalue people based on their moral beliefs, we start to dehumanize people. Only when our lives are valuable will one murder spark mass chaos and people will say 'No more.' But that's not where we are. Hundreds have to die before we talk about this. We have to see the value within everyone. Every person has value."

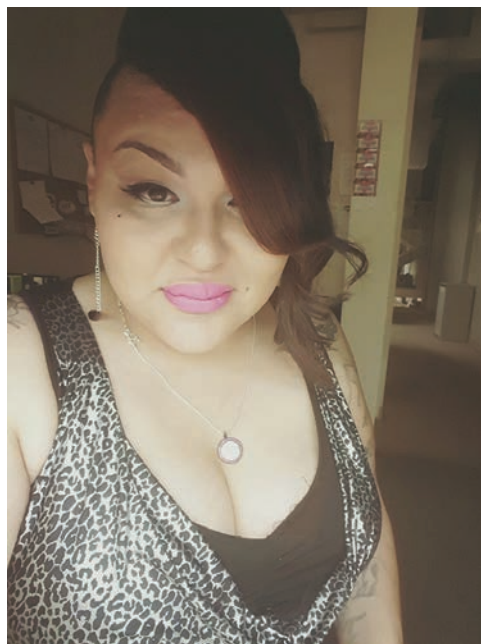
Reyes – who is a founding mother of the Trans Sistas of Color Project – is doing her part to help shape the future, in her work as youth program manager at Affirmations in Ferndale.

She describes her role as sustaining, creating and evaluating new programs working with youth. Reyes has created two curriculum-based, evaluation-driven youth programs that teach



“Everyone’s activism is important, from the front of the line to the back. I want to be intentional about framing the conversation that everyone is an activist.”

– Bre Anne Campbell, co-founder and executive director of the Trans Sistas of Color Project



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– Lilianna Angel Reyes, youth program manager at Affirmations in Ferndale.

The interviews for this story were originally conducted for an ongoing series on the lives of transgender people at Eclectablog.com

professional and leadership skills, including advocacy.

Reyes says society has always made life challenging for LGBTQ youth, but it's harder than ever today.

"With all the new movements that are pushing toward equality, it's starting to make visible the invisible hatred that's always been there," she says. "But now we're paying more attention. We have more support now. Youth are having a space to be vocal and we're seeing organizations being allies to youth more than ever."

The Trans Sistās of Color Project is also building future leaders for the movement, and has long-range plans to open a 24-hour community center for transgender women in Detroit. After the community center is established, the next initiative is to establish a transitional living program for trans women, Campbell says.

Another movement leader, Jay Maddock, executive director at the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, is quick to acknowledge the place of privilege he has as a white transgender man – and he uses it to advocate for others who are marginalized by society.

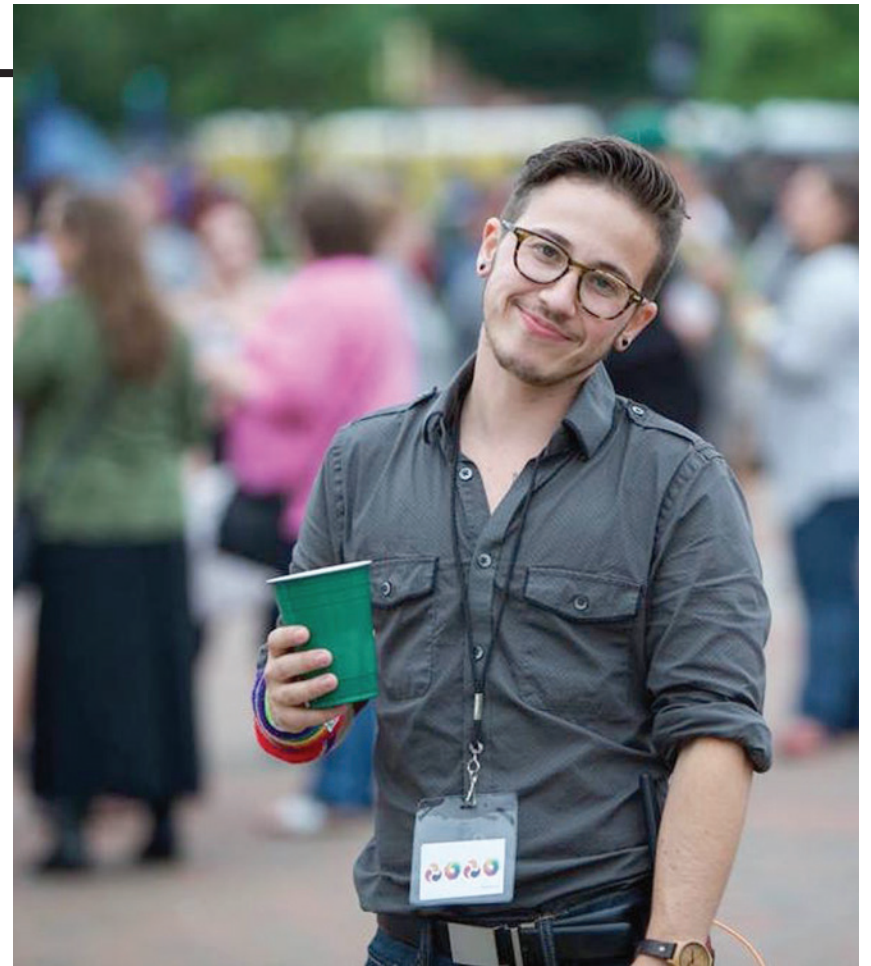
"The root of all the anti-transgender bills and hate rhetoric is the fact that we live in a sexist, racist, misogynist society, and the way in which racism and sexism play together with transphobia is this dangerous, hate-filled rhetoric we're hearing," he says.

“The root of all the anti-transgender bills and hate rhetoric is the fact that we live in a sexist, racist, misogynist society, and the way in which racism and sexism play together with transphobia is this dangerous, hate-filled rhetoric we're hearing.”

– Jay Maddock, executive director at the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center

It's not that Maddock hasn't been threatened or harassed. But because he says he's more likely to be accepted as male – putting him at lower risk – he feels a responsibility to advocate for others.

"During my transition, I gained power and privilege," he says, "so I'm using that privilege to stand up and give some visibility to those who aren't given the opportunity to use their voice."



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Join The Conversation

Analysis: Election 2016 Could Deliver 5 Openly Gay State Reps to Lansing

BY MARK W. LACHEY

Boom! Michigan's LGBT community has five openly gay Democratic candidates running for the state house this year. No worries if you didn't know before – most folks don't (including those who consider themselves political insiders). But this column is designed to change that...and to help get all of them elected.

To first recap 2014, there were, at one time or another, six openly gay men and women vying for legislative seats. For a variety of reasons, we were only successful in electing two – Jeremy Moss and Jon Hoadley. The stellar service of both to their districts, as well as their fellow LGBT Michiganders, during these past two years clearly demonstrates the importance of having them there and the importance of adding openly LGBT legislators to their ranks.

So now in 2016, we have five LGBT Michiganders running in house districts across our state. They are:

State Rep. Jeremy Moss (35th - City of Southfield, Southfield Township and City of Lathrup Village)
www.votejeremymoss.com

State Rep. Jon Hoadley (60th - Kalamazoo, parts of Kalamazoo Township and City of Portage)
www.jonhoadley.com

Jeff Chicoine (14th - Cities of Lincoln Park, Melvindale, Riverview and Wyandotte)
www.jeffchicoine.com

Brian Stone (15th - City of Dearborn)
www.votestone.com

Tim Sneller (50th - Cities of Burton and Grand Blanc; Townships of Grand Blanc and Mundy)
www.timsneller.com

Given that Representatives Hoadley and Moss are facing no real opposition in their re-election campaigns, I will focus on the newcomers, Brian Stone, Tim Sneller and Jeff Chicoine. They are running on good progressive agendas and each would make a great state representative for their district. Equally important, all are running smart, viable campaigns (that's political shorthand for

With the Aug. 2 primary coming up campaigns need your dollars for mailers, yard signs and their GOTV efforts. Now is when they need your time for making calls, knocking on doors and your commitment to help on primary day.



Jon Hoadley



Jeremy Moss



Jeff Chicoine



Tim Sneller



Brian Stone

having a realistic path to victory) and are working hard in both fundraising and getting their messages to the voters in their respective districts.

But why does any of this matter when summer has just begun, and the election isn't until Nov. 8? Because in actuality, it is likely that all five contests will be decided by their primaries Aug. 2.

That's just over a month from now, folks. Each of these five candidates are running in districts generally considered to be safely in the Democratic column, so in reality, the winners on Aug. 2 will be the next state representatives from those districts. The one possible exception is Tim Sneller's race in Genesee County, but given that area's historical voting record and the prospect for a large Democratic turnout this November, I am cautiously optimistic that Tim will be able to hold this seat for the Democrats once he gets past the primary.

With the Aug. 2 primary coming up campaigns need your dollars for mailers, yard signs and their GOTV efforts. Now is when they need your time for making calls, knocking on doors and your

commitment to help on primary day.

Additionally, it is commonly understood on both sides of the political aisle that the real battle within Michigan for 2016 will be for control of the state house and that

the Democrats have a realistic chance of regaining the majority. An LGBT legislative caucus of five within an overall Democratic majority would result in our community having a much stronger voice in committees and an enhanced presence on the House floor for our efforts to add proequality legal protections and to block enactment of additional, homophobic-inspired legislation. *This* is why these candidates and their campaigns matter today.

Being candid, Michigan's LGBT community has a pretty lousy record of supporting our own candidates for elected office. Most of us don't write checks and we don't sign up to volunteer. In spite of that reality, LGBT folks continue to run for office, not because of vanity or on a whim, but because they genuinely believe they can make a difference for our community in Lansing. So I'd ask you to begin by checking out the websites for these five (especially Tim, Jeff and Brian), then make a real difference to their campaigns by hitting the "donate" or "volunteer/contact" tabs. I guarantee you that any amount will be hugely appreciated by them.

Let's start supporting our own. As President John F. Kennedy once said, "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

Mark W. LaChey is an attorney living in Saugatuck. He is chair of the LGBT & Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party and also serves on the MDP Executive Committee.

Finally, it is time

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A Year After Marriage Equality, LGBT Community Poised For More Activism

BY AJ TRAGER

“No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization’s oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right.”
-Justice Anthony Kennedy, excerpt from the *Obergefell v. Hodges* ruling, June 26, 2015

ANN ARBOR – Just over a year ago the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges* and found that states’ bans on same-sex marriage were unconstitutional. It brought an end to a decades-long battle and moved the needle of acceptance for LGBT citizens. But along with this historic victory, the year also saw hundreds of anti-gay bills introduced in state houses across the country - and on the very eve of the anniversary - the largest gun massacre in U.S. history took the lives of 49 patrons and wounded over 50 more at Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando, a on June 12. It was a dark, horrific backlash, the ramifications of which are still being sorted out.

It is in this shadow that the one year marriage equality ruling unfolds with both sorrow and celebration.

In the nearly 5 decades since Stonewall, activists have worked hard to change hearts and minds and educate the American people about who LGBT citizens are. The changes didn’t happen immediately. There were many setbacks and backlashes - often with a steep price paid, including loss of life. Nevertheless, over time, opinions on same-sex unions started to shift toward greater acceptance.

One by one, legal cases emerged in courts across the country fighting for legalizing same-sex marriage in all 50 states. It took the work of an entire community across the U.S. and the dedication and time of legal teams in many states, to finally move the country forward on June 26, 2015.

An entire year has passed since the marriage equality ruling. So, what’s changed?

For April and Jayne DeBoer-Rowse, the plaintiff couple in the Michigan same-sex marriage case (*DeBoer v. Snyder*) a lot has changed.



Jayne and April DeBoer-Rowse, plaintiff couple in the Michigan same-sex marriage trial and Mandi Wright the director of the documentary of the trial titled “Accidental Activists,” came out to Braun Court June 26 to celebrate the one year anniversary of marriage equality. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

“It’s funny, we hit the emotional high with all of it and then it was an emotional low. We had become used to having people coming and going (in the home) and then there wasn’t (anyone) and it was just us. It was like wow, what do we do? And obviously that all picked up by taking the kids to T-ball practice and doing homework. It was back to the family,” April told BTL.

Since 2012 the couple and their five children, have been in the public spotlight - whether at a press conference about their case or an LGBT event or sitting in courtrooms demanding equal treatment for their family. After they were officially married last August, just two months after the historic SCOTUS decision, things died down and they were able to focus more on family life and spend less time being Michigan’s LGBT celebrities.

The stress and anxiety of a four-year trial is enough to tax anyone, let alone someone with a job and five children. In September 2015, it took it’s toll when Jayne experienced a heart attack sparking a series of lifestyle changes for the couple. After taking time to recharge though, they decided it was time to come back out and be visible.

“With events around the state and the world, we thought maybe we should be back out there and try and inspire people to do things,” April said. “Although we don’t want to be in the front line anymore - the headline - we want

people to know that we did this and that they can do this too, and we need to bond together and take on the rest of the issues that we have.”

Because of the fight they waged, April and Jayne, like tens of thousands of other LGBT couples, can now legally jointly adopt their children and extend legal protections to both parents. Jayne and April’s five children now have medical and legal protections connecting them to both of their mothers.

“There is a relief now that we don’t have to worry about this end of it. There are plenty of things that we still have to worry about: job security - we can still be fired, and now looking at it with Orlando - it’s safety. Are we safe when we walk out the door?” April asked.

Orlando has changed the attitudes of many within the LGBT community and has sparked a new energy for progressive change that had quieted down post marriage equality.

Braun Court

Over 100 people gathered at Braun Court to celebrate the first anniversary of marriage equality on Sunday.

“Sisters, brothers, President Obama has declared Stonewall a national monument,” Jim Toy, namesake of the Jim Toy Community Center and longtime LGBT activist said in his remarks. “If we’re looking for a monument look around us, Braun Court is our monument.

Braun Court is our history. Braun Court is our community, Braun Court is where we work. Braun Court is where we come together to celebrate...”

Braun Court held a special brunch along with three screenings of “Accidental Activists.” The documentary by Mandi Wright, journalist for the Detroit Free Press, covered the *DeBoer v. Snyder* trial from the beginning. Event speakers talked about the current political atmosphere for LGBT people - what has been accomplished for LGBT civil rights and what is yet to be done.

“I want to talk a little bit today about marking this first anniversary, it’s a wonderful day. But we have so much more to do. The mountain has yet to be climbed. We have so much more to achieve. Obergefell didn’t mark the end of civil rights protections, but the beginning. Obergefell was about the fundamental right to marry, but it is about so much more. It’s about us as LGBT people not being second class citizens in this nation - which we are currently. We need basic civil rights protections,” Angie Martell of Iglesia Martell Law Firm, told those gathered.

The Republican controlled Michigan House and Senate refuse to take up legislation to amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to extend housing, employment and public accommodation protections for LGBT Michigan residents. Despite all the legal and social changes arriving with marriage equality, the LGBT community is still treated like second class citizens. The trans community remains a target for anti-LGBT policy makers and LGBT people are still being murdered for being LGBT.

Martell believes that now is the time for the LGBT community to band together to continue the fight for LGBT lives. She had a strong reaction to the homophobia and hate that sparked the massacre at Pulse nightclub and she recognizes a need to stay vigilant and visible. For many in the LGBT community, bars are their safe place.

“It was surprising, but I personally thought there would be smaller incidents, but not something on as grand of a scale (as Pulse). It’s heartbreaking. So many people lost their lives. They’re people. They’re human beings. They were in the safest places that most of us have ever known, where we don’t have to fear being ourselves,” April told BTL.

Dana Nessel, one of the lead attorneys on the *DeBoer v. Snyder* case, believes now is

RELATED STORY

Obergefell: Marriage Ruling Plaintiff from Ohio Dedicated to Activism
>> See page 22



Attendees at the event raised their glasses in a toast for the one year anniversary of marriage equality Sunday. Sparkling grape juice was provided by /aut/Bar. The celebration of marriage equality was tempered by the Orlando Massacre as a memorial table in Braun Court was on display. BTL Photo: AJ Trager

the time for the LGBT community to come together and fight for a common cause. Nessel spent four years working on the DeBoer-Rowse case which eventually reached the U.S. Supreme Court following a setback in the 6th Circuit Appellate Court. In the past year Nessel married her wife and together legally adopted their two children.

“After seeing injustice after injustice take place we really felt that doing nothing was worse than at least trying to do something. And that we would never win a case that we didn’t file,” Nessel told those about the DeBoer-Rowse case.

Gary Gates, who supplied an amicus brief in the DeBoer v. Snyder trial and Blachford-Cooper distinguished scholar and research director at the Williams Institute, told Nessel that a year after marriage equality there are over 491,000 same-sex couples married in the country.

The Braun Court celebration closed out with a toast by Keith Orr, co-owner of /aut/Bar and Common Language.

“To our wonderful, colorful, diverse community. We are all ages and gender identities. We are all colors and sexual orientations. We salute those who have fought to win this important step in social justice, especially Jayne and April, and Dana Nessel and her legal team. May this celebration be the springboard for ever greater steps in the arc toward social justice, that the generations who follow us may live in a world where social justice is a way of life, not a struggle. Cheers,” Orr said.

Among those that attended the event were Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, D-12th District; Mayor of Ann Arbor Chris Taylor; Ann Arbor City Commissioner Yousef Rabhi and Ypsilanti Mayor Amanda Edmonds.

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MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Obergefell: Marriage Ruling Plaintiff Dedicated to Activism

BY DAN SEWELL



Jim Obergefell, center, speaks to members of the media in front of the U.S. Supreme Court on March 6, 2015. Obergefell hadn't thought about being one of the most visible figures in the marriage-equality movement. He just wanted to marry the love of his life for 21 years. Obergefell remembers watching the news on TV with John Arthur after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act in 2013. I just leaned over, hugged and kissed John, and said, Lets get married, he recalls. AP Photo/Andrew Harnik

but it also makes us proud to be part of a community that is resilient. ... We've been through a lot. We've been through the HIV-AIDS crisis. We've been through centuries of hatred directed our way.

We have moved forward, and we've learned that the way we do this is by being a community that fights for each other, by having allies on our side and helping people understand us.

But we're angry that so many politicians won't even utter LGBTQ when they talk about this atrocity. This is a hate crime, pure and simple, and for people to ignore that ... it's harmful and hurtful.

You moved a book-signing from the local county library after its board refused to pay for a transgender employee's transition surgery. What is the state of the transgender movement a year after marriage ruling?

In the past year, my understanding, my attitudes, my knowledge, my experience, has changed dramatically, and for the better.

