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COVER

22 The Queering of Tegan and Sara

NEWS

- 6 Lawyer S. Kerene Moore Honored for Commitment to LGBT Families in Michigan
- 8 Village of Lake Orion Moves Forward with Human Rights Ordinance
- 8 Wells Fargo and NGLCC Award \$2,500 to Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

OPINION

- 10 Parting Glances
- 10 Hope and Help for Back to School Time
- 12 Viewpoint: Michelle E. Brown
- 13 Creep of the Week: Pamela Geller

LIFE

- 21 DIA Features Works by LGBT Artists Through Art|Pride Talks
- 21 Barefoot Productions Theatre Sponsors REC Clothing Drive
- 22 Pop Duo on Artistic Evolution, Rising Above the Underground and Being Anti-Marriage
- 25 Cool Cities: 19th Annual Ford Arts, Beats and Eats Sees Change
- 28 Happenings
- 32 Classifieds
- 33 Puzzle and Comic
- 34 Deep Inside Hollywood

SPECIAL SECTION



ARTS & APPLAUSE

- 12 Elliott Broom as Authentic as the Art
- 14 The Ringwald Celebrates 10th Season of Unpredictable Theatre
- 18 Cultural Enthusiasts Support Art and Music in Their Hometown

PROFILE



Lawyer S. Kerene Moore Honored for Commitment to LGBT Families, Know Your Rights Project

See page 6

EVENTS



DIA Art|Pride Talks

See page 21

COOL CITIES: ROYAL OAK



Arts, Beats and Eats arrives in Royal Oak

See page 25

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NEWS

Mayor of Ann Arbor Appoints LGBTQ Liaison Brad O'Furey

ANNARBOR – Jim Toy Community Center President Brad O'Furey will volunteer his time to serve as LGBTQ Liaison to Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor's office. The city



Brad O'Furey

announced that in his new role, O'Furey will be a resource for the public to elevate the concerns of the LGBTQ community and ensure they are being heard.

O'Furey released the following statement upon his appointment as LGBTQ Liaison to the mayor of Ann Arbor. "Ann Arbor has a long history of enacting policies to protect and promote the rights of the LGBTQ community. It was one of the first municipalities in the nation to enact a human rights ordinance – authored by Jim Toy – in

1972. That said, Ann Arbor scored just 77 out of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's 2015 Municipal Equality Index, so there is still work to be done.

"That is why I was honored to be appointed as Ann Arbor's first-ever LGBT Liaison to the mayor, and am excited to work with Mayor Taylor to maintain - and improve upon - Ann Arbor's tradition of being an open and inclusive community. In my role, I hope to continue speaking with fellow members of our vibrant and diverse LGBT community, so that I can better amplify our voices and elevate the importance of our issues - especially those of importance to Ann Arbor's transgender residents - at City Hall.

"Finally, I want to thank Mayor Taylor for taking the historic step of appointing an LGBT Liaison for the city. The creation of this position should send a clear message that LGBT residents are valued and respected members of the Ann Arbor community."

For information visit www.a2gov.org or contact O'Furey at brado@jimtoycenter.org.

Forum Foundation Cruise Raises Over \$1,000 for Scholarship Program

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

DETROIT – Nearly 100 people boarded the Diamond Belle on Aug. 19 and took the annual Forum Foundation cruise on the Detroit River. The cruise, which took about two hours, left from the dock at MacDougal Street and sailed up to the river to the mouth of Lake St. Claire and then down the river to just past the Ambassador Bridge before returning to shore.

Shining down upon the Diamond Belle was a breathtaking orange moon than hung low and full in the sky.

"On the many boat cruises I've had the pleasure of taking with the Forum Foundation I have never seen a moon as golden or as large as I did this time," said Charles Alexander, a cruise regular. "It was stunning and very appropriate to honor the occasion."

The Forum Foundation, which has kept a low profile in recent years, has been hosting the cruise on the Detroit River since 2008. Prior to that, the group hosted a cruise on the Clinton River.

"They do love the cruise," said John DiDonato, the Forum Foundation's chairperson, of the crowd. "It's always a good time every year."

This year's cruise made a profit of over \$1,000. There was a 50/50 raffle that took in

\$300 and the winner generously donated her \$150 back to the organization.

The Forum Foundation is known for giving college scholarships to LGBT students and allies. They've been doing it for over 15 years now. Their last scholarship, for \$1,000, was awarded to Toby Brooks earlier in the year.

In its heyday, the Forum Foundation awarded multiple scholarships a year, sometimes as many as four.

"We're kind of in a lull right now," DiDonato said. "We lost a lot of our board members. People just got older and moved away. There's just like four of us that are on the board right now and we need to rebuild."

The Forum Foundation also produces an annual Valentine's Day dance in February. But the future of that event is in jeopardy.

"We used to have a big turnout but, as I said, the community is getting smaller, at least the community we deal with," said DiDonato. "We get less and less attendance. It's a lot of work and I don't know if we'll do the dance again. We'll see."

But dance or no dance, the cruise still seems to draw out a crowd.

"I loved it," said Gordon Price, who has taken the cruise for the last five years. "It was a relaxing, beautiful evening with nice people."



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Lawyer S. Kerene Moore Honored for Commitment to LGBT Families in Michigan

Know Your Rights Project Provides Free Legal Service to LGBT Community

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Lawyers have a tremendous opportunity to bring about positive change in the lives of underprivileged and marginalized people.

For the past nine years, S. Kerene Moore has provided fierce advocacy for members of many vulnerable groups including crime victims, undocumented immigrants, disabled persons, LGBT community members and individuals from low income households.

Moore was recognized for her exemplary work by the National LGBT Bar Association in June as one of the country's Best LGTBT Lawyers Under 40.

"I'm usually too busy working or thinking about the next battle to think too much about my work. Having my colleagues recognize the significance of what I do, especially in an area that's really personal to me, definitely makes a difference. It's humbling and motivating at the same time. It lets me know that I'm on the right career path," she said.

As staff attorney for Legal Services of South Central Michigan's Washtenaw County Office, Moore has distinguished herself in the field and demonstrates a profound commitment to LGBT equality, for which she was honored at the Lavender Law Conference and Career Fair on Aug. 5 in Washington, D.C.

Moore, a graduate of the University of Michigan, earned her bachelor's with distinction and honors prior to obtaining her Juris Doctor from the UM Law School. In her practice, initially funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, Moore has used her expertise in family law, immigration, housing, consumer, and administrative law matters to help hundreds of clients each year. This includes helping 48 crime victims obtain legal immigration status in the U.S., and providing support for more than 100 survivors of domestic violence, divorce and custody cases.

"As an attorney in my courtroom, Kerene demonstrates tremendous expertise, has superior legal research skills, and takes time to educate judges on the complexities surrounding LGBT legal issues," Washtenaw County Circuit Court Judge Carol Kuhnke wrote in



Attorney S. Kerene Moore was recognized for her exemplary work by the National LGBT Bar Association in June as one of the country's Best LGTBT Lawyers Under 40.

a letter supporting Moore's nomination for the award.

"Her persistent drive has provided a path for litigants who are systematically barred from accessing the justice system."

Prior to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on marriage equality, Moore was one of the first attorney's on the ground in Michigan fighting judges for divorce, custody, and visitation orders for LGBT families.

Moore is also co-chair of the Washtenaw County Bar Association's LGBT Rights Section, one of Equality Michigan's board of directors, and was recently appointed to the City of Ann Arbor's Human Rights Commission.

"Kerene is a tenacious, hard-working, visionary attorney, who is generous with her time and talents to make a positive difference in the lives of others," ACLU LGBT Staff Attorney Jay Kaplan said.

School, LSSCM and local volunteer attorneys. It is also her most notable accomplishment in the past year.

"The law is absolutely confusing," Moore said. "Every courtroom is different. Judges have a lot of power. There are so many tedious reasons a judge can dismiss or not hear a case, but it's harder to be dismissive or to misapply the law when an attorney is present. We want to make sure court houses are open and accessible."

The goal of the project is to provide free, LGBT-centered legal support, including advice and referrals for representation, to individuals across the state of Michigan. They provide legal consultations via phone, email, or in-person, and cover a variety of practice areas including custody, divorce, adoption, estate matters, name changes, gender marker corrections, public benefits, expungement, and more.

Additionally, student attorneys are on staff creating educational materials to inform LGBT people of their rights in areas of particular concern. Volunteers have the opportunity to shadow local attorneys working on clinical cases.

While the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges marriage decision was a monumental step forward, Moore said the laws in Michigan are still not fairly applied to the LGBT community.

"I think it's unfortunate that judges are using marriage as a line in the sand. The appellate decisions prioritize marriage and not the best interests of the child. There were families created prior to issuance of Obergefell and I think that our courts can improve the equitable parent doctrine to make sure that the rights of children are respected and maximized. Michigan is so far behind other states and until the legislature or the courts choose to do the right thing, same-sex families, both parents and children, will suffer."

If someone is not eligible for KYR Project services because they have adequate income to pay for an attorney, Moore said they can refer that person to an advocate attorney who has some training on and understands the nuances of LGBT issues.

Students participate in the KYR Project once a week for about eight months during

The Know Your Rights Project

Many LGBT families, as a result of discriminatory laws, policies and practices, live below the poverty level and are in need of legal services that address their unique needs.

"Most people don't know if the office they walk into is a safe space to come out and explain what is going on. They don't disclose that they are LGBT or that they think something is going on related to that. This can negatively impact the attorney-client relationship," Moore said.

As a result, she said many LGBT people do not follow through with the legal process or assume there is nothing they can do about their problem.

In an effort to change that, Moore developed a free legal clinic at the Jim Toy Community Center in Ann Arbor, an LGBT resource center where she is the vice president. The Know Your Rights Project is a collaborative work of the JTTC, the Outlaws of the UM Law

the fall and winter semesters.

"We try to provide support to every person who reaches out to the project," she said. They have provided support in approximately 35 cases, but limited office hours make it difficult to help everyone that reaches out.

Moore said they may have the students do more outreach throughout the week to maximize availability and increase response time this year.

Regardless, the students "get really excited about going that extra mile. Most attorneys are beaten up by the system and are not willing to try. They are willing to do the research," Moore said. "Michigan is a hard place to practice generally. They bring a fresh perspective and are really helpful."

And when things get "heavy and emotionally taxing," Pro Bono Volunteer Shirin Makhkamova said, "Kerene has helped me navigate the difficult line between doing your best work for a client and not becoming too emotionally involved in the case. She has inspired me to appreciate our clients for having courage to share their stories with us, and to approach each case with patience and empathy."

By going the extra mile, the students have started talks between the Ann Arbor Police Department and the AAHRC about concerns in the LGBT community.

"Specifically, the law students wanted to provide background information as to why LGBT-specific diversity training would be valuable to police officers and how instituting an LGBT liaison to the police department might increase crime reporting and trust in the department," Moore said. "The students were particularly focused on the transgender community after meeting with a client who expressed concern."

The students presented their research on best police practices with regard to the LGBT community to AAPD Chief James Baird earlier this year. Members of the AAHRC joined that meeting. The students will continue to provide input on this project when they return in the fall, and the AAHRC continues to explore these issues with the council and the police department.


"There is a lot of progress in this area. I'm on the AAHRC as well, and we have several meetings with the chief and city administrator in the next several weeks to get some movement on these issues," Moore said.

Not all lawyers are equipped to mentor young aspiring lawyers, but Moore takes the time to break down legal issues, explain each case for the students, and talk through options that exist.

"Legal issues notwithstanding, the KYR Project taught me that people desperately want to be listened to, believed, and understood just as much as they want to be counseled on legal issues. That aspect of human interaction and compassion, especially when working with marginalized groups, is a skill that can be far more important than identifying legal issues and knowing the 'right' cure," Outlaws' Pro Bono Chair Shannon Niznik said.

"Kerene is also simply brilliant as an attorney. She knows which questions to ask, she knows the law like the back of her hand, and she is in tune with community resources and other practicing attorneys should we need to refer a case. It was eye-opening to see her supplement legal knowledge with her ability to leverage community resources. Kerene doesn't hole herself up in an office. She knows her community, its ails, and its potential to solve problems."

Regular office hours for the KYR project will resume in September. Call 734-995-9867 to make an appointment or email outlawslegal@gmail.com.



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SUBURBAN

Village of Lake Orion Moves Forward with Human Rights Ordinance

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

LAKE ORION – “It’s really time for the village to make another kind of decision - that discrimination is not okay and diversity is welcome in our community.”

Attorney Ken Mogill’s words summed up the discussion that preceded a vote by the Lake Orion Village Council to accept the first reading of an inclusive human rights ordinance. The ordinance, if adopted, would make it a misdemeanor to discriminate on the basis of religion, race, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status, marital status, sexual orientation and gender identity. It would apply to employment, housing, education and access to public accommodations.

