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**LGBT History Month:  
Before Stonewall, There  
Was Cooper Donuts**

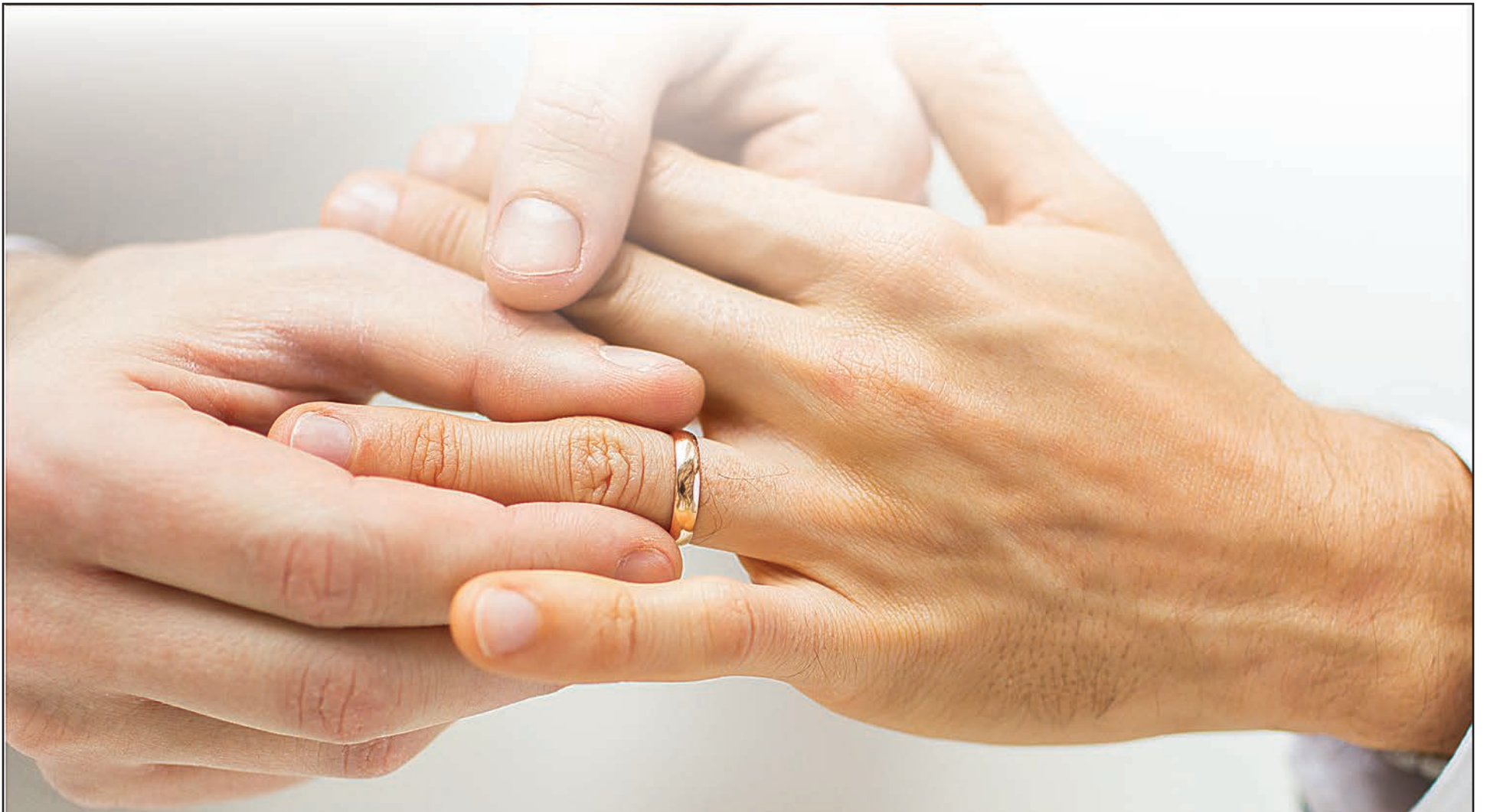
**Anti-LGBTQ Smear  
Campaign Targets Eaton  
County Commissioner**

**Supreme Court Cases in  
2016-17 to Include RFRA's,  
'Sex' Definition**



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**Kristin Chenoweth on LGBT Love During Her 'Nobody' Years,  
Dismissing Homophobes and the Christian Man She Saved**



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## LGBT HISTORY MONTH

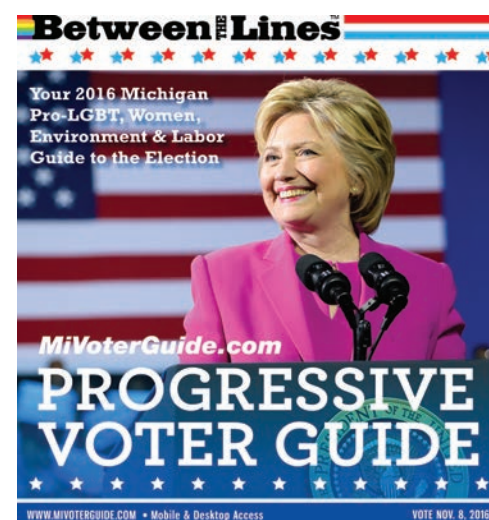


## Before Stonewall, there was Cooper Donuts

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BTL will be running a series online and in print this month as part of LGBT History Month.

## ELECTION 2016 ONLINE



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Author returns home to Ann Arbor with novel debut



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VOL. 2440 • OCTOBER 6, 2016  
ISSUE 984

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## LGBT HISTORY MONTH



Cooper Donuts from "The Exiles."

# Before Stonewall, There was Cooper Donuts in Los Angeles

BY CHRISTIANA LILLY

It was a torrent of doughnuts and coffee that kicked off the LGBT-rights movement.

Sure, the Stonewall Riots of 1969 in New York City get all the glory, but ten years earlier there was a small, nearly forgotten uprising to which the movement's roots can also be traced: Cooper Donuts in Los Angeles.

Like their New York counterparts, the Los Angeles Police Department often targeted LGBT people through entrapment, intimidation, and violence. Police specifically targeted trans people, arresting those whose perceived gender did not match their driver's license. Several gay bars, in an attempt to remain inconspicuous and avoid police raids, banned or discouraged transgender people from entering. However, CooperDonuts, which opened in 1959 in the Skid Row neighborhood, was welcoming to the transgender community. The shop served policemen during the day and, as the patrols dwindled in the evening, opened its doors to trans people and those barred from other establishments.

One evening, two police officers asked for ID cards from some customers at the shop — a typical way for them to harass LGBT people. Those who were picked out of the crowd, including John Rechy, an accomplished gay author who has written about the uprising, were "two hustlers, two queens and a young man just cruising."

Something snapped in one of them; enough was enough. He objected to the car being packed with five people and fought back, leading the customers at the donut shop to flood into the streets, throwing coffee cups, trash, spoons, donuts, anything they could get their hands on.

"[The officers] fled into their car," Rechy writes, "called backups and soon the street was bustling with disobedience. Gay people danced about the cars."

The officers returned with reinforcements, Main Street was closed, and history was made. However, the importance of the CooperDonuts uprising was not recognized until much later.

Mark Thompson, a social historian who lived in the same neighborhood as Rechy, writes of the event's importance, "I would not describe it as a riot but more like an isolated patch of local social unrest that had lasting repercussions. I think less in its day, more as a lesson for us today. L.A. is such a huge, sprawling city (even back then) so what happened in one district probably did not register elsewhere — especially when issues of class and race are factored in."

Not too much is known about the uprising at CooperDonuts, and as time passes, fewer of the storytellers of the time are around to share their experiences. But it is important to remember that the fight for LGBT rights was not limited to one city and one event. The CooperDonuts uprising, like the Compton Cafeteria riots, the Dewey's sit-ins, and the Independence Hall protests, helped pave the way for Stonewall and for all the victories the community has seen since.

*Christiana Lilly's foray into journalism began at 11, when she put together a one-page gazette for classmates recounting field trips, announcing the lunch menu and other important news. Today, she's a freelance journalist who covers a plethora of topics, including contributing regularly to South Florida Gay News.*



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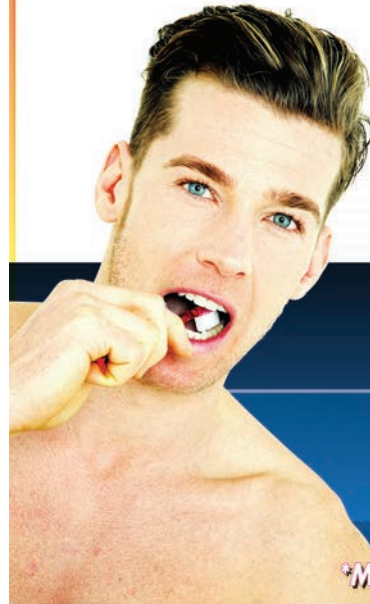


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# Anti-LGBTQ Smear Campaign Targets Eaton County Commissioner

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Earlier this year, a Democratic Eaton County Commissioner was the victim of what experts call a “probable” anti-gay bias motivated crime. However, his constituents are learning about it from an anonymous website that political experts have called a “vile political smear.” Between The Lines has discovered these smears may be tied to a GOP opponent.

Howard Spence, the commissioner, met a man through a Craigslist advertisement in February. He brought the man back to his home, and the man absconded with his wallet and 2007 Toyota Camry.

But the release of the information on an anonymous website is causing political issues for Spence.

“If it were not for his own actions that allowed these events to happen by choosing to respond to a complete stranger on Craigslist, advertising for gay sex, Commissioner Spence would not have been a victim,” an anonymous person wrote on a website with an .is domain.

The political hit piece accuses him of being “irresponsible” and putting “himself in a position of being a possible target for blackmail,” as well as jeopardizing “not only his own safety but any sensitive information.”

The website accuses Spence of failing to cooperate with law enforcement during the investigation because he failed to identify Bernard Brand Smith in a photo lineup.

“After viewing a photo line-up of individuals including the suspect, Howard Spence could not make a positive identification of him to the ECSD,” the anonymous work claims. “We believe Commissioner Spence chose not to ID the suspect so as not to cause further actions by the Eaton County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office that would have exposed this incident publicly, perhaps in a courtroom trial setting.”

However, the police report reveals he felt the image of Smith in the lineup was the one that “looked more like” the other photo images. The report also reveals the Spence provided investigators with a telephone number of the suspect – a number which ultimately resulted in Smith’s arrest.



Howard Spence, an Eaton County Commissioner representing Delta Township was the victim of a potentially bias motivated larceny and was subsequently outed by unknown persons working in conjunction with Vince Malcangi of Nashville, Michigan.