I look at it this way: John's and my fight and the fight of every single person in that lawsuit is about equality, about everyone being allowed to participate in society equally. And that's what has to happen.

And there was no question in my mind that I could not hold an event and talk about love and equality and fairness in a building when I know my transgender siblings are not being treated that way.

You and John (who died in October 2013) have said you were "accidental activists," but now you are active in speaking out in appearances, interviews, on social media. Do you plan to continue that?

It wasn't until we found ourselves in a set of circumstances we never planned, we never imagined; once that happened, I guess the inner activist in me was awakened. At this point, I can't imagine not being involved in some effort, some fight.

It's about where we are in a society, it's about fighting for something bigger than I am, so absolutely, that's my life going forward.

own plans.

Some excerpts:

What are your thoughts as you think about the ruling anniversary?

One is just loving the joy I see across the country when people stop me to show me photos, tell me stories, show me the wedding rings, talk about how after having been together for 30 years, they finally can call each other "husband and husband" or "wife and wife." They hug me, they cry, they shake my hand. I feel like I'm part of thousands of marriages, and that's such a wonderful gift.

So I've seen joy, and I also see the backlash. We all expected backlash ... but what has happened is just far more vicious than any of us dreamt of.

It's just becoming increasingly clear how much education still has to happen.

What's your reaction to the shootings this month that killed 49 people in Orlando (in a gay nightclub)?

It makes us feel afraid and concerned,

CINCINNATI (AP) - Three years ago Sunday, Jim Obergefell asked his longtime partner to marry him, beginning a whirlwind of events that led to his name being at the top of the U.S. Supreme Court case that resulted exactly two years later in legalization of same-sex marriage across America.

He and terminally ill John Arthur were married aboard a medically equipped plane on a tarmac in Maryland, where they flew because of Ohio's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. Their situation, which raised questions about what would happen legally upon Arthur's death back in Ohio, drew the attention of veteran Cincinnati civil rights attorney Al Gerhardstein and put their case on the path to the nation's highest court.

Obergefell is crisscrossing the country promoting a new book about the legal battle and other plaintiffs and people closely involved in it, written with journalist Debbie Cenziper and titled "Love Wins."

Despite the book's title, clashes over the ruling and LGBT rights continue. Some states are debating legislation critics say would legalize discrimination, and 11 states are suing President Barack Obama's administration over its directive to let transgender students use public school bathrooms and locker rooms to match their gender identities.

A pending Ohio bill, dubbed the Pastor Protection Act, would let churches and pastors refuse to perform same-sex marriages. Bill supporter Rep. Nino Vitale, R-Urbana, wrote after last year's Supreme Court ruling: "Subverting the laws of nature is not wise."

Over coffee awhile back in Cincinnati for book-signings, Obergefell, 49, a Sandusky, Ohio, native who is moving to Washington D.C., talked about the state of the rights movement and his

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MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Getting Hitched In The Hall of Justice

First Gay Couple to be Married by Mich. Supreme Court Justice

BY AJ TRAGER

LANSING – Just before 11 a.m. on June 26, 2015 the U.S. Supreme Court released its decision on Obergefell v. Hodges and extended marriage equality to the entire country. Since that moment thousands of LGBT couples across the country have upgraded their domestic partnership and or commitment ceremony plans to wedding cakes and marriage licenses.

Ron Napier, from Lansing, and Andy Soya, from Hastings, are not self-described wedding people; however, when the SCOTUS decision on marriage equality came down, Napier found himself on the brink of tears as he realized that he could now marry the man of his dreams.

Napier and Soya met on Myspace in 2008. They took some time to get to know one another and spent many hours chatting online. Eventually they met in person and started dating. Napier knew on the first date that Soya was special after he received a box

of homemade baked goods that Soya crafted himself, but he made sure to play hard to get.

“I fell for him pretty hard and fast,” Napier said to BTL, remembering the first gift he received from his chef.

Napier and Soya love going on what they call adventures, or events that enhance their lives, such as switching their diet to vegan or tightening up their core with meditation. For their wedding they wanted to do something a little more robust and as politically minded people they sought out a way to make their wedding more special and meaningful.

“The day that we were able to get married, when that decision came down, I was so emotional because I had never thought that we would be able to get married. I knew in the back of my mind that we could get a commitment ceremony or a civil union. But it wasn’t the real thing,” Napier said. “We weren’t big wedding people. We wanted our wedding to show equality and justice and we wanted to get the (Michigan) government



Ron Napier and Andy Soya with Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack in her chambers June 10. Soya and Napier are the first same-sex couple to be married in the Michigan Hall of Justice. Photo by Derek Cookson Photography.

involved - for the symbolism.”

A few months after the marriage equality decision Napier sent a letter to Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack and asked if she would officiate their wedding.

“I thought how great would it be that - at one time that the state of MI said ‘you (LGBT) cannot get married...’ - how great would it be if a justice on the highest court of Michigan would marry us,” Napier said.

Napier and Soya followed her 2012 campaign closely and knew that the justice was in favor of marriage equality. Napier was unsure whether the Judge would want to get involved in such a political matter so quickly after the historic SCOTUS decision, but McCormack agreed to officiate their wedding and said she would be honored to do so.

“I was so moved by the request but said I’d like to know more about them, to have a more personal connection. I had dinner with them in Grand Rapids and from there we developed a friendship. By the time I did the wedding I knew them very well,” McCormack told BTL.

After meeting McCormack and establishing a more personal understanding of her, Soya and Napier were pleased to see that she is an advocate for equal rights and that she “walks the walk and talked the talk.” McCormack had strong support from the LGBT community during her campaign and had strong endorsements from the LGBT community.

“I assume that’s part of why they reached out to me,” she said.

Soya and Napier were the first same-sex couple to be married by a Michigan Supreme Court justice. They were also the first couple to be married by McCormack in her Supreme Court chambers.

“We had to get a special order (to perform the wedding). You have to be designated as a probate judge to perform the ceremony,” McCormack said.

The couple worked with McCormack’s assistant to determine the verbiage for the ceremony. They wanted to make sure to get across that had same-sex marriage been available prior to the end of June last year they would’ve married sooner.

The Ceremony

On June 10, Napier, Soya, McCormack, Derek Cookson - their photographer - and a handful of close family members joined at the Michigan Hall of Justice and were led into McCormack’s private chambers. During the ceremony the Justice read an important excerpt from the Obergefell decision authored by Justice Kennedy as well as a quote from President Obama.

“Obama said in his last sentence that ‘we are all created equally.’ It’s important to us that the government was a part of our ceremony to show our struggle,” Soya said.

Soya and Napier wore matching Kenneth Cole blue suits and with different colored bow ties. Soya wore orange and Napier wore blue.

“It was a moving experience. In large part thanks to their family,” McCormack said. “Andy’s mom and dad read some of the sweetest most heartfelt thoughts to both of them. You’d be blown away at any wedding. Ron in particular has had trouble with his family and finding support. I was blown away by both of their statements. She addressed each one of them personally and how they loved one another. It was very moving.”

Soya’s grandparents attended the wedding

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See Getting Hitched, page 28



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MARRIAGE EQUALITY

LGBT Couples' Wedding Spending Soars

BY JAN STEVENSON

Over the past year since marriage equality became the law of the land, LGBT couples are spending a lot more on weddings, and family acceptance of same-sex marriages is up dramatically, according to a recent study.

Male couples increased their average spending on their wedding ceremony and reception to \$33,822 since June 2015, up 85 percent, and female couples increased their average spending by 56 percent to \$25,334.

The study also found that more couples are seeking permission from their partner's family before proposing. Now that same-sex marriage is legal across the U.S., 15 percent of men and 10 percent of women reported feeling more pressure to get married.

The study was conducted by the national wedding magazine The Knot, in collaboration with Logo, an LGBT entertainment brand within the Viacom Music & Entertainment Group. They

surveyed 979 LGBT people in the U.S. who were either married or engaged to be married. This is the fourth annual such survey.

Some local wedding experts have seen similar trends, with significant increases in the number of same-sex couples buying from them, and the amount of money couples are investing in their rings and weddings.

"I think that before (last June) a lot of people were hiding – they were not out at work. So now that it is more accepted they can splash it out a little more," said Tilla Abel, designer and metal smith at Miner's Den Jewelers in Royal Oak. "We are especially seeing it more with couples that have been together a long time – like for decades. They may have a ring they've been wearing for years, and we help to up-cycle it to their next ring – their wedding ring."

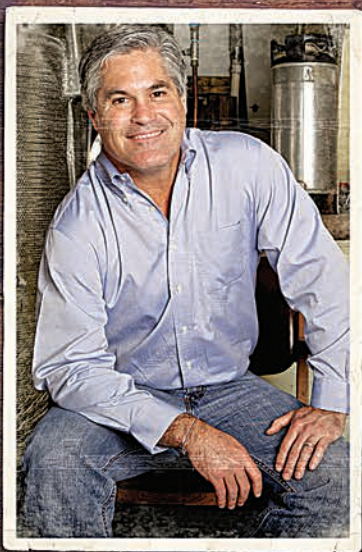
Nationally, the average engagement ring price for same-sex couples more than doubled in the last year to \$5,719 for men and \$5,349 for women, according to the study.

"I've been seeing where LGBT couples are going all out – just like the straight people are doing," said Jim Ankofski, owner of Pastry Palace Bakeries in Wixom, a gay-owned bakery that has created cakes for numerous same-sex weddings. "I just did the cake for two gentlemen's wedding at the Colony Club in Detroit with over 200 guests and the whole event was magnificent."

Ankofski said that the most elaborate weddings he's seen have been of older couples who are together longer. "I guess it makes sense. If you're a little older and have been able to accumulate some money, then you'd have it to spend on a wedding," said Ankofski.

In the LGBT community couples pay the majority of their wedding ceremony and reception costs. The study found that over 70 percent of the responding couples paid for most of the cost of their wedding, reception and honeymoon. Twenty-three percent of LGBT couples reported the majority of their wedding receptions were paid for by their families.

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MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Local Company Helps Preserve Wedding For Eternity

BY AJ TRAGER

FARMINGTON HILLS – A local company near Detroit is helping couples make their wedding day a little more Do-It-Yourself while also adding in a professional feel with the help of top grade HD cameras.

Wedit is a five-year-old DIY wedding video company that has helped thousands of couples capture and preserve videos and photos from their big day. Kari Burnstein and her husband partnered with another couple earlier this year to purchase the company from Bizdom. Burnstein and her friend were looking for something to do and the opportunity nearly fell in her lap.

“It was too good of an opportunity not to buy,” Burnstein said. “And what we’re trying to do is grow the business beyond weddings. We’re trying to change the market.”

The average price for hiring a wedding videographer for a six-hour wedding costs around \$1,900. Through Wedit, couples, family and friends have an entire week to fill up to 15GB of data on each of the five cameras. The extra time allows for a more diverse range of video to be captured, an option that those who hire a one-day videographer rarely have.

“Weddings are the most special point in two people’s lives. They have two

goals. One: they want loved ones to have a good time and two: they want to legally propose their love in front of people. We’re really focusing on making Wedit more fun, capturing more footage and getting guests involved. We insure the video for life,” Burnstein explained.

A videographer only has one lens. Burnstein says that through Wedit couples can capture all sorts of stuff through various lenses. Instead of having only one angle of the cake being cut or only one clear angle of the first dance couples can now see almost a panoramic experience of their wedding, through the eyes of invitees.

“You’re not going to get all of it. A 30 sec clip is one thing to text over, but a seven-minute first dance... no one is texting or uploading that for you. I’ve had people say that the coolest thing for this experience was the cake cutting. With five cameras, one can capture everything from every angle and you never know what you’re going to get,” Burnstein said.

“It’s not as professional as a someone with the lights and the stuff. But in today’s world that’s not what weddings are,” he said.

All video shot is uploaded online for download and a hard copy is sent to the newlyweds. For an additional price, the Wedit editorial team will take the footage

INFO

Wedit is running a **special discount code for BTL readers**, in honor of the one-year anniversary of marriage equality. When purchasing a pay-in-full package, the team at Wedit will deduct \$24 from the final price. Just type in 1YEAR when signing up.

and create additional video from further edited material equipped with a song of choice. For an upgraded price folks can request the team to edit down the video, add five to ten songs and the final product will include the vows and speeches. All video is stored online on a private server for 12 months and available for download.

For Burnstein and the team at Wedit weddings are all about having fun. And they want to ensure that folks have the most memorable experience possible.

Wedit is running a special discount code for BTL readers, in honor of the one year anniversary of marriage equality. When purchasing a pay-in-full package, the team at Wedit will deduct a \$24 savings to the final price. Just type in 1YEAR when signing up.

Due to a capacity on stock, Wedit asks that all inquiries be made six to nine months out from the wedding.

For more information visit [/www.wedit.com](http://www.wedit.com).

► Getting Hitched

Continued from p. 24

as did some of his family that stems from small town Michigan. He says that they’re proud and happy that their grandson has found a happy relationship.

“Andy and Ron’s vows to each other were very moving, very thoughtful and very personable. I felt lucky to be

included to be included,” McCormack said.

Everyone asks, after a marriage, if the couple feels any different or if anything had changed since tying the knot.

“Ron has changed my life in so many ways,” Soya told BTL near the end of the interview just after discussing honeymoon plans. Next year they

plan on taking a romantic trip up to Portland, Ore. to share in a hiking trip that will amplify their mindfulness and appreciation for the beauties of the world.

“I feel validated,” Napier said. “When we went to pick up our marriage license I felt validated. It feels pretty good to be treated equally.”



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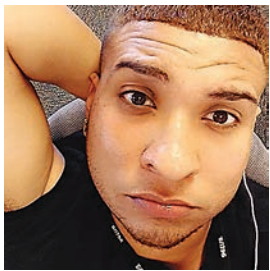
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The Lives We Lost June 12

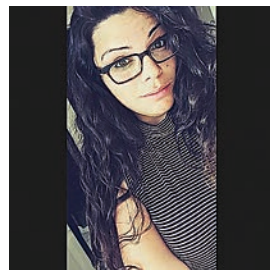
Stanley Almodovar III, 23 years old

Stanley graduated from East Ridge High School in Clermont, FL in 2011 and studied at Anthem College to work as a pharmacy technician. His aunt Yoly described him as “an amazing person with a good soul.” She said he had a promising future. He would have celebrated his 24th birthday on June 25.



Amanda Alvear, 25 years old

The 25-year-old had reshaped herself over two years, shedding 180 pounds with the help of gastric bypass surgery and daily workouts. She proudly documented her transformation. “Can you tell I look better? Can you tell I look cuter,” she teased her brother, Brian Alvear, 32. Amanda worked as a pharmacy technician. She planned to be a nurse. Her brother said she frequented gay and lesbian clubs because they were fun places, and she felt safe to be herself. “She wouldn’t want anyone to spread hate for her,” he said.



Oscar Aracena-Montero, 26 years old

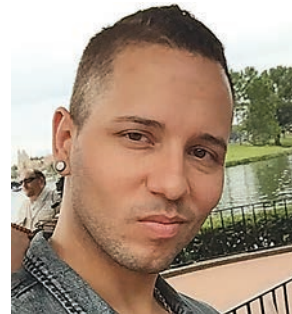
Oscar returned from a vacation in New York and Canada just before he went to Pulse. He lived with another victim of the attack, Simon A. Carrillo, with three pet Chihuahuas in a home they purchased together last year. “Oscar’s countenance



brightened my classroom each week,” said English professor Heidi H. Ramirez at Valencia College where Oscar was pursuing a degree. “He had a very positive attitude and outlook on life. He was excited to pursue his educational and career goals.” Originally from the Dominican Republic, friends posted on social media that Oscar’s mother does not have a visa that would allow her to come to the U.S. to attend the funeral or retrieve her son’s body.

Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala, 33 years old

A biology supervisor at the OneBlood donation center, Rody, as he was called, was dedicated to his work. The Puerto Rican native loved his career and was known for his compassion, said Johnny Rivera Muñiz, a friend for the past two years. Rody was all about “doing things the right way,” he said. Rody had bought both a car and a house within the past year. This coming Wednesday would have been his one-year anniversary for home ownership.



Antonio Davon Brown, 29 years old

Antonio’s work and military service were his points of pride. He was a 2008 graduate of Florida A&M University where he had been a member of R.O.T.C. He was a captain in the Army reserves and his military record included a tour of duty in Kuwait. Lt. Col. Kelvin Scott, who taught Antonio in R.O.T.C., described him as an upbeat, hard worker. “He was a very positive person with a very good sense of humor,” Colonel Scott said. “He was willing to work very hard to earn his



commission.” Antonio worked at Lowe’s as a human resources manager.

Darryl Roman Burt II, 29 years old

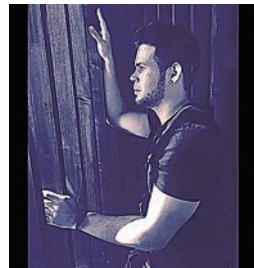
Darryl skipped a trip to New Orleans with his best friend to go dancing at Pulse. To celebrate his just-earned Master’s degree in Human Resources Management. “He loved to dance. He loved to have fun,” his friend Mahogany



Avent said. Darryl was a financial aid officer for Keiser University and an active community volunteer. “He was personable, social and easy going,” said Shawn DeVries, president of the Jacksonville Jaycees, which Darryl joined in late 2015. “Both socially and professionally he was always interested in making a positive impact on people’s lives and in the community.”

Angel L. Candelario-Padro, 28 years old

Angel had recently moved from Chicago to Orlando. Helen Rivera, his office manager at Medical Eye Associates in Kissimmee, said, “He moved from Chicago, because he was tired – basically, he said the crime over there – he just wanted a better life.” He was all set to start a new job June 20 at the Florida Retina Institute as an ophthalmic technician. In Chicago, Angel had been a Zumba instructor, an employee at Old Navy and a nurse technician. Working at the Illinois Eye Institute in Chicago, “[Angel] put on quite the dance demonstration” at the institute’s annual Christmas party, said Sandra Ingram, a former co-worker, in an email. “We were all standing around watching him. It was great.”



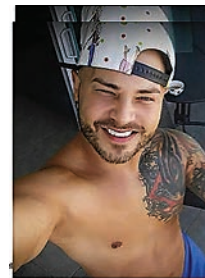
Juan Chevez-Martinez, 24 years old

Juan moved from Mexico to Florida eight years ago and is remembered by his colleagues and employees as a kind and loving person. He worked for APDC Services, a staffing company partner of Reunion Resorts in Kissimmee, where he was a housekeeping supervisor. Juan was remembered by his supervisor as an “extremely dedicated, hard worker,” said Alicia Amarro, chief financial officer for APDC. “He was extremely friendly, very dedicated to his family, to his co-workers. ... It is very difficult. Everybody loved him.”