“This ordinance is an opportunity to make the kind of statement that needs to be made,” Mogill said. “The second issue is, if we are doing this how do we make it work? The first issue is, as a community is it our position that discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is not acceptable. The first step to me is do we want to make that statement or do we not want to make that statement.”

Mogill is a Lake Orion resident and an attorney that was on the winning team that brought a lawsuit against the State of Michigan for denying second parent adoption and same-

sex marriage. He and others in the audience spoke about the discrimination faced by LGBT people throughout Michigan.



Attorney Ken Mogill

People in Michigan can be fired for being gay or transgender. They can be denied housing or thrown out of their homes. They can be kicked out of stores and denied service. They can be denied medical treatment and access to medications. They can be harassed. These things are legal in Michigan because sexual orientation and gender identity are not protected under the state’s civil rights law. And these things happen often enough that many people are forced to hide who they are. Cities across Michigan have been enacting local human rights ordinances to make sure residents and guests to their communities know they are a welcoming environment where they are less-likely to be treated like a second-class citizen.

Lake Orion resident Lisa Goyette led the effort to get the ordinance addressed. She

and other supporters had attempted to have an ordinance put on the books in Lake Orion Township, only to have the council issue a non-binding resolution giving general support to the idea of not discriminating. So she came to the Village, and had been happy with the dialogue that’s taken place. “That means a lot to me because I really feel that you are listening to us. It’s a good feeling to move this along in our district.”

In the Village, a resolution was originally put forth, but City Manager Darwin Parks-McClary urged the council to consider an ordinance because it would provide legal protection and not just lip-service. Much of the Aug. 22 meeting’s questions from officials centered around issues of enforcement and potential legal situations that could arise. In the audience there seemed to be no opposition, only several people who spoke about the need for equality.

Joe Wegrzyn, owner of Anita’s Kitchen in Ferndale, spoke about the benefit of having a city that is open and welcoming. Wegrzyn is opening his second location in Lake Orion that is expected to open late next year. “When the topic was brought to my attention, I thought it’d be an appropriate time for us as business people to come in and give you the experience we’ve had in what I think in southeast

Michigan is the most diverse community in Oakland County and I mean Ferndale.

“For eight years since we’ve opened our doors, the diversity with the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender populations, whether employees, whether guests to the restaurant, whether they’re community leaders who come to build within our community, we enjoyed a great success... we welcome the [Lake Orion] community to extend itself to diversity.”

Lake Orion officials voted to introduce the ordinance, with only Councilperson David Churchill voting no. “I feel its a bit burdensome and it’s unproved,” he said.

Council President Kenneth Van Portfliet supported the ordinance. “Our community is not very large. We do not have a large risk factor. That’s why I would support it. I’ve thought about this back and forth. There was a young person I talked to about the ordinance issue. They said ‘Do you discriminate based on color?’ I said ‘no.’ And he said ‘What’s the difference?’”

The second reading of the ordinance will take place Sept. 12 as part of the Village Council meeting. The Village of Holly is also considering a Human Rights Ordinance.

Wells Fargo and NGLCC Award \$2,500 to Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

BY BTL STAFF

The Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce was awarded a \$2,500 grant on Aug. 25 at the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce’s 2016 International Business and Leadership Conference in Palm Springs, Calif.

Funded by the Wells Fargo Foundation and administered by the NGLCC, this grant was awarded to expand capacity and offer technical assistance to the Detroit Mature Business Academy program. The main goal of the program is to foster the development, growth, and sustainability of certified LGBT business enterprises.

“This program has become a vital resource to our members as they develop their businesses and engage in networking,” said Kevin Heard, chamber president.

“The program aids our mission of supporting our members through business leadership, advocacy, and education. We are thrilled to receive this generous grant from Wells Fargo and NGLCC, which will allow us to expand and enrich our program.”

The head of small business for Wells Fargo, Lisa Stevens, said, “We are a proud, long-time supporter of NGLCC, and we share



John R. Lake, Vice President LGBT Segment Manager of Wells Fargo and Justin Nelson, Co-founder and President of the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce present Kevin Heard, center, President of the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce with a \$2,500 grant check at the NGLCC in Palm Springs, Calif. on Aug. 25. BTL photo: Jan Stevenson

their commitment to helping small business owners succeed financially. We are dedicated to providing funding that will support their

entrepreneurship and leadership training programs, along with educational tools and resources to help diverse-owned businesses in

“This program has become a vital resource to our members as they develop their businesses and engage in networking.”

– Kevin Heard, Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber president.

communities across America grow and thrive.” “The NGLCC is excited to see the Detroit chamber grow as an organization and a voice in the LGBT-owned and allied businesses community. They have shown tremendous growth in the size of their business membership and outreach programs, embodying the mission that NGLCC has continuously strived for,” said Sam McClure, NGLCC Senior Vice President.

For more information about the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce, visit www.detroitlgbtchamber.com/.



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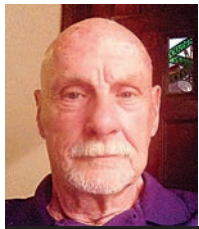
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1964: It Seems a Lifetime Ago

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

For over 50 years Life magazine informed Americans about what was happening here and abroad. Photos and content were dramatic. Mostly conservative. Occasionally controversial. Once in awhile downright shocking.

Life folded in 1973. Circulation 13 million. Readership, ten times that amount. Its sister publication, Time, marches on to this day.

Five years before the Stonewall Riots of 1969, Life tackled a scary taboo: "Homosexualities in America." An expose focusing on the gay underworld. New York! Chicago! San Francisco! America's collective Sodom and Gomorrah.

Middle Americans woke up to the realization that homos were growing in number. Becoming alarmingly visible. A social threat to be somehow remedied.

In 1964, San Francisco was not the dynamic gay center of Castro/Market Street, clone-look militancy. It hadn't the high-density population complex of the 1970s and pre-AIDS 1980s; but Life's wide-audience article – unintentionally, to be sure – served as a catalyst for early gay migration there.

Life opened its scare head on: "Homosexuality shears across the spectrum of American life: the professional, the arts, business and labor. It always has. But today, especially in big cities, homosexuals are discarding their furtive ways and openly admitting, even flaunting, their deviation.

"Homosexuals have their own drinking places, their special assignation streets, even their own organizations. And for every obvious homosexual, there are probably nine nearly impossible to detect. This social disorder, which society tries to suppress, has forced itself into the public eye because it does present a problem – and parents especially are concerned.

"The myth and misconception with which homosexuality has so long been clothed must be cleared away, not to condone it but to cope with it."

Accompanying the 14-page belly shock are a dozen photos. Nameless gay men clustered in dark bars or milling about on dimly lighted streets. "These brawny young men in their leather caps, shirts, jackets and pants are practicing homosexuals, men who turn to other men for affection and sexual satisfaction.

"They are part of what they call the 'gay world,' which is actually a sad and often sordid world."

Gay bars are exposed: "As each new customer walks into the dimly lit room, he will lock eyes with a half dozen young men before reaching his place at the bar. Throughout the evening there is a constant turnover of customers as contacts are made and two men slip out together, or individuals move on to other bars in search of better luck.

"As closing time – 2 a.m. – approaches, the atmosphere grows perceptibly more tense. It is the 'frantic hour,' the now-or-never time for making a contact." Sound familiar?

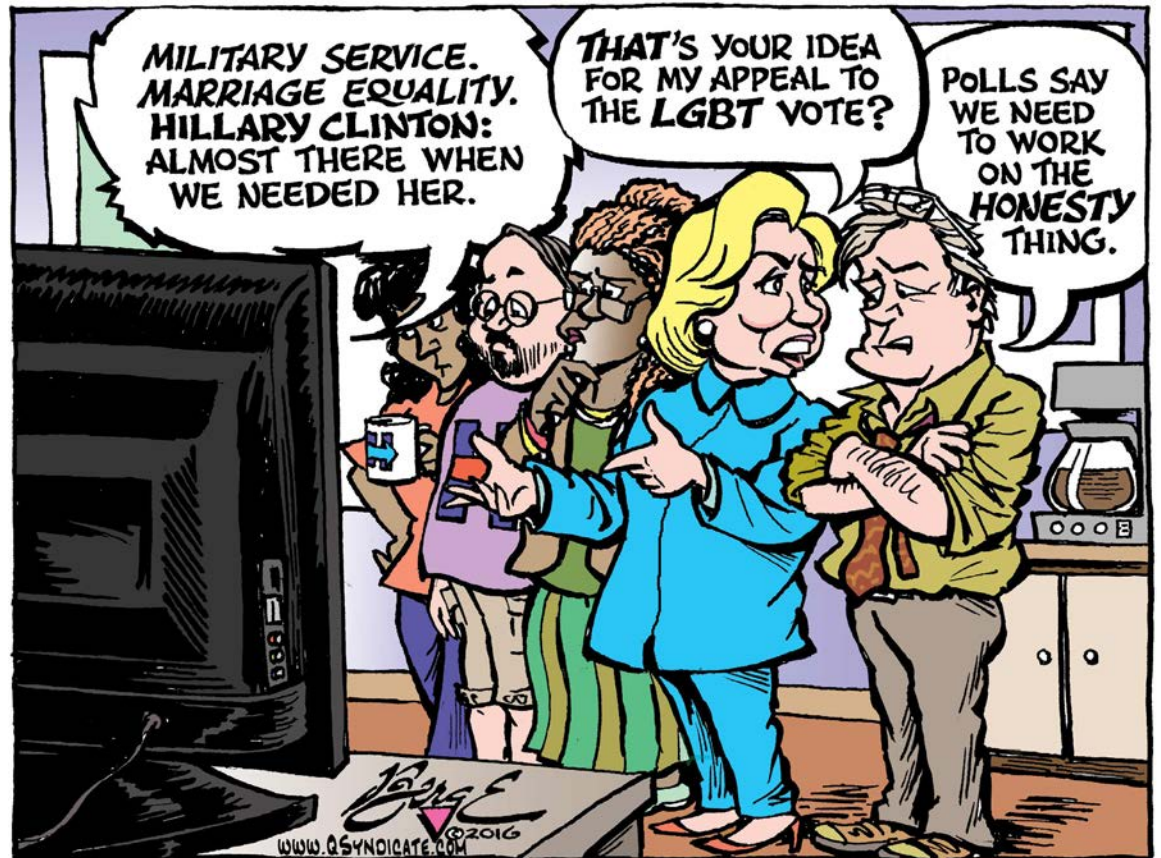
Here's the early version of the gay agenda: "As part of its anti-homosexual drive the Los Angeles police force has compiled an 'educational' pamphlet for law enforcement officers entitled, 'Some Characteristics of the Homosexual.'

The strongly opinionated pamphlet includes the warning that what the homosexuals really want is a 'fruit world.'" (Not a cocktail.)

Gays in the military, 1964: "If we didn't throw them out, we'd be condoning homosexuality. The services' position has to be that homosexual practices prejudice morale and discipline."

Life warns, "For the first time the Supreme Court has agreed to hear the homosexual case, but no legal procedures are likely to change society's basic repugnance to homosexuality as an immoral and disruptive force that should somehow be removed."

Somehow removed? AIDS possibly? After thoughts, anyone? Please share on Grindr.



BY DANA RUDOLPH

Mombian

Hope and Help for Back-to-School Time

Back-to-school time can be stressful for any parent. There are supplies to buy, schedules to arrange, and forms to fill out. For many LGBTQ parents, it can also bring up worries about our children's inclusion and safety – but it can also be an opportunity for building bridges.

As I see it, there are three basic approaches we can take. First, we can wait until any questions or issues arise before discussing our families with teachers or administrators. This least intrusive method gives children the chance to control how and when to come out about their families, which can be empowering and respectful, particularly for tweens and teens.

We can also be more proactive, setting up a meeting with the teacher to introduce ourselves and answer any questions they may have about LGBTQ families and individuals. If you think there may be issues, this could be the best way to bring them into the open. And if we find that the teacher is LGBTQ or a strong ally already, it could be a chance to share resources and ideas, such as inclusive books for the classroom.

A middle-ground approach is to find a way, without making a special appointment, to let our children's teachers know we are an LGBTQ family – giving them a subtle reminder to be inclusive. A same-sex-parent family, for example, could go together to a start-of-year orientation, introducing themselves as "(Child's)

parents."

There is no one right answer for every family every year. The first year in a school may require a different approach than the third. We may even mix methods the same year when dealing with homeroom teachers as well as music, art, physical education, and other specialists.