Citing the ongoing criminal prosecution of Smith in Eaton County Circuit Court, Spence declined to comment on the specifics of the case other than to say he had nothing to be ashamed of. Smith, who was charged with the crimes against Spence, has pleaded guilty to unauthorized driving away of an automobile, as well as being a fourth habitual criminal in exchange for having a larceny from a building charge dismissed. He’ll be sentenced Oct. 20.

The website also contains an image of the initial police narrative of the incident. It is the only piece of the report shared on the website.

The full police report, with supporting information, is well over 40 pages in length. It includes cell phone records, Facebook communications, the original Craigslist advertisement and information regarding attempts to use Spence’s credit cards and the ultimate discovery of his car in Detroit.

According to Eaton County officials, the only person to have requested the report was Vince Malcangi of Nashville, Michigan. Malcangi last week denied knowledge of the website attacking Spence. Asked if he had provided the police reports to others who may have created the website, Malcangi responded, “Not to my knowledge.”

He then claimed that other political operatives in the county could have obtained



Vince Malcangi is a former GOP candidate for the Eaton County Commissioner as well as the Treasurer for the SFS PAC which has paid for Facebook ads for Johnsen. He is the only other person to have sought the police report from Eaton County officials through FOIA.

the report through back channels. He declined to identify any of these operatives, saying only, “You know how politics work.”

But Malcangi, who failed in a bid to unseat another Republican Eaton County Commissioner in the August primary, has political and financial ties to Spence’s GOP opponent, Gina Johnsen.

Campaign Finance disclosure documents available at the Eaton County Clerk’s Office show Malcangi started a political action committee called SFS last year. He serves as the committee’s treasurer, and provided \$400 of the group’s \$525 in funds. Records also show the committee spent \$300 in Facebook advertising to promote Johnsen’s campaign.

Johnsen did not return repeated phone calls or an email seeking comment on this situation.

However, the anti-gay tenor of the attack may fit well with her political views. Her Facebook page shows she works for a host of anti-abortion groups, as well as serves as the strategic outreach director for Salt and Light Global ministries. That agency has made its presence known in the recent past in fighting the adoption of a comprehensive human rights ordinance in Delta Township, a Lansing suburb located in Eaton County.

Salt and Light Global leaders assailed the township leadership not to pass the law in 2013. They argued it would infringe on their religious freedom. One of those leaders, David Kallman, is well known as an advocate against LGBT equality. In 2000 and 2001 he represented the American Family Association in a challenge of the Jackson Public Schools and its decision to allow a Gay Straight Alliance to form. Kallman, incorrectly, claimed the school did not allow for the formation of Bible clubs. He had to retract that claim. More recently he sued Planet Fitness



Gina Johnsen, the GOP challenger to Howard Spence. She’s tied to the man who requested the police report through his PAC and funding of advertisements supporting her.

over its policy to allow transgender people to use the bathroom that corresponds with their gender identity. That case was tossed out of a Bay County court.

Political consultant Joe DiSano, who is no stranger to gloves off political street brawling, said he doesn’t buy Malcangi’s denials.

“It’s absolute malarkey,” he said of the denial. “It was absolutely a complete screw job by and for the GOP candidate.”

He called the website a “sleazy attempt to turn the public against a gay-friendly candidate.”

“Howard Spence is a victim here,” DiSano said. “He doesn’t need to be one politically.”

Despite the blatant homophobia of the attack, DiSano said he doesn’t think it will have much impact on the campaign.

## Anti-Gay Smear History

Tim Retzliff, assistant professor – fixed term in the Department of History & Center for Gender in Global Context at Michigan State University – said anti-gay smears like this have a long history in American politics.

“Rumor, innuendo and outing have long featured in Michigan elections as well, from flyers attacking Gary Kapanowski as a ‘faggot’ when he ran to become shop chairman of UAW Local 212 in 1972 to a ‘Take a Hike Dyke’ mass mailing aimed at out lesbian Trish Brown in her re-election campaign for the Wayne-Westland School Board in 1997,” Retzliff said. “Indeed, just last year Ken Siver endured homophobic vandalism in his bid to become Southfield’s first openly gay mayor. Aside from hateful language, what many of these smear campaigns have had in common is their anonymity. That many who attack

See Smear, page 15

“That many who attack LGBTQ candidates tend to hide their identities suggests a sense of wrongdoing. Some might consider it cowardice.”

– Tim Retzliff, assistant professor in the Department of History & Center for Gender in Global Context at Michigan State University

# Workshop Teaches Life Skills, Empowers Trans Youth

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

**FERNDALE** – What does it mean to be heroic? Founder of Stand with Trans Roz Gould Keith said, “It’s about taking care of oneself, advocating for what you need, standing up to adversity, and living authentically.”

It’s with that in mind the theme “Be Your Own Hero” was selected for the second annual Stand with Trans Youth Empowerment Workshop on Oct. 16 for trans youth ages 12-24.

Building upon the success of last year’s inaugural event, the one-day workshop at Affirmations in Ferndale offers multiple sessions facilitated by trans advocates and LGBTQ-allied community leaders.

“This is really special and I’m so happy to be able to do this,” Keith said about the numerous topics trans youth will have the opportunity to discuss with some “amazing people who are role models for the kids.”

This includes Brayden Asher Misiolek, a trans man and co-founder of Transcend the Binary in Ferndale. He will help trans youth learn coping skills and techniques to work through anxiety, tough situations and moments of panic. Kelly Darke, the mother of a trans

son and a certified art therapist at the Mindful Art Center in Livonia, will teach art therapy which can be relaxing and calming.

Diane Schultz - a trans woman, retired police officer and private investigator – will join Hannah Hartley – a trans woman and president of the Gender Identity Network Alliance in Ferndale – to teach vocal feminization tips to better align trans youth with their identity and build self-confidence.

“Youth think differently than most adults,” said Dani Woods, LGBT liaison officer for the Detroit Police Department, who will help trans youth learn how to interact with law enforcement, if and when needed.

Regardless of the circumstance, she said, “The police are starting to understand and learn LGBT culture and that’s primarily because our chief is supportive and allows me to train the department in how to interact with the LGBT community. It’s going to take time because of the negative stigma and everybody has their guard up, but law enforcement is trying.”

A majority of Woods’ training revolves around respect, which she said “goes both ways. It is important for us and for trans youth to address situations with open minds. We can’t expect someone to respect us if we don’t respect them.”



Azriel Apap, Hunter Keith, Jayson Olson, and Nolan Pokier attended the first annual Stand with Trans Youth Empowerment Workshop in 2015 at Affirmations in Ferndale.

For trans youth that are interested in learning how to interview like a professional, Lilianna Reyes, a trans woman and program services director at Affirmations, will explain what to wear, how to fill out a job application, and discuss common LGBTQ issues in the workplace. Additional sessions include spoken word poetry, music and mad libs, verbal self-defense, pet therapy, and improv and method acting.

Stand with Trans, a nonprofit organization,

was designed to provide these kinds of resources and tools needed by trans youth so they will be empowered, supported and validated as they transition to their authentic life. Keith, of Farmington, is also the creator of Ally Moms and the blog Call Him Hunter, about her life as the mom of a transgender teen.

“It’s a pretty amazing event,” Keith said. “I watched them come in last year to Affirmations scared and worried, and in a very short time,

See Workshop Empowers page 9

10.16.16

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For additional workshop information: [www.standwithtrans.org/upcoming-workshop](http://www.standwithtrans.org/upcoming-workshop)

## Human Rights Ordinance to be Introduced at Jackson City Council

**JACKSON** – Jackson City Councilmember Derek Dobies confirms he will be introducing a comprehensive human rights ordinance for consideration and possible adoption by the Jackson City Council on Oct. 11.

Dobies said he chose Oct. 11 because it is National Coming Out Day. Some residents are planning to rally outside Jackson City Hall before the meeting, as well as address the council in support of the legislative initiative.

Jackson touts itself as the birthplace of the Republican Party, and has been attempting to pass a comprehensive human rights law that includes the LGBT community since at least 2010.

The community has also been rocked by battles over the formation of a Gay Straight Alliance at the high school - when the American Family Association of Michigan, led by Gary Glenn, now a Republican lawmaker from Midland, threatened to sue the district in 2000-2001.

The city along with the county - in a cost saving move - hired Crystal Dixon of Ohio to run joint human resources operations for both governments. The problem? She had been fired from the University of Toledo for a letter to the editor in which she opined the LGBT community members were not victims of civil rights violations because they choose their sexuality.

## Give Detroit Challenge Supports Nonprofit Organizations

**DETROIT** - As the “season of giving” approaches, dozens of nonprofit organizations in southeast Michigan, such as the Ruth Ellis Center, will have the opportunity to raise awareness and fundraise through the second annual Give Detroit Challenge.

At the same time, they will compete for \$50,000 in cash prizes made possible by generous Challenge supporters Kroger and GiveYoung.org.

The team that raises the most money during the Challenge wins \$20,000 for their charity. Second, third, fourth and fifth place winners will earn some cash for their organizations, too.

The Challenge, presented by Hour Detroit ends Nov. 10. Visit the Give Detroit Challenge website [www.crowdrise.com/givedetroitchallenge](http://www.crowdrise.com/givedetroitchallenge), to find your favorite charity, donate and monitor the team leaderboard.

## Remembering Victims of Violence on Solidarity Sunday

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

It was just four months ago when LGBTQ people around the world stood in solidarity with the victims and survivors of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, June 12, the country’s largest massacre of LGBTQ people left 49 dead and 53 wounded. This tragedy made it clear that despite advances in LGBTQ civil rights, violence and hate still exist.

“The hatred, divisiveness and discrimination, and bullying, clothed under the guise of religious freedoms, ‘kids being kids’ or ‘homosexual activity’ being immoral, must stop,” said Father Charles Blanchard of Christ the Good Shepherd in Ferndale.

“Know that there is no time to hate, judge and marginalize people. When we choose to exact such a standard, know that you and I are unable to freely love. I ask you and others, whom we would know as informed and uninformed, to pray for the innocent victims and their families, actively work to ferret out institutional discrimination and challenge religious leaders to cease and desist in leveraging the Koran, the Torah or the Bible as a weapon of mass destruction,” Blanchard said. “From my vantage point, when an issue, ideology or belief becomes more important than the dignity of another human being, it’s mean and cruel.”

In an effort to make opposition to anti-LGBTQ violence visible in congregations nationwide, DignityUSA has organized an interfaith initiative known as Solidarity Sunday held annually the weekend before National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11.

Since 1995, DignityUSA has advocated for respect and justice for all people in the Catholic Church and throughout the world regardless of their sexual orientation or

**In an effort to make opposition to anti-LGBTQ violence visible in congregations nationwide, DignityUSA has organized an interfaith initiative known as Solidarity Sunday held annually the weekend before National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11.**

gender identity. Approximately 35,000 participated in the first Solidarity Sunday. The project rapidly expanded over the last 20 years to include people from all denominations and organizations as well as individuals, and is now observed in almost every U.S. state.