Luis Daniel Conde, 39 years old

Luis went to the same high school in Puerto Rico as Juan Pablo Rivera Velasquez. They became life partners and ran a beauty salon in Kissimmee together. They were both killed in the Pulse massacre. Irene Rivera of Kissimmee, who visited their salon, Alta Peluqueria D’Magazine, spoke of the couple’s work on the Belleza Latina pageant and said they were at Gay Days at Walt Disney World the previous weekend. “Everyone knows about this beauty salon,” Rivera said. “They loved people. They lived to help people.”



Cory James Connell, 21 years old

Cory was a “family man through and through,” a young man who loved football, hoped to be a fire fighter and was still remembered by former teachers as the “sweetest kid ever.” He was working towards his associates degree at Valencia College. Cory was

to be the best man at his brother’s wedding in the fall. Ryan Connell described his brother as a scrappy guy who stood tall. “Size didn’t matter when it came to Cory,” he said. “And don’t mess with his mama either.” Cory was a regular at the Orange County firehouse and was interested in pursuing a firefighting career after college, even though he was warned that the profession wasn’t the most lucrative. Cory said, “I don’t care about money. I want to do it because I want to save lives. I want to help people.”

Tevin Eugene Crosby, 25 years old

An entrepreneur and business owner, Tevin was from Statesville, S.C. He went to Strayer University South in Charlotte where he studied business administration.

Later he moved to Saginaw and owned his own marketing firm, Total Entrepreneurs Concepts. “He was very ambitious,” said his brother, Chavis Crosby. “Whatever goal he had in mind, he worked hard. Whether alone or on a team, he worked on that goal.” Tevin loved to travel for work and fun. He watched several nieces and nephews graduate before heading to his hometown of Statesville, N.C. Tevin then flew to Orlando after the visit with family.

Deonka Deidra Drayton, 32 years old

Deonka was working hard to turn her life around. “She was climbing from some difficult days to some better days,” Shepherd Drayton said of his oldest daughter. “She had started going back to church and changed some of the people she spent time with.”

Deonka’s life had been altered once before by a traumatic event. She was ejected from a family vehicle during a car accident when she was a child and suffered brain damage, her father said.

“She struggled growing up with the chemistry of everything in her changing,” Shephard Drayton said. “... She went through a lot of difficulty growing up. She was becoming who she was, more so than what everyone else wanted her to be,” her father said.

Simon Adrian Carrillo Fernandez, 31 years old

Simon was a manager at a McDonald’s. His attention to detail was a trademark of his leadership style, something his colleagues deeply admired. His co-workers were “distracted, falling apart,” after they learned their manager and his partner Oscar Aracena-Montero, were among those killed. Simon and Oscar had just returned from Niagara Falls. Simon was born in Venezuela, had been to the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, to Mexico and on cruises, to Anna Maria Island and Clearwater and Playalinda Beach. “He worked to be able to enjoy his life,” said McDonald’s general manager Ivonne Irizarry. The couple had recently purchased their Kissimmee home. Simon enjoyed dancing, reggaeton, bachata, salsa and meringue music. He rode bikes and water skis.

Leroy Valentin Fernandez, 25 years old

Leroy was a natural performer. He loved dressing up and dancing to moves he choreographed in front of crowds while belting out renditions of Beyoncé or Jennifer Lopez. His zeal for life spilled offstage, even at his job as a leasing agent at Auvers Village

Apartments in Orlando. “He filled our office with music,” said Yolanda Quinones-Perez, Fernandez’s friend and manager. “He sang Adele in the office until we couldn’t take it anymore. It just feels very quiet, now.”

Mercedes Marisol Flores, 26 years old

Mercedes studied literature at Valencia College and had an interest in party planning.

She was also an avid music fan, according to her niece, Jennifer Flores. “Whenever I was in the car with her, she always had the music blasting, and I guess she

got the love of music from my father and uncle who are DJs,” said Flores. “She was just a really fun nice person and cared a lot about her friends. She really did live her life the way she wanted to.” Mercedes was originally from Queens, N.Y. and worked at Target since 2008.

Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz, 22 years old

Peter worked at a UPS store. “He was just someone to make everyone laugh,” said his friend Ricky Ayala. A former teacher wrote on a condolence page that he brought “contagious joy” and “contagious humor” into the classroom. “No matter what kind of day I was having, he always made me laugh,” wrote Ana Mendoza-Feliciano, who said she taught him at Orange County’s Liberty Middle School.

Juan Ramon Guerrero, 22 years old

Juan was a former Valencia College student and pre-finance student at the University of Central Florida. He and his partner, Christopher Leinonen, were both killed in the Pulse massacre. Juan is remembered by friends as very passionate, someone who would fill a room with energy and was loved instantly by anyone he met. “He was so funny. He was always telling jokes and making people laugh. And he loved peanut butter. He was always trying to get everybody into peanut butter,” said Brittany Sted, a close friend of the couple. In an interview with TIME, the families said they will hold a joint funeral for the couple.

Paul Terrell Henry, 41 years old

Paul, a St. Petersburg native, loved to dance and have fun. He loved his family, including his two children. His daughter, Alexia, recently graduated high school. He also had a son. His heartbroken boyfriend, Francisco Hernandez, said, “I miss him. I love him, I took care of him, and he took care of me. Such a loving spirit. I’ll always have him in my heart.” Paul was a sales representative at Orange Lakes Resorts, and was a wonderful musician who played the piano, organ and sang.

Frank Hernandez, 27 years old

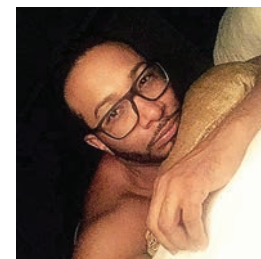
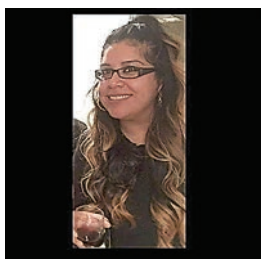
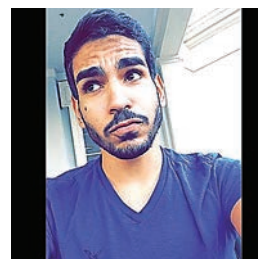
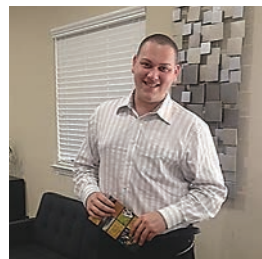
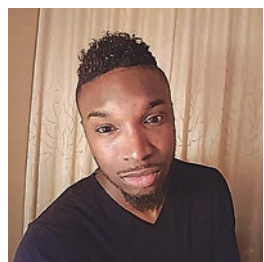
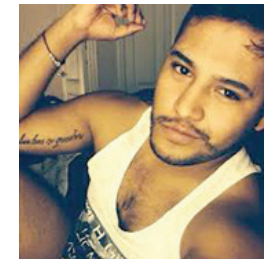
Born in Jalisco, TX, Frank managed a Calvin Klein store in Orlando. He was at Pulse with his boyfriend, Brett Rigas (who survived), when the shooting started. The two were approaching their three-year anniversary. According to those who loved him, Frank was a lively, fun man with a big heart. “He was such an incredible guy,” said friend Jimmy Robinson. “He loved clothing, he loved life, he was very artsy.”

Miguel Angel Honorato, 30 years old

Two female friends invited the married father of three boys to Pulse for a night off work managing his family’s restaurant. Miguel’s cousin, Cristian Honorato, remembered him as a hands-on father who planned elaborate birthday parties for his sons, including a recent “Ferrari” -themed bash for his youngest boy. “He was the kind of person who went all out for his kids — and for his family,” his cousin said. Miguel was born in Mexico and came to the U.S. at age 4. His business partner, Mario Cabrales, said he remembered Miguel as a hard-working and compassionate man. “He cared about his employees and gave a lot more than he got. He enjoyed life and wanted to make sure everyone else did, too,” Cabrales said.

Javier Jorge-Reyes, 40 years old

Javier was an accomplished makeup artist and sales representative at Gucci. “He liked to go out,” said friend Jose Diaz of Tampa. “He was proud to be Latino, super proud.” Friends knew him as “Javi” and on Facebook recalled his smile, sass and energy. “He was always positive,” Diaz said. “He was very humble. He was a lovely friend.” Javier was one of the first people Jorge Cruz met in Orlando. “He introduced me to my fiancée, Fernando. We’ve been together 16 years,” Cruz said. Style-conscious and customer-oriented, Javier was a natural in sales at Gucci. “He was super outgoing,” Diaz said. Gucci has arranged for the body to be transported and for his



siblings to go back to Puerto Rico for the funeral. His mother and father still live there.

Jason Benjamin Josaphat, 19 years old

Like many 19-year-olds, Jason had many interests and was just starting to chart his path in life, according to his family — he was computer savvy, loved to work out and had an interest in photography. “He was very excited about his journey,” said Jason’s uncle. Jason had recently graduated from high school and had begun classes at Valencia College where he was studying computer science. Jason’s aunt and uncle described him as the quiet type, never one to bother anyone. “He was always helpful, always willing to help someone in need,” said his aunt. His uncle said, “Never once has he ever shown any type of rage or anger. He was just high on life.”



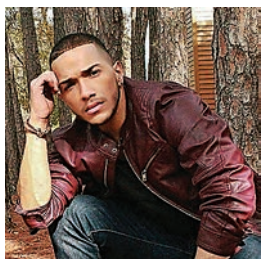
Eddie Jamoldroy Justice, 30 years old

The words “Mommy I love you” were the first in a tragic series of texts Eddie sent to his mother. He woke his mother Mina Justice at 2:06 a.m. with those words, followed by “In club they shooting.” Eddie was an accountant who lived in downtown Orlando, “in a sky house, like the Jeffersons,” his mother told the Associated Press. She described him as “a homebody who liked to eat and work out,” and as someone who “liked to make everybody laugh.”



Anthony Luis Laureano Disla, 25 years old

Since he was a boy, Anthony loved to dance. It didn’t matter the style — salsa, mambo, tango, or ballroom dancing — he was filled with joy when he was on a dance floor moving to a music’s rhythm, family members said. “He was very talented,” cousin Ana Figueroa of Orlando said. “He started dancing when he was about 10 years old. It was his passion.” Anthony was born and raised in Puerto Rico and attended college there. He moved to Orlando several years ago to pursue a career in dance. His body was returned to Puerto Rico where his family conducted the funeral.



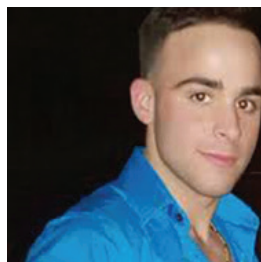
Christopher Andrew Leinonen, 32 years old

Detroit native Christopher - Drew to his friends - was the son of Mark Bando, a retired Detroit police officer. Drew’s mother Christine Leinonen was a Michigan State Police state trooper from 1981 to 1990. His parents were not married when he was conceived and born and he was raised by her as a single parent and he had her last name. Before reaching high school Drew lived in Macomb County. He and his mother moved to Florida in the early 1990s. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in psychology at the University of Central Florida, and worked as a licensed mental health counselor. In his junior year of high school, he started a gay-straight alliance, his mother said, and more recently he won the Anne Frank Humanitarian Award for his work in the gay community. Both he and his life partner, Juan Ramon Guerrero, were killed at Pulse.



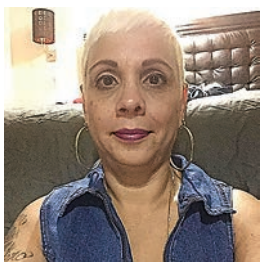
Alejandro Barrios Martinez, 21 years old

Alejandro was an outgoing native of Cuba who “always had a smile on his face,” said a friend Sarai Torres. He’d just moved to Florida from Cuba in 2015, she said, and was still trying to master English. At 3:30 a.m. that terrible morning Alejandro sent a text message to his partner: “I don’t have time to tell you I am in a shooting and can’t leave scared with blood I love you don’t doubt it.” Then later: “My love, I am afraid of dying.” His mother, Orquídea Martínez, who lives in Candelaria in Cuba, came to America to make funeral arrangements. She was issued a U.S. visa to travel to Orlando to claim her son’s body.

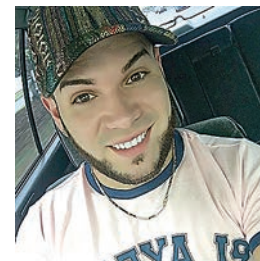


Brenda Lee Marquez McCool, 49 years old

A mother of 11, Brenda stepped into the ring with cancer twice and beat it both times. “She was a fighter,” said Noreen Vaquer, who met her as a Brooklyn kindergartener. “She doesn’t take nothing from nobody.” She was at Pulse that night with one of her sons who made it out alive. Her sons and daughters introduced themselves by number as they stood beside her flower-draped



coffin at her funeral. No. 8, Edwin Johnson, said he thought his mom was beautiful. No. 6, Khiana Marshall, said she could speak at the funeral service only because her mother had helped her overcome shyness. No. 2, Robert Pressley Jr., described her courage amid stem cell treatments for leukemia. “She was a warrior,” said Farrell Marshall Jr., No. 5. “I never thought her life would be ended right in front of my eyes,” said Henderson, his brothers on either side to support him through deep sobs.

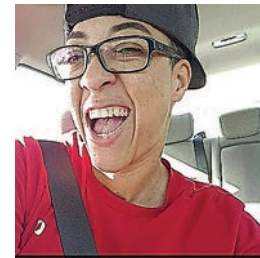


Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez, 25 years old

Gilberto grew up in Manati, Puerto Rico, and moved to Orlando a few years ago. He was studying health care management at the Ana G. Mendez University’s Orlando campus. “He was a dedicated man, with great dreams of helping people in need, and the desire of becoming a health care professional. He carried positive and contagious attitude towards life,” said Maricelly Alomar, counselor at the school.

Kimberly Morris, 37 years old

Kimberly “KJ” moved to Orlando about two months ago. She left Hawaii to help her mother who is ill and her grandmother, both of whom live in Orlando. KJ had recently found a job at the Pulse nightclub, where she was a bouncer. A college basketball star at Post University in Waterbury, CT, after college she headed north to western Massachusetts and got a job in student affairs at Amherst College. After working there from 2001 to 2004, she found a similar role at Smith College in Northampton, Mass., an LGBT-friendly town where “she pretty much blossomed,” said her brother, Randy Morris Jr. “She felt real comfortable there.” KJ performed as a drag king known as Daddy K. “Everyone knew her,” said Nelson Roman, a city councilor in Holyoke, Mass. and a Waterbury native. “She really sparked this new wave in this area. She was a local drag king icon.”



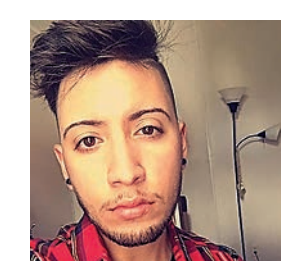
Akyra Monet Murray, 18 years old

Akyra, the youngest victim at Pulse, was in Orlando on a family vacation to celebrate her graduation from Philadelphia’s



West Catholic Preparatory High School and to visit her brother. She was a high school basketball star and was bound this fall for Mercyhurst University on a full athletic scholarship. “Akyra was a superstar who was a leader among her classmates and teammates,” her high school principal said in a statement. “She was an honors student who graduated third in her class, and a 1,000 point scorer on the Lady Burrs basketball team.”

Luis Omar Ocasio-Capo, 20 years old



Originally from Cleveland, Luis moved to Florida to fulfill his dreams of becoming an actor and professional dancer. “Omar was only 20 years old,” Jose Angel Rodriguez said of his friend in an emotional video that he posted to Facebook. “He had an entire life ahead of him. He was a happy soul. All he liked to do was just dance, all he liked to do was listen to music.”

Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez, 25 years old

Geraldo flew to Orlando from his home in Puerto Rico to catch a concert by Selena Gomez the night before he went to Pulse with friends. “He was humble, simple and charismatic,” Geraldo’s friend Gregory Fabian said. “He was all good, hardworking, funny and a dreamer.” Geraldo’s studied at Universidad del Este in Carolina, Puerto Rico, where lived. Ortiz went to high school in Lancaster, PA. Many of his social media posts show him working out and singing along to Selena Gomez tunes.



Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera, 36 years old

Eric came to Florida from Puerto Rico to work his way up in his career and have a chance at a better life. He worked in merchandise management, first for Toys “R” Us and then for Ross. He held a bachelor’s degree in communications from Universidad Central de Bayamon. Eric had a brother and an aunt living in the Orlando area — as well as a wide group of friends. “I am really in shock that he was in the club, because he was not usually a



See next page

► Orlando Murder Victims

Continued from p. 33

club-scene person,” his former roommate said. “Eric was always willing to help everybody. He sacrificed himself a lot for his family. He loved his brother, and he was always being generous.”

Joel Rayon Paniagua, 32 years old

Joel was raised in Veracruz, Mexico, and in the early 2000s moved to Florida, where he had a brother. He went back to Mexico for several years to live near his parents and other relatives, but he returned to Florida less than a year ago and lived near Tampa. Joel was a construction worker. Friends and family remembered him as a humble, cheerful, religious person who did his best to uplift people. “He was the best,” said longtime friend Lorena Barragan, who met Rayon Paniagua at church. “He was loyal. He was always trying to do stuff to make you feel better.”



Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, 35 years old

Jean was all about looking, smelling and feeling his best, loved ones said. Born in Puerto Rico, he hit the gym almost daily to keep himself in shape. He always tested out a new fragrance and had just started wearing a fresh-smelling Jimmy Choo perfume. And his humor and warmth made him the best salesperson that his coworker at Perfumania had ever met. “He laughed with the people and would make jokes,” said Claudia Agudelo, who worked with Perez at the Orlando Vineland Premium Outlets store. “He was always happy.” One of the customers Perez charmed at the perfume shop was Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, who would become his longtime partner. They were together at Pulse that night, and both were killed.

Enrique L. Rios, Jr., 25 years old

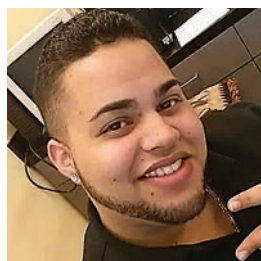


Enrique L. Rios left his home in New York to spend the weekend celebrating a friend's birthday in Orlando. He was a social worker at a home health

agency in Brooklyn. He was also actively involved in his faith and regularly attended Greater Free Baptist Church in Brooklyn with his parents. Bishop William Whitaker said that Rios “had a love for God that was phenomenal.” He added that he aced evening bible classes and regularly participated in the youth ministry. Family and friends of Rios paint a picture of a determined, helpful, and caring young man.