This flexibility is necessary because LGBTQ support in schools is still a work in progress. A new study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed earlier work showing that LGB students are at a higher risk of experiencing violence, bullying, and depression than straight youth. (Other studies have indicated the same for transgender youth.) It seems that this climate would be stressful even to straight, cisgender students with LGBTQ parents as well. There are a few reasons to feel hopeful, however.

First, several of the biggest education associations in the country have recently made visible moves forward. On July 4, the National Education Association, long an LGBTQ ally, adopted a detailed action plan "to promote a culture of safety, support, affirmation that ensures civil rights and advocacy for LGBTQ members and students." The plan includes partnering with civil- and LGBTQ-rights organizations on resources targeting

See Rudolph: Mombian, next page

► Rudolph: Mombian

Continued from p. 10

“the unique needs of ethnic minority LGBTQ students and educators;” supporting state and national legislation that forbids anti-LGBTQ discrimination; and challenging laws that allow such discrimination, such as North Carolina’s law prohibiting transgender students from restroom access matching their gender identity.

The next day, the National Parent Teacher Association adopted a resolution calling for “federal policies that specifically protect LGBTQ youth and local practices that create and maintain safe, affirming and inclusive learning environments for all students.”

Two weeks later, the American Federation of Teachers passed a resolution stating that the organization and its affiliates will support district, institutional, and state policies for “the safety and educational achievement of LGBTQ students,” and will support the Federal Office for Civil Rights’ recent guidance to protect transgender students.

Also in July, 12 states plus the District of Columbia filed a “friend of the court” brief supporting the recent guidance from the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice on how federally-funded schools can ensure respectful treatment of transgender students.

It’s a long way from policy to practice, of course – but California took a big step towards practice last month as well, when its State Board of Education unanimously approved

Sending our children off to school can be scary for any parent. As LGBTQ parents, we often have an extra layer of concern – but we have a community of support in the many LGBTQ parents who have gone before us and the allies who are increasingly stepping up.

a new history-social science framework that requires students in several grades throughout elementary, middle, and high school to study “the role of contributions” of LGBT Americans, among other groups.

And while this new curriculum doesn’t immediately translate to a better school environment, Equality California noted wisely in a press release: “By seeing themselves reflected, LGBTQ students are validated, which builds stronger opportunities for their academic and social success. LGBT-inclusive curricula also benefits all students by improving overall school climate.”

With or without state support, however, it can be hard for parents to know where to turn for advice and resources. I’ve therefore updated my annual annotated list of Back-to-School Resources for LGBTQ Parents, which you can find at my website, mombian.com.

We should remember, too, that LGBTQ identity is not the only aspect of school inclusion. Non-LGBTQ families that don’t fall into the one mom-one dad paradigm may have similar concerns. And both LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ families whose racial, ethnic, or religious identities differ from the majority in their community, or where a member has physical or emotional challenge, may worry about a school’s response to those aspects of their lives as well. We may find sympathetic ears and mutual allyship in many places.

Sending our children off to school can be scary for any parent. As LGBTQ parents, we often have an extra layer of concern – but we have a community of support in the many LGBTQ parents who have gone before us and the allies who are increasingly stepping up. We must also trust that our children are strong and resilient at heart, even if they sometimes need our help. Things are not perfect yet, but I do believe they are getting better.

May the school year be full of learning and friendships for you and your families.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.

Creep of the Week

Pamela Geller

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI



Granted, the right has been pushing the idea that Clinton is a lesbian ever since she dared to wear a headband in public. So it’s not really a surprise that they’re asserting the same thing about Abedin who has been working with Clinton since forever.

Anthony Weiner is gross. The former Congressman who resigned in disgrace after he was caught sharing photos of his crotch on social media is at it again. And this time one of the crotch shots includes his sleeping four-year-old son in the bed next to him. While nobody is implying that Weiner has molested his son, this was still, quite understandably, too much for his wife, Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin, to bear. And so she’s separated from him.

The logical conclusion? She’s a big ol’ lipstick lesbian hooking up with Hilldyke, obviously.

At least that’s the conclusion of the anti-gay and anti-Muslim right, who have for years been floating the idea that Abedin, a Muslim, and Clinton are not-so-secret lovers.

Pamela Geller is a particularly big fan of this Washington D.C. slash fiction plot. On her website Atlas Shrugs (get it? Because of how Ayn Rand is the lady version of Jesus), she has been posting about the Abedin-Clinton coupling since at least as far back as 2007.

“Nothing has been confirmed,” Geller writes in a piece of brilliant commentary and hard-hitting journalism, “but this is as juicy as juicy gets in the sordid sex scandal department. Who’d a thunk that Hiillary could have out sex scanded the old hound dog. Ouch!”

And why does she care about this so much? Well, she hates the Clintons. And she hates Muslims. In fact, Geller is obsessed with Muslims. She’s the author of *Stop the Islamization of America: A Practical Guide to the Resistance* published by World Net Daily Books. No doubt this book is the only reason why America isn’t under Sharia law today.

In her Aug. 29 post titled “Huma & Hillary Need New Beard,” Geller argues that Abedin only ever married Weiner in order to cover up her relationship with Clinton. Geller offers no evidence that this is true besides a bunch of whispers from

right-wing and unnamed sources. But we know that in Right Wing Land, the path to fact is first wanting something to be true, then believing something to be true, then simply asserting that something is true.

This sordid story about Weiner and Abedin and Abedin and Clinton is pretty much the climax of right-wing tropes. A perfect storm, if you will.

An especially vile highlight from the Atlas Shrugs comments illustrates this perfectly: “A Saudi closeted lesbian marrying a pervy jew for a baby and power while sleeping with her boss and pushing Islam on everyone. Gee what could go wrong?!”

Anti-gay? Check. Anti-Muslim? Check. Anti-semitic? Check. A little misogyny thrown in for good measure? Check.

Thankfully, little by little, being called a lesbian is no longer the insult it once was. And this is thanks, in part, to political leaders like Clinton who have (finally) embraced LGBT Americans and are not afraid to stand by them. But as the right loses the battle against LGBT equality, it is ramping up its anti-Muslim hysteria. And, unfortunately, Abedin is their preferred target.

Granted, the right has been pushing the idea that Clinton is a lesbian ever since she dared to wear a headband in public. So it’s not really a surprise that they’re asserting the same thing about Abedin who has been working with Clinton since forever. That both women have cheating husbands is just more “proof” of this theory, somehow. I mean, why else would they stay with these men unless, of course, they are power hungry lesbians?

It’s a charge that many powerful women have had to contend with. For one thing, it’s the greatest “insult” that can be thrown at a woman who dares to be “like a man,” i.e. who dares to assert control over her own life, be smart as fuck, and smash the shit out of the glass ceiling.

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Applause!



Elliott Broom says it is a dream come true to live and work in the “Paris of the Midwest,” surrounded by groundbreaking and breathtaking structures designed by legendary architects such as Albert Kahn, Wirt Rowland, and John Portman. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

Elliott Broom as Authentic as the Art

VP of Museum Operations at DIA Expresses His Love for His Work and Being a Role Model

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

As Vice President of Museum Operations at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Elliott Broom’s job is to do everything but manage the art. But what he

does is an art in itself.

It takes a highly creative person to balance the responsibilities a 130-year-old institution requires – security, volunteers, events, food and visitor services and group sales.

Broom was deemed suitable for the position when hired in August 2008 because of his background in hotel management complimented by his Bachelor of Science in Art History from the University of Michigan.

“I have to be able to change on a dime, juggle many priorities all at once, remain affable with colleagues...there are stress points coming up all over the place. I have to remain calm, see all sides and try to be a voice of reason,” Broom said.

“It’s not always hands on, but I have to be ready to roll up my sleeves at any point and jump in to help pull something off” – like the transformation of the Kresge Court into a

“Cultural Living Room,” a project completed in 2013.

The space, made possible by a \$268,500 grant from ArtPlace America, provides the community with refreshed, comfortable spaces to relax, drink, eat, have a quick meeting or hang out with friends. With technology supports, Broom said people can plug in or do the exact opposite and unplug to relax.

“I am passionate about food as well, and worked with our food service providers to create a completely different kind of menu,” he said. “We have never served food quite like we do in Kresge Court right now.”

Broom was part of the collective decision-making process with Museum Director Salvador Salort-Pons, Special Assistant for Community & Economic Development, and Detroit Revitalization Fellow at the DIA Brad Frost, and Detroit-based designer Patrick

Thompson, among others.

“We worked through months upon months of meetings, addressing everything from the look and feel of the space to fabrics and layouts and iron work...we discussed every single facet,” Broom said.

“I loved every single minute of it. It was a fun and exhilarating experience to be able to help make decisions to bring the space to life. It’s exactly what we had hoped for.”

Broom said he has always appreciated architecture and interior design. He recalled a time during his childhood when he gave up playing with friends outside to sit in their parent’s family room to read *Architectural Digest*.

What a dream come true for the Detroit native decades later to live and work in the “Paris of the Midwest,” surrounded by groundbreaking and breathtaking structures

As the Board Chair for the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park, Broom is familiar with the staggering number of LGBT youth who don't have a home environment that will allow them to be their authentic selves.

designed by legendary architects such as Albert Kahn, Wirt Rowland, and John Portman.

"It's an honor working in a building designed by Paul Philippe Cret and I love being able to see all the little details of it," he said.

Some of those details, broken pieces of Vermont marble and degraded mortar joints, were badly in need of restoration. Since the millage passage in 2012 and the DIA's survival of the bankruptcy chaos, Broom said the museum has moved forward with "greater levels of assurance financially that we can work on capital projects."

Although Broom has traveled the country following job opportunities in the hotel and hospitality business, the city is home. He has happily settled into his job with the DIA, but also his home in the Midtown Detroit area where a "cool neighborhood culture and a sense of community" exists.

That's important for a gay man who stayed in the closet while growing up in the 70s and 80s when he said hate crimes were common and police provided little to no protection. Broom did not come out until after he moved away.

"I can't tell you what a weight was lifted off my shoulders," he said. "When one has to hide, that's an added burden that they have to carry with them and worry about every day. That can only stifle one's ability to just be themselves."

Being true to himself and comfortable in his own skin has allowed Broom to be a role model to young people who are struggling with their identity.

"I would hope that they look at someone like me and say 'you know what, he did it. He's managed to become a confident leader in a revered organization and done so always being open,'" Broom said.

As the Board Chair for the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park, Broom is familiar with the staggering number of LGBT youth who don't have a home environment that will allow them to be their authentic selves.

"It's painful to know this. I want nothing more, as we grow as a human race, that people will not have to endure the discrimination and fear of rejection that they do because of how they identify."

It's been said that art offers young people a lifeline and Broom gets to watch them connect with a variety of works every day.

"Something I've noticed is that they are naturally drawn to contemporary art," he said. Specifically, one of Broom's favorite paintings, the Officer of Hussars by Kehinde Wiley, a 39-year-old gay African-American artist. His work is a modern remake of the Theodore Gericault's classic of the same name done in 1812. Gericault's work shows a French soldier

in uniform, complete with a brass-buttoned jacket and black fur hat.

Wiley is known for putting a classical spin on a contemporary subject. In this case, the heroic subject is a modern-day African-American man taking on the world in his Timberland boots, low-riding blue jeans and white tank top waving a sword atop a big white horse with a leopard-skin saddle.

"If we set up a hidden camera aimed at this painting, we would see droves of students on docent-led tours come to a halt in front of it," Broom said. "They see unique settings that are foreign to them. The juxtapositions in this case or relevance of seeing someone that they can identify with is why they are so taken by it."

Through programs like DIA Away and Inside|Out, the museum has become more accessible to all walks of life. In an effort to shift the "elitist view" of the museum, the DIA has extended the creative experience beyond the walls of the museum to its neighbors in Southeast Michigan, visiting schools, community fairs and festivals, and senior centers. Quality reproductions of famous DIA pieces have been placed in downtown areas of several Michigan cities.

The 2013 Community Outreach Report shows that one of the most visible outcomes of the millage is increased attendance. In 2013, 621,000 visitors enjoyed the DIA, compared to 498,000 in 2012.

"I am honored to work with the level of professionals that we have in this organization. Every single area of the museum is led by consummate professionals, experts in their fields...this translates into the programming and outreach that we do," Broom said. "The DIA is a world-class museum not just because of the art, but also because of the people that are employed here who are really at the top of their game."

Museum Information

The DIA is located at 5200 Woodward Ave. For more information, visit www.dia.org or call 313-833-7900. Museum hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

DIA members and residents of Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties receive free, unlimited general museum admission (excludes ticketed events and special exhibitions) in accordance with the passage of the County Art Institute Authority millage. A valid Michigan driver's license or state ID is required. \$12.50 for adults, \$6 for youth ages 6-17, \$8 for seniors, \$7 for college students with valid school photo ID, free for children five and under.