Solidarity Sunday, this year on Oct. 9, is dedicated to the memory of the many who lost their lives through violence. “Let us collectively party to be strong given the horrific, terroristic and murderous rampage at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando,” Blanchard said. “To family so violently affected by hatred, discrimination, homophobia and genderphobia, know that you’re loved and rest assured you are not alone.”

Nathan Dennison, senior pastor at the First Congregational Church of Kalamazoo, explains how having faith and joining together in solidarity is a step toward peace and harmony.

“The undeniable truth of the Gospels is that God takes sides. And as much as we wish we were automatically on God’s team, often the church finds itself sitting with the Pharisees, arguing against Jesus’s good news of forgiveness, inclusion,

hope, joy, and abundant life. The church believes she has a monopoly on words like marriage, family, kinship and love. Those words don’t belong to the church. They belong to God,” Dennison said.

“In order to be faithful to Christ, the church must leave its place of comfort and go to where the people are hurting. Our church in Kalamazoo had endorsed many unpopular theological positions. We were abolitionists, suffragettes, freedom riders, and today we embrace marriage equality. We do these things not because we are liberals, or intellectuals, or postmodern. We do them because we are Christians. We bring healing and joy where there is pain, liberation where there is oppression, and hope where there is despair. It is precisely our faith that gives us the power to say ‘no’ to homophobia, transphobia and bigotry. And we won’t quit until all our neighbors are loved, just as we are loved. Jesus demands nothing less.”

## How to Participate

- Wear a Solidarity rainbow ribbon at all times, especially during religious services
- Pray for an end to anti-LGBTQ violence
- Educate your children, your faith community, your colleagues, and your friends about the need to stop violence against all people, especially LGBTQ people
- Take the Solidarity pledge [www.dignityusa.org/article/solidarity-pledge-online](http://www.dignityusa.org/article/solidarity-pledge-online)

For more information about Solidarity Sunday, visit DignityUSA’s website: [www.dignityusa.org/article/solidarity-sunday](http://www.dignityusa.org/article/solidarity-sunday).

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## ► Workshop Empowers

Continued from p. 7

they were talking, looking at the program and classes, and deciding what to do.”

While the trans youth are able to choose from one of three sessions in each of the four time slots offered, the “Legal Rights for Trans Individuals” session is scheduled for all of them to attend as 80 percent of trans youth feel unsafe in school and 58 percent report verbal harassment.

“I’m hoping that my presentation will be more of a dialogue with the students, where they can discuss challenges and problems that they have encountered at school and then I can talk about the different laws and remedies that might be implicated,” said ACLU LGBT Staff Attorney Jay Kaplan.

When asked if he connects with trans youth differently than adults to help them understand their legal rights, Kaplan said, “I don’t think I necessarily address young people differently than adults in presentations. When I try to explain the law, I try to take out the legalese and put it in terms that we can understand in our every day lives. I think when you give a presentation, no matter your audience, if you show respect and are able to understand where they are coming from, you will be able to convey your message.”

Not just trans youth are encouraged to join their peers for an incredible day of community, friendship and learning. Their parents or guardians are also invited to attend an afternoon session titled “I Hope I’m Doing This Right: Parenting Trans Youth,” presented by Sara Wiener, LMSW, Director of Mental Health Services, Child & Adolescent Gender Services, Mott Children’s Hospital, University of Michigan Health System in Ann Arbor.

“In this session, we’ll talk about the challenges and joys of raising a transgender or gender non-conforming child. Every parent I have ever met wants one thing: for their child to be happy and healthy. But when a child says their gender is different from the sex they were assigned at birth, parents experience a wide range of thoughts and feelings. All of these thoughts and feelings are normal, but parents struggle with them nonetheless. In my session, it’s my hope we will co-create a setting where parents can be real with themselves and each other, as we all share a common goal - healthy, happy kids.”

This validates research which shows that trans youth with supportive parents report they feel more satisfied in life, have a higher self-esteem, and are less likely to attempt suicide.

“I haven’t had anyone say, ‘I wouldn’t support this.’ Everyone has been incredibly positive,” Keith said about the impressive list of participating sponsors including GM PLUS (People Like Us), Be Well Medical Center, KnowResolve, the Ruth Ellis Center, Mercedes-Benz, Temple Israel, Focal Point, Pepper Hamilton Attorneys at Law, the Anti-Defamation League, Cripps & Silver, Miracle Coffee, Domino’s Pizza, Music Motion, Hillside Contemporary Furniture, Nakisher Orthodontics, Bernard Wealth Management, Joe Kort and Associates, Endocrine Kids, Pure Ryde Cycling Studio, Detroit Jewish News, Between The Lines, Mind Seed Creative, Focus Media, UnStill Life Images, and Eskimo Jacks.

“These businesses and organizations that are sponsoring us have already known how important this is or they’re providing a service that is relevant to the community or they are open and affirming, and this is their way to publicly show support,” Keith said, adding that Stand with Trans applied for a product grant with the Arbonne Charitable Foundation and received giveaway bags valued around \$200. Keith said the workshop has room for 70-75 trans youth (50 percent more than last year) and there are about 20 spaces left to fill.

For more information or to register for the event, visit the Stand with Trans website <http://standwithtrans.org>.

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## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### Heil Trump! And the 23 LGBT Per Centers!

There's a scene in the popular film/musical "Cabaret" where several German, blond, Aryan youths seated at an outdoor cafe, prompted by Nazi zeal and bombastic music, leap up one by one, and contagiously sing, "Tomorrow the world belongs to us!"

As far-fetched as it may seem, a big lie that Christian fundamentalists – who really believe that tomorrow the Trump world belongs to Jesus (Donald, Santorum, Ryan, Kim Davis) – are lip-synching is that homosexuals have a secret global agenda.

According to these theocrats, city by city, county by county, country by country, gays plan to take over daycare nurseries, schools, churches, theaters, governments, five-star restaurants and – the Lord of Gospel Prosperity unwilling – several more-popular Las Vegas casinos. (Bring on the Springtime-for-Hitler-and-Germany Drag Queens!)

These fundygelicals have it in their collective holy-roller-coaster, biblical brains that gays are members of a secret brotherhood of Satanic subversion, a Bund – to use the pre-World War II German collective noun – out to do in everything that's red-blooded American.

Actually the closest I've come to participating in a Gay Bund was in the late-'70s at the old Interchange, a leather bar that in its heyday was usually packed on weekends with quasi-military types, looking less and less butch and militant as the evening progressed and the liquor poured.

I happened to be there one memorable night for a "presentation of colors." Suddenly lights came on full glare. Loudspeakers blared "The Stars and Stripes Forever." American and leather-themed flags waved, each carried by well-groomed standard bearers in crisp blue shirts! Chest straps! Shiny chaps! Heil Castro! Heil Stonewall! Heil Vic Tanny!

It was impressive, and, given the setting and palatable zeal exhibited, a few zealous patrons actually took off their leather caps, wept and waved. All in all, it was rather surreal.

No, you can't convince this old turkey trotter that we gays constitute a secret Bund out to conquer this or any other unfortunately environmentally doomed continent for the gay lifestyle, as opposed to the militant born-again lifestyle.

According to an eye-opening article, "Protocols of the Velvet Mafia" in DNA magazine, a now-current right-wing strategy is to claim that a Nazi gay clique was ultimately responsible for the Holocaust that took the lives of 6 million Jews.

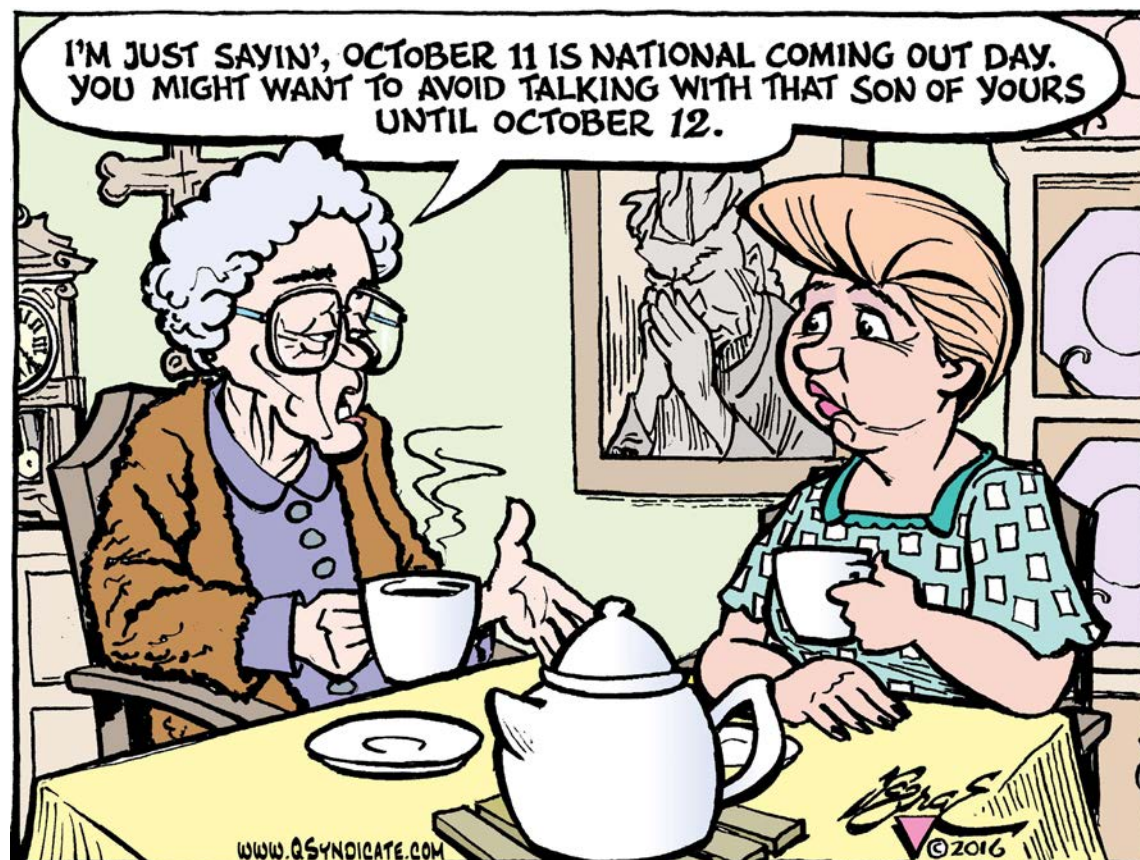
"American fundamentalist Christian communities are trying to recast the story of the Nazi Holocaust and lay the blame at the feet of gay men. Behind the Nazi's program of systematic slaughter of Jews, gypsies, leftists, homosexuals and other groups labeled as undesirable by the German state, fundamentalists see a secret battle between two different camps of gay men, with the Jews targeted for their disapproval of homosexuals."