Jean C. Nives Rodriguez, 27 years old

Jean was a native of Puerto Rico and worked as a general manager at a check-cashing store. He had just purchased his first home not even two months ago. He wanted his mom to live someplace nice. “He was just a caring, loving guy — just like a big teddy bear,” said one of his best friends, Ivonne Irizarry. “He wanted to be the best at what he did, and he would work very hard to achieve that. So if he had to put in the long hours to get it right, he’d do it. If he had to stay to work a double [shift], he did it. That’s why whatever job he went to, he became a manager.”



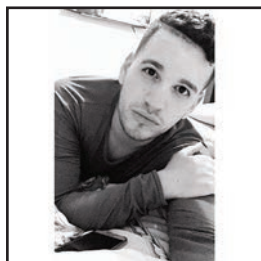
Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado, 35 years old



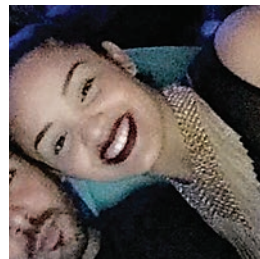
Xavier entertained crowds throughout Florida. He was described as a happy, energetic person who enjoyed salsa dancing and spending time with his 5-year-old son. Xavier had performed at local theme parks, including Walt Disney World, and on the Norwegian Cruise Line. He most recently worked at the Aldo shoe store chain. An employee there said Xavier had switched over to retail because the hours were more suitable for a parent. “He was always happy all the time,” said Cynthia Rodriguez, a store manager at Aldo. “He loved what he did. He always talked about his son.”

Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz, 24 years old

Christopher worked at a branch of JPMorgan Chase in the Tampa area and enjoyed working out. He was close with his family. In one Facebook picture, he sat with his brother, Junior, who slung his arm



protectively around his younger brother. In another image, the two posed with their mother — “I Love Mom” was the caption. Christopher’s family moved from Cuba in the 1960s, family friend Mike Wallace said. He took business classes at a community college and was hired as a bank teller and worked his way up to become a personal banker. “He (was) a wonderful person and this is such a tragedy,” said Wallace. “He was cut down in his prime.”

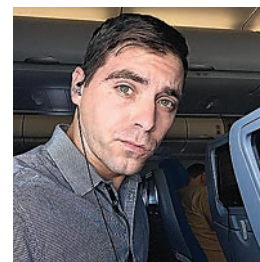


Yilmory Rodriguez Solivan, 24 years old

Yilmory was married to race-car driver Juan Borges and a mother of two — including a 3-month-old son, Sergio. She worked at a Wendy’s in Puerto Rico before moving to Florida. She lived in Kissimmee. She was at Pulse with her brother-in-law who was shot twice, but his injuries were not considered serious.

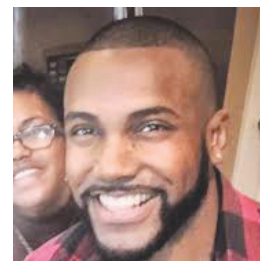
Edward Sotomayor Jr., 34 years old

A resident of Sarasota, Edward had recently returned from Cuba, after coordinating the first-ever gay cruise to the island nation in April. He was a brand manager for LGBT travel agency ALandCHUCK. Edward was among the best-known figures in the LGBT travel industry, as national coordinator for the “Drag Stars at Sea” cruise, which featured stars of the popular reality TV show “RuPaul’s Drag Race.” Known to his friends as “top-hat Eddie” because of the black top hat he always wore to events, Edward was “very outgoing, very friendly” and an “all-around great guy,” said friend Jason Howell. “He was one of the greatest guys I’ve ever met. He touched so many people’s lives because he’s such a positive person. He would do anything for anybody.”



Shane Evan Tomlinson, 33 years old

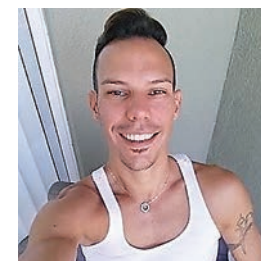
Shane sang with his band Frequency at another club earlier on the night he was killed at Pulse. He was a vibrant and charismatic lead vocalist for the cover band, performing at nightclubs and



weddings. “Not only was he a great person, he was a tremendous talent, a role model for all in the music business,” said an email from Dennis Bailey, president of the management firm that worked with Frequency. “Someone who strived to be the best and made everyone around him better.” Shane lived in Orlando and had studied at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., graduating in 2003 with a bachelor’s degree in communications.

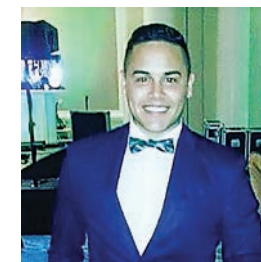
Martin Benitez Torres, 33 years old

Martin of San Juan, Puerto Rico, arrived in Orlando to visit family a few days before the shooting at Pulse. He had enrolled in May as a pharmacy tech student in Tampa, at a satellite campus of Puerto Rican university Sistema Universitario Ana G. Méndez. “He was a diligent and extremely hardworking student; thankful for the opportunity to advance his career and hopeful to make his dreams a reality,” said Carla Zayas, Spanish professor at the university, via prepared statement. Devoted to family, Martin posted videos on his Facebook page hours before the shooting, showing him sharing time with an aunt and family he was staying with in Orlando. He recorded a walking tour of the apartment property grounds to show friends and relatives back in Puerto Rico.



Jonathan Antonio Camuy Vega, 24 years old

Jonathan moved to Florida to work for a Spanish TV network, where he was a producer for a popular children’s talent competition. He worked for La Voz Kids, similar to the NBC show “The Voice,” produced in Orlando and aired on Telemundo. “He was a great assistant producer,” Cesar Conde, the chairman of NBCUniversal Telemundo Enterprises, said in a statement. “Jonathan will be missed dearly.” The National Association of Hispanic Journalists said he had been an active member at a student chapter in Puerto Rico before moving to Florida.



Juan P. Rivera Velazquez, 37 years old

Juan ran the salon Alta Peluqueria D'Magazine in Kissimmee, Fla., with his longtime partner, Luis Daniel Conde. They died together in the Pulse massacre. Juan was from Puerto Rico. A friend, Jocelyn DeLeon, said the couple were well known around the area and in Puerto Rico,

with loyal customers often travelling great distances to visit their salon, because Juan and Luis had a way of making people feel special. "They would take the shirt off their back to help others. If someone wasn't smiling, they would try to make them smile. They were good, kind people. They never had a [bad word] for anyone," said DeLeon.

Luis S. Vielma, 22 years old

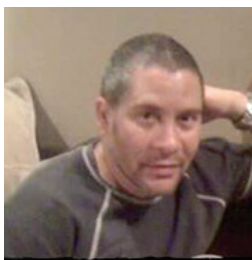
An attraction operator at Universal Orlando, Luis always went above and beyond for the park's guests — and his friends. He participated in his parents' businesses and acted as a Spanish-to-English translator when they needed him. He was also a mentor to his siblings, Brian and Kimberly. Luis planned to become an EMT, said Josh Boesch, who worked with Vielma at Universal. "He was always caring and he always



wanted to learn more." He was an Emergency Medical Services student at Seminole State College, according to a statement from the school, having graduated Cum Laude in Summer 2014 with an Associate in Arts Degree. He was taking a CPR class this summer and enrolled in classes for the fall semester.

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Franky Jimmy Dejesus Velazquez, 50 years old



Jimmy, as he was known, was the oldest of the victims killed at Pulse. He was born

in Puerto Rico and attended the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico in San Juan, before moving to Orlando. Jimmy was a visual merchandiser for clothing retailer Forever 21, and was a professional Jibaro dancer — a style of Hispanic folk music from Puerto Rico — who traveled the world. "He was a very outgoing, friendly person," said former co-worker Bret Werner. "Everyone wanted to be around him."

Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, 37 years old

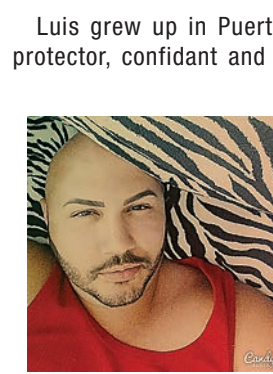
Luis grew up in Puerto Rico, and was a protector, confidant and hero, according to Daniel Gmys-Casiano, a friend for almost 20 years. "We grew up in a really small town in Puerto Rico ... and he was going to the same church that I was, and he was always the odd

man out. He was bullied constantly. He was different. He would dress in black, wear long sideburns," Gmys-Casiano said. When Luis decided to leave Puerto Rico, "he moved to Vero Beach, alone, and knowing almost no English — he was my hero," Gmys-Casiano said. Luis got a job in a shoe store and was quickly promoted to manager, and eventually gave Gmys-Casiano a job when he moved from Puerto Rico to the U.S. Luis' partner of eight years, Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, was killed at Pulse too.

Jerald Arthur Wright, 31 years old

Jerald was one of a tight-knit group of friends he worked with at Walt Disney World. "It's hard to understand, but the people you work with at Disney, they are an amazing family," said Scott Dickison, who worked with Jerald at Disney. "Jerry was a great guy to work with. He was quiet but

really wonderful with all the guests. He always had a smile on his face." Jerald went to Pulse to help a friend, Cory James Connell, celebrate his 21st birthday. Connell was also killed in the shootings. Jerald has family in Miami, and attended Westminster Christian School before going to college at Florida International University.



Prides Around The U.S., World Keep Murderd Pulse Victims Front and Center



See Related Story on next page

Rainbow Flags, Images of Shooting Victims at Pride Parades

BY VERENA DOBNIK AND JENNIFER PELTZ

NEW YORK (AP) – Rainbow flags were held high along with portraits of the dead as thousands of people marched Sunday in gay pride parades tempered by this month's massacre at Pulse, a Florida gay nightclub.

Crowds of onlookers stood a dozen deep along Fifth Avenue for New York City's parade. Some spectators held up orange "We are Orlando" signs, and indications of increased security were everywhere, with armed officers standing by. An announcer introducing state officials and guests also shouted out, "Love is love! New York is Orlando!" in memory of the 49 people killed in Florida. Elected officials turned out in force, as did presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton.

Authorities had expected a larger-than-usual crowd, and 15-year-old Chelsea Restrepo, of Staten Island, was among the onlookers. She had brushed aside her father's concerns about security to attend the march for the first time.

"What happened in Orlando made me want to come more," said Restrepo, swathed in a multicolored scarf. She said she wanted to show her support.

New York's parade was one of several being held Sunday across the country, along with San

Francisco and Chicago. They came two weeks after the nation's deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

In Chicago, 49 marchers at the head of the parade each held aloft a poster-sized photograph of a different Orlando victim as the procession wound through the city. Above each photo were the words, "Never forget."

Despite the somber start, parade-goers seemed as enthusiastic as ever once marchers and floats began moving, cheering and dancing along the route. Many participants said the tributes to the dead in Orlando didn't dampen the energy and fun associated with the pride parade.

"It is another on a list of brutalities over the years (against gays)," said Joe Conklin, 74, of Chicago, as he sat on the back of a float waiting for the OK to move out. "We're aware of Orlando but not overwhelmed by it."

It was a similar feeling in San Francisco, where men in glittery white wings walked on stilts and women in leather pants rode motorcycles as the parade moved along.

Richel Desamparado, of Oakland, was marching and carrying a photo of Orlando victim Stanley Almodovar. She said she felt the need to remind people the fight for equality is not over. "A lot of my gay friends and relatives are still being shunned away by their

“*What happened in Orlando made me want to come more.*”

- 15-year-old Chelsea Restrepo, from Staten Island, came swathed in a multicolored scarf. She said she wanted to show her support.

families and communities," said Desamparado, 31. "People need to remember we're still fighting for equality."

Sunday's parades did have a new milestone to mark: President Barack Obama on Friday designated the site around New York City's Stonewall Inn as the first national monument to gay rights. A 1969 police raid on the bar helped catalyze the gay rights movement.

Security was ramped up at the events. New York police deployed roving counterterrorism units and used bomb-sniffing dogs, rooftop observation posts, police helicopters and thousands of officers to provide extra layers of security at Sunday's parade. Thousands of uniformed officers lined the route,

supplemented by plainclothes officers in the crowd.

San Francisco spectators faced metal detectors for the first time, and more police than usual were keeping watch. Some participants didn't welcome the stepped-up security: Two honorary grand marshals and a health clinic that serves sex workers withdrew Friday from the parade to protest the heavy police presence.

Chicago police put 200 more officers than usual on duty for the city's pride parade Sunday. Organizers nearly doubled their corps of private security agents, to 160.

At a gay street parade in Turkey, a prominent German lawmaker and outspoken gay rights advocate was temporarily detained when he wanted to speak publicly at the end of Pride Week. Turkish police have repeatedly in recent days prevented activists from participating in LGBT rallies.

For all the security and solemnity, some spectators at pride parades this month have made a point of making merry.

"We had fun. That is what gay people do," comedian Guy Branum wrote in a New York Times essay after attending the West Hollywood parade. "Our answer to loss and indignity, it seems, is to give a party, have a parade and celebrate bits of happiness."

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Obama Names Stonewall National Monument; 1st for Gay Rights

BY JOSH LEDERMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) – President Barack Obama created the first national monument to gay rights on Friday, designating the site of the Stonewall riots in Manhattan where the modern gay rights movement took root nearly five decades ago.

The Stonewall National Monument will be anchored by Christopher Park, a small park just across from the iconic Stonewall Inn tavern, and covers a 7.7 acre swath of Greenwich Village where the uprising took place after police raided the gay bar in 1969. Obama said the monument would “tell the story of our struggle for LGBT rights” and of a civil rights movement that became a part of America.

“I believe our national parks should reflect the full story of our country: the richness and diversity and uniquely American spirit that has always defined us,” Obama said. “That we are stronger together, that out of many, we are one.”

To herald the designation, a White House video with photos of the monument was to be played at noon Saturday on the billboards in Times Square just as New York’s annual pride celebration is getting under way, the White House said. The declaration also comes as advocates celebrate the one-year anniversary on Sunday of the Supreme Court decision legalizing gay marriage nationwide.

Designating the small area marks a major act of national recognition for gay rights advocates and their struggles over the last half-century. In addition to the Supreme Court decision, since the 1969 uprising the U.S. has enacted anti-discrimination protections, allowed gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military and seen prominent athletes and entertainers come out of the closet.

It also comes as the gay community comes to grips with a fresh and agonizing reminder of ongoing threats to their safety. In announcing the monument, the White House said the mass shooting at a gay bar in Orlando, Florida, illustrated that LGBT people still “face acts of violence, discrimination and hate.”

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo joined gay rights groups in praising the new monument, along with New York lawmakers who had long advocated for a national designation. Last year, New York City made it a city landmark – the first named primarily because of significance to LGBT history.

“Stonewall is finally taking its rightful place in American history,” said Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., who had advocated for federal recognition for the site.



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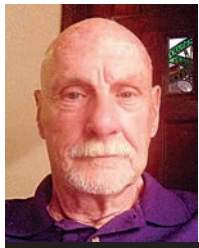
Every person is unique, and that's something Dr. Demi Kazanis, D.D.S., honors in her practice. Dr. Kazanis takes the time to understand every patient, so those who come to her new, beautifully appointed Royal Oak office find personalized care tailored to their particular dental needs. Dr. Kazanis built her state-of-the-art office with the intention that her patients would feel as though they are in a beautiful, calming living room rather than a stark dental office. From the lobby to the treatment rooms, patients are greeted with soothing colors, massage chairs, and soft lighting.

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How's Your Left Behind for Jesus?

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

WACCOFF, TX. Source: Lone Star Police Gazette & Badge Polisher. Headline: Under Cover Cops Make Sunday Surprise Restroom Arrests! Mark your activist desk calendar.

“While thousands of church members were inside the Hallelujah Handclap of Hope megachurch tabernacle singing “Love Lifted Me,” - aka, The Skirt Song - some six weeks of undercover police work came to a head in Wacocff last Sunday.

“Ten gay men were arrested. Each was sitting in the wrong church restroom stall at the wrong time. Arrests were made without drawing undue attention to the offenders, each escorted from church property in a plain, non-fag choir robe or non-drag baptismal gown.

“Those arrested were fortunately proven to be 21 at the Wacocff Police Headquarters, once their respective collected wallets, IDs, pants, shirts, under garments, appendage prothesis rings, were sorted and matched to individual surveillance camera configurations.

“The match-up process took just under three hours, in part due to asking each arrestee an important theocratic question as to whether or not a violation of the HHH’s posted men’s restroom biblical restriction occurred.

“Those arrested were advised that they had a right to refuse to divulge status vis-a-vis the unequivocal sanctioned use of the restroom facility, which is clearly marked in large English Gothic letters **SAVED** in contra-distinction to another similar facility 50 feet away marked plainly **UNSAVED**.”

(There are similar restrooms throughout the twenty floors of the megachurch itself. Many Wacocff gas station pumps are also Saved or Unsaved equipped. Self-service gasoline units are likewise marked.)

“Rev. Delburt B. Windwiper, HHH pastor, when contacted on the QT by Lone Star reporter Lois Lane-Kent, commented: I don’t see how they have a p--ing leg to stand on. You’re either saved or you’re unsaved.

“This certainly isn’t discrimination in God’s sight. If you’re going to hell, well, you’re going to hell, no matter what restroom you happen to frequent, and for whatever the burning urgency, either number one to pee or two, to poo.

“I want to make it abundantly clear. We - that is our HHH board of directors, our financial banking investment team, our health store employees, our senior citizens retirement association, our American chain of Bible trinket shops, are Hallelujah Marching Band, our Volunteer Rifle/Hand Gun Guard, all 5,000 HHH members - we don’t discriminate.

“Our members include blacks (at last count three), Mexicanos (eight, all with appropriate Green Card), Jewish converts (two), assorted others (probably in the neighborhood - maybe a less affluent one at that - of 12).

“We tried to include gays (balcony last two rows, or parking lot broadcast) but look what happens. Six months ago, it was brought to board attention that these gays were being bold as brass in using restrooms they had no business using.

“Not one of the ten is saved. If you’re not **SAVED**, it would stand to reason that you’d use the **UNSAVED** restroom, which by the way is just as clean, although the Bible-verse paper towels and Ten Commandment toilet rolls therein aren’t blessed.”