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Scholarship Showcase

Sept. 25 • Univ. Vocal Ensembles

Ah, Wilderness!

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The Drowsy Chaperone

Oct. 13-23 • Dept. of Musical Theatre

BAND-O-RAMA: WELCOME HOME!

Oct. 21 • Univ. Bands

Halloween Concert

Oct. 30 • Univ. Orchestras

Men's Glee Club: Fall Concert

Nov. 5

Roméo et Juliette

Nov. 10-13 • Univ. Opera Theatre

A Man of No Importance

Nov. 17-20 • Dept. of Musical Theatre

Peter and the Starcatcher

Dec. 8-11 • Dept. of Theatre & Drama

Collage Concert

Jan. 14 • SMTD

Glancing Back, Dancing Forward

Feb. 2-5 • Dept. of Dance

Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play

Feb. 16-19 • Dept. of Theatre & Drama

The Winter's Tale

Feb. 16-19 • Dept. of Musical Theatre Studio

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Mar. 23-26 • Univ. Opera Theatre

Insurrection: Holding History

Mar. 30 - Apr. 9 • Dept. of Theatre & Drama

Disney's The Little Mermaid

Apr. 13-16 • Dept. of Musical Theatre

Men's Glee Club: Spring Concert

Apr. 15



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The Ringwald Celebrates 10th Season of Unpredictable Theatre

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

The Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale is not the gay theatre. It's the unpredictable theatre that prides itself on telling great stories that blur the lines between race, income, religion, and sexuality.

Sure, it's co-owned by a gay couple, Artistic Director Joe Bailey and Media Director Brandy Joe Plambeck, and while they agree they are the "gayest" theatre in town, Plambeck said "we don't want to have to be any one thing because we're more than that. We would rather not have that limitation."

Yes, there are men who perform in dresses and there is plenty of reverse-gender casting, but they expect their work to continue reaching the widest possible audience as The Ringwald approaches its 10th season.

The theme will be "Essential Ringwald" featuring newly-produced shows that extend and magnify the type of shows Detroit has

come to expect from the small theatre located just south of Nine Mile on the east side of Woodward.

Looking back, Bailey said "I really love 99 percent of the stories we have told. It's great to feel an affinity for something and then share that with people and then see people also get excited by that."

Picture it, Michigan, 2003. Bailey moved home to Ferndale, tired of living out of a suitcase after a 10-year stage career in Los Angeles, New York and many stops in-between. A mutual friend introduced the budding directors on the road. Something about a Mexican restaurant, liquid courage, a sleazy hotel, and a single red rose brought them together.

Plambeck, originally from Wyoming, studied theatre at the University of Northern Colorado. It has always been a dream of his, he said, to find a place where "you can perform in shows that you love with the people that

you love."

Embarking on a new journey together, Bailey and Plambeck founded Who Wants Cake?, a production company named after an episode of Comedy Central's "Strangers With Candy" series starring Amy Sedaris.

Their first show, *The Normal Heart*, staged in June 2005 as a benefit for the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project was performed at the First United Methodist Church in Ferndale. Around the same time, a mysterious man contacted Bailey on Myspace.

"He was a doctor who wanted to open a theatre in Ferndale. He was interested in meeting for coffee," he said. "It was a quick, half-hour meeting. We looked at a few places. We thought this man is insane, we'll never hear from him again."

Bailey was wrong about their soon-to-be silent investor who helped them take possession of a 3,000-square-foot office building for lease in the fall of 2006. With help

from members of their perfunctory board at the time - Jamie Warrow, Jamie Richards and Missy Beckwith - the crew took six months to knock out walls and build sets before settling in as Ferndale's first-ever resident professional theatre company.

No, they're not a bakery, which Who Wants Cake? was mistaken for on occasion. So they opened their doors as The Ringwald in May 2007 with *Fatal Attraction: A Greek Tragedy*, a parody of the 1987 movie followed by *Southern Baptist Sissies*.

Live performance at the theatre had gained momentum. Who Wants Cake? was named the 2008 and 2009 Best Theatre Group in WDIV's Vote 4 The Best contest and the 2009 Best Theatrical Troupe by Real Detroit.

With not much of a budget for advertising, The Ringwald owes a great deal of their success to word-of-mouth. Their first crowdsource

See The Ringwald, page 16

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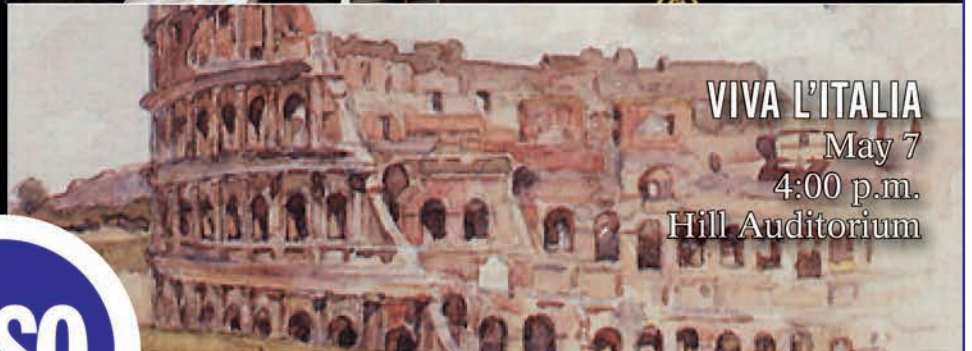
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► The Ringwald

Continued from p. 14

funding effort was an IndieGoGo campaign in August 2015.

Admission has always been around \$10 to \$20 per person, and support comes from investor loans and private donations. Bailey said they have always had growth in mind. In an effort to expand their donor base The Ringwald just converted to an official non-profit status this year in July.

Hit or Flop?

Reflecting on shows past, Mr. Burns, a post-electric play, was surprisingly successful this year in February.

"I was super nervous about doing a three-act play. It's not that common anymore," Bailey said about the "kinda wackadoodle"

dark comedy.

"I loved it when I read it and it scared me so much when I read it, but I had to do this. We rehearsed, we opened that first weekend and by act three (a musical-operetta), the look on people's faces were like 'I don't know what the fuck that was.' The show was so expensive to produce, there was music, there were eight people cast in it. I thought it was going to be a huge flop, but people kept coming and coming. It turned out to be a pretty big hit for us."

Unlike *Beaches Be Trippin'* in July 2015.

"We asked around and the younger generation was like 'what's *Beaches*?' In grade school, it was huge. To this day, it's huge to me. I thought it was a pop culture phenomenon and lots of people don't seem to know it," Plambeck said.

Some shows are less about hilarious production and more about recognition it seems.

The Ringwald audiences tend to scale toward older theatre-

goers, but this year in May, *Heathers, The Musical* was a "big fat hit with the youths," Plambeck said. "Which was interesting because it's older than *Beaches*."

What the connection is for young people remains a toss up, but Marketing and Special Events Director Vince Kelley said, "maybe it's refreshing to see people their own age rather than just the same old gays."

It was the youngest cast since The Ringwald's performance of *Rent* in 2009, which was Kelley's first show. He played the role of Angel while he was still in the closet.

"I don't want to get too mushy, but I owe The Ringwald a lot...I didn't have much exposure to the gay scene. I really thought if I came out I would be alone and lose all of my friends and family. I know, so dramatic. I was very Catholic. But in 100 percent honesty, The Ringwald, specifically the Joe's, showed me what it could mean, what I could have by taking the leap," he said.

"It just goes back to you never know," Bailey said about their performance of *Speech and Debate* in 2008 by Stephen Karam who recently won a Tony Award for *The Humans*. The Ringwald promoted the show to high school students and received little to no interest. "It's a beautiful, gorgeous script and we closed the show early because we couldn't pay people to come see it."

In their nine-year history, Bailey said they have closed shows early only a couple times.

"It's a tough call to make when people work so hard," he said. So how does The Ringwald recover?

"Bring back a more popular show," Bailey said. Like *The Facts of Life: The Lost Episode*, which had returned by request in July 2012. These over-the-top and at times raunchy parodies have made The Ringwald's Summer Camp series hugely popular. Shows like *LUBE: An Unauthorized Grease'd Up Parody*, *Mommie Queerest*, *Debbie Does Dallas - The Musical*, and the infamous *Thank You for Being a Friend - The Unauthorized Musical Parody of the Golden Girls*.

Plambeck admits these aren't the greatest scripts. When Dyan Bailey (no relation to Joe) wanted to join the board as Creative Director two years ago, she told them "I'd like to encourage more original programming and ownership of what we do. So they said yes."

The Ringwald does try to do a variety of shows mixing it up with more serious work to keep themselves in good form and to grow as actors. Some of those performances include *Three Days of Rain*, *August: Osage County*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Auditions Are Not A Cake Walk

The Ringwald hosts general auditions throughout the year. It's common for small theatres to pre-cast or use the same actors in their shows, which Kelley said, "we do a lot, but they have earned their position and work hard. It's super fun to see people in the community, who we didn't think would audition, come in and blow us away."

When auditioning, Plambeck said it's important to "think outside the box. It's what we like to do and do often. Rules are meant to be broken, let's stretch the boundaries."

So don't prepare a stodgy old monologue from a 1950's play. Bailey suggests something more contemporary. "And just know yourself and who you are as a performer," he said.

Meredith Deighton said she got a really great vibe from The Ringwald during her first audition in 2012. She was selected for the part of Agnes in *The Divine Sister*. Bailey, who she read with, played the role of her mother.

"The Ringwald has given me an artistic home and a family," said Deighton, who became the Marketing Director and a member of the ensemble-based board two years ago. "I am constantly fulfilled artistically and as a human. This place is magical. Our team, our family. We honestly create magic."

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Season 10 2016/2017 The Ringwald Schedule

Sept. 29-Oct. 29

Evil Dead, the Musical
(at The City Theatre at 2301 Woodward Ave.
in Detroit)

Oct. 7-31

Campfire by Joseph Zettelmaier (World
Premiere)

Nov. 18-Dec. 12

3C by David Adjmi (Michigan Premiere)

Dec. 16-22

The SantaLand Diaries and Season's
Greetings
The David Sedaris anti-holiday treat makes
its annual visit to The Ringwald for Christmas
2016.

Jan. 6-30

Falsettos
Music and Lyrics by William Finn, Book by
William Finn and James Lapine (Ferndale
Premiere)

Feb. 17-March 13

Hand to God by Robert Askins (Detroit
Premiere fresh from a Broadway run)

March 31-April 24

The Flick by Annie Baker (Michigan Premiere
and Winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize)

May 5-June 5

Silence! The Musical
Music and Lyrics by Jon Kaplan and Al
Kaplan, Book by Hunter Bell (Michigan
Premiere)

To purchase tickets, visit www.theringwald.com/tickets or call 248-545-5545.

The Next Act

The Ringwald will continue its Gay Play Series, started in June 2010, to highlight new gay works in addition to the theater's already gay-themed productions. The Ringwald will continue to host the annual Detroit Improv Festival as well the hilariously bloody show Evil Dead, The Musical, an October tradition at the City Theatre in Detroit.

Season 10 will debut two new ideas. A series called "Screenplays" on Sunday nights will feature readings of movie scripts

like Sixteen Candles, Mr. Mom and 9 to 5. "The Ringwald Sings" will see concert versions of musicals peppered throughout the year. Rumor has it they might open with Annie featuring Bailey as Miss Hannigan. Be on the lookout for "Audience Choice" buckets throughout the season, too. A theatre patron's money has the power to dictate The Ringwald's summer performance.

And remember, Bailey said, "Every show isn't for every person. You can't be offended. Be open to life and I think you will get the rewards."



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JENNIFER SIEBEL NEWSOM

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Cultural Enthusiasts Support Art and Music in Their Hometown

Applause!

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Lifelong Detroiters Max Lepler and Rex Dotson are both longtime supporters of fine and performing arts in Michigan. In fact, they believe Detroit is one of the greatest regions in the world for both of them.

It's time, Lepler said, that "we come to appreciate what we have and how much."

The couple resides in Royal Oak, but they have been fortunate enough to travel to many notable tourist centers in the U.S. Places such as San Francisco, New York City, Chicago, Atlanta, Boston, Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

While they have experienced the top-touted cultural and entertainment offerings in each of those cities, Lepler said they "strongly believe, across the board, that Southeast Michigan offers the greatest number of fine and performing arts venues and institutions in the U.S."

The problem, he said, is that many people don't make a good effort to take advantage of the events and activities, which could easily fill all the free days in someone's calendar.

"We have access to an unbelievable wealth of objects in our museums, for example, that the rest of the world would love to have," he said. "Our negative image of ourselves influences our belief that other places are far greener when they're not."