This conspiracy theory is popularized by a book called, "The Pink Swastika" by self-styled historians Kevin Abrams and Scott Lively. This latter mental poop-scooper is an American Bible literalist active in the international – yes, the international! – anti-gay agitating movement known as the Watchmen on the Walls.

The historical facts stand in contrast to the anti-gay lies. Nazi Germany homosexuals were ruthlessly purged from party ranks, SS military service, public life whenever and wherever they were discovered or denounced. Hitler personally had his gay SA chief of staff and longtime friend, Ernst Rohm, murdered.

One-hundred and fifty gay arrests were made. Roughly 15,000 gay men were sent to concentration camps. They wore a pink triangle armband and

See Alexander: Heil Trump, next page



## BTL Editorial 'Inappropriate and Underhanded'

Last week, Democratic Eaton County Commissioner Howard Spence was the victim of a vile political smear job. A smear job that tracks back to his Republican opponent and her supporters.

We agree with Republican State Sen. Rick Jones of Grand Ledge – a politician not known for a warm embrace of the LGBT community – that this attack was "inappropriate" and "underhanded."

Spence was smeared by an anonymous website because he was the victim of what many experts in hate crimes labeled a "probable" anti-gay bias motivated robbery. In February, Spence invited a man to his home whom he had met via Craigslist. The man absconded with his wallet and his car. He attempted to use Spence's credit cards and the car was recovered in Detroit. That man is facing an Oct. 20 sentencing in Eaton County Circuit Court for unlawfully driving away an automobile and being a fourth habitual criminal.

But instead of applauding a legal system that has sought justice for Spence, his political opponents have taken the opportunity to revisit tired old tropes linking sexuality with vulnerability to blackmail. We've seen this play out in local, state and national politics for decades; and while we concur with political strategist Joe DiSano that this smear is unlikely to impact the final outcome of Spence's County Commission race, the reality is that the voters are the ultimate victims in this sensationalist heap of political malice. There is no discussion about policy, only innuendo and character

assassination fueled, apparently, by right wing anti-gay Christian theology.

This assassination was timed to coincide with the release of absentee ballots in Delta Township. We encourage voters in Delta Township to reject the politics of hate and bigotry and cast their ballot for Spence.

It is not lost on us that here, at the beginning of LGBTQ History Month, a politician is facing a 1950s style lavender menace assault. For decades, our sexualities have been used to prevent us from professions ranging from bar owner to politician to serving our country in the State Department, the armed forces, the CIA and the FBI. While that has slowly begun to change, this type of assault, so clearly drawn from outdated, bigoted perspectives of queer people, serves only to remind us that we have a long way to go to achieve full equality in America.

America outgrew McCarthyism. This sort of attack should be roundly and clearly condemned immediately by every person who thinks diversity in American politics is healthy for the body politic. That includes a clear, immediate statement from Spence's opponent condemning this vile smear for the bigotry and hatred it represents and an assurance to the voters of Eaton County that she will focus on policy; not personal ephemera. Anything less shows she is incapable of representing all the residents of Eaton County's Delta Township.

# Creep of the Week

## Larry Klayman

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Hey, have you heard the one about Hillary Clinton? Yeah, she's a lesbian.

I know what you're thinking: That joke was poorly constructed and executed and was not funny at all. And you're right! Because it is NOT A JOKE.

But don't take my word for it. Just ask Larry Klayman, who made a name for himself representing women who claimed to have had affairs with Bill Clinton. He lays it all out in an insightful piece posted to World Net Daily titled, "Hillary's Biggest Lie?"

Before you dismiss Klayman as an anti-gay bigot, know that he means no ill will!

"Let me make one thing clear," he begins. "I totally respect a person's right to live his or her life as he or she may choose, so long as no one is hurt as a result. And, that goes for someone's sexual preference, even though homosexuality is not endorsed in the Bible, and it is not my 'cup of tea.'"

See? He's "totally" a respectful guy even if he doesn't like "tea." He says that gays and lesbians "are generally very nice and kind, and they have a right to be treated equally, not discriminated against. They should be frankly left alone to be what they want to be. That's called 'freedom.'"

Not sure why he puts "freedom" in "quotes," but we'll take what we can get! So far Klayman's looking pretty fly for a right guy. Since he's being so "nice" I can "totally" trust him and can't wait to hear what he has to say.

"In today's world, it is no longer a social stigma to be gay or lesbian, and as a result the Supreme Court has even ruled that they constitutionally are to be accorded the right to marry each other," he continues. "As a result, I have much less respect for those

gays and lesbians who continue to live in the closet and hide their lifestyle."

Ah, I see. Apparently Klayman used to have some level of "respect" for closet cases, but now he doesn't because the Gay Good Life is legal and discrimination is a thing of the past. Thank you, Mr. Klayman! I'm sure gays and lesbians everywhere will hustle forthrightly out of the closet into your waiting and loving arms.

But wait, there's more: "Case in point, one Hillary Rodham Clinton, who has apparently lied about her sexual preference for decades to help pave the way for her presidential candidacy."

The rest of his column is full of rehashed rumors and accusations that have been following Clinton for years (and yet somehow, after decades in the public eye, there exists no evidence that she is a lesbian. So I guess she's a Ninja lesbian).

Klayman then writes, "[G]ays, lesbians and transgenders have to wonder why Hillary would call Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump a 'racist' against people of an alternative lifestyle, and then continue to lie about her own sexuality."

I'm not totally sure what he means here, but apparently he thinks that black and brown people are "of an alternative lifestyle," which makes sense since he's white. And he apparently also thinks that LGBT people are going to buy his concern that Clinton isn't a true champion of their rights since she's "ashamed" to be one of them.

WND readers, however, bought his hook, line, and sinker. The comments section is awash with people who think that Klayman is drinking the left's Kool-Aid to dare say "nice" things about LGBT people. They apparently believe him sincere. I, however, do not.

There are also many claims in the comment pit that President Obama is gay and that Michelle Obama is a "tranny." It's no wonder that WND readers have no problem believing Hillary Clinton is a lesbian. They just think that Klayman should have been "meaner" about it. Klayman and these deplorables truly deserve each other.

### ► Alexander: Heil Trump

Continued from p. 10

were subjected to horrific brutality.

As for Hitler, he may have had an undescended testicle – or, recently news reported, a micro penis – but he didn't switch hit. After 15 years he finally married his airhead, longtime mistress, blonde Eva Braun.

Two days later they committed suicide. Alas: 12 years, 50 million lives, 6 million Jews, 15,000 homosexuals too late. Heil Trump! Heil Santorum! Heil Ryan! (Heil the estimated 23 percent of LGBT voters pledged to vote for them.)

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# Supreme Court Cases in 2016-17 to Include RFRA, 'Sex' Definition

BY LISA KEEN

There will be at least one case before the U.S. Supreme Court this session testing the ability of groups to claim an exemption to state laws based on their religious affiliation. A second case is asking the court to decide whether a school can be denied state funding if it refuses certain students for religious reasons. And a third is seeking the court's opinion as to what "sex" means in the context of federal laws barring sex discrimination.

Oct. 3, was the first official day of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2016-17 session – a session that could have significant impact on prospects for equal protection for LGBT people. The court could decide how free a religious-oriented institution is to discriminate. And it could decide whether federal law already prohibits discrimination based on gender identity. Finally, the U.S. Senate is expected to confirm a ninth justice this term.

Here's a quick review of what to look for in the coming weeks:

## Gloucester v. Grimm (Case No. 16-273)

This is the transgender student case from Virginia. A three-judge panel of the 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled (in a 2 to 1 vote on April 19) that Title IX of the federal Education Amendments Act of 1972 – which prohibits discrimination based on sex by federally funded educational institutions – also prohibits discrimination based on gender identity.

The appeals panel majority's ruling in *Grimm v. Gloucester* came on preliminary motion in a lawsuit filed by a transgender student, Gavin Grimm, in Virginia. The preliminary motion requested that Grimm be able to use his public high school's boys' restrooms until his overall lawsuit – arguing that Title IX does cover gender identity – can be resolved.

The Gloucester school district appealed the 4th Circuit decision to the Supreme Court. In August, the Supreme Court agreed to stay the 4th Circuit's decision until it – the Supreme Court – could decide whether to take the case for review.

In its petition to the Supreme Court, the school district's primary argument is that, when Congress passed Title IX, it intended the word "sex" to mean "nothing more than male and female, under the traditional binary conception of sex consistent with one's birth or biological sex." The U.S. Department of Education's interpretation of "sex" to include "gender identity," it argues, amounts to creating new law.

**The court could decide how free a religious-oriented institution is to discriminate. And it could decide whether federal law already prohibits discrimination based on gender identity.**

Attorneys for Grimm, which includes the ACLU, submitted their reply brief Sept. 13. Their primary argument is that this case is "the wrong case at the wrong time." There are no conflicts – yet – among the various federal appeals courts, says the brief, and the 4th Circuit has not yet had a chance to rule directly on the merits of the central issue. ACLU attorneys also suggest Gloucester is attempting to expand the case into a challenge of the Department of Education guidelines; instead, says the ACLU, the case is just about the school district's own determination that Title IX does not cover gender identity.

Attorneys from most LGBT legal groups are expected to submit briefs on behalf of the student.

At deadline, the case had not yet been scheduled for a "conference," a meeting where the justices decide whether to take up the case. But Amy Howe at [scotusblog.com](http://scotusblog.com) says the case could be on the agenda for the Oct. 14 conference.

## Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado (Case No. 16-111)

One case that was scheduled for conference, for Sept. 26, was recently postponed to give the parties more time to submit their briefs.

The case involves a wedding cake baker, Jack Phillips, and his Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood, Colorado. When a same-sex couple asked the shop to prepare a cake for their wedding reception, Phillips said no, saying it was against his religious beliefs. Oddly, however, he agreed to sell them other baked goods.

The couple filed a complaint with the state Civil Rights Division, which agreed Phillips violated the state law barring sexual orientation discrimination in public accommodations. Phillips appealed through the state court system, which ruled against him. The Colorado Supreme Court refused to hear his appeal. And the Alliance Defending Freedom has taken the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The ADF's petition to the high court argues that Phillips' Christian belief "compels him to use his artistic talents to promote only messages that align with his religious beliefs." By ordering Phillips to create a wedding cake for a same-sex couple, says ADF, Colorado is violating the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech and "targets Phillips' religious beliefs about marriage. ..."