Police charge brought against the bathroom intruders is “disorderly conduct for staging so-called weekly ‘nude-in’ protests with occasional Gospel Tract toilet clogs to affect status change of perceived discrimination in the use of a necessary adjunct to optimal daily good health and mental well being of unsaved persons.”

Note in passing: Restrooms at MCC-Detroit are not similarly marked. Still! To be on the safe side of salvation, check neighborhood Ferndale and Royal Oak gas pumps. (Keep rainbow choir robe handy.)

Charles@pridesource.com



BY U.S. SENATOR GARY PETERS

Viewpoint

After Orlando, The Fight For Equality Goes On

In the same month – and more significantly during Pride Month – when we are celebrating the one-year anniversary of marriage equality, we are also mourning the loss of 49 Americans who were killed and 53 others who were wounded in not just the worst mass shooting in our nation’s history, but a clearly targeted attack against the LGBT community.

Our country has made great strides towards equality for all Americans. In recent years, public polling has shown that hearts and minds across the country are becoming increasingly supportive of LGBT rights. LGBT members of our armed forces can now serve their country openly. And in every state across our country, LGBT people are guaranteed the freedom to marry the person they love. These are important triumphs in the fight for equality, and we should take time to celebrate these hard-won achievements.

But as we come to the end of this year’s Pride Month, the events in Orlando serve as a stark reminder that the fight for equality in this nation for LGBT Americans must not end with marriage equality. We still live in a nation where Americans face discrimination – and can be bullied, fired, evicted, denied credit or services and even killed – simply because of their sexuality or gender identity.

For too many LGBT Americans, violence and discrimination are serious and relentless problems. According to Southern Poverty Law Center, LGBT

Although some communities have taken steps to promote the equal treatment of every individual, the vast majority of states have fallen woefully short of ensuring legal protections against discrimination regularly experienced by the LGBT community.

Americans face an extremely high risk of being targeted by hate crimes. Transgender people, especially transgender women of color, face even higher rates of violence. In 2015 alone, 21 transgender people were the victims of deadly violence, many as the direct result of anti-transgender bias, including two transgender people in Detroit.

Although some communities have taken steps to promote the equal treatment of every individual, the vast majority of states have fallen woefully short of ensuring legal protections against discrimination regularly experienced by the LGBT community. In 37 states, including Michigan, LGBT Americans seeking a loan to start a business or buy a home can be denied credit. In 32 states, including Michigan, LGBT people can be barred from purchasing goods in a shop, keeping a job where they earn a decent living, finding housing in a safe neighborhood or even using a public bathroom. We cannot ignore the fact that in many places, LGBT Americans not only lack legal protections, they face active campaigns targeting their access to basic rights.

This kind of bigotry harms LGBT people who are trying to do what many other Americans take for granted



Orlando, Marriage Equality Anniversary and Papal call for Forgiveness: Renewed Pain, Fears and Hope

BY STEVE SPREITZER

Throughout our 75 year history, the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion has stood with those being mistreated because of race, religion, gender, diverse ability, sexual orientation, gender identity or ethnicity. Our first response to the tragedy in Orlando was to weep with our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender neighbors, their families and all allied with them. Moving beyond Orlando we plan to continue listening for how we might be helpful in stopping harm being done to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning. While it is not clear if Omar Mateen was acting out of his own internalized homophobia, fueled by pervasive negative messages about people who are gay in his local community, we know far too many people have received similar messages, contributing to self-harm and hurtful words and actions toward others.

I can only imagine the emotional roller coaster ride these past few have been for my friends who are gay. While I was in contact with many after the killing in Orlando, I have not had a chance to discuss reflections on the one-year anniversary of marriage equality and this weekend's news of Pope Francis calling upon Christians and the Roman Catholic Church to seek forgiveness from gays for the way they had treated them. We believe that this is a time for those who have not been supportive to move beyond their temporary amnesia brought about by the assault on our human family. This is a time to work with the dissonance resulting from Orlando, with many in the faith community who may oppose marriage equality, being open to relationships marked by caring and a new interest in understanding.

This past year, with continued support from the Carpenter Foundation and the First Foundation of First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, we

have been discerning how we might be helpful in the wake of the historic U.S. Supreme Court marriage equality decision. Mindful of the push back from some sectors of the faith community, we turned to four of our area PFLAG chapters to hear the stories of how one's religious participation had been both helpful and unintentionally hurtful. We also heard presentations from allies in the Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Christian community, offering participants very helpful insights. In the upcoming year, we plan to work with Inclusive Justice in sharing these anonymous and intentional stories with religious leaders, helping them understand the harmful consequences of their, at times, harsh rhetoric.

While the past seven years of aligning with the LGBTQ community have cost us some support, we have been true to our history and our work to make sure the places we work and live become places where all people are welcome and treated fairly. At the same time, we also remain committed to religious freedom and support the right of faith traditions to follow their teachings, while encouraging them to exhibit greater care of those who they don't agree with in the public square where a multitude of beliefs and practices have equal footing. Our framework for change is based upon a number of core principles, including understanding history, being transformed by personal stories and examining privilege. We look forward to continuing to listen, lessen any new harm being done and celebrate the rich diversity that makes up our community.

Steve Spreitzer is CEO and president of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, who were approached by the Arcus Foundation in 2009 to help leverage their long and deep history in the faith community, which led to the Roundtable becoming part of Unity Michigan and working to pass Human Rights Ordinances in communities throughout the state.

► Peters: Orlando

Continued from p. 38

– find opportunity, strive for success and lead fulfilling lives. This bigotry directly contributed to the violence that not only ended lives in Orlando, but shattered a symbol of safety for the LGBT community – a gathering place to enjoy music, dancing and the space to just be themselves.

Our country was founded on the principles of equality, freedom and justice, but we cannot live up to the full promise of these ideals until LGBT Americans are afforded the same legal rights as other Americans. I was proud to help introduce the Equality Act to expand non-discrimination protections to include sexual orientation and gender identity and finally ban discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and other areas for LGBT Americans in every

state across the country. Our Constitution guarantees equal protection under law, and I will keep working with my colleagues in Congress to defend the rights of all Americans.

Though our hearts are heavy in the wake of the tragedy in Orlando, over the last few weeks we have seen many communities come together and lift up the message that love overcomes hate. It's not always easy to do what is right. It takes tremendous courage to rise up in the face of discrimination, hatred and outright violence to stand for justice and equal rights. I am honored to stand with Michigan's LGBT community to champion equal rights and celebrate the diversity and unity that makes our nation so uniquely strong.

U.S. Sen. Gary Peters-(D) is the junior senator from Michigan.

Creep of the Week James Dobson

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

I went to go see Finding Dory with my son and I feel compelled to report that there is no transgender stingray



James Dobson

featured in the film. I repeat: there is no trans-ray featured in the film. At least not that I saw. I mean, one scene features hundreds

of them

swimming by and

there's just no way I could clock them all.

Granted, right-wingers who probably won't even see the movie because of Dory's lesbian voice, have been freaking out about this ever since Ellen DeGeneres made the "announcement" in a June 10 interview.

"Here's a little secret that I'll tell you," DeGeneres said, "there's a stingray that's becoming StingRhonda. So there's a trans-sting in the movie."

She was actually making a joke. A joke that many, many people on the right and the left took seriously and took to the Internets to spread the word.

And you know what? I think that's awesome. Granted, I don't think the joke was so awesome. DeGeneres should know better than to make fun of trans people and sea life. However, there are people who were super happy or angry that Disney would do such a thing. Which is evidence of how far trans people have come in a relatively short time.

Of course, there are still legislators all over this country who are writing laws about where trans people can pee (and poop. I mean, let's just get it out there: transgender people poop, too. Let's embrace all of their humanity, shall we?). However, the fact that having a transgender character in a Disney movie seemed like something that actually could happen, something that was even within the realm of possibility, is a good sign, I think.

Of course, not everyone agrees with me. Take Focus on the Family founder James Dobson, for example.

Dobson, who recently made the claim that Donald Trump is a "baby Christian" (which finally explains the tiny hands!), said on his June 24 radio show that Obama was King Chaos and that he was using trans people as a way to impose tyranny.

Dobson, who recently made the claim that Donald Trump is a "baby Christian" (which finally explains the tiny hands!), said on his June 24 radio show that Obama was King Chaos and that he was using trans people as a way to impose tyranny

Now, you might remember that back in May the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education released guidelines that suggested that trans students should be treated like human beings and be allowed to get an education free from discrimination and harassment. A radical idea, I know.

Alas, too radical for Dobson. "It seems like everything he's tried to do has been to move us toward chaos," Dobson said. "Chaos in the military. Chaos in medicine, certainly. Chaos in the family, and in marriage. Chaos in the judiciary and in the courts. Chaos in the economy. Chaos in every branch of government. Chaos in education, from kindergarten through the largest and most influential of the universities. It's been chaos and now he's trying to tell parents how to raise their children and that will be the most chaotic of all because that leads towards the next generation. He gets control of the next generation, then his predecessors will have an easier time of controlling us and that is what it comes down to. It comes down to tyranny."

Honestly, his argument doesn't make sense. Chaos seems to be a code word for "change." It seems like an old white heterosexual man like Dobson doesn't like change much. But there is no evidence, besides right-wing conspiracy theories like this one, that Barack Obama wants to become the next Pol Pot or Saddam Hussein. Then again, Hussein is Obama's middle name...

Seriously, though. Dobson's panic about treating trans kids with respect is illuminating. When you live in a world where President Obama is laying the groundwork for some kind of tyrannical take over, it's no wonder that even the smallest gestures made toward trans people seems like a descent into a pit of chaos and madness. Because you're already there.

NEWS

Reports: Authorities Feared Terrorism, Explosives at Pulse

No Evidence Pulse Shooter Was Gay

BY JENNIFER KAY

MIAMI (AP) - Law enforcement officials immediately suspected terrorism and adjusted their staging areas due to fears about an explosive device as they responded to reports of shots fired at a gay nightclub in Orlando, according to sheriff's office incident reports released Saturday.

In the reports, Orange County Sheriff's Office deputies describe receiving limited information about an "active shooter" as they rushed to control the chaos outside Pulse on June 12 in what turned

out to be the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Sgt. David Legvold wrote that as he assessed all the sheriff's office personnel and resources at the early morning scene, he was told by a superior that "this incident had been declared a National Special Security Event and should not be discussed outside the law enforcement community."

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security makes that designation for events deemed to be potential targets for terrorism, mass protests or other criminal activity. Pope Francis' visit to Philadelphia last year and this year's Republican and Democratic national conventions have received this designation.

Legvold wrote that the commander of the sheriff's office Critical Incident Management Team informed him about the special security designation, but it wasn't clear where that information came from. A report by the lieutenant that Legvold identified as the team's commander was not released.

In a 911 call from the club where 49 people were killed and over 50 were injured, the gunman, Omar Mateen, pledged solidarity with the Islamic State group. Federal law enforcement officials have said there's no evidence Mateen was directed by any foreign terror groups.

Officials also have said FBI investigators haven't found convincing evidence supporting reports that Mateen was gay or seeking gay relationships.

In another report, Deputy Johnerick Sanchez described helping victims coming out of the club's entrance until authorities relocated an "inner perimeter" due to fears of a "possible improvised explosive device."

Sanchez then moved to the west side of the club, where he said he helped people escaping from the bathrooms and dressing room.

Other deputies wrote about responding to Orlando Police calls for emergency backup in roughly 15 reports emailed by sheriff's office spokesman Jeff Williamson.

When they arrived, they saw people covered in blood and running from the club

in a panic while others with gunshot wounds lay on the ground, according to the reports.

Deputies wrote about hearing gunshots from inside Pulse, separating the wounded according to the severity of their injuries and carrying people to paramedics and ambulances.

They rushed to lock down Orlando Regional Medical Center, where many victims were being treated, after erroneous reports about shots fired there. Deputies also held posts outside the club until police SWAT officers took over, corralled witnesses, searched nearby parking lots for possible explosive devices and blocked off surrounding streets.

The sheriff's office also was called upon to help identify some of the living and the dead in the shooting's aftermath. In one report, Deputy David Scroggins wrote that he was called to the Orange County medical examiner's office and Orlando Regional Medical Center to help identify victims with his fingerprint reader.

Scroggins was able to identify one wounded 31-year-old man who had been taken from surgery to the hospital's intensive care unit.

In the medical examiner's office, he tried to identify four victims but only could match fingerprints from one to a name. That was Edward M. Sotomayor Jr., a 35-year-old travel agent who worked for a company that held gay cruises.



Pictured: Leelanau Patio.

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NEWS

After Orlando, Some Businesses Stress LGBT Inclusivity Moves

BY JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

NEW YORK (AP) - Some small business owners already working to make their companies more welcoming to LGBT employees say the massacre at a gay dance club in Orlando gives them an impetus to make more changes.

"I've committed to myself and within our executive team to redouble our efforts to create a safer, kinder, more accepting workplace," says Frank Maylett, CEO of RizePoint, a company that makes software to help restaurant owners, hotel operators and retailers manage multiple locations.

RizePoint had already taken steps like providing health and other benefits to employees' domestic partners and removing gender references in its handbook so that "paternity" and "maternity" leaves are now "parental" leave. And when an employee last year planned to have sex reassignment surgery, managers including the then-CEO met with the staffer and offered support.

Since the attacks, Salt Lake City-based RizePoint has reviewed its handbook and policies.

"We've had numerous executive, company and personal opportunities to discuss and reinforce our company standards," Maylett says.

At the Pulse nightclub in Orlando on June 12, a man with a semi-automatic weapon went on a bloody rampage. It was the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history, with 49 people killed and more than 50 wounded. Officials have said a goal of the investigation is determining why the gunman, an American who identified himself as an Islamic soldier, targeted the gay community.

The attack has increased Tim Andrews' awareness of the need to provide acceptance and safety for all employees.

"Everyone's thinking about it. People want to be in an environment where they really want to work," says Andrews, CEO of the Advertising Specialty Institute, which runs a trade group for companies in the promotional products industry. The Trevese, Pennsylvania-based company recently wrote a statement of its values that includes the fact that it embraces employees' diverse sexual orientations.

"We just had hired a number of new people, and asked, 'How do we make sure that everyone who's working here knows what we define as the right thing?'" Andrews says.

Many business owners who want their companies to be inclusive for employees and customers of any nationality, race, religion or gender have become more mindful in recent years about explicitly being more welcoming

to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and to those whose gender isn't male or female.

Changes to laws and policies are part of that; for example, the end to the military's "don't ask, don't tell" standard and the growing acceptance of same-sex marriage that led to last year's Supreme Court ruling that gay people have the right to marry. The current debate over laws requiring people to use public restrooms that correspond to their sex at birth have provided more food for thought.

The LGBT community has also made companies more aware, says Rob Wilson, CEO of Westmont, Illinois-based human resources provider Employco.

"People are being more open about their sexuality," Wilson says. "Ten years ago, they might not have been."

Companies also want LGBT job candidates to know they're welcome, says Midge Seltzer, president of Engage PEO, a human resources provider based in Hollywood, Florida.

"Everyone's competing for the top talent. By adopting these policies, you're going to look like a more progressive company," Seltzer says. Inclusiveness also contributes to a more productive work atmosphere, she says.

At the Chicago-based human resources software company Jellyvision, employees created a banner with messages of support for Orlando. The company's policy of acceptance made them feel it was OK to collaborate on the project, says Mary Beth Wynn, head of human resources.

Jellyvision managers began thinking about inclusivity last year when they hired a transgender employee. They realized the frequently asked questions for prospective employees on the company's website didn't indicate that managers would be responsive to issues such as the fact that some people don't use pronouns like "he" or "she," and instead use "they" or other wording.

"It (the website) wasn't signaling how open and welcoming we are," Wynn says. The site was changed to include information addressing possible concerns of transgender job candidates.

Another question was how or whether to communicate to Jellyvision staffers the way their new colleague wanted to be addressed. The company decided managers should ask new employees how they want it handled.

INGUARD, an insurance broker and adviser in Wabash, Indiana, is again looking at its policies following the Orlando shooting, says owner Parker Beauchamp.

"We've got to be constantly thinking about how we can evolve and be more inclusive," Beauchamp says.

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Pat Summitt, Legendary Tennessee Lady Vols Coach, Dies At 64

KNOXVILLE - Legendary Lady Vols Head Coach Emeritus Pat Summitt died early Tuesday morning from complications of Alzheimers disease. Summitt, an inspirational leader and mentor to hundreds of young women athletes, is credited with greatly advancing women's sports and female athletic visibility.



She was the fourth of five children born to Richard and Hazel Head on June 14, 1952, in Clarksville, Tenn. Her tireless work ethic and her love of the game of basketball were forged while growing up on the family farm.

She'll be remembered as the all-time winningest Division 1 basketball coach in NCAA history, racking up more than 1,000 victories and eight national titles during her 38 years of coaching at the University of Tennessee. Her teams made an unprecedented 31 consecutive appearances in the NCAA Tournament.

Judge: Woman Has no Rights to Child in Same-Sex Divorce Case

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - A Tennessee judge on June 24 ruled that a woman in a same-sex divorce case does not have the legal rights to a child she and her wife have raised because of a 1977 state law on artificial insemination.

The Knoxville News Sentinel reports that Knox County Circuit Judge Greg McMillan ruled that as a result of the wording in the old law, the woman could not be legally recognized as a parent.

The decision involves the divorce and child custody case of Erica and Sabrina Witt. The two legally wed in Washington D.C. in April 2014 and then settled in Knoxville. Sabrina Witt gave birth to a baby girl in January 2015 as a result of artificial insemination via anonymous donor. Same-sex marriage was outlawed in Tennessee at the time of the marriage and when the child was born. Tennessee didn't even recognize same-sex marriages from other states. As a result, Erica Witt's name was not placed on the baby's birth certificate.

When Sabrina Witt filed for divorce last

February, her attorney argued that the sole Tennessee law on artificial insemination says that parental rights, other than those of the mother, only apply to husbands.

"That terminology is not interchangeable," attorney John Harber argued at the hearing Friday. He said that under the statute, Erica Witt would not qualify as a parent.

The U.S. Supreme Court effectively legalized gay marriage in all the states in a landmark ruling last year. As a result of that ruling, Erica Witt's attorney argued that the court should find Tennessee's artificial insemination law unconstitutional.

"The argument that marriage may only consist of a 'husband' and a 'wife' has been held to be unconstitutional," said Virginia Schwamm, a lawyer representing Erica Witt. "(Tennessee marriage certificates) still (indicate) male and female, but surely that no longer applies. Just because the statute reads man and woman, this court can interpret the statute in a manner that makes it constitutional."