In an effort to change our community's perspective, Lepler shares his enthusiasm and knowledge about some of the offerings in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Flint, and even Toledo.

What are some things the average person might now know about the Detroit Institute of Arts?

The DIA is the fifth largest general art museum in the entire U.S. This living museum is 658,000-square-feet with more than 100 galleries. If art is coveted for exhibition elsewhere, the DIA is able to replace it 90-percent of the time with art they have in storage because we have so much art. There are 66,000 pieces of art at the DIA and 60,000 of those pieces could be worth as much as \$8.5 billion. It can hold its own against world-renowned museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Louvre in Paris.



Rex Dotson and Max Lepler are Governing Members of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as well as members of the Volunteer Council and the 1887 Society. Their commitment to the DSO, expressed by supporting the Planned Giving Campaign, helps the people who make art and music possible in the community. Photo courtesy of Max Lepler

Share some fun facts about the Flint Institute of Arts.

Their current expansion project will be designed by Los Angeles-based architect Frederick Fisher, the same architect who remodeled Bette Midler's penthouse overlooking Central Park. In 2002, their collection was designated a National Treasure by the President's Committee on the Arts. They have federal funds to spend on storage units to protect their art from flooding and humidity.

What makes Orchestra Hall so unique?

There are a lot of articles being written about shoebox-shaped halls. Conductor Simon Rattle is leaving the Berlin Philharmonic, which is coming to Ann Arbor in November for their last U.S. tour. Rattle will lead the London Symphony Orchestra next year, but there is talk about building a new concert hall in London because they do not have a good hall. It's a bad shape. The argument in the Aalto University of Finland study is that the best classical concert halls are shaped like a shoebox, which is what we have.

How has the DSO's music evolved?

Leonard Slatkin is one of two premier American conductors who emphasizes

modern and contemporary music mixed with traditional classical. It's a robust sound. People are getting up and cheering because of the current style of playing at the symphony.

What is available for LGBT people to connect with?

The Fisher Theatre has a great lineup this year with gay-themed shows like Fun Home, Hedwig and the Angry Inch, Rent and Book of Mormon. The Toledo Museum of Art is featuring the iconic gay painter Paul Cadmus...the painting of his lover, Jerry, in bed. Also, the great American portrait painter, Fairfield Porter. He painted Frank O'Hara who was a curator at the Museum of Modern Art and an outstanding poet with works containing gay themes. The University Musical Society in Ann Arbor will host the Mark Morris Dance Company this year. Morris is one of the great innovators of modern dance as a gay person.

Why are you so personally invested in the arts?

I'm just an enthusiast. It's wonderful here. I live here and get the opportunity to see some of the most famous paintings from other parts of the world. For example, Flaming June by Frederic Lord Leighton. The FIA is the only Midwest venue where the Masterpieces of

European Paintings from the Museo de Arte de Ponce in Puerto Rico traveled in 2008. The collection was only there for half its run. It had to leave because it was scheduled to be in an exhibition at the Museo Nacional Del Prado in Madrid.

What does it mean to be a part of the 1887 Society?

Rex and I have been attending Detroit Symphony Orchestra concerts since the 1980s. As strong DSO supporters, we decided to name the DSO as a beneficiary in our will. This type of special commitment makes us eligible members of the 1887 Society. We know how much the DSO means to us and our community. And this gift will help that continue. We are two people who have stepped up to give to the orchestra and encourage others to follow our lead.

What can the community do to help?

Most museums and orchestras don't have much money. We give because we want these places to be around while we're still alive and successful and strong. But it takes everybody. You have to be willing to contribute regularly, even just a little bit of money, so we can continue to enjoy these places.

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MCC-Detroit Minister Dons Drag to Deliver Special Message at Conference

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

FERNDALE - Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow, senior minister and teacher of Metropolitan Community Church-Detroit, put together a special sermon and presentation for the MCC General Conference, which took place in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada in July. He recently showed a video of the service, which weaves together a semi-fictional narrative centered on a drag queen named M. Butterfly, at MCC-Detroit. Parishioners were interested to see that Stringfellow played the leading role himself, complete with a dress and a wig.

"My role was the coordinator of all the worship services for the conference," Stringfellow explained. "We had nine worship services to do in five days - basically a morning and an evening service each day - and each of the worship services had a different theme. For this particular service, I wanted to capture the ballroom culture, as well as just kind of highlight some of the people who the late Ruth Ellis touched during her life."

In addition to exploring the ballroom culture, Stringfellow attempted to recreate a traditional Sunday tea dance.

"Many people would go to the club on Sunday afternoon and there was dance music mixed with gospel music," said Stringfellow. "For people who were excluded from churches, this is where they went to have church."

"At many of these tea dances you'd normally have a drag queen who served as the mistress of ceremony," Stringfellow continued. "I was hoping to find someone to be that mistress of ceremony. And I did but it was kind of too late, and as we got closer to the conference I realized I wasn't going to find anybody. So I said it's going to have to be me. I'm going to have to do this."

Never having done drag before, Stringfellow's husband, Jerry Peterson, and Brian Londrow, MCC-Detroit's minister of music, helped Stringfellow dress and prepare for the role.

"I bought the makeup, I got the dress and the wig, and I decided I was going to preach in drag," said Stringfellow. "That's when I decided to take on the persona of a person who was reflecting back on his life, including the time when he got kicked out of the house by his mother and Ruth Ellis took him in."

From there, the fictional character moves

to New York and participates in the Stonewall Riots of 1969.

"After that, I moved to New Orleans and became a member of the MCC there," Stringfellow said. "That church met in a bar and one day someone locked the doors to the bar and set it on fire."

The Upstairs Lounge fire took place in 1973 and killed 32 people. Following that, Stringfellow's character questioned whether God was angry with the MCC members for worshipping in a bar.

"Troy Perry [founder of the MCC movement] helped me understand the difference between what is secular and what is sacred," said Stringfellow.

"And these places many people look at as being secular can be sacred when we enter into them. We're in the presence of the living God. Thus, anyplace we go can be a sacred place because we bring our full selves there. Whether it's a bar or a club, if we can get to a place where we are fully ourselves, God is pleased and thus it's a sacred place."

After the horror of the Upstairs Lounge



Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow

fire, Stringfellow's character "remembered the words of Ruth Ellis, who said not to allow bitterness to bubble up inside of us. She said that each of us had a light inside that we should always let shine and that we should never let the darkness overtake us."

Stringfellow said he was worried about staging the production as the date grew near.

See MCC-Detroit Minister, next page



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"Something You Can Feel," Mickalene Thomas, 2008, rhinestone, acrylic paint, and oil enamel on wood panels. Photo courtesy of Detroit Institute of Arts

DIA Features Works By LGBT Artists Through ArtPride Talks

BY BTL STAFF

The Detroit Institute of Arts is embarking down a new path by reaching out to the LGBT community.

ArtPride, which features works by LGBT artists, is the latest addition to the DIA's "Behind the Seen" talks and group tour offerings, joining an eclectic mix of 13 other topics. Behind the Seen (formerly Speakers Bureau) brings presentations on various aspects of the DIA and its collection to adult civic and social groups, libraries, senior centers and other community-accessible locations. Most of the talks can also be given as in-museum tours.

"The LGBTQ community has made significant contributions to the very large world of fine art," DIA Program Manager Sue Troia said. "In order to demonstrate this valuable and enormous impact to a wider audience, we are highlighting a few of these artists. This is also an opportunity to formally reach out to our friends in the LGBTQ community."

As a benefit of the 2012 tri-county millage, the talks are free for groups in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, and \$150 for other metro Detroit counties.

ArtPride raises awareness of the significant contributions by LGBT artists and their impact on the art world. These artists are among leaders of modern and contemporary art and have shattered stereotypes and defied prejudice and discrimination on their path to success. Among the artists highlighted in the talk are Francis Bacon, Beauford Delaney, Gilbert and George, Harriet Goodhue Hosmer, Mickalene Thomas, Andy Warhol and Claude Cahun (aka Lucy Schwob).

The DIA developed the ArtPride talk in collaboration with museum curators and LGBT communities in Detroit and Ann Arbor. The included artists have self-identified as LGBT or have lived an LGBT lifestyle as defined by their partners, family or official biographers.

To schedule a talk or group tour, call 313-833-1510 or email cblackburn@dia.org. There is a list of topics and descriptions available on the DIA website <http://bit.ly/2bkFdFE>. For membership information, call 313-833-7971.

Barefoot Productions Theatre Sponsors REC Clothing Drive

BY BTL STAFF

PLYMOUTH – Barefoot Productions Theatre celebrates their 11th season with The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, winner of two Tony Awards and the Drama Desk Award.

In conjunction with this show, the theatre will sponsor a clothing drive for the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park. New or gently-used clothing, coats, boots, shoes, and warm winter items are requested in adult sizes from small to XXL. These items can be dropped off at the theater on Saturday's or Sunday's Sept. 9-25 from 12-2 p.m. or by appointment.

This musical comedy, known for its hilarious antics, heart-tugging sentiments and songs, is a favorite among theatergoers. With an engaging, tuneful score by William Finn and a sweet, funny book by Rachel Sheinkin, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee causes audiences to fall in love, both with the show itself and its "perspicacious," "jocular," and "effervescent" spellers.

The show involves some voluntary audience participation to compete in the Bee against the actors. The spelling bee announcer is voiced in an ad-lib, improv comedy style that develops running gags throughout the performance - with plenty of opportunity for some R-rated humor at this age 16 and over show (known as "Parent-Teacher Conferences" or "Adult Night at the Bee").

Opening night festivities on Sept. 9 include a 7 p.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the a second decade of fantastic theater and a brand new logo, followed by good eats provided by Westborn Market's new location on Penniman in Plymouth. Art lovers can appreciate a new exhibition, Born Under a Northern Sky, by Michigan Artist K.K. Sparks, a silent auction and 50/50 raffle.

The show runs from Sept. 9-25, Friday's and Saturday's at 8 p.m., and Sunday's on 2 p.m. Barefoot Productions Theatre is located at 240 N. Main St. in Plymouth. Tickets: \$20. Visit www.justgobarefoot.com or call 734-404-6889.

► MCC-Detroit Minister

Continued from p. 20

The nation was still reeling from the massacre in Orlando and the shootings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile. On top of that, the MCC general conference was experiencing difficulties as well. Attendees were supposed to elect a new moderator or president at the conference and were unable to come to consensus.

"A lot of people were disappointed with that decision,"

said Stringfellow. "So I was really wondering if I was even going to do this type of worship service. It was very edgy and outside the box. It involved dancing. It was basically a rave."

In the end, Stringfellow said he was glad he went on with the show.

"With all of this disappointment around us I questioned how could we sing if we knew that much heartbreak," he said. "But I felt people saw it in a cathartic way of just relinquishing their pain. One woman came up to me after the performance and said she had just fallen in love with her church again."



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The Queering of Tegan and Sara



Photo: Warner Bros. Records

Pop Duo on Artistic Evolution, Rising Above the Underground and Being Anti-Marriage

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

“The world has changed a lot,” Tegan Quin says, knowingly speaking to the queer choir.

And who can argue? In the last five years alone, the LGBT community has made considerable strides in being seen as equals. But the effect doesn’t just mean more same-sex weddings and the prospect of mixed-gender bathrooms.

The world changing means Tegan and Sara

can change too.

“We love the support of the queer community,” says Sara, “but we also needed to set our heights to be included in other places too. We shouldn’t just be the ‘gay band’ – that’s not who we are.”

Tegan and Sara, then, let the sound of their collective youth – the flamboyancy of David Bowie, the heartfelt resonance of Annie Lennox – guide them beyond the indie-rock fringe they’d inhabited since they formed out of Calgary, their

birthplace, in the mid-’90s. Because they could.

Because why not?

Of the switch from Hole-inspired alt-rockers to New Romantic revivalists who went on, in the last few years, to share the stage with pop heavyweights like Katy Perry and Taylor Swift, Tegan credits “the mainstreaming of gay culture,” which, she says, has “helped propel our band beyond the underground.”

If you missed the signs along the way, you

weren’t listening. Pop had already been bubbling up beneath the surface on their breakthrough LP “So Jealous,” released in 2004, and onward through 2009’s “Sainthood.” But in 2013, the duo shed their punk skin completely. Like a dusted-off early ’90s relic, “Heartthrob,” their first full-on pop outing, shimmered with retro shine. For the project, they joined forces with super-producer Greg Kurstin, whose radio-ready synth sounds have imbued the pop landscape

Tegan and Sara

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and its biggest names, from Lily Allen to Kelly Clarkson to Sia to Adele.

“Artists change,” Sara explains. “When we were younger we also didn’t really like to wear makeup. Now, I’m so sick of having my picture taken where I look normal. We have definitely established what we look like and who we are in our everyday lives, so it’s fun to play with not being that.”