The case is similar to one out of New Mexico in 2013, *Elane Photography, LLC v. Willock*. In that case, the photographer, also represented by the ADF, said her religious objections to homosexuality should trump the state's interests in eradicating discrimination against LGBT people and that the First Amendment guarantee to freedom of speech should protect her ability to express her beliefs. The Supreme Court declined to hear the photographer's appeal.

The Supreme Court has given the ACLU, which is representing the same-sex couple, until Nov. 29 to file its response brief.

## Trinity Lutheran v. Pauley (Case No. 15-577)

One case the Supreme Court has agreed to hear this session also implicates state laws against non-discrimination and the church.

*Trinity v. Pauley* involves a conflict between the state of Missouri and a church-run daycare school that wants state funding to provide a softer surface for the school's playground.

The state's program, funded through a fee it imposes on the purchase of new tires, provides grants to nonprofit groups for such playground resurfacing. But nonprofits operated by churches are not eligible for the program. That's because the Missouri constitution states, "no money shall ever be taken from the public treasury, directly or indirectly, in aid of any church, sect or denomination of religion. ..."

Trinity Lutheran in Columbia says its exclusion from the state's scrap tire program violates the First Amendment's guarantee of Free Exercise and Free Speech, as well as Equal Protection and other clauses. A district court dismissed its lawsuit, and a divided 8th Circuit appeals court upheld that dismissal.

With the help of the ADF, the church appealed to the Supreme Court. In January, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

Lambda Legal submitted a brief saying it was concerned that many non-discrimination laws might be undermined – not only those prohibiting sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination but also religious discrimination. It notes the school's policy states it "does not discriminate (against) students on the basis of sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin. ..." It does not include religion, sexual orientation or gender identity.

"The omissions are unsurprising given that Trinity's parent denomination, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, holds that being lesbian, bisexual, gay or transgender is 'intrinsically sinful,'" states Lambda's brief.

"There is thus reason for concern that the (school) seeks government aid that would support discrimination in its program based on sexual orientation, gender identity and religion. ..."

Missouri's constitution, says Lambda, properly erects a fence between church and state.

Missouri does not have any state laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, but the case has implications for the longstanding friction between the U.S. Constitution's free exercise guarantee and state laws that do prohibit sexual orientation/gender identity discrimination.

Lambda attorney Camilla Taylor said the ADF is "pushing the idea that whenever government denies funding to an organization based on religion, this is discrimination on the basis of religion."

"This is not a new argument," said Taylor, "but it's come up in a context – for a grant program in Missouri – in a way that is particularly concerning."

A ruling in this case could open the way for such groups as Catholic Charities – which will not place foster children in gay homes – to tap into government funding even while violating non-discrimination laws.

The Supreme Court has not yet set the date for argument in *Trinity*, but it was not scheduled for October or November.

Meanwhile, the high court will be opening its 2016-17 session with only eight justices on the bench. Republicans, who control the Senate, continue their blockade against President Obama's nominee to replace the late Justice Antonin Scalia. When Scalia died in February, Obama nominated federal appeals Judge Merrick Garland of the D.C. Circuit to replace him.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said this month that the Senate will not vote on Garland's nomination this year even if Democrat Hillary Clinton is elected president. Some political observers had speculated the Senate Republicans might want to confirm Garland, who is seen by most as a moderate, if Clinton is elected, rather than allow her to choose a more liberal nominee.

The Senate has also refused to vote on a number of other nominees to federal courts, including that of lesbian attorney Inga Bernstein, who has been nominated to the district court bench for Massachusetts. President Obama nominated her in July 2015.

# Trump Adds Names to Supreme Court Wish List

BY JILL COLVIN

(AP) – Before the first Presidential debates, Donald Trump added 10 names to the list he says he'd use to fill Supreme Court vacancies if he becomes president.

The announcement of the new names, three days before the first presidential debate, appears to be another attempt by the Republican nominee to solidify support among conservatives still reticent about his candidacy. Among those added: conservative Utah Sen. Mike Lee, a close friend of former Trump rival Ted Cruz. Both have yet to endorse Trump.

The list adds several minority judges to Trump's previously all-white list, including Venezuelan-born Federico Moreno, a 64-year-old judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. The list also includes an African American judge, a South-Asian judge and a female judge who served in the Marines.

In May, Trump unveiled his original list of 11 federal and state court judges as potential replacements for the late Justice Antonin Scalia. At the time, he was trying to rally conservatives and clinch the nomination.

He and his allies have repeatedly cited control of the Supreme Court as a top reason why Republican skeptics should rally around his candidacy.

"We have a very clear choice in this election. The freedoms we cherish and the constitutional values and principles our country was founded on are in jeopardy," Trump said in a statement.

Trump has sometimes varied in his descriptions of the names – at times suggesting they would serve more as a guide to the kinds of judges he'd select rather than a definitive list.

But Trump assured the names were set. "This list is definitive and I will choose only from it in picking future justices of the United States Supreme Court," he stated.

Lee is a Utah Republican who serves on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Lee responded with a statement: "The Supreme Court is very important and I appreciate being considered. Right now I'm focused on my job in the Senate, where I'm in a good position to defend the Constitution by fighting against government overreach," he said.

Lee is the second member of his family to appear on Trump's wish list. His brother, Thomas, who has served as a justice on Utah's Supreme Court since 2010, was on the original list.

"While my brother and I might disagree as

to which list is better, they're both great," the senator joked.

Moreno is the only Latino judge on Trump's list. He was appointed to the Florida court by President George H.W. Bush.

Also on the list:

- Charles Canady, a justice of the Florida Supreme Court. A former Florida Congressman, Canady was the prime sponsor of the first congressional effort to ban the procedure abortion opponents call "partial-birth abortion." He also served as general counsel to former Florida governor and Trump rival Jeb Bush, according to a biography from the conservative Federalist Society think tank.

- Timothy Tymkovich, chief judge of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Tymkovich formerly served as Solicitor General in Colorado, where he argued several cases in front of the Supreme Court. Among them: Colorado's failed bid to preclude the state from providing legal protections for gays and lesbians.

- Amul Thapar, a judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. Thapar, who is of South Asian descent, has also served as an assistant U.S. Attorney in Washington and in the Southern District.

- Robert Young, chief justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. The only African American judge on Trump's list, Young previously served as a judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals.

- Keith Blackwell, a justice of the Georgia Supreme Court. Blackwell previously served on the Georgia Court of Appeals and as deputy special attorney general in the state.

- Neil Gorsuch, a judge of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. Gorsuch previously served in the Justice Department as a deputy assistant attorney general.

- Margaret Ryan, a judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. The only woman added to Trump's list, Ryan is a Marine Corps veteran who was deployed to Philippines during an uprising and to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War.

- Edward Mansfield, a justice of the Iowa Supreme Court. Mansfield previously served as a judge on the Iowa Court of Appeals.

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# ArtWorks Detroit Supports Michigan AIDS Community

BY BTL STAFF

**DETROIT** - Carl Demeulenaere has lost several friends and one family member to AIDS. As a result of these tragic losses, including his mother's passing, he said his philosophies about art and life markedly changed in the early 90's. It motivated him to begin doing volunteer work for AIDS research organizations and as an artist, he said he became interested in examining the public's perception of the homosexual community.

"I decided that there was a need to communicate a positive message about my community and to show, in turn, how all communities were universally linked. The legacy of compassion and understanding left to me by my mother and friends impelled me to use my artistic abilities to make an appeal for understanding, tolerance, and respect between all minorities," said Demeulenaere, a Detroit-born gay artist who came from a small and closely-knit family.

"Virtually all my statements have concluded with the sentence, 'As a homosexual, I have striven to give my history the sanctity usually denied it.' It's still a relevant line, having a breadth of meaning which, hopefully, continues to resonate in my work. I must also state that I'm presently

seeking to give my history the sanctity I often feel I've been deprived of by fate, and I'm searching for far more answers now than in any other time in my life."

Works by Demeulenaere, known for his miniature-scaled



View works by Carl Demeulenaere on his website [www.carls-artwork.com](http://www.carls-artwork.com).

paintings, drawings, sculptural objects, and jewelry, will be on display at the ArtWorks Detroit 21st anniversary celebration on Oct. 7 from 6-11:45 p.m. at the A. Alfred Taubman Center for Design Education.

Other Detroit artists featured include Barbara Dorchen, Marcia Freedman, Sergio De Giusti, Mel Rosas, Ted Lee Hadfield, Robert Schulman, Kyle "Rise" Irving, Katie Bramlage, James Stephens, Laurie Tennent, and Albert Young.

The annual event, hosted this year at the College for Creative Studies at 460 W. Baltimore in Detroit, benefits Matrix MAC Health, a new HIV/AIDS prevention, advocacy and education services program.

"We felt there was a need to include the arts community of Metro Detroit in the fight against HIV and AIDS," said Demeulenaere about the merger of Matrix Human Services with the Michigan AIDS Coalition in 2015. "Twenty one years have seen quite a few changes in our evolution, but our focus has always been resolute. I look at the ever-evolving ArtWorks Detroit event as a barometer of where we were in the 90's and where we still have to go today and in the future."

The ArtWorks Detroit Committee's four co-chairs are Ted Lee Hadfield, Barbara Bunting, Peter Gahan, and Demeulenaere. The remaining committee members are Eric Longs, Tod Peplinski, Steve Schoeberlein, Jeff Cancelosi, Steve Rost, Irving, and project coordinator

Monica Mills.

"The affiliation of Michigan AIDS Coalition and Matrix Human Services represents a progressive, entrepreneurial approach to driving the mission of fighting this horrible epidemic. In combining these complimentary programs, we are ensuring that the work of both organizations will carry forward, while giving confidence to our supporters that we continue to be successful in an ever more efficient and effective manner," states Terry Ryan, former MAC chief executive officer.

Matrix is proud to continue the legacy of excellence and care represented by MAC and welcomes them to the Matrix family.

"This merger creates a full-service spectrum for the communities we serve. None of these services are duplicative, so the scope of care and assistance now available to the community is greatly enhanced and fully connected under the Matrix umbrella of programming," said Karen Bisdorf, MHS chief operating officer.

MHS is a Detroit-based non-profit social service organization offering a range of programs devoted to maintaining and supporting the family unit and improving the quality of life for individuals of all ages. Serving the community for 110 years, its primary mission is to fight generational poverty. MHS operates in more than 40 locations throughout the city of Detroit. Through its Head Start pre-K programming, community center, teen counseling and HIV outreach, MHS is working to educate children, support families and stabilize neighborhoods.

MAC was formed in 2009 in a strategic merger between the Michigan AIDS Fund and the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project, bringing together nearly 35 years of expertise in fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The mission of MAC is to prevent HIV/AIDS in Michigan by promoting healthy lifestyles, providing and investing in evidence-based, innovative programs, and through advocacy and education.