The attorney argued that Erica Witt had

been committed to raise the child and the paramount consideration for the judge to make was what was in the best interest of the child.

However, McMillan ruled that his hands were tied by a strict reading of the artificial insemination law and that it was not up to the court to enact "social policy."

"I believe as a trial court I am not to plow new ground, but to apply precedent and the law," McMillan said.

The judge did allow Erica Witt to appeal before he made a final ruling in the divorce case, saying it was more appropriate for the Tennessee Court of Appeals to weigh in.

In the meantime, he ruled that Erica Witt could apply for visitation in the same manner that a stepparent could apply. However, without the recognition of being a legal parent, Erica Witt will not be able to have a say in important decisions in the child's life, including medical needs and the girl's education. She also doesn't have to pay child support.

Erika Witt left the courtroom in tears.

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'Spin' Into A Seat For Play On LGBT Homelessness and Brown Boy Love

BY AJ TRAGER

ANN ARBOR – Emilio Rodriguez is a playwright, actor, director and teaching artist who moved to Detroit after receiving his Drama degree from UC Irvine in southern California.

His new play “Spin,” showcases the love of two young gay men of color experiencing homelessness. He told BTL the idea for the play developed over the course of many years after finding out there was a homeless shelter in LA that caters to young gay youth. The inspiration adapted and evolved as he started teaching theater to youth in Detroit. He wanted to write the kind of play that he hadn’t seen yet – one with love between brown boys, he says, a story as complex as the experience of people of color in America.

Can you talk about masculinity, how you included the vulnerable parts of masculinity and why you found this to be an important plot point?

I think male intimacy is not discussed often in terms of men of color. I remember when a magazine cover came out with Michael B Jordan embracing Ryan Coogler and everyone freaked out. They aren’t even in a relationship. They aren’t even gay and everyone freaked out. The unfortunate reality is that men of color still have to hide their LGBT identities from their families, co-workers, and sometimes even their friends. In a sense, LGBT men of color are without a home in American society and thus the plot and setting can be considered a metaphor in itself.

What is the importance of the poetry readings? How do they continue and progress the plot/relationship between the characters?

The poems show the character progression of Angelo. He goes from shy boy without a purpose to a real poet who has found someone to write both for and about. The poems enable the audience to see how Mila has affected Angelo and really hammers home the idea that a true bond cannot be broken by distance.

How long were you working on it? What were your inspirations?

I began working on the play about two and a half years ago. It has changed so much with scenes cut, characters cut, poems added, moments created and realizations that I discovered. My inspirations vary from my experiences as a teacher with Detroit youth to the lack of people of color on stages in Michigan and also a lack of LGBT people of color on Michigan stages. I was also



Actors Matthew Webb and Jose Martinez from Theatre Nova performing “Spin,” the latest play by Emilio Rodriguez. The show is directed by Kennikki Jones-Jones.

PERFORMING

Spin’ will run every Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. until July 10 at Theatre Nova inside Ann Arbor’s Yellow Barn. Theatre Nova is located at 410 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are available at the door and are offered at “pay what you can.”

really inspired by the divide in the Latinx community over Gina Rodriguez’s use of “improper Spanish” on twitter and the colorism that manifested in the Dominican Republic (when DR natives actively sought to get rid of Dominicans with Haitian origins.)

Any additional thoughts?

I have been asked a lot about Orlando. For marketing purposes, we didn’t feel comfortable capitalizing on a tragedy. I think the show speaks for itself. When you see a Black gay man and a Black Latinx man onstage your mind is inevitably going to think about the list of Black and Latinx people who were killed in that tragedy. I think it’s stronger that we haven’t commented on it, because the audience is able to draw their own connections. And think, ultimately, Black and Latinx LGBT people die everyday because of acts of violence, hatred and unmitigated fear. To talk only about Orlando denies the reality that being an LGBT member of the Black and Latinx community is a daily challenge, that can only be overcome with reminding the world that “Love is love is love is love is love...”





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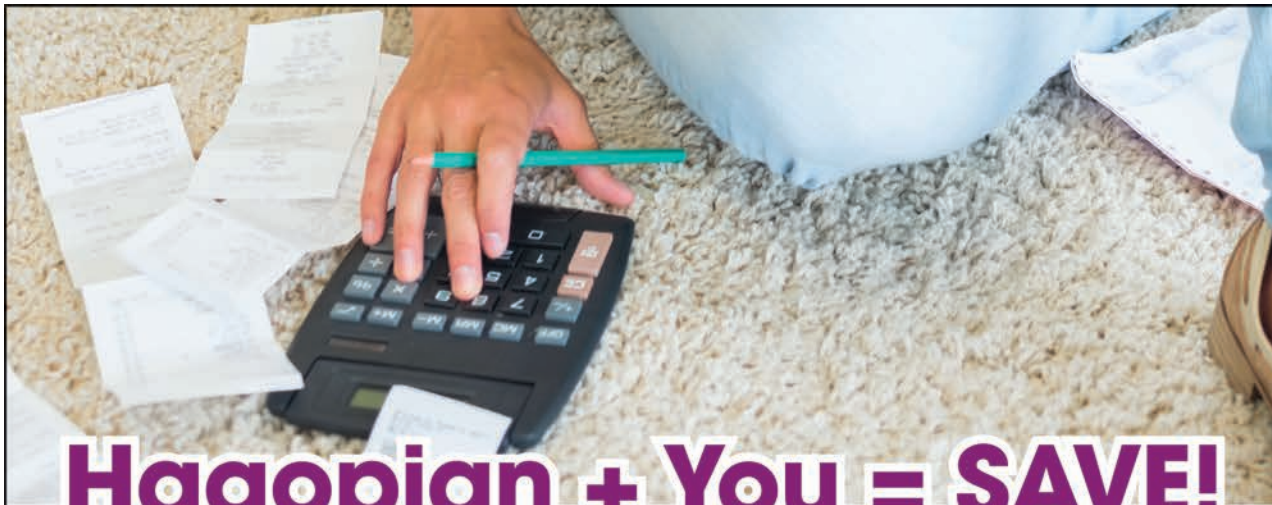


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Business Spotlight: Briggs Detroit for the Win

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

Competitive sports fans tend to rally around an underdog, and in the equally competitive world of restaurant business, so do foodies. At downtown's Briggs Detroit, fine fare and athletic fanaticism make a seamless team, as the eatery slowly redefines the notion of "sports bar" with a charm tailored to its target audience -- LGBT people who like sports.

"We don't have a sports bar (in the city) dedicated to the LGBT community. So filling that niche is a very important role for us," says Briggs co-founder Rocco Tossone, who opened the bar with his business partner, Tim Moored, last fall. "We have a very diverse staff. (And) everybody wants to have a great time."

Although pairing gays with goalposts may not be in the traditional restaurant playbook, Tossone likes to throw the playbook out the window. And so far, he's winning.

"There are a lot of gay men, lesbians and transgender people who love sports," says Tossone. But finding a place where LGBT people can feel comfortable partaking in the fanfare of sports can be an issue, he explains. "Unfortunately, when they go to a sports bar, sometimes they feel uncomfortable celebrating with someone they love, holding hands and

giving someone a kiss when their team scores."

When it comes to restaurants, helping people feel a part of a community can be just as important as the cuisine, says Tossone, who formerly owned a deli-style restaurant, "The Fern," in downtown Ferndale.

"No matter what we do, it's important for us to be a part of a neighborhood and it's important for us to be a part of the gay community," he says. "We open our doors to everyone. And that's a big part of our mission statement here."

Another part of Briggs' mission is to change the conceptions of "bar food." On the menu at Briggs, you'll find Piedmontese beef, house-braised corned beef and tarragon chicken salad sandwiches with other bar staples such as windings and onion dip.

"That's how we are approaching gastro pub here," says Tossone. "We are making everything from scratch, and we are making everything really good, and making sure everything is delicious." This includes the

drink menu -- a simple, yet satiating list of two rotating alcohol infusions and about 20 craft beers -- and the entertainment menu.

There's is karaoke on Tuesdays, trivia night on Wednesdays, and on Briggs' busiest nights, all the seats are filled and the TVs are flickering with sports casts, from Ultimate Fighting Championship fights -- "There's nothing hotter," Tossone says -- to "RuPaul's Drag Race." But the bar really hits it out of the park with a backroom dance floor, the "Trophy Room," where special guest DJs help kickoff the weekend.

"It's a great location. It's a statement bar. It's the perfect fit for us," he says, though it took around two years to find the right fit.

Before settling into its current space off Jefferson Avenue across from the Renaissance Center downtown, Tossone considered locations in New Center and Corktown, to pay homage to where the old Briggs Stadium once stood. Wherever the place, it had to be in Detroit he says.

"We decided we wanted to be a part of Detroit and this excitement that's happening down here," says Tossone, explaining that he



“No matter what we do, it's important for us to be a part of a neighborhood and it's important for us to be a part of the gay community.”

– Briggs co-founder Rocco Tossone

hopes the bar will be one of many symbols that the LGBT community is alive and well in Detroit. "To us, that represents 'new Detroit,' this diverse population of old, young, black, white, gay, straight. Just everybody coming together and having a good time. And that's what's important to us."

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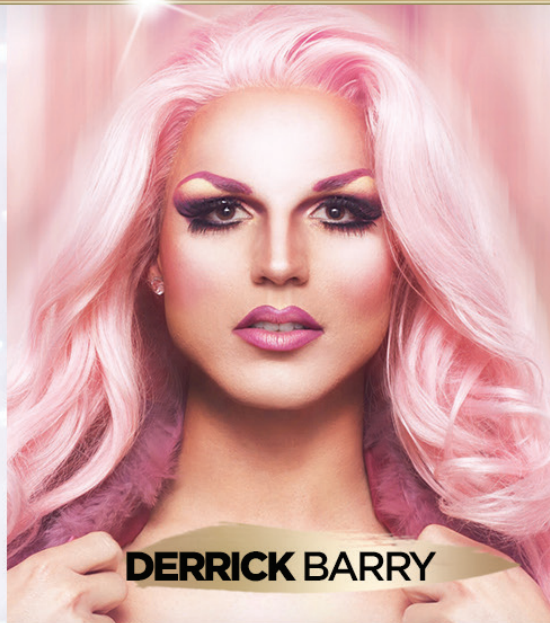
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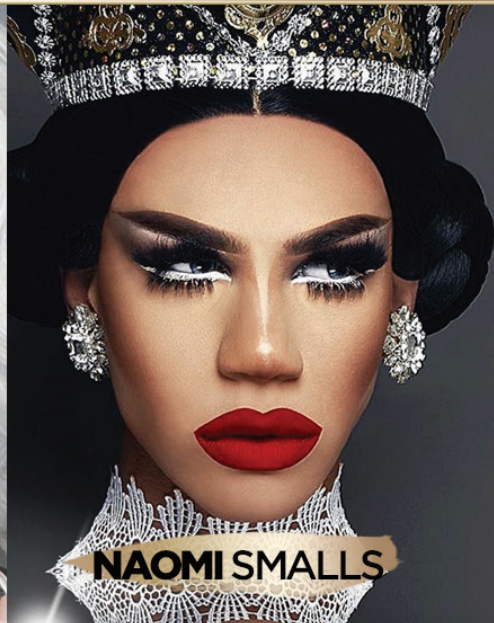
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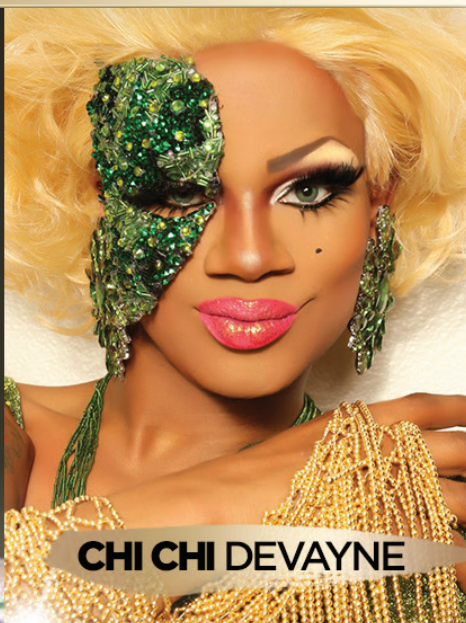
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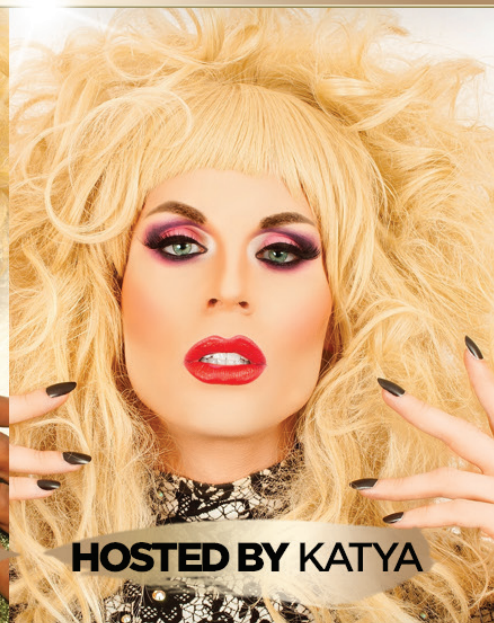
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Indie-Pop Star Ladyhawke On (Publicly) Coming Out & Why Orlando Feels 'Very Close to Home'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Here comes the bride... and the other bride. It was as simple as that for Pip Brown, whose stage moniker is Ladyhawke. The New Zealand-born indie popster flew under the gaydar until 2015, when she announced her marriage to actress Madeleine Sami. During the six years leading up to the couple's wedding, the 36-year-old musician, known for intoxicating synthpop earworms like "My Delirium" and "Paris Is Burning," was writing about the "highs and lows" of their partnership. The result? Her third studio album, "Wild Things," a buoyant love-smacked delight.

Hours before hitting the stage in Boston, the first gig on her American tour, Brown rang for a tell-all about the life few knew she was leading and the album she recorded that she never wants to hear again.

When did you know you were not straight?

As a teenager, I didn't really understand anything about sexuality. I didn't have any understanding of gay or straight; I had no one teaching me that stuff. I'm from a really small town in New Zealand, and I didn't know any gay people. There aren't any out gay people in my town, that's for sure. And just... it wasn't on my radar. So, I questioned, when all the girls were falling all over themselves to get to the boys, why I wasn't like that – and still, I was best friends with all the boys. All my friends were guys and I was their "buddy." I was like, "Why am I like this? And why do all their girlfriends hate me?" (Laughs). It took me a long time actually to realize what that was. I sort of thought for a while that I was bi, and so for a long time I ran with it. I just thought surely there must be some part of me that could fall in love with a guy, but I've never been in love with a guy. I do find men attractive. But I was quite confused and it sucks that that's a thing because we're not taught about that. We're not taught that it's OK to like someone who is the same sex as you. It's really horrible growing up thinking you're not normal.

Did you experience queer culture shock going from New Zealand, where you didn't know a single gay person, to LA?

I actually haven't lived in New Zealand for about 15 years; I left a really long time ago. I moved from New Zealand to Melbourne, Melbourne to Sydney, Sydney to London, and then to Los Angeles. Melbourne was the real defining city for me, where I sort of found myself more – not because of the epic gay community there, but because that happens to be the place where I realized for the first time that I had the ability to fall in love with a woman, which I'd never considered before. You know, then moving to LA after all of this, it's just another city where I can be myself. There are definitely a lot of cities I would question living in because I just don't know if I could walk down the street holding hands with my wife. It sucks that it's still like that in 2016. I feel sad even saying that.

You saying that makes me think of the recent shooting in Orlando and how necessary it is that we have our safe places. How have you been processing the incident that happened in Orlando, and what kind of effect did it have on you as a queer person?

I just can't even... I was so... I cried. I absolutely couldn't believe that. I've DJed so many clubs, so many gay clubs, and so that could've been any of my friends or anyone I know. I

Photo: Cybele Malinowski

just... it was very close to home and I feel very sick about it. I was in the UK on tour when it happened and I had loads of friends at LA Pride. And I was scared. I was like, "Why the fuck am I scared?" It's a horrible thing to be scared because of your sexuality. I was scared for my friends for being at LA Pride, for being proud of being gay, and for all our friends who are supporting them, all of our mates who are out there with us, side by side. It's a disgusting thing. I just don't even know what to say. I just can't believe it's still going on. It feels so medieval to me.

How have you used music to express your sexuality?

All things are fueled by my sexuality, basically. It's who I am. I can't really avoid it. And the confusion as well. My songs have always been full of metaphors and confusion; I think it's part of life. I feel like sexuality is a spectrum; there's no black and white; there's no gay, straight, you're this or that. And the more open people are about it, the more you realize not everyone is black or white. Some people are very gay, very lesbian, but there's so much more to it than that.

Where do you fall on the spectrum?

I don't know. My sexuality has confused me my entire life and it still does to this day, and I think it's because it's not taught to us in any way. It's always been an embarrassment. It's like, "Don't talk about it"; it's hush hush. You know when you're a little girl you play with dolls? I wasn't that girl. I was the polar opposite. I was a tomboy. I played with trucks and Transformers. So, I don't know

where I fall. All I know is that I am attracted to women, but I don't rule out that I could ever be attracted to a guy – I just haven't ever been. I can't say what the future will hold, but I know that I'm married and I love my wife.

Did you pull from that relationship when writing "Wild Things"?

Oh god, yes. I'd actually finished pretty much the whole album right before we got married and then I properly completed it two months after we got married, so the whole buildup to our wedding was me writing and reflecting on the last few years of my life and the experiences I've had and on finding somebody who you go through highs and lows with and still get through it and realize you're with your best friend. I think that was one of the most rewarding conclusions I ever came to. This album is a timeline of all these things I've gone through.

Tell me about your favorite part of recording "Chills" with Scott Hoffman, also known as Babydaddy from Scissor Sisters.

Scott is one of my favorite people in the world! He's so funny and I just love him. I met up with him in New York and we wrote that song; that song happened quite quickly. He's just a great musician all around. He was on piano; I was on bass. We just jammed it out, and then we had "Chills." It was just a really fun experience, and I know we'll do stuff in the future together because we're friends and he's just a great guy. I love him. He's got the best sense of humor; he's hilarious. And we relate to each other on

anxiety and germophobia. (Laughs)

You recorded an entire album that was much darker from what I've heard.

Yeah, it was, definitely.

Why was that album so dark and why didn't it get a proper release?