Take the cover of their eighth studio album, “Love You to Death,” for instance; on it, the Quin sisters’ faces are streaked in bright, contrasting tribal swirls. That kind of color also runs through the kaleidoscopic beats Tegan and Sara, along with Kurstin, helmed for their second synth-powered soirée and follow up to 2013’s “Heartthrob.” The guitar that marked their earlier work? Long gone.

“As we’ve gotten further into our career,” says Sara, “we feel more comfortable and excited about challenging ourselves and being creative. That evolution feels really natural and exciting, so that experimentation visually and sonically is necessary after 17 years, I think.”

“Love You to Death” is also striking for its overt gayness, evidenced by a liberal smattering of “she” references. Female call-outs aren’t the norm for the famously pronoun-shy sisters, who’ve generalized the subjects of past songs to make their queer experiences universal. Sara says “I Was Married” from 2007’s “The Con” was “the beginning of me taking on more directly the political issue of relationships and being gay.” “Maybe in the past we didn’t emphasize certain things because we were already being conditioned and pigeonholed as a gay act,” she continues, “and we were sort of resentful and like, ‘Fuck you, we’re not a gay act; we’re gay and we’re musicians.’”

Being labeled is a “a complicated topic,” according to Tegan, who says, “When people call us gay in mainstream pieces, especially if it’s a blurb like ‘lesbian duo Tegan and Sara,’ it feels so offensive and marginalizing because we don’t declare heterosexuals, ‘heterosexuals.’”

“I always want it to be in context with the music,” she adds.

So, in their mind, are they pop? Indie pop? EDM? Tegan doesn’t care to clarify anymore. “I just gave up,” she admits, noting that she’s reluctant to call their reinvention “glam” even if their retro, mag-ready makeover would suggest otherwise.

“I feel like I’m grown up lately, that’s what it is,” she says. “Like, I should wear pants that fit me. And I probably shouldn’t wear sneakers onstage. Maybe I’ll put something on that looks like I tried. We’re at that stage in our career.”

In 1999, when the duo released their debut, “Under Feet Like Ours,” if it wasn’t about the

music, it wasn’t important. They were more apt to go with the flow then, Tegan notes. The exception? When Elle Girl requested they wear their bathing suits for a photoshoot.

“We were so traumatized,” she remembers, verbally assaulting the mere idea with a “fuck no” as she remembers shooting down the opportunity because, as Sara adds, “It wasn’t really our aesthetic.”

“I was soooooo upset,” Tegan continues. “Now, I would just laugh. I don’t think the shoot would be able to continue I’d be laughing so hard. But back then, when you’re young, you don’t know how to say, ‘Uh, no.’”

These days, “we’re really bossy,” admits Tegan, who revels in the visual aspects of their newest releases, a drastic change from their pre-pop days when “we would play it safe.”

Lyricaly, they’re also taking risks.

On “BWU” (i.e. “Be With You”) the Quins resist the concept of marriage despite, as of June 2015, their legal right to wed. To some in the LGBT community, their stance may seem divisive, but Sara, who’s in a five-year-long relationship, explains that – though it may be read as such – “it’s not a critique of same-sex marriage; it’s a critique of marriage and the institution of marriage and the culture of weddings.”

Denouncing “the ring” to “prove that you’re worthy,” the anti-marriage anthem – bouncy, bold and romantic – stands out not just for its uncharacteristically assured feminist leanings (“You can keep your name”), but also its direct openness regarding Sara’s same-sex attraction: “All the girls I loved before told me they signed up for more,” she sings.

When Tegan first got wind of the track, she says, “I was really moved,” stating that they’re taking a “very political stance” on the track and “people are either gonna really get this or they’re not.” She thought of their parents, who divorced when the twins were just 4 years old; their mother found love again with another man and they stayed together until Tegan and Sara were 20. They never married.

“The traditional male-female marriage thing didn’t appeal,” Tegan says. “It was almost like, ‘I am gay so I get out of getting married,’ and then all of a sudden it was a big deal around the time we were 27, 28 years old, when Prop 8 was happening. I was like, ‘God, this is so weird. I never wanted to get married and it’s so strange to want to because I’m not allowed to.’”

“I believe in all of the rights and reasons that come with wanting to get married. What I really am is not a wedding person.”

Elsewhere on “Love You to Death,” there’s “Boyfriend,” which finds Sara confronting a closeted girlfriend. Is it a sign of the times that “Love You to Death” is, perhaps, more rainbow-swathed than any of Tegan and Sara’s previous releases? That it’s more “she”-centric? Partly. But moreover, having “always struggled” with using third-person pronouns, Sara says, “It wasn’t purposeful that I wasn’t acknowledging (my sexuality).”

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See Tegan & Sara, page 31

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19th Annual Ford Arts, Beats and Eats Sees Change

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Just as the Ford Arts, Beats and Eats festival is always looking for new ways to improve and keep things fresh, so are the musicians, artists, vendors and restaurateurs invited to participate each year.

Take Café Muse, for example. The European-style restaurant at 416 S. Washington Ave. in downtown Royal Oak ended their existing dinner service on Aug. 9 so the current space could undergo renovations to augment the upcoming menu changes.

On Sept. 16, the current bar area of Café Muse will re-open as Dottie's, an all-new casual, modern southern bistro.

Café Muse's popular breakfast and lunch has not been affected by the changes and continues to be served seven days a week from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m., throughout the transformation of the bar area.

Dottie's, named after owner David Smith's mother, will make its preliminary debut during the festival Sept. 2-5 featuring menu items such as chicken and waffles, and their popular seafood grits prepared by co-owner and executive chef Greg Reyner.

Festival-goers will also be treated to Café Muse's biggest seller at the restaurant: a grilled cheese sandwich. But not just any grilled cheese sandwich, though, as indicated by their feature in Esquire Magazine ("the best sandwiches in America" issue), a feature on Oprah's "Sandwich Showdown," and recognition as "one of the perfect grilled cheese sandwiches in America" by Reader's Digest.

What makes it so special? The sandwich is complete with harvarti, fontina and mozzarella cheeses, basil, grilled tomato, finished with a little locally-sourced honey.

"Both Greg and I feel that in order for a restaurant to stay fresh and viable you need to adapt to changing times...currently, we feel that there is an overabundance of restaurants featuring new American cuisine in the Detroit area," he said.

Smith and Reyner, his partner, opened the restaurant 10 years ago as one of the first to offer the concept of farm to table.

"Now almost every restaurant offers some form of farm-to-fork cuisine. We've always wanted to be different. Greg has always had a love for southern cuisine, so we decided that bringing a more casual dining experience with a Southern influence would be a perfect change and a great addition to the current Royal Oak selection of restaurants," Smith said. "Since it wasn't what we originally planned for Café Muse, we thought a name change for dinner would be necessary, hence the creation of Dottie's."

Festival #19

The presence of Café Muse is one of the successes the festival can celebrate entering its 19th year. But also the large crowds they attract, earning top rankings for its juried fine arts show, securing top national entertainment, and providing unique interactive programs for the family are among its other successes.

Festival event producer Jon Witz expects around 350,000 people or more to attend over the four-day weekend.



On Sept. 16, the current bar area of Cafe Muse in Royal Oak will re-open as Dottie's, an all-new casual, modern southern bistro. Meters Made Beautiful is part of this year's festival beautification program. Courtesy Cafe Muse.

When asked what is different about the festival this year, Witz said a downtown arts and beautification program called Meters Made Beautiful was added. Local artists were invited to paint around 70 parking meters inside the festival footprint for display.

"Another one of the great draws are the people itself and the large, diverse crowd that attends the festival, and it's certainly our pride how the entire community is represented and enjoying

There are several new restaurants participating this year including La Dulce, Woodpile BBQ, Café Sushi and Marconi's Pizza. The festival's national music lineup features Joan Jett & The Blackhearts, Gavin Degraw, Our Lady Peace, JR.JR., Cole Swindell, The Ohio Players and Three Dog Night.

The festival has also expanded the Fifth Annual Family Days program presented by Kroger and the Autism Alliance of Michigan to offer a third day of free rides, admission, parking and lunch for 2,500 kids and family members.

"The festival is truly amazing for the senses, as you can turn a corner or take 20 steps, and catch a different smell, sound or sight throughout the event. There is something for everyone that is of high quality and often with good value," Witz said, adding that a \$3 or \$5 admission fee, after 3 p.m., affords guests access to 50 entertainment acts per day, and a choice of 50 restaurants and caterers at reasonable prices at one of the top art fairs in the U.S.

See Arts, Beats, and Eats, page 29

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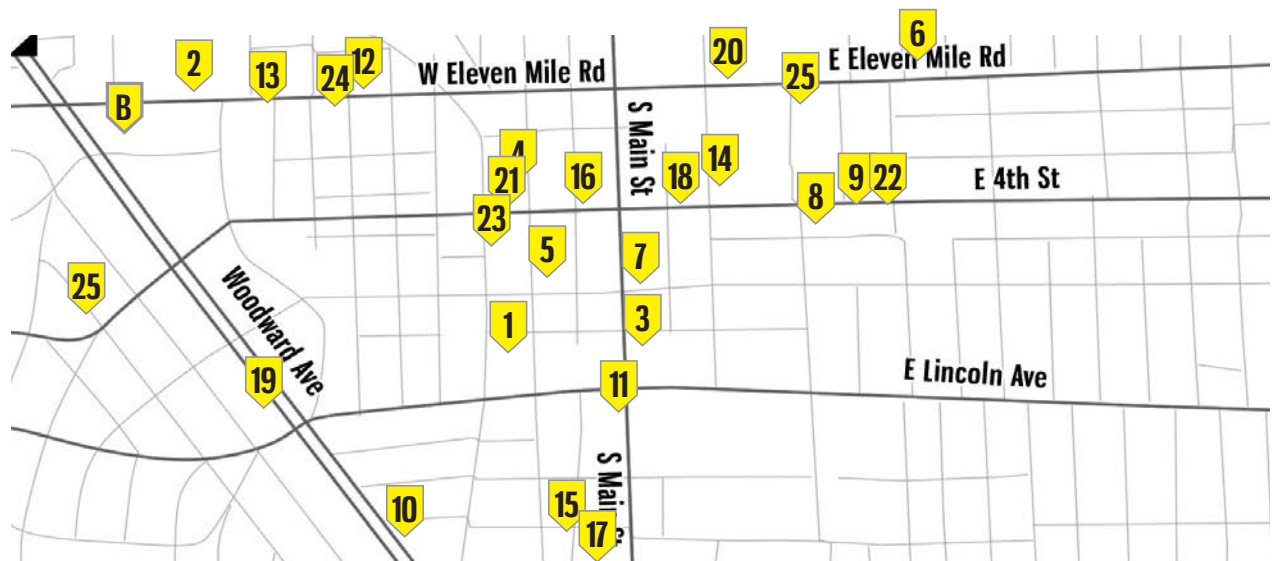
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OUTINGS

Thursday, Sept. 1

Gender Non-Conformists 7 p.m. A social and support group for genderqueer, genderfabulous, transgender, gender-exploring folks and all those who transgress gender binaries. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Transgender Meeting 7 p.m. First Thursday monthly. PFLAG Tri-Cities, 815 N. Grant, **Bay City**. leishashaler@gmail.com www.pflag.org

Friday, Sept. 2

Red Hot Fridays 9 p.m. No cover charge before midnight. Password "Red Hot." Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. 248-541-1600. info@reddoorclub.com www.reddoorclub.com

Saturday, Sept. 3

Michigan State Fair Admission: \$6-8. Fifth Third Bank, 46100 Grand River Ave., **Novi**. 248-348-6942. www.michiganstatefair.com

Smart Recovery 10 a.m. Smart Recovery offers people with any type of addiction a place to learn how to change unwanted behaviors through cognitive based methods. This is a non-12 step program, led by Smart Recovery trainers, and does not require abstinence. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Coming Out Over Coffee 10:30 a.m. A casual discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Alcoholics Anonymous Brownbaggers 1:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Lesbian Euchre 6 p.m. Please arrive early to register. \$5 donation to Affirmations. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. lsbdanai@aol.com www.goaffirmations.org

Men's Discussion Group 6 p.m. Group for gay, bisexual and transgender men ages 18 and up. This group frequently offers holiday parties and outings such as movie nights in addition to regular meetings. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Retro Fevre Saturdays 9 p.m. Music from 80s, 90s, and today. Red Door Night Club, 22901 Woodward Ave, **Ferndale**. 2485411600. <http://www.reddoorclub.com/events/>

Sunday, Sept. 4

Paddle Group 1 a.m. Yak season is April through October. Yak Womyn, **Ann Arbor**. sapphosis@yahoo.com

Monday, Sept. 5

Alcoholics Anonymous 5:45 Serenity 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Sexual Addicts Anonymous 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

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, Sept. 6

Show Your Support for MIC Every Tuesday, Juliano's will donate 15 of the bill to MIC, just tell them you're "here for MIC." Motown Invitational Classic, 27380 VanDyke, **Warren**. www.julianosrestaurant.net

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

Narcotics Anonymous 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile

Wednesday, Sept. 7

Senior Koffee Klatch 1 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 years of age and older. Various discussion topics, social outings and potlucks are incorporated throughout the year. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Foster Care and Adoption Orientation 6 p.m. Call 877-529-5532 for information. Orchards Children's Services, 24901 Northwestern Highway, Suite 601, **Southfield**. smarks@orchards.org www.orchards.org

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>

Newly Single 7 p.m. A support and discussion group for those who are newly single and are coping with the loss of a relationship. The group offers support, resources, skill building opportunities and social



booming sousaphone.