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**"There really is a difference"**

► **Smear**

Continued from p. 15

LGBTQ candidates tend to hide their identities suggests a sense of wrongdoing. Some might consider it cowardice.”

Spence does not identify as gay, but has said he’s gay/bi friendly.

Michael Rogers, a national expert on outing LGBTQ politicians who are in the closet, said Spence did not fit the criteria he uses in determining who to target and why.

For him, a politician or political operative’s sexual orientation is only a political issue if that person is actively working against LGBTQ equality. “Then the reporting is about hypocrisy,” he said.

Spence testified in favor of the 2013 Delta Township comprehensive human rights ordinance.

Eaton County politicians from both the GOP and the Democratic Party are crying foul over the website.

“No one who is the victim of a crime – whether it’s a hate crime or not – should have that held against them,” said state Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge. “This is underhanded and unacceptable campaign tactics.”

Ken Fletcher, a Democrat and the Delta Township Supervisor, called the attack website “disappointing.”

“A person’s sexuality is theirs to disclose

when and if they are ready,” said Emily Dievendorf, interim president of the Lansing Association for Human Rights. “The individual who outed this dedicated public servant did so with the intention of attacking his credibility and destroying his career. But our credibility has nothing to do with our sexuality, how responsible we are has nothing to do with whether we use a dating site, and a victim is a victim and without blame for the violence directed at them regardless of whether you approve of who they are.”

Dievendorf also took issue with the website author claiming Spence had been “irresponsible.”

“Due to the stigma against LGBTQ people, we have found online dating and hookup sites to be one of few places we can meet potential partners without the possible threat of violence and public shaming should our interest not be reciprocated,” she said. “In this case, the only reason finding a partner online is being touted as ‘irresponsible’ is because of the victim’s sexuality. We all should be able to expect safety when we meet up with a friend or a date. Regardless of our sexuality, or the way we planned to spend time with our friend, we are victims and free of blame when our safety is threatened.”

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# CHANGED FOR THE *Better*

Photo: Gian Andrea di Stefano

## Kristin Chenoweth on LGBT Love During Her 'Nobody' Years, Dismissing Gay Haters & the Christian Man She Saved

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**B**efore celebrated soprano Kristin Chenoweth morphed into a mélange of nice and naughty personalities both on stage and screen, from Glinda in “Wicked” in 2003 to her forthcoming role as Velma Von Tussle in NBC’s “Hairspray Live!,” the Broadway icon was a “nobody.”

Except, she notes, to the gay community.

Our bond with Chenoweth is for good, as demonstrated on a recent afternoon, the same day as the release of her sixth studio album, “The Art of Elegance.” Then, the 48-year-old rang to look back at the unexpected exchange that established her place within the LGBT community, along with an unforgettable moment in her career that “really affected me” – when a gay Christian man revealed to her that she saved his life.

**Happy release day, Kristin! Where are you in the world right now?**

I am in terrible traffic in New York trying to get to Morristown, New Jersey for my show tonight.

**Are you gonna make it?**

Well, I’m supposed to do a live Facebook feed at 5:30, so we might be pushing it a little. But it’s OK. I’ll get there some way or another. The Facebook feed might be from the car!

**A la James Corden’s “Carpool Karaoke”?**

I’ll do my warmups from the car, exactly.

**You and your “Wicked” co-star, Idina Menzel, both have solo albums being released today. Why have we not heard another duet with you two since “Wicked”?**

I don’t know.

**I’m surprised.**

Me too! I’m surprised too. I think it’s just timing and scheduling, and what would we do? We’d probably want to make it really cool and different and original. But I don’t know. I think it’d be something we could write ourselves, maybe. That’d be cool.



**What goes through your mind on album release day?**

You just have to release it and just go, "That's my creation and I hope you like it!" (Laughs) You know, it's a lot of pressure, actually. But then once it's out, it's not, because then it's just... what it is. And that's a lot of relief.

**So aside from the traffic right now, you're feeling relief?**

Yeah, I am. I am!

**How can a gay man like myself achieve elegance if he can't sing?**

(Laughs) You guys actually have nailed the whole elegance thing already. You don't really need my help! And if you can't sing, I'm positive you're doing it in other ways. I've always said: "If you want anything done right, if you want anything done good, if you want anything to look good, hire your gay best friend." You guys have nailed it – nailed it! – when it comes to just about everything.

**So, you've been employing a good portion of the gay community since the beginning of your career?**

(Laughs) I can't imagine that that would not be true! Yes. That *is* true! That is *very* true. And it's just a bond I have. I can't explain it. I just can't.

**For your upcoming return to Broadway in November, what's it like to know that your out costume designer and "Project Runway" winner, Christian Siriano, also designed for Michelle Obama?**

I am a smart girl; I know *everyone* who he designs for. I am lucky that he said yes!

**What's the most memorable conversation you've had with a gay fan?**

The second record I made was a Christian record (2005's "As I Am"). So, I was doing one of those talks – one of those moderated talks. After it was over I did a meet and greet, and I was signing the album and a guy comes up to me – he was probably about 35 and he was so cute and kind – and he just said, "I want to thank you for helping me. Just recently you helped save my life." And I was like, "Wait, whoa, what?" And he just said, "My whole life I've been told I was going to hell. And I'm gay and I love God and I'm Christian and I was able to show my family that, 'Look at this girl. She made this album and she thinks I'm OK.'" That was 10, 12 years ago. That really affected me and stayed with me. One I really remember.

**Do you think about these powerful exchanges when you're making music?**

Yeah, I do. I think about lots of kids who are persecuted by their very own families for who they are or what they believe or even what they want to do with their life. That's a

really – that's harsh. My parents weren't that way. I have such deep compassion for anyone who feels like they've been ostracized by their own family.

**When in your professional career did you know the gay community loved you back?**

Oh gosh. The first time I felt it I was doing a show on Broadway called "Steel Pier" (in 1997) and it was not a hit. But it was a big, splashy Broadway musical, and I had a pretty incredibly difficult aria to sing in that show. I remember leaving the show one night. I was a nobody. I was just starting. And there was a group waiting for me. I figured they were waiting for Karen Ziemba or Debra Monk, and all of a sudden they were like, "Kristin, Kristin!" and I turned over and there's this fabulous group standing there and they go, "Will you sign our program?" And I said, "Me? Are you sure? Really?" (Laughs) They said, "Yeah. You! You're incredible. Your voice, your voice! And you're not lip syncing – that's fabulous!"

So I was signing the program and this one guy reached over and grabbed my hand and said, "Us gays love you!" I just remember smiling so big and feeling the power and the love and I sent it right back. I guess that's been going on ever since. But really, ever since I was a little girl too, because I had friends who were outsiders because of their orientation. I am so thrilled at how far things have come and how far they're coming. I just keep praying that it keeps evolving and changing and becoming more open and that people are allowed to love who they love and marry who they want to marry.

**As someone who's been a staunch supporter of LGBT issues and rights, what's going through your mind regarding this election and whether, if elected, Donald Trump could affect the progress we've made in the LGBT community?**

I don't think it will affect it that much in that arena, but I worry about other arenas. I worry about world safety – *our* safety. When your brother is kind of running off at the mouth, you go, "OK." But when somebody you don't know does it, it's scary. That's the way I view it. Like, how will we be viewed? So, I am like the rest of the world. I am in shock.

**How much flak have you received from conservative Christians because of your support of the community?**

Oh, I've definitely lost fans. I've been fired from Women of Faith. The haters online and on social media are there. But I don't know... I think I've gotten tougher or somethin'.

**The negativity has had the opposite effect on you?**

Yeah, yeah. I think so.

See Kristin Chenoweth, page 19

**"EXQUISITE. AN EMOTIONAL POWERHOUSE"**

-Chicago Tribune

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## Radio's LGBTQ Youth Program Announces Bureau at Michigan State University

**EAST LANSING** – Students at Michigan State University who are LGBTQ and straight allies will soon be able to work on a nationally distributed public radio program. OutCasting, public radio's LGBTQ youth program, based in New York, is now partnering with MSU to establish a new bureau based at the university.

Opened in February, the MSU Bureau will soon begin production this fall. LGBTQ students and allies are asked to contribute stories and other material to OutCasting, which is heard online and on more than 45 public radio stations affiliated with the Pacifica Radio Network.

OutCasting was founded in 2011 by Marc Sophos, a 1983 graduate of MSU, who also serves as the program's executive producer. Sophos supervises the program's home studio in Westchester County, New York, and its New York City Bureau.

"We're very excited about this new alliance with Michigan State. This is our first expansion outside of the New York metropolitan area, and it's going to enable OutCasting to present a wider range of LGBTQ youth experiences and perspectives," Sophos said.

Sophos also said that the experience of establishing a bureau at MSU will

provide OutCasting with a template that can be replicated at other colleges and universities across the country as the program seeks to expand the diversity of perspectives it presents.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for our students to tell their stories and produce quality journalism on LGBTQ topics," Deanna Hurlbert, director of the LBGT Resource Center at MSU said. She added that the alliance between MSU and OutCasting represents a rare opportunity for young people to gain practical experience working on a nationally distributed program.

OutCasting, produced by LGBTQ and allied students, reaches a general audience online and on public radio stations around the country, and thus contributes to the ongoing national discussion on LGBTQ issues, particularly as seen from a youth perspective.

The program has covered topics from bullying and suicide prevention, LGBTQ issues in religion and education, marriage equality, transgender identities and issues to healthy relationships, and more.

OutCasting has had the pleasure of working with nationally known guests such as: Olympian Greg Louganis,

Huffington Post columnist Michelangelo Signorile, Brian Healey of Athlete Ally, Evan Wolfson of Freedom to Marry, writer/activist Dan Savage, transgender athlete Chris Mosier, and many more.

In addition to telling stories, students will learn how to identify and research topics, interview guests, and create documentaries and other forms of programming. They will also gain substantive knowledge about the LGBTQ topics OutCasting covers.

OutCasting is currently working to increase its production schedule and the number of stations carrying the show so that its reach and influence can cover a wider diversity of voices and perspectives.

On the program's website, Sophos says that OutCasting is also a space for closeted LGBTQ and the program will take steps to maintain confidentiality for those individuals who have the opportunity to work behind the scenes.

Information for students interested in participating is available at OutCasting's web site <http://OutCastingMedia.org/msu>. Additional information can be requested through the web site or through the Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/outcastingmedia>.