I've had really bad depression for a really long time – my whole life, basically; since as long as I can remember. I think since about puberty. I developed a really bad drinking problem and it all just became this horrible thing where I didn't know which came first anymore. I didn't know which was fueling which. I wasn't doing myself any favors and I wasn't doing my career any favors and I *definitely* wasn't doing my relationship any favors.

It got to the point where I had all these songs, and I remember playing them for my mom and I was in such a bad place at this point. I was feeling really yucky. Sad and gross. And I played the music to my mom and stepdad, and I just remember the looks on their faces really tore me up. They just looked shocked. Obviously, being used to me making somewhat upbeat music and then hearing this, I think it was more the lyrical content – it was just dark, dark music. And I remember my mom saying to me, "I can tell just by listening to this how bad you feel." And that was the moment when I went, "Right, I need to sort this out. This is so bad. I can't have a record that in 10 years time I'm not even gonna wanna listen to because it's going to remind me of a shitty time I went through. I need to fix myself."

Was it cathartic making it?

Yeah. It was good making it. It was also painful making it. I just didn't enjoy the process. I've always said I love being in the studio, but it was just hard. I was so depressed. I couldn't really focus properly. I was blowing off appointments as well. I would blow off writing sessions. That's not what I've ever been about in the past, and I knew I needed to cut that out. I needed to stop drinking. First, I needed to just sort my life out, and my health, and my mentality. And that's exactly what I did. It took me ages. All the tours that I've done that have given me the flu, that have kicked my ass, just trying to stop drinking and getting to the point where I was starting to feel really good and not having anxiety panics on the daily – that was harder.

Based on "Wild Things," I'm guessing you're in a much better place.

Yes, definitely.

When you married Madeleine Sami in 2015 the Internet seemed surprised that you even dated women. Were you surprised that people were surprised?

(Laughs) I was! This is gonna make me sound like I dated loads of girls – which I didn't! – but I would always bring my girlfriend to whatever press I was doing. My girlfriend would be at everything. This is before Madeleine – well, Madeleine would come to everything too. But I would always

See Ladyhawke, page 55

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LGBT Wordsmiths Pre-, Post-Orlando

BY KEITH ORR

Writers often feel things more intensely than other people and are better able to articulate those feelings. We are the canaries in the coal mine. This time, perhaps because I feel an affinity for the victims, I feel the impact of this horror more intensely and have the need to speak up, not only to exorcise this intransigent demon but also to ... I don't know ... BE the canary in the goddamn coal mine.

-Andrew Beierle, Lambda Award Winner 2003, Winter of My Discothèque

The 2016 Lambda Literary Awards were presented on June 6. The Lammys are the highest award for LGBT literature. They are the gay wordsmiths' Oscars. Everything in my life, and probably yours, is currently being defined as "before Orlando" or "after Orlando." The awards ceremony was pre-Orlando. Post-Orlando, I caught up with a couple of Lammy nominees and winners to get their impression of the awards, and to hear them talk about the added importance of these awards in a post-Orlando environment.

Jameson Currier is a novelist, short story writer, poet, critic, journalist, editor and publisher. He has been a Lambda nominee and has attended many of the Lambda Awards ceremonies. Jameson described the mood at the ceremony: "One of the joys of being at the Lammys, and I have been to quite a few over the years, is the exuberance of the winners, no matter how they classify on the LGBT identity or ally spectrum, and all the winners are memorable for their joy and sincerity. This year the gang behind Glitter & Grit: Queer Performance from the Heels on Wheels Femme Galaxy were particularly boisterous and crowd-pleasing."

This year's list of nominees is an impressive collection of seasoned professionals, exciting new voices and more than a handful of revolutionary voices. Lillian Faderman, at age 75, received another nomination, this time for "The Gay Revolution: The Story of the Struggle." At the opposite end of the spectrum, Alex Gino won in the LGBT Children's/Young Adult for "George," a first novel for Alex.

"George" fills an important gap for middle grade transgender youth. It is the story of a fifth grader named George, who has an alternate identity as Melissa. The fifth grade is putting on a play based on "Charlotte's Web," and George wants to audition for the role of Charlotte. She slowly gathers the trust and acceptance of her best friend, her teacher, her parents and especially her brother. An utterly charming book, it is an important addition to the literature for friends and family of trans youth, and an entertaining read for everyone else.

The Gay Fiction category was filled with great writing. The prize went to Canadian-Iraqi writer Hasan Namir for his debut novel, "God in Pink." Other finalists included Paul Russell for his current novel "Immaculate Blue"; Mark Merlis for "JD"; and Truman Capote (yes, *THAT* Truman Capote) for "The Early Stories of Truman Capote."

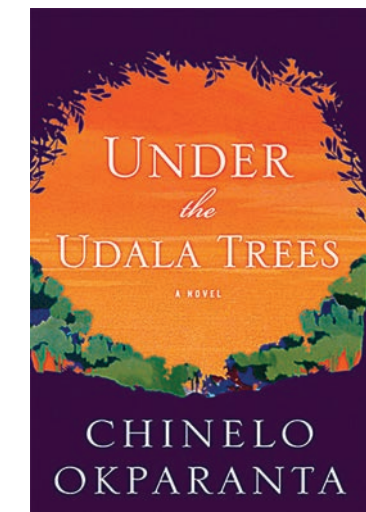
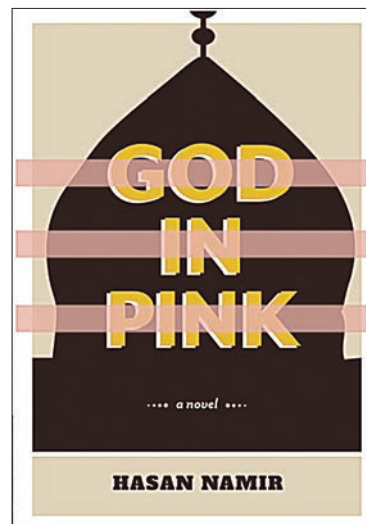
Set in 2003 in war-torn Iraq, "God in Pink" is about being queer and Muslim. Ramy is a university student whose parents have died. He lives with his very strict brother and sister-in-law. They pressure him to find a wife, as he tries to navigate a balance between religion, culture and sexuality. The novel alternates between great beauty and sheer violence.

With the right wing trying to put a wedge between the LGBT and Muslim community, especially in the wake of Orlando, this is a timely and important novel.

LGBT literature is a vital element of our community and even more so now, because it helps both our community and those outside of it understand our lives better. As a gay man of a certain generation, there were only a few "safe spaces" that we could go to discover our identity, friends and other members of our community. Those places were bookstores and bars, and in some larger cities, theater companies, and that is one of the reasons why the impact of the Orlando tragedy has resonated so deeply in our community – because the place we went to dance and meet our friends was no longer safe.

I've never been able to attend the Lammys. Instead, I look forward to live tweeting from Rob Byrnes, author of "The Night We Met," "Trust Fund Boys," the Lambda award-winning "When The Stars Came Out," and a delightful series of comic crime caper books. I asked Byrnes about this year's Lammys post-Orlando.

"The Lambda Literary Awards were held on a Monday night. Within a



week, 49 people – many our LGBT brothers and sisters – were murdered in Orlando, and dozens more wounded. The attack on Pulse has been felt as an attack on all of us, which is why it has particular resonance within the LGBT community. I am absolutely not an enemy of straight people – 'some of my best friends,' and so on...but I am not a straight person, and they are not me. That is the reason Orlando has hit me and most LGBT people so hard. And that is the reason



“The Lambda Literary Awards were held on a Monday night. Within a week, 49 people – many our LGBT brothers and sisters – were murdered in Orlando, and dozens more wounded. The attack on Pulse has been felt as an attack on all of us, which is why it has particular resonance within the LGBT community.”

– Lambda Award winner Rob Byrnes

we have pushed back when the media and public officials have attempted to “de-gay” the massacre. Because despite our wide diversity, there is also a commonality that binds us and must not be erased,” said Byrnes.

The Lambdas often show the diversity of our community. The Best Lesbian Category was won by Nigerian-American writer Chinelo Okparanta for her novel, “Under the Udala Trees.” Chinelo has been frequently published for short stories, but “Under The Udala Trees” is another debut novel to win a Best Category this year. It is a gripping novel set during the Nigerian civil war – part coming of age, part love story and part war story. Ijeoma is torn from her family and works as a servant to a grammar school teacher. She meets and falls in love with Amina, and convinces the teacher to take her on as well. Young love is torn apart, and Ijeoma is returned to her strict mother, who seems to believe in some form of Bible-based gay reparative therapy. The ensuing story may seem reminiscent of American “forbidden love” stories, though they are overlaid with religious, cultural and legal hurdles of present-day Nigeria, where same-sex love can still be punished by death.

As we celebrate the one-year anniversary of the SCOTUS decision legalizing same-sex marriage, Orlando reminds us that many in America still believe that same-sex love should be punished by death here as well. What holds us together is a sense of community and shared culture which refuses to be silenced by Orlando. Byrnes spoke about the importance

of literature in the wake of Orlando:

“When hundreds of LGBTQ writers gather in one room, a community is created. There is no divide between fiction and nonfiction, between literary and genre, between poetry and prose. We mutually appreciate and celebrate our shared, if diverse, culture, and recognize the paramount importance of using the written word to create art that reflects who we are and how we live. That is the community I experience at the Lambda Literary Awards,” said Byrnes.

If anything, the tragedy in Orlando has left me all the more convinced that our words matter more than ever, which makes the celebration of them through the Lambda Literary Awards, Publishing Triangle Awards and other channels extremely important. We are the only ones who can truly describe our lives in all their complexity and diversity.

Keith Orr and his husband Martin Contreras are owner/operators of Common Language Bookstore and the \aut\ BAR. Both are avid readers and activists for Social Justice.

INFO

Lambda Literary Award Winners

>> www.lambdaliterary.org/the-2016-lambda-literary-award-winners

► Ladyhawke

Continued from p. 51

bring my partner to everything: video shoots, press, shows, everything. And no one batted an eyelash! I always quite laughed at that. I thought it was quite funny. But yeah, I never even got quizzed on it.

I remember my manager being like, “You don’t really ever talk about this.” And I was like, “No one ever asks me!” He was like, “Why don’t we just tell people you’re married?” But I’ve been out for forever. Everyone knows. I dated guys – I’ve had boyfriends – but it was never anything serious for me. It wasn’t until I had my first girlfriend, I was like, “Uh, I see. This is a thing.” So it’s been so long for me that I just forgot that it was even a thing, you know? I know it’s so different when you’re really young and

you’re just coming out and you’re realizing who you are and you have your entire family to tell. I remember that feeling. I know it’s incredibly hard. But this was so different for me because it’s no secret (laughs). I like the way we did it, though: “Yeah, she’s married.”

You made a statement without having to make a statement.

Exactly. Getting married is such an important step in a person’s life and it was something I was proud of as a human being. I’d always been such a – I couldn’t really commit to anything; you can see that from how many different bloody cities I’ve lived in! (Laughs) I can’t really stay still. I’m always jumping around from place to place to place, and so this was important for me and I wanted everyone to know. I wanted them to know that this was huge decision for me and that I was proud of taking this step.

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Friday

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meal for \$20



Wednesday

\$1 off beer and free pool



Saturday

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club night at the \aut\ BAR
Progressive Drink specials



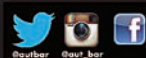
Thursday

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



Sunday

Salsa Night
\$1 tacos
Salsa lessons.



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Join The Conversation

Summer Pride Calendar



Hotter Than July 2016

Detroit's Black Gay Pride is here!

The 2016 Hotter Than July celebration will feature nearly a week of activities for the LGBT community beginning July 26 stretching to July 31.

The week kicks off with a Candlelight Vigil beginning at 6 p.m. July 26 at the Blue Spruce Memorial Tree in Palmer Park. A fine arts

reception will be held at the Carr Center July 27 and will pre-date the official opening party that will begin at 9 p.m. at the Woodward Bar & Grill located at 6426 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Valet parking is available. Attendance cost is \$5.

Hotter Than July will host an annual gathering on LGBT issues beginning at 8 a.m. July 29. The event will include a day of education and advocacy with an array of interactive and informative workshops covering issues of importance for cis and trans people and youth. Admittance is free following registration.

The pinnacle event of the festival, the Palmer Park Picnic, will kick off the weekend at 10 a.m. July 30. The picnic receives over 20,000 guests who gather to celebrate culture, self-empowerment and identity.

Sunday services include a 10 a.m. worship service at Whosoever Ministry located at 2930 Woodward Ave., Detroit. The festival will close with a Sunday brunch beginning at 12 p.m. The location will be announced shortly. Check www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/ for updates and for information on other HTJ events. *See page 42 for more details.*

JULY 26-31

Hotter Than July

LGBT Detroit hosts this week long event celebrating black LGBT pride in Detroit.

lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

JULY 30

Hotter Than July: Palmer Park Picnic

9 a.m.

Palmer Park, Detroit

313-285-9733 or www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

JULY 27

Hotter Than July: Fine Arts Reception

6 p.m.

Carr Center, 311 E. Grand River, Detroit

313-285-9733 or www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

Hotter Than July: Official Opening Party

9 p.m.

Woodward Bar and Grill, 6426 Woodward Ave., Detroit

\$5

313-285-9733 or www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

JULY 28

Hotter Than July: Play

7 p.m.

Details TBD

313-285-9733 or www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

JULY 29

Hotter Than July: Annual Gathering on LGBTQ Issues

COMPILED BY SHELBY CLARK PETKUS

JULY 10

Dykes on Bikes Harsens Island Ride

12 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale

Meet in Affirmations back parking lot, then ride to Harsens Island along St. Clair River.

www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org

JULY 23

Great Lakes Bay Pride

Perceptions

Noon

Veterans Memorial Park, Bay City
www.greatlakesbaypride.org/

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8 a.m.
University of Michigan
Detroit Center, 3663
Woodward Ave. Detroit
Registration is required.
313-285-9733 or
www.lgbtdetroit.org/
hotterthanjuly/

JULY 30

Hotter Than July: Palmer Park Picnic
10 a.m.
Palmer Park, Detroit
313-285-9733 or
www.lgbtdetroit.org/
hotterthanjuly/

JULY 31

Hotter Than July: Worship Service
10 a.m.
Whosoever Ministry, 2930
Woodward Ave., Detroit
313-285-9733 or
www.lgbtdetroit.org/
hotterthanjuly/

Hotter Than July: Sunday Brunch
Noon
\$25
Location TBD

313-285-9733 or
www.lgbtdetroit.org/
hotterthanjuly/

AUG. 5

OUTFest & Pride Picnic
www.a2outfest.com

AUG. 6

OUTFest & Pride Picnic
www.a2outfest.com

AUG. 7

OUTFest & Pride Picnic
www.a2outfest.com

Windsor-Essex Pride Fest Parade

11 a.m.
Ouellette Avenue & Elliot
Avenue, Windsor, Ontario,
Canada
www.wepridefest.com

AUG. 12

Motor City Bears Turkey Point Camping Weekend
7 p.m.
Ontario, Canada
Visit www.meetup.com/motor-city-bears/ for more

information.
www.motorcitybears.com

AUG. 13

Transgender Pride in the Park
Noon
Donald Red Geary Park,
Ferndale
An event featuring free
food, free fun and great
friends held every year by
Transgender Michigan.
Hot dogs and other stuff
provided – please bring a
side dish if you wish.
www.transgendermichigan.org

Dykes on Bikes Cement City Ride

12 p.m.
Affirmations, 290 W. Nine
Mile Road, Ferndale
www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org

AUG. 26

White Party
Michigan Pride
7 p.m.
Adado Riverfront Park, 300
N. Grand Ave., Lansing
www.michiganpride.org

Tickets: \$20-25.
White or silver attire.

AUG. 27

Pride Parade
Michigan Pride
12 p.m.
200 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
www.michiganpride.org

Michigan Pride Festival in Old Town


Michigan Pride
12 p.m.
Adado Riverfront Park, 300
N. Grand Ave., Lansing
www.michiganpride.org

SEPT. 10

Upper Peninsula Pride Fest
Based out of Marquette, with
one common goal: to bring
PRIDE local!
Tourist Park, 2145 Sugarloaf
Ave., Marquette
www.uprainbowpride.com

SEPT. 18

AIDS Walk Detroit
Royal Oak Farmers Market
www.aidswalkdetroit.org



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JULY 7-10



Underwear Weekend

DJ Ralphie
DJ Doug
UNDERWEAR TEA
Men of Manwatch
Pool DJ
Employee Turnabout
Hannahiah Whitley
Diva's Show

JULY 14-17



SAND STORM

DJ Doug
MILITARY TEA DANCE
Men of Manwatch
Amy & Freddy
Diva's Show
Karaoke

JULY 21-24


DJ Doug
CHRISTMAS TEA



Christmas in July

Men of Manwatch
Kelly & Rick
Diva's Show
Karaoke

LABOR DAY WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 1-5



DJ JOE GAUTHREAUX
DJ THERESA
DJ HECTOR FONSECA
DJ DOUG

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OUTINGS

Thursday, June 30

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

All Gender Film Night 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to watch both gay and non-gay themed movies. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

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>

Saturday, July 2

Lesbian Euchre 6 p.m. Please arrive early to register. \$5 donation to Affirmations. Do not need to bring a partner to play. Affirmations is a smoke and alcohol free environment. You are welcome to bring snacks and a beverage. There is a local cafe. This is a fun, social group of women who like to play euchre. This is for beginners (must know the basics of the game) to the experienced. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. lsbndanii@aol.com www.goaffirmations.org

Retro Freve 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/>

Sunday, July 3

Beginner Yoga for Baby Boomers 7 p.m. Taught by Charles Baber, R.Y.T. Classes are drop-in for \$5 per person. Bring a yoga mat and towel. Class sizes are limited. RSVP is required. Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halsted Road, **Farmington Hills**. 248-345-4867. chas5540@aol.com

Monday, July 4

Ann Arbor "Aut" Social Group 7:30 p.m. Ann Arbor area lesbians and friends gather to dine and socialize. Aut Bar, 315 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-769-8385. joinautsocial@umich.edu www.autbar.com

Tuesday, July 5

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

Detroit Metro Area Pagans Monthly Meetup 7 p.m. This is an open pagan roundtable that has various discussions held on the first Tuesday of every month. Michigan Pagans, 150 Cass Ave., **Mt. Clemens**. www.meetup.com

Wednesday, July 6

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

Group Dinner at Blue Tractor 6 p.m. It's a holiday week, but for those who are in town, enjoy dinner with friends. Queer Young Professionals, 207 E. Washington St., **Ann Arbor**. www.meetup.com