Presented by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and WDET, Red Baraat will perform on Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Music Box. Mix, mingle, eat, drink and shop at 6 p.m. then listen and dance. Tickets: \$15, \$20 at the door. A limited number of \$49 VIP experience tickets are available to include reserved cabaret-style seating, a free drink and an exclusive meet and greet. For more information, visit www.dso.org.

Grand River Strategies and Political Consultant. Event is free. Michigan Chamber of Commerce, 3050 Jackson Road, **Ann Arbor**. 517-371-7640. bhantler@michamber.com

Men's Film Group 6:30 p.m. 18 and up Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. mensgroup6@gmail.com www.goaffirmations.org

Parent Support Group 7 p.m. Dr. Melissa Farrell, LCP and Roz Keith facilitate ongoing group for parents of trans youth to better understand what it means to be transgender. Event is free. Stand With Trans, 5725 Walnut Lake Rd, **West**

Cosmology, + Matthew Angelo Harrison + It's Your Party 6:15 p.m. Talk with curator followed by an opening reception. Bigger and his band moon Medicin, a multimedia concept group will perform. Tickets \$12 for non-members. MOCAD, 4454 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-832-6622. <https://www.facebook.com/events/308472612825995/>

Saturday, Sept. 10

Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride A day of music, games, food and fun for the whole family. Kids games in the afternoon and a drag show in the evening for adults. Upper Peninsula Rainbow Pride, **Marquette**. www.uprainbowpride.com/

TGMI Port Huron Chapter Support Group 1 p.m. Event is free of charge. Transgender Michigan, 932 Military St., **Port Huron**. 800-842-2954 ext. 11. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1753550841580505/>

Motor City Bears 6:30 p.m. A gay male, social and fund raising activity group for Bears and admirers, established in 1994. Meet and greet starts at 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

MIC Legends Show 9 p.m. No cost, but tips from the first round of acts will go to MIC, plus there will be a 50/50 raffle. Memorable MIC members bring back their drag alter egos. A surprise mystery performer is scheduled to perform. Motown Invitational Classic, 1641 Middlebelt Rd., **Inkster**. www.mictournament.org

Sunday, Sept. 11

Beginner Yoga for Baby Boomers 7 p.m. \$5 per person. RSVP required. Universalist Unitarian Church, 25301 Halsted Road, **Farmington Hills**. 248-345-4867.

Tuesday, Sept. 13

Care To Dance? 7 p.m. Learn to urban ballroom. Sisterhood Social Excursions, 8670 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. www.meetup.com

Wednesday, Sept. 14

FTM Detroit 7 p.m. This discussion provides trans men an opportunity to discuss a fuller image of transition within their larger life including deconstruction of doubt, male privilege, vulnerability and more. Attendance restricted to FTM/transgender men, anyone who identifies on the transmasculine side of the spectrum. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

MUSIC & MORE

Comedy

Funny Or Die "Oddball Comedy and Curiosity Festival" Featuring Sebastian Maniscalco, Brian Regan and John Mulaney. Tickets: \$25-\$121. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 4 p.m. Sept. 3. 248-377-0100. www.dteenergymusictheatre.org

Concerts

AEG Live and The Ark "Toad the Wet Sprocket" Tickets: \$29.50-\$55. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. 7 p.m. Sept. 1. 248-399-2980. www.romtlive.com

Live Nation "Butch Walker" Tickets: \$25. Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St., **Detroit**. 9 p.m. Sept. 9. www.saintandrewsdetroit.com/

Live Nation "Madeintyo" Tickets: \$20-\$25. St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress St., **Detroit**. 7 p.m. Sept. 7. 313-961-8961. www.saintandrewsdetroit.com

Live Nation "Lauryn Hill" Tickets: \$35-99. The Fillmore Detroit, 2115 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 7 p.m. Sept. 2. www.thefillmoredetroit.com

Live Nation "The Heavy" Tickets: \$16. The Shelter, 431 E. Congress St., **Detroit**. 6 p.m. Sept. 9. www.saintandrewsdetroit.com/

Live Nation "Revivalists" Tickets: \$20. The Shelter, 431 E. Congress St., **Detroit**. 8:30 p.m. Sept. 8. www.saintandrewsdetroit.com/

Editor's Pick

2016 Michigan State Fair

Come out to the 2016 Michigan State Fair Sept. 1-5 and celebrate the end of summer. This year's event will feature a Parade on Sept. 5, livestock exhibits, a Michigan Made pavilion, dozens of agriculture and indoor vendor booths, an entertainment tent, beer garden, outdoor vendors, performances by the Shrine Circus and more!

The original state fair debuted in 1849 and was one of the first statewide fair events to take place in the United States. The fair was held on the Michigan State Fairgrounds on Woodward Avenue from 1905-2009 when it was discontinued by the state government. It is now produced as a private enterprise while preserving the legacy and beloved traditions of the original State Fair.



Tickets cost \$8-\$30 depending on what activities participants want to purchase. Parking is \$5-\$10 depending on the size of the vehicle.

Suburban Collection Showplace is located at 46100 Grand River Ave., **Novi**.

Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Transgender Life Support 7 p.m. An open discussion group for people identifying as transgender and their allies. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

events. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Thursday, Sept. 8

Michigan Chamber Regional Meeting 4 p.m. Pizza and Politics will feature Mich. Supreme Court Justice Joan Larsen, Donna Lasinski and Stu Sandler, co-founder of

Bloomfield Twp. 248-661-5700. laura@temple-israel.org

Rehearsals for Metro Detroit LGBT Chorus 7 p.m. New members welcomed year round. One Voice Chorus, 1589 W. Maple Road, **Birmingham**. detroitonevoice@yahoo.com <http://onevoicechorus.net>

Friday, Sept. 9

Sanford Biggers: Subjective



► Arts, Beats and Eats

Continued from p. 25

themselves hanging out together in peace at our festival.”

Speaking of diversity, Witz said, “I know we have vendors, artists and musicians that are part of the LGBT community, and we feel that we’ve always presented a great cross-section of humanity at our event, and have attracted really diverse crowds.”

Café Muse has always had the support of the LGBT community. “Even though we have never promoted ourselves as an exclusive LGBT restaurant, we do get a lot of regulars from the community that dine with us,” Smith said.

Considering that the Royal Oak City Commission passed a human rights ordinance in March 2013, he said “we feel the area is addressing our needs,” though it would be “great to see more gay-owned restaurants and businesses in the city.”

And if not LGBT-owned, whether or not the establishment is LGBT-friendly can make or break a business in Royal Oak.

A few changes in ownership at Pronto! has caused some apprehension and concern about what used to be considered a pillar in the LGBT community.

And rightfully so, according to General Manager Martin Bell, who has been working hard to restore Pronto!’s reputation since joining their staff ten months ago. As a regular guest at the establishment for 15 years, Bell is deeply invested in Pronto!’s success on a personal level as well.

“We’re in the process of rebuilding,” he said. “We have made some great strides since previous restaurant partnerships got off track a little bit. Not everyone involved had the same level of commitment.”

The sit-down restaurant, bar, bakery, catering service, and corner store was started in 1991 by Jim Domanski, Tom Murray and Bill Thomas. Since Pronto! was first sold in 2014, Bell said the guest perception of the establishment shifted.

But with support from their core clientele, Pronto! is settling through the rumors and criticism to “polish ourselves” and move in a more positive direction.

“We are wholeheartedly committed to evolving with the local climate of dining in Royal Oak. We are adapting to the savvy, more educated diner without compromising our integrity,” Bell said.

The festival is a good opportunity for people to stop by Pronto! to witness some of the changes that are occurring, he said. The new chef has pared down the menu leaving room for their classics and the addition of seasonal features, which speak to the “fashionable food trends.”

As Pronto! approaches its 25th year in business, Bell teases that they are in the beginning stages of putting together an “exciting celebration” to mark the event. Stay tuned.

For festival information, visit www.artsbeatseats.com. Check out Cafe Muse at www.cafemuseroyaloak.com. To reach Pronto!, call 248-544-7900.

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Editor's Pick

Canoeing With Local Paddle Group



Summer is coming to an end. But what better way to celebrate the end of a fantastic sunny season than spending a few hours on the water with the friends and family of Yak Womyn.

Yak Womyn was established in 2007 as a paddle group for womyn and their friends with kayaks, canoes or whatever floats in the Greater Ann Arbor area and beyond.

The group spends two to three hours most Sundays paddling down watersheds located conveniently off I-94 and I-23 in the Brighton, Huron-Clinton, Irish Hills, Jackson, Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas which offer more than 50 lakes and rivers.

Yak season is April through October. Life jackets are required to be on the boat.

Contact Sandya at sapphosis@yahoo.com to participate.

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 28

Majestic Cafe "Sick of It All, Comeback Kid, Friend or Foe, S.N.A.F.U." Tickets: \$18. Majestic Cafe, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Sept. 9. 313-833-9700. www.majesticdetroit.com

Palace Sports and Entertainment "Summerland Tour" Starring Sugar Ray, Everclear and Lit. Tickets: \$16-\$61. Freedom Hill Amphitheatre, 14900 Metropolitan Parkway, Sterling Heights. 7:30 p.m. Sept. 3. www.palacenet.com/venues-events/freedom-hill-amphitheatre

What The Sound "Charlie Burg and Stoop Lee, Jacob Sigman, Mocha X DeNero Montez, mArLee, and T.I.E." Tickets: \$10, \$13 under 21. Blind Pig, 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Sept. 9. 734-996-8555. www.blindpigmusic.com/

THEATER

Benefits and Fundraisers

Raise the Rooftop Yoga Wednesday Sunset Deep House Vinyasa. Tickets: \$25. Class held on the Rooftop Terrace. All proceeds to support programming at Music Hall including the Youth Performing Arts Outreach Education. Must pre-register, space is limited. Detroit Yoga Lab, Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit. 9 a.m. Sept. 7. 313-831-9642. www.musichall.org

Civic/Community Theater

Disney's The Little Mermaid Directed by Matthew Miga. Tickets: \$22-\$24. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Sept. 9 - Oct. 2. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

The Wonder Bread Years A fast-paced, hilarious production that gracefully walks the line between standup and theatre starring Pat Hazell, former Seinfeld writer. Tickets: \$38. Jewish Community Center, Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Sept. 10 - Sept. 11. 2486611900. www.theberman.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Cranbrook Academy of Art "John Glick: A Legacy in Clay" More than 200 pieces represent all phases of Glick's work. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 18 - Nov. 30. 877-462-7262. www.cranbrook.edu

Detroit Institute of Arts "Guest of Honor: Gallery of the Louvre" Organized by the Terra Foundation for American Art. Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit. July 8 - Sept. 18. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

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. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. June 17 - Sept. 11. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Lawrence Street Gallery "About Face by Mary's Muses" Come see the stunning portraits painted by the artists representing Mary's Muses. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Sept. 9 - Sept. 30. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

PNC Financial Services Group "Hippie Modernism: The Struggle for Utopia" Tickets: \$6-10. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. June 18 - Oct. 9. 877-462-7262. www.cranbrook.edu

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 - Sept. 3. 313-600-7443. www.lscgallery.com

UDCA Neighborhood Association "UDCA Historic Home Tour" Tour six historic homes built in the 1920s. You'll see original hardwood floors, stained glass windows, Pewabic tile, twin staircases, crystal chandeliers, imposing fireplaces, and more. Many of the homes feature interesting layouts, cabinets, cubbyholes, and other architectural elements. You'll also hear some history of the neighborhood and about some of the prominent people who once lived in the homes. Gardens may also be on view. You can walk, drive yourself, or take our bus from home to home. Tickets are \$18 in advance or \$20 at the door. Go to www.udca.info to purchase tickets. Tour runs 10 am to 5 pm. Detroit Neighborhood, 17139 Oak Drive,

Detroit. 10 a.m. Sept. 11. 248-763-8432. www.udca.info

University of Michigan Museum of Art "The Connoisseur's Legacy: The Collection of Nesta and Walter Spink" Former UMMA curator Nesta Spink and U-M professor emeritus Walter Spink. A. Alfred Taubman Gallery, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. July 8 - Sept. 25. 7347634186. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Catherine Opie: 700 Nimes Road" Contemporary photography. A. Alfred Taubman Gallery, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. June 11 - Sept. 11. 734-647-0524. www.umma.umich.edu/view/exhibitions/2016-opie.php

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Manuel Alvarez: Mexico's Poet of Light" Works by Manuel Alvarez. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 2 - Oct. 23. 734-763-4186. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Mira Henry: The View Inside" Works by Mira Henry. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 2 - Oct. 16. 734-763-4186. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "In Focus: Modern Japanese Folk Ceramics" Artist and Poet Ann Holmes. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Aug. 9 - Oct. 30. 734-763-4186. www.umma.umich.edu

University of Michigan Museum of Art "Catie Newell: Overnight" Irving Stenn, Jr. Family Gallery. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., Ann Arbor. June 11 - Nov. 6. 734-763-4186. www.umma.umich.edu

Ypsilanti Historical Museum "Meredith Bixby's Marvelous Marionettes" Puppets will be on display through spring of 2017. Ypsilanti Historical Museum, 220 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. July 10 - Dec. 31. 734-482-4990.