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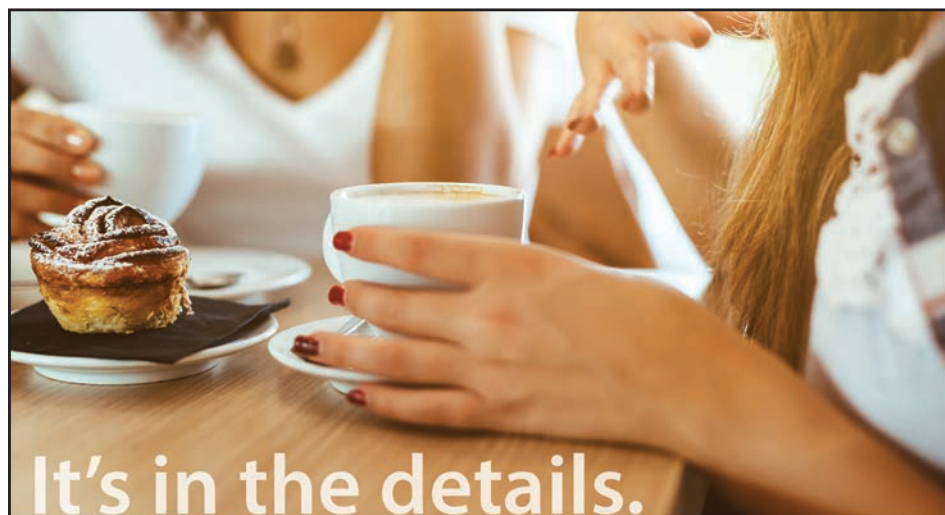


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## ► Kristin

Continued from p. 17

### Why do you think that is?

Well, even if you believe different things, you still want to be able to have music in common. And now, I guess maybe what's changed is, it's OK if you don't like my music. If you don't like what I believe, maybe I don't want you to.

### If you have a random run-in with a gay man, what work of yours is he most likely to compliment?

It varies! It's so interesting. A lot of times it will be "Candide," a lot of times it will be "Glee" or "Pushing Daisies." A lot of "Pushing Daisies"! It was a good one, right?

### So good. And "GCB"!

And "GCB"! Oh my gosh, of course. How could I leave that one out? They love that one.

### There's a song on this new album for just about every occasion. If you could dedicate any classic song from this album to your gay following, which would it be?

Just on sheer orchestration, melody and lyric and, of course, no soprano – all belt – I'm gonna go with "Skylark" because it's complicated. It's not easy to sing, and I feel like they'd know that and appreciate it and love it.

### Your voice is surprisingly deeper on this album.

I do go deep! It's changing!

### You're going through a late puberty?

I guess so! I'm like, when was someone gonna tell me this was gonna happen? I've still got the high, but my voice is dropping.

### Are you comfortable with your voice changing?

Oh yeah! Because I think 10 years ago – five years ago even! – I would've done an even different piece and it would've been what you would've expected from me. But this necessarily isn't. I love that.

### As someone who played Glinda the Good Witch, what can people expect when you play her antithesis, Velma Von Tussle, in December in "Hairspray Live!"?

I'm so lucky that I haven't been too terribly typecast! You know, I'm definitely gonna have a fabulous wig. I'm definitely gonna have fabulous makeup and costumes. I'm also going to really go there with her. I mean, she's not necessarily lovable, but I'm gonna try to make her fun to hate. ("Hairspray Live!" composer) Marc Shaiman has been working with me a little bit to make the song

"Miss Baltimore Crabs" a little more my own. More crazy high notes, some low ones too. Physically, a lot of fun stuff. I'm excited.

### How do you like playing someone with opposite morals and values?

I think that's why I enjoy her – I'm thinking, "Kristin, you would never be that way!" (Laughs) It's kind of fun to delve into someone who is polar opposite because she is polar opposite.

### You've collaborated with many people throughout your career. What comes to mind when you think of the following? First, obviously: Idina Menzel.

We made magic together.

### She's not into the idea of having other actresses take your parts in a "Wicked" film. How do you feel about it?

I totally agree with her. We want someone who can do what we did. We don't want someone who can make it sound good in the studio. We want someone who can actually sing.

### How about when you sang Mika's "Popular" mashup with him in 2013 in New York City?

Oh my gosh. He is – oh, let's see – an open vessel! He has no edit. He's like Prince in a way. He's just music. So, I have so much deep love and respect for him. He is a star.

### And Jennifer Lopez, whose BFF you played in 2015's "The Boy Next Door."

She wants the best for me. Loyal. Real. A friend. And fun to work with! We laughed all the time. Ahh, I love her. And that movie – it's a guilty pleasure.

### I have a feeling the gay community might have found it more pleasurable than the general public.

I think so! And I'm fine with that.

### Your "Glee" co-star Matthew Morrison?

Beautiful, best spirit, supportive, protective. He wants to be great so he works hard. Again, nothing but respect there.

### And you worked with Betty White when you guest starred on an episode of "Hot in Cleveland" – what stands out to you about her?

I said to her, "How do I find the balance in life?" And she said, "You don't. You're a lifer. Accept it. You're a lifer. You were born to do this and this is what you're supposed to do, period."

*Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. He can proudly say Mariah Carey once called him a "daaahhhling." Reach him via his website at [www.chris-azzopardi.com](http://www.chris-azzopardi.com) and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).*

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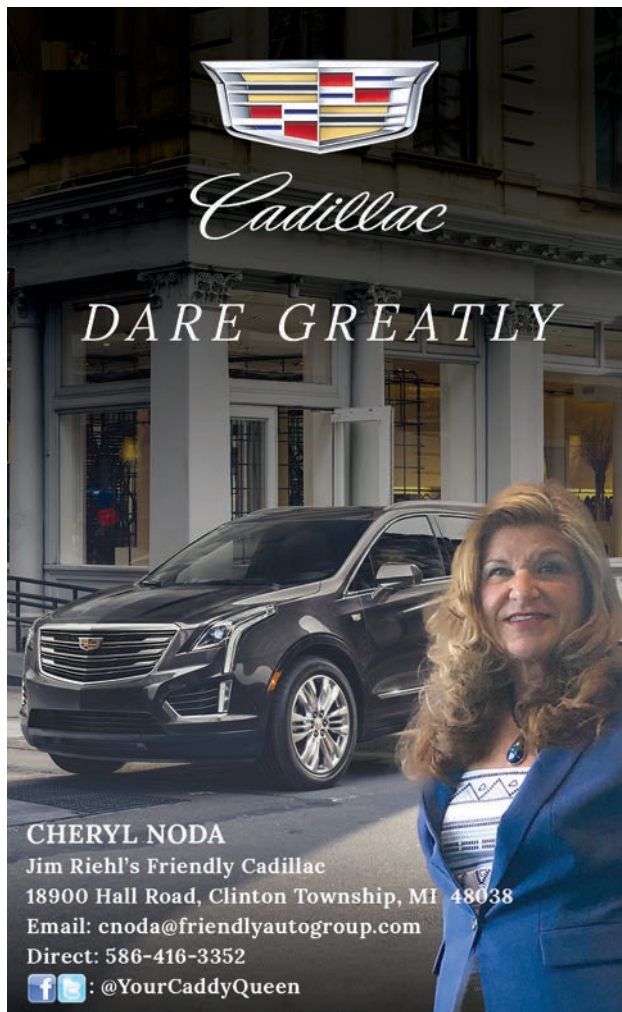
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# Hometown Author to Visit Ann Arbor

## Debut Novel Will Launch on National Coming Out Day

BY KEITH ORR

It's a mystery. It's a coming out story. It's both. "Last Seen Leaving" by Caleb Roehrig is a coming out mystery. Not only is it successful on each level, but both the mystery and (especially) the coming out story are better served by the hybrid genre. Don't be fooled. This is not a brilliant-kid-detective-mystery. This is a story that captures the fear of sexuality and coming out as a young adult, challenges assumptions, and ultimately rings true. This is a coming out story in which coming out is integral to the character, and a part of a larger plot and experience.

Flynn Doherty's girlfriend, January McConville, is missing. The cops figure Flynn must know something. Not only does he know nothing, but the more he tries to make sense of it all, the more he wonders if his perception of his girlfriend is all wrong. Flynn meets January's new friends at her new school. Stories conflict and facts don't add up.

On top of it all, Flynn has secrets of his own. He is afraid to talk to cops, or even friends, in fear of exposing his secrets. Ultimately, learning the truth about January forces Flynn to confront the truth about himself.

January is as central a character in this novel as Flynn, and yet she has disappeared before the first page. We only know her through flashbacks and statements from friends, family and acquaintances. In other words, we only know her through the perceptions of others. Since Flynn's life is based on protecting how others perceive him, the entire novel is built on perceptions, and we are never sure if we are seeing the character, or seeing the character through smoke and mirrors.

I asked Caleb about how he came to write this young-adult-coming-of-age-coming-out-mystery.

"I've always been a suspense junkie, and so, reading or writing, I generally gravitate towards mysteries and thrillers – and, in particular, I love stories that revolve around missing persons. Not knowing what happened to the central figure in a story opens the door to so many intriguing possibilities – it could be a book about murder, or kidnapping, or something else entirely. It's not a 'whodunit' but a 'what happened?' I



**SAVE THE DATE**

### Book Signing

You can help Caleb Roehrig celebrate the launch of "Last Seen Leaving" at Common Language Bookstore in Ann Arbor on Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. Copies of the book will be available for sale and the author will be available to autograph your copy. Wine and light refreshments will be served.

the unreal world of reality television. A world traveler on a budget, he has traveled to over 30 countries. But his hometown is Ann Arbor. I asked him about returning to Ann Arbor for his book launch party:

"Coming back to Ann Arbor for my book's launch means a lot to me. Although I moved away 15 years ago, it's still my hometown. It's where I grew up, it's where my novel takes place, and – like the characters in 'Last Seen Leaving' – it's where I tangled with a lot of the deeper issues that teenagers face when trying to negotiate their identities within their environment. I have a lot of love for Ann Arbor; it has the great, close-knit feel of a smaller town, with the broader, cultural sensibilities of a big city."

I also asked him about his relationship with Common Language Bookstore.

"As for my history with Common Language, I can't say enough how much it mattered to me as a teenager that my town had a bookstore that specifically catered to the LGBT community. At a point in time when I was hiding in plain sight (so to speak) and barely able to admit to myself who I really was inside – because I was so afraid of the target that being 'different' would paint on my back – there existed this amazing place right in the center of town that was a positive acknowledgement of that identity. I could walk through the door of Common Language and, even if just for a few minutes, stop being constantly afraid of being perceived as 'gay.' Having a place that not only embraced that part of me, but also celebrated it, was absolutely crucial to my self-confidence. I couldn't be more thrilled that the launch is taking place there."

*Keith Orr and his husband Martin Contreras are owner/operators of Common Language Bookstore and the \aut\ BAR. Both are avid readers and activists for social justice. You can shop online at [www.gbtbooks.com](http://www.gbtbooks.com).*

always wanted to write one of my own, but could never figure out what my angle would be.