Middlepath Meditation 6 p.m. Guided meditation covering various topics and methods followed by silent meditations. \$5 suggested donation. No registration needed. This is a drop-in event. Michigan Pagans, 224 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-548-1415. www.bostontearoom.com

Dykes on Bikes Planning Sessions 6:30 p.m. This organization is committed to creating a local community of women motorcyclists and friends of women motorcyclists. Dykes on Bikes Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. <https://dykesonbikesdetroit.com>

Thursday, July 7

Mix & Mingle 5:30 p.m. Socialize and relax with iHeartMedia's Boji at this weekly downtown happy hour featuring delicious food and drink specialties from The Fountain Detroit. 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. An ongoing film night where we show a different movie every Thursday followed by social discussion. We show both gay themed and regular themed movies. 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 8

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 9

SPIN A fast-paced and funny play marrying spoken-word poetry and romantic hip-hop, set in a homeless shelter for LGBTQ teens. Theatre Nova, **Ann Arbor**. www.visitann Arbor.org

Quicken Loans Sports Zone 9 a.m. Features four outdoor basketball courts and a sand volleyball area open to the public daily. Quicken Loans, 662 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. www.campusmartiuspark.org/events

Outdoor Games 12 p.m. Games offered in the park include table tennis, chess, checkers, beanbag toss, and more. Quicken Loans, 662 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. www.campusmartiuspark.org/events

Funk Festival 9 p.m. This Retro Freve Saturday Special Event will be an old school groove-a-thon. Don't miss the funkacious, fully funkified party. Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 2485411600. events@reddoorclub.com www.reddoorclub.com/events/

Sunday, July 10

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**. sapphosis@yahoo.com

BITE: A Pucking Queer Cabaret 5 p.m. Tickets: \$25 for Monday and Thursday performances; \$30 for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday performances. Purchase tickets at www.pridefilmsandplays.com. Pride Films and Plays, 5400 N. Clark, **Chicago**. 800-737-0984. www.hamburgermarys.com/chicago/attic/

MUSIC & MORE

Comedy

Go Comedy! Improv Theater "The Go Comedy! All Star Showdown" Tickets: \$18. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. June 25 - July 30. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Go Comedy! Improv Theater "BITS" Tickets: \$10. Michigan's largest improv tournament. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. June 29 - July 27. 248-327-0575. www.gocomedy.net

Go Comedy! Improv Theater "Plot Twist" Features Sheevani Desai, Chris Fortin, Brad Hicks, Erik Heilner, Doug Kolbicz, Jessica Loria, and Janelle Souilliere. Tickets: \$15. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. June 30 - Aug. 5. www.gocomedy.net

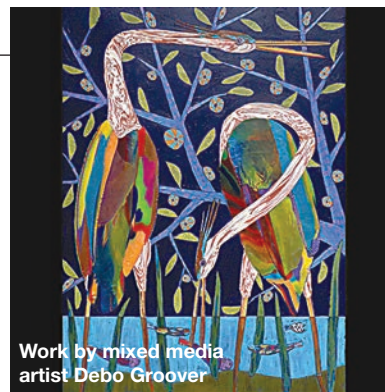
Concerts

AEG Live and The Ark "Zappa Plays Zappa" 50 Years Frank! Tour. Tickets: \$35-\$75. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. July 5. 248-399-2980. www.romlive.com

Ann Arbor Summer Festival "Mayer Hawthorne" The Ann Arbor native returns home on his summer tour featuring music from his new album, "Man About Town.". Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., **Ann Arbor**. 8 p.m. July 1. 734-764-2538. www.music.umich.edu/about/facilities/central_campus/power/index.htm

Summer Carillon Concert Series "Dennis Curry" Concert is free to the public. Elliott Tower at Oakland University, 2200 N. Squirrel Road,

Editor's Pick



Work by mixed media
artist Debo Groover

Each year, thousands of artists compete for a limited number of spaces in the Ann Arbor Art Fair. The event is one of Michigan's finest summer traditions and is one of the largest outdoor fairs in the nation. For the first time in 57 years, the art fair will open on a Thursday and end on a Sunday.

"To help leverage its popularity and to accommodate the crowds, we have moved the date," said art fair spokesperson Karen Delhey. Around 500,000 are expected to visit Ann Arbor during the four-day event. More than 1,000 competitively juried artists will cover 30 blocks featuring a wide range of media to include

painting, drawing, glass, sculpture, mixed media, jewelry and more. Visitors can enjoy original works of art, street performances, culinary treats and a variety of shops featuring sidewalk sales. There will be artist demonstrations throughout the event, art activities for all ages, and three stages full of music and dance performances.

Art Fair hours are July 21-23 from 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and July 24 from 12-6 p.m. For a downloadable guide, map, parking options, activities schedule and more, visit www.theannarborartfair.com.



Editor's Pick

Ann Arbor's own Laith Al-Saadi returns home to headline The Michigan Theater after an epic run on NBC's "The Voice." The soulful guitarist and singer gained nationwide recognition by advancing to the final four on the show, which ended in May. It's no surprise the talented 38-year-old was crowned "King of Blues" in 2006 for the Northern Region of the U.S. by Guitar Center. Performing with Detroit's greats such as Thornetta Davis, Jocelyn B, and The Reefeerman, he

has earned his spot as one of the top four blues guitarists in the country.

Al-Saadi has enjoyed growing success since the release of his third album, "Real," in 2013. The album was recorded live to 2-track with no edits, overdubs, autotune or compression at the world famous Ocean Way Recording Studios in Hollywood. The soulful album harkens back to the great musical traditions of New Orleans and Chicago with a splash of blues, country, gospel and roots rock. It is arguably Al-Saadi's best work to date.

Al-Saadi's performance is on Friday, July 8 at 7 p.m. at The Michigan Theater at 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$25-\$60. To purchase tickets, call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000. For more information, visit www.michtheater.org.

Rochester. 6 p.m. July 1. www.oakland.edu/elliott-tower

The Ark "Bruce in the U.S.A." Tickets: \$22. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 30. 734-761-1800. www.theark.org

The Carr Center "Evenings in Paradise" Showcases 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

Film & Video

Kerrytown Market and Shops Summer Classic Film Series "The Dirty Dozen" Special Fourth of July screening. Free for veterans and active service military. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 1:30 p.m. July 4. 734-668-8397. www.michtheater.org

Kerrytown Market and Shops Summer Classic Film Series "Dr. Strangelove: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" Advance tickets available online. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. July 3 - July 5. 734-668-8397. www.michtheater.org

Shows

3Fifty Terrace "The Hot Sardines" Tickets: \$25. Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. July 1 - July 1. 313-887-8500. www.musichall.org

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

A Midsummer Night's Dream Celebrate Stop the Hate. Tickets: \$12. All "tips" will go to the EqualityFlorida goFundMe campaign. Additional donations can be made at www.gofundme.com/PulseVictimsFund. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, 460 Hilton Road, Ferndale. Through July 10. 313-986-9156. www.slipstreamti.com

Hockey - The Musical! Created by Mitch Albom. Olympia Entertainment, City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through July 10. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Spin Detroit playwright Emilio Rodriguez gives us a hip-hop love story where spoken word poetry and teen romance collide in this fast-paced and funny play set in a homeless shelter for LGBTQIA teens. Suggested donation: \$20. Theatre Nova, The Yellow Barn, 416

W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through July 10. 734-635-8450. www.theatrenova.org

The Canterbury Tales Tickets: \$7-\$10. The Penny Seats Theatre Company, West Park, 215 Chapin St., Ann Arbor. Through July 2. 734-926-5346. www.pennyseats.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Academy of Art "John Glick: A Legacy in Clay" More than 200 pieces representing all phases of Glick's work, from the early vessels and tableware dating to Glick's time as a student at Cranbrook, to his conceptual ceramic sculptures from the last decades will be on display. 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" Tickets: \$12.50 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$6 for youth. Catch the conversation about the exhibition's themes with photographer Justine Kurland, DIA curator of photography Nancy Barr, and exhibition curator Denise Wolff on Thursday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 17 - Sep. 11. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Kerrytown Concert House "A Family of Artists" A mother and her three daughters - Wanetta Jones, Maryam Ali, Wasantha Young, and Wanetta Young - exhibit their works of art: oil painting, pottery, mosaic, and quilting. The gallery reception is Thursday, July 7 at 5 p.m. Join Wasantha Young for an artist lecture on Thursday, July 21 at 4 p.m. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor. July 1 - July 29. 734-763-4186. www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "Summer Invitational '16" Join us to celebrate over 50 area artists' original artwork. Receptions Friday July 1 and Friday July 22 from 6-9 p.m. Gallery Hours: Wed & Sat 12-5; Thur & Fri 12-9 Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. June 29 - July 29. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Detroit City/Detroit Affinities" Works by Annette Kelm Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 3 - Aug. 28. 313-832-6622. www.mocaddetroit.org

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit "Uncalibrated" Works by Nancy Mitchnick Museum of Contemporary Art

Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 3 - July 31. 313-832-6622. www.mocaddetroit.org

PNC Financial Services Group "Hippie Modernism: The Struggle for Utopia" Tickets: \$10 for the general public, \$8 for seniors, and \$6 for students with ID. Free for ArtMembers and children 12 and under. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 18 - Oct. 9. 877-462-7262. www.cranbrook.edu

River's Edge Gallery "The Detroit Show" A free art exhibit featuring long standing Detroit artists Niagara, SLAW and Jerome Ferretti. River's Edge Gallery, 3024 Biddle, Downtown Wyandotte. June 17 - Aug. 13. 734-246-9880.

Solo Exhibition by artist Futura "New Horizons" Artist Reception, Saturday, June 18 at 6 p.m. Library Street Collective, 1260 Library St., Detroit. June 18 - Sep. 3. 313-600-7443. www.lscgallery.com

UMMA "Catie Newell: Overnight" Works by the Detroit-based architect will be on display at the Irving Stenn, Jr. Family Gallery. Nighttime images of Detroit streetscapes and interiors, alongside a site-specific sculptural installation will be on display. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. June 11 - Nov. 6. 734-763-4186. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Catherine Opie: 700 Nimes Road" This exhibition presents new and recent work by Los Angeles-based artist Catherine Opie, one of the essential figures in contemporary photography. 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." A. Alfred Taubman Gallery, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. June 11 - Sep. 11. 734-647-0524. umma.umich.edu/view/exhibitions/2016-opie.php

University of Michigan Museum of Art "In Focus: Jeanne Gang" Chicago-based architect widely acclaimed for her integrative approach to materials, technology, and ecological context. University Of Michigan Museum Of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. June 21 - Aug. 7. 734-763-4186. www.umma.umich.edu



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, 4pm-9pm.** The Center has an XBOX 360 and games, pool table, board games, WIFI, Netflix, and much more.

Contact Tevin Giles, 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, 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, lreyes@goaffirmations.org to join the new group beginning in July 2016.



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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Anika Noni Rose presents Shirley Chisholm

The odds were always stacked against Shirley Chisholm. She was a woman and she was black, which means that the corridors of political power were not built or maintained for her. But in 1968 she became the first black, female member of Congress, representing New York's 12th Congressional District from 1969 to 1983. In 1972, she was the first major-party black candidate for President, though she did not receive her party's nomination. She was, in short, a political hero who broke down doors and championed LGBTQ rights well before it was considered politically prudent to do so. And now, Tony Award-winning actress Anika Noni Rose ("The Princess and The Frog," "Dreamgirls") will produce and star in a film about Chisholm's life, appropriately titled "Chisholm." Production team is in place, but that's all we know about cast right now, and no word on when we'll all get to lay eyes on it. In the meantime, you can do your homework with director Shola Lynch's 2004 documentary, "Chisholm '72: Unbought & Unbossed," and catch up on the facts of this remarkable woman's life and career.

'Howard's End,' The Extended Remix

The only thing better than a period film about British aristocrats and their existential troubles is a period miniseries about the same thing. Here's why: it is much, much longer. That means more costumes, more sumptuous locations, more sly sabotage from servants, and – most importantly – more sighs, stares and muted longing. The grand papa (say it like pa-PAH, please) of this genre may be "Brideshead Revisited," but for our money "Howard's End" is the most satisfying. Complex, satisfying and tragic, the 1992 film adaptation is one to revisit whenever one has time in between the pressing tasks of the ruling class. So it is a great pleasure to learn that E.M. Forster's story of three families – two of means, one not – will become a new BBC miniseries directed by Hettie Macdonald ("Beautiful Thing," "Fortitude"). Kenneth Lonergan (You Can Count On Me) is handling screenwriting duties, and production begins this summer. Do be attentive to its air date, which will probably take place in 2017.

Chaz Bono gets 'Dirty'

Truth be told, we missed Chaz Bono's two-episode arc on "The Bold and The Beautiful," but we're glad he did it. We were, frankly, unaware of his sporadic visits to the world of acting. But if the upcoming July 12th release of the film "Dirty" is any indication of his intentions, we'll start paying more attention. The gritty crime thriller is from first-time director Daniel Ringe, and concerns a couple of "dirty" cops who lose their stolen stash of drugs and money to some even more unsavory crime-people. Roger Guenveur Smith ("Chi-Raq," the upcoming "The Birth of A Nation") and Paul Elia ("Lady Dynamite") play the cops in question, and Bono stars as someone known as "Jerry the Hoarder," which sounds delightfully seedy. The film is being delivered directly to streaming services (a smart weapon of choice for indie film these days) and on its release day the cast will be live-Tweeting a Q&A at 7 p.m. Eastern, using the hashtag #dirtythemovie. And listen, gay dudes, keep the questions about Mom to a minimum.

'Jewel's Catch One' kept the beat alive

If you've never been dancing in Los Angeles, and more to the point, if you are not a queer person of color, then there is little reason for you to know much about The Catch One. You may have heard that it was Madonna's visits there in the 1980s that allegedly introduced her to voguing, but otherwise, the Los Angeles nightlife institution that hosted celebrities like Sandra Bernhard, Bonnie Pointer, Sharon Stone and Jenifer Lewis is probably not on your radar. This will change when you watch the utterly vital documentary "Jewel's Catch One," from filmmaker C. Fitz. Full of interviews and archival material, the film digs deep into the life of the club, and of its owner Jewel Thais-Williams, the black lesbian who started it in 1973, as a spot to dance in for people who'd been denied entrance to the whiter, straighter locations in her city. And though the club closed in 2015, Thais-Williams' local legacy is still alive, and her influence is strongly felt: she started The Minority AIDS Project in the '80s, took care of Los Angeles' black gay community, created a non-profit health clinic, and, as the film shows, she's not done yet. When your area LGBT film festival screens it, show up and get familiar with this vibrant queer figure.



Anika Noni Rose. Photo: KathClick

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www.battlecreekpride.org

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July 14th-17th

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1st Annual Pride Crawl

Friday, July 15 — Post Parade

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Pride Family Picnic

Saturday, July 16 — 11:00-4:00PM

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throwdown**

Sunday, July 17 — 3:00-5:00PM

McCamly Park, Battle Creek

candlelight vigil

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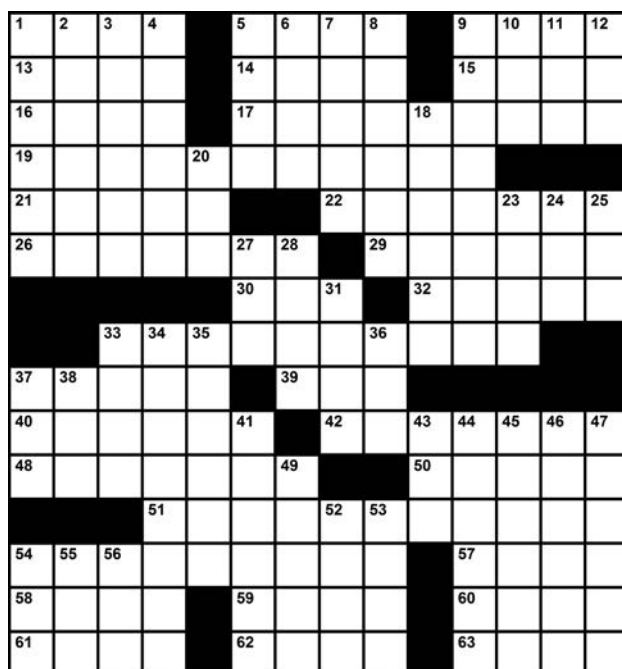
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Q Puzzle



Orange Alert

Across

- 1 HHH, to Sappho
5 Military cross-dresser Jeanne
9 Pick up
13 Marcel Duchamp's style
14 Genesis brother
15 In the year, to Nero
16 Scores
17 What Brando was doing on the Bounty
19 She debuted as 51-Across recently at Shakespeare in the Park in New York
21 Former NFL player Tualo
22 In the zone
26 "Mississippi Sissy" author Kevin
29 Buff stuff
30 "The Simpsons" storekeeper

- 32 Readies for publication
33 Reaction of 51-Across to 19-Across, perhaps?
37 "The Sound of Music" name
39 "Coming Out Under Fire," for short
40 Crude carriers
42 Matthew of Wyoming
48 Deep throat tissue
50 "Fiddle-___!" (Tara expression)
51 Orange candidate
54 Can you diagnose this? It isn't hard
57 Narrow opening
58 Ancient Roman poet
59 Bi
60 Problem for skin
61 Sentence unit
62 Place for your drawers
63 Pops the question

Down

- 1 "My Cup Runneth Over" singer
2 "Thy Neighbor's Wife" author
3 Is nuts over
4 Well-endowed old goats?
5 Oral sex protectors
6 Go to the edge of
7 Like bell-bottom jeans
8 Paying customer
9 A rainbow flag symbolizes this
10 Folk singer DiFranco
11 Lodging place
12 Drink with fruitcake
18 Closer to Holly?
20 Batting coach Charlie

- 23 Latin poet
24 Eng. class about Wilde
25 Article of Frida
27 Mardi Gras mo., often
28 Moved one's ass
31 Sources of anal probes?
33 David Hyde Pierce alma mater
34 Welcome indication
35 Force to leave
36 Rilke's I
37 Vidal's "Visit ___ Small Planet"
38 Unburden
41 Singer O'Connor
43 Summer hrs. in NY
44 Alexander conquered it
45 "Mature" viewers
46 Lee of "The Long, Hot Summer"
47 Low points
49 Activity of Isadora Duncan
52 Some watch faces
53 Pack with queens
54 Frigid
55 West of Hollywood
56 Mom-and-pop org.

Find solution to this puzzle at
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A woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a white, strapless, feathered wedding gown, stands in a studio. A spotlight from the left illuminates her. The background is a textured, greyish-blue wall.

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