Tegan and Sara

Love You to Death



► Tegan & Sara

Continued from p. 23

“As for being more openly queer in our music, for me as a songwriter, I’ve always thought songwriting is a direct conversation between me and the person that has usually done something bad to me,” she continues, breaking into a laugh.

In the past, the duo’s gender expression has been nuanced. “Now I’m All Messed Up,” a track from “Heartthrob,” Sara says, references a girl “leaving her makeup – without emphasis on the fact that she’s a girl.”

She cracks another laugh, joking, “It’s just like, yeah, well, whoever’s in my bed is now in someone else’s bed and they wear makeup. Maybe they’re a Robert Smith. I don’t know!”

As the twins continue to forge their pop path, donning more makeup of their own, with sparkly throwback-tinged jams pushing them further from their punk genesis, Sara says there’s no going back now. On tour, as the duo promotes “Love You to Death,” they’re reshaping their past guitar-driven punk standouts to “bring them into the current sound of the band.”

In 1999, pop music was different. It was Britney Spears. It was NSYNC. Not exactly the kind of sound the duo aspired to, Sara says. But now, after being the antithesis of pop and acquainting themselves with synths, electronic drum beats and programming, she’s “excited to be a part of the wave heralding a different kind of version of pop music that maybe is a bit more of a throwback to pop music, where you could be pushing the boundaries of sex and gender.”

“Pop music wasn’t stupid, and it isn’t stupid,” she asserts, referencing Madonna and Kate Bush, trailblazers and personal influences. “Pop music is complicated. And it’s expensive to make!”

For some fans of their bygone grit, it hasn’t been easy to acclimate to their new shiny sonic shift. Tegan acknowledges that “there’s definitely a contingent of fans that sort of found us around “So Jealous” and “The Con” – the latter being their darkest, least pop-oriented release – “and those tend to be the ones having the most trouble with this transition.” On the flip side, “there’s a sense of pride, like, ‘Oh, we found them 10 years ago and they’ve grown up with us.’”

Now, of course, Tegan and Sara, both 35, have gone from coffee houses to stadiums; from winning Outstanding Music Artist at the GLAAD Media Awards to nabbing an Oscar nod for their “The Lego Movie” theme “Everything Is Awesome,” a collaboration with The Lonely Island. Even Taylor Swift is a fan – you can hear it on Swift’s own pop detour, “1989,” released the same year as “Heartthrob.” In 2013, the twins made a surprise appearance on the “Shake It Off” singer’s “Red” tour to sing “Closer,” their first major pop foray.

Yes, the world is changing for us *and* for them... for the most part, anyway.

“I think as we become more embraced and accepted and more popular it’s made (fans) feel like they’re still outsiders and we’re not,” Tegan says, reflecting on how they’ve queered the mainstream, “and it’s like, ‘Oh no, we’re still outsiders, don’t worry.’”



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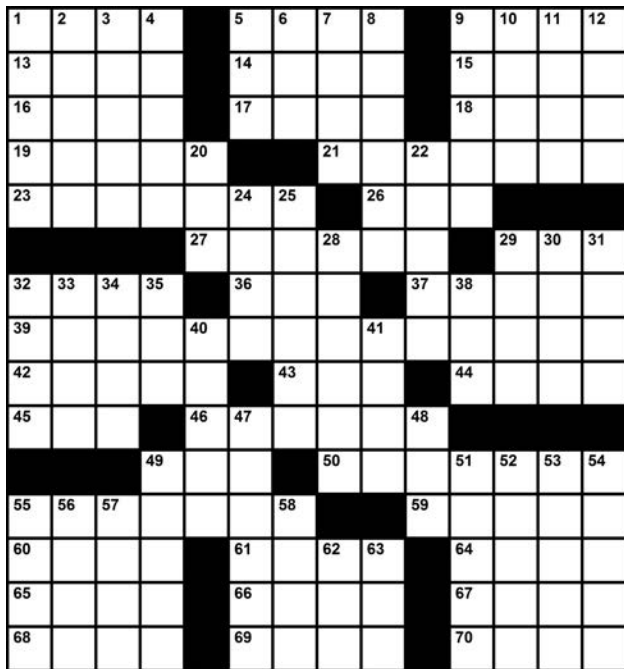
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Q Puzzle



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Across

- 1 Slang for vagina
- 5 Barneys event
- 9 Refrain from using the tongue
- 13 Shirley's la Douce role
- 14 Zip
- 15 Northern metropolis
- 16 Positions for Patty Sheehan

- 17 Took one's turn
- 18 Top priority of a top
- 19 Where Old Man River makes deposits
- 21 2015 Tomlin movie
- 23 1984 Tomlin movie
- 26 Mag. execs
- 27 Reined in

- 29 Bannon of lesbian pulp fiction
- 32 Put the top on the cake
- 36 Cole Porter's "___ America First"
- 37 Homophobia, in enlightened societies
- 39 Animated TV series in which Tomlin had a voice role, with "The"
- 42 Broadway backer
- 43 Abe Lincoln's boy
- 44 Window piece
- 45 Rainey and Kettle
- 46 Pairs of brides walk them
- 49 Double curve in a pipe
- 50 Tomlin's role in a Netflix comedy series
- 55 Tomlin was in this TV show hosted by Rowan & Martin
- 59 Susan's "Thelma and Louise" partner
- 60 Ingrid in "Casablanca"
- 61 Temporary superstar
- 64 Disney pictures
- 65 Do a banker's job
- 66 Very, to Verlaine
- 67 You may go down on one
- 68 Oral vots
- 69 Scout's promise to be "morally straight"
- 70 Groups of games, to Mauresmo

Down

- 1 Baba Wawa portrayer Radner
- 2 Moon of Uranus
- 3 Cologne queen characteristic
- 4 Can't help but
- 5 Emulate Betsy Ross
- 6 Maugham's "Cakes and ___"
- 7 "Big Boned Gal" singer
- 8 Main dish
- 9 Band members blow them
- 10 Thrift shop condition
- 11 Kind of dunk, to Sue Wicks
- 12 Hour on the Costa del Sol
- 20 Colts' org.
- 22 Expand upon
- 24 Make messy
- 25 Becomes hard
- 28 Sake
- 29 "Dancing Queen" band
- 30 Tom or dick, but not hairy
- 31 Sam's "Bewitched" twitcher
- 32 Mosque leader
- 33 Water-to-wine town
- 34 They get laid only once
- 35 Cube with pips
- 38 "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" peak
- 40 Butt heads
- 41 River of Ulrichs' country
- 47 Really loves
- 48 Give in the middle
- 49 "Great balls of fire!"
- 51 Head turners?
- 52 Carolyn who wrote about a Nancy
- 53 Coastal recess
- 54 Makes less difficult to bear
- 55 Tomlin, who will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from SAG
- 56 Toward shelter
- 57 Annapolis inst.
- 58 Mother of "Brothers & Sisters"
- 62 Doc for lions and tigers and bears
- 63 What hangs from a Cuban

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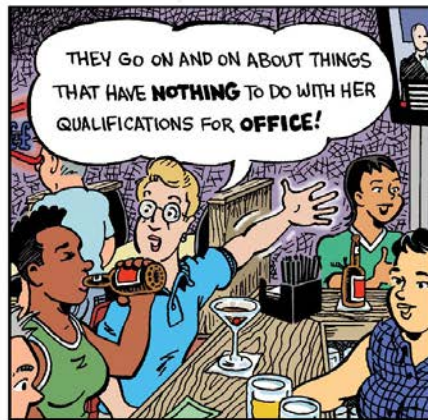
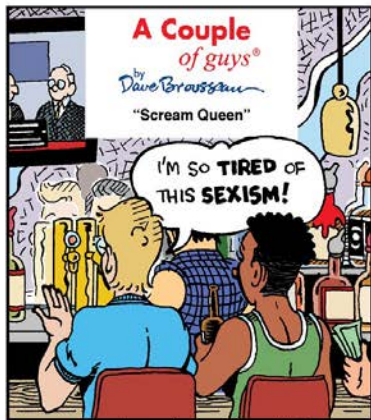
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Get ready for Oscar season's black gay coming-of-age film, 'Moonlight'

Quick, name more than one queer-themed movie with a black cast that made any noise outside of the LGBT film festival circuit in all the years since "Paris is Burning." If you said "Pariah" and then got kind of stuck, well, that's not your fault. That's all about to change a little more for the better with the black, gay, coming-of-age drama "Moonlight." Based on Tarell Alvin McCraney's play, "In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue," the film version (from writer-director Barry Jenkins and producer Brad Pitt) stars up-and-comer Trevante Rhodes as a young black man in 1980s Miami struggling with queer identity and the rigid codes of traditional masculinity. Early buzz is very positive, the trailer looks lovely, and the reviews will be in soon enough when it premieres at the Toronto International Film Festival. Theatrical release happens Oct. 21, just in time for awards season.

Sarah Paulson looks for love in 'Blue Jay'

Don't get too excited. It's not a woman she's necessarily looking for. But extremely cool lesbian actress Sarah Paulson will still flirt with love in this fall's indie drama "Blue Jay." Written by, and co-starring, Mark Duplass, and directed by first-time filmmaker Alex Lehmann (who also worked on Duplass' sitcom, "The League"), "Blue Jay" is the story of two middle-aged people returning to their tiny California hometown. They were high-school sweethearts, now grown apart, and their meeting provides an opportunity to look at the past and come to some decisions about their mutually unhappy present. And we're just going to assume that it's all set in the very small community of Blue Jay, California, population approximately 2000. If it's not, then we will have been wrong for the very first time. The film premieres at the Toronto International Film Festival and opens theatrically in October.

A gay 'Ray' for the CW

The CW's digital platform, CW Seed, is introducing a gay superhero into the network's successful DC Universe. The animated series "Freedom Fighters: The Ray," from producer Greg Berlanti ("The Broken Hearts Club") will premiere sometime in 2017 and will mark the first time a queer superhero has headlined a



Sarah Paulson. Photo: KathClick

series. The character, Raymond Terrell, is a reporter who uncovers a secret project meant to turn light into a weapon of mass destruction. Exposed to the active element in the project, Ray develops light-based powers he uses to battle evil and injustice. The voice actor cast as the animated version of Ray will also appear in live action form in the CW's "Flash"-/"Arrow" universe. It's all about interconnection these days, y'all, and it's about time we had a gay superhero to join at least one of the ever-expanding power teams. Next move: let's get Michelle Rodriguez a girlfriend in "Fast/Furious 9." Or a boyfriend for The Rock. OK, OK, we'll settle for a powerful queer villain.

Laverne Cox, Abigail Breslin join 'Freak Show'

"Freak Show," the YA novel by former club kid James St. James – whose book, "Disco Bloodbath," was turned into the film "Party Monster" – is, as you might know, on its way to the big screen. It's the story of a boldly gender-nonconforming teenager who decides to run for Prom Queen of his conservative Florida high school. Early casting included Bette Midler and AnnaSophia Robb, and now British actor Alex Lawther – who played young Alan Turing in "The Imitation Game" – will step into the main role of Billy Bloom. Additionally, the cast now includes Abigail Breslin and Laverne Cox. That's good news in a very real way; when you've got trans actors and/or other creatives on a project like this, there's less opportunity to get it wrong. We're looking forward to this one getting it right.

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