"Meanwhile, I also really wanted to write a book about a gay teenager – something that could contribute to what is an expanding canon of work intended for young readers that explores LGBTQ issues – but I couldn't figure out my angle there, either. When I put the two half-ideas together, though, I realized I had the plot of a single novel."

Though Caleb has been writing for years, "Last Seen Leaving" is Caleb's debut novel and, other than the occasional blog post, his first published work. He landed a book deal in 2015 fulfilling his dream of publication. Caleb told me, "... it's as good an opportunity as any to let aspiring writers know that sometimes it takes a while to find and create the project that's meant to be. I don't think I know any writers who nailed it the very first time, and although rejection sucks, it's an inevitable part of the game. Keep writing, keep reading, and your craft only gets better!"

Caleb has lived in Chicago, Los Angeles and Helsinki, working as an actor and producer in film, television, and



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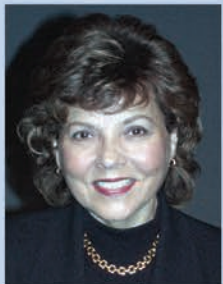
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# Happenings

## Editor's Pick

### OUTINGS

#### Thursday, Oct. 6

**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

**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

**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, Oct. 7

**All Gender Film Night Special Event** 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 West Nine Mile, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com Affirmations.org

**Detroit Zumba All Stars Fitness Party** 7 p.m. Experience the 7th edition of Detroit's Largest Fitness Party along with your favorite male/female instructor teams! Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Detroit Z All Stars, 111 E Kirby, **Detroit**. 313-587-6203. detroitzumbaallstars@gmail.com http://dzas.weebly.com

#### Saturday, Oct. 8

**6th Annual Witches' Bazaar** 9 a.m. Over 50 vendors. Free swag bags to first 200 attendees. Wander an emporium of magical gifts, meet and speak with real practicing Witches. Free and open to the public. Detroit Metro Area Pagans, 8201 East Old 13 Mile Rd., **Warren**. http://midwestwitchesbazaar.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

**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

**Motor City Bears** 6:30 p.m. A gay male, social and fund raising activity group



**Affirmations Fall Fling**  
 Fall Fling 2016, Affirmations' annual Fall celebration of metro Detroit's LGBTQ community and its allies, will feature live entertainment, cocktails, delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts. Held inside Affirmations, attendees will have the opportunity to support Affirmations in one of its biggest annual fundraisers. First time attendees should expect an opportunity to see the center in action, welcome the beauty of the new season and get to know the staff and volunteers. Revenue from the event will support Affirmations' life-transforming programs and services. Fall Fling will be held Oct. 8 starting at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$50. Attendees are encouraged to wear casual attire.

For more information and to sign up visit <http://www.goaffirmations.org/fall-fling-2016>.  
 Affirmations is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale.

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

**Fall Fling 2016** 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.Goaffirmations.org

**Fury Road to Thunderdomes DROPZONE - A Mad Max Cosplay Event** 7 p.m. Tickets: \$25 advance; \$30 at the door. Static Network, 715 E. Milwaukee, **Detroit**. 313-873-2955. info@staticrecords.com www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2597422

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

#### Sunday, Oct. 9

**Motown Invitational Classic Bowling Tournament** Registration is now open. Cost is \$100 per bowler and \$50 per non-bowler. Visit the website for tournament rules. MIC, **Visit website for details**. secretary@mictournament.org www.mictournament.org

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

**LGBTQ Solidarity Sunday** 9 a.m. Dedicated to the lives of those LGBTQ that have been lost to violence. Wear a solidarity rainbow ribbon at all times, especially religious services, pray for an end to anti-LGBT violence, educate your children and more. Event is free. DignityUSA, **Detroit**. michael@leslie.com www.dignityusa.org/action/participate-solidarity-sunday-october-9-2016

**Blessing of the Animals** 10 a.m. Guest Preacher Marilyn Schueneman. Please bring your pet leashed or caged. Salem United Church of Christ, 33424 Oakland, **Farmington**. 248-474-6880. uccsaalem@yahoo.com salemucc.us

**27th Annual Fall Detroit Camper & RV Show** 11 a.m. See displays of recreation vehicles, more than 280 units and 50 brands including folding campers, motorhomes, travel trailers, truck campers, toy haulers and fifth wheel travel trailers. Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, children 12 and under

are free. MARVAC, 46100 Grand River Ave., **Novi**. 5867526381. gmonette@allseasonscommunications.com www.marvac.org

**2016 Detroit Art Book Fair** 4 p.m. This year's fair will feature over 30 independent publishers from around the US and Canada. DittoDitto, 1464 Gratiot Ave, **Detroit**. 313-737-6606. newdetroitssounds@hotmail.com

#### Tuesday, Oct. 11

**28th National Coming Out Day** 9 a.m. Human Rights Campaign, **Detroit**. www.hrc.org/resources/national-coming-out-day

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

#### Wednesday, Oct. 12

**Bianca Del Rio: Not Today Satan** 7 p.m. Tickets: \$37.50 to \$75. All ages welcome. AEG Live, 318 W. Fourth St., **Royal Oak**. 248-399-2980. http://smarturl.it/BiancaDelRioROMT

**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

#### Thursday, Oct. 13

**BeWitched & BeDazzled** 9 a.m. Witch's themed fundraiser with over 30 vendors, hot cider and donuts. Tickets: \$50. Meadow Brook Music Festival, 54660 Van Dyke, **Shelby Charter Township**. 248-377-3300.

**Fourth Annual Innovation in Conservation Awards Gala** 5:30 p.m. Tickets starting at \$150. Michigan League of Conservation Voters, 1114 Washington Blvd, **Detroit**. 734-222-9650. events@michiganlcvo.org http://michiganlcvo.org/event/fourth-annual-innovation-conservation-gala/

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

#### Friday, Oct. 14

**Cardio Relay for Disabled American Veterans** 6:30 a.m. Sign up to work out, make a donation to the Michigan Department of Disabled American Veterans and get a \$20 off coupon to Ann Arbor's Tortoise and Hare Running & Fitness Center. Better Living Fitness Center, 834 Phoenix Dr, **Ann Arbor**. 734-747-0123. office@betterliving.biz http://betterlivingfitness.com/

**The 2016 Little Witches' Ball** 6 p.m. Multiple activities for children, DJ and Karaoke, dancing, pizza and soft drinks. Tickets \$5-\$7. Detroit Metro Area Pagans, 25500 Sherwood Ave, **Warren**. http://usoam.org/little-witches-ball/

**The Detroit Cocktail Classic 2016** 6 p.m. Celebrate the culture and craft of the cocktail with spirit-themed, experimental activities. A portion of the proceeds will benefit O.A.T.S. Offering Alternative Therapy with Smiles. Ages 21 and older. Tickets: \$45. The Detroit Cocktail Classic 2016, 2801 Russell St, **Detroit**. http://detroitcocktail.com/

**The Poets in Autumn Tour 2016: Detroit** 7:30 p.m. Come see some of the best spoken word artists in the world including Jackie Hill, Preston Perry, Janette-IK2, Chris Webb and more. Tickets: \$15 - \$25 for VIP. Fearless Entertainment, 13660 Stansbury St., **Detroit**. 313-836-7732. info@evangelministries.org https://detroitpia16.eventbrite.com/

**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, Oct. 15

**International Day of the Girl Child in Detroit!** 1 p.m. A community discussion on the state of human rights for girls in Detroit and around the world, documentary viewing and

See Happenings, page 26



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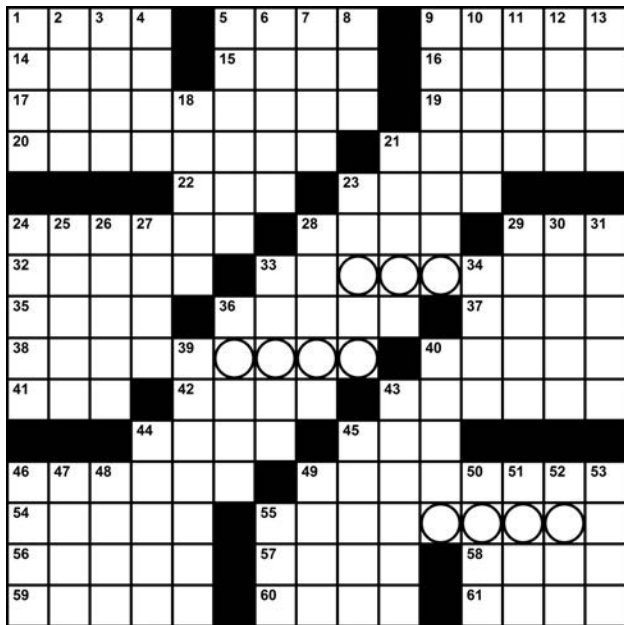
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# Q Puzzle



## Well-Rounded Novel

### Across

- 1 "\_\_\_ on a Log" (Randy Travis song)
- 5 The Oscars, e.g.
- 9 Purple, in an Alice Walker title, e.g.
- 14 Petty of "A League of Their Own"
- 15 Vows now legal for all
- 16 St. Teresa's town
- 17 Gilbert, who wrote the novel spelled out in the circles

- 19 Partners of whistles
- 20 Author Maugham's middle name
- 21 She can "Carey" a tune
- 22 Mountain top
- 23 Snow creation
- 24 "Tales of the City" author Armistead
- 28 k.d. lang record label
- 29 "Be prepared" org.
- 32 Bill T. Jones' partner Zane
- 33 Outfit for Richard Simmons

- 35 Quote as a reference
- 36 Sailor's rear
- 37 Flying fisher
- 38 Musical featuring Edna Turnblad
- 40 Joe who played gay in "JFK"
- 41 Fruit sugar ending
- 42 Rupert Everett's "Ready to \_\_\_"
- 43 Haul ass
- 44 Trust in, with "on"
- 45 Ben Vereen forte
- 46 Political analyst Maddow
- 49 Da Vinci signature piece
- 54 Wife of Portia
- 55 Leatherwear for the hands
- 56 Be a ham in "Hamlet"
- 57 Buffalo's lake
- 58 Vichyssoise veggie
- 59 Like bacon
- 60 Will of "The Waltons"
- 61 Bites of Marc Antony's girlfriend

### Down

- 1 Britten's beers
- 2 Publisher of same-sex couples' legal guide
- 3 Like a muscle Mary's waist
- 4 XXL, e.g.
- 5 Gay pretender Mel of "What Women Want"
- 6 "Do" in "The Sound of Music"
- 7 Senator Trent
- 8 Grate expectation?
- 9 Minnelli movie
- 10 In-your-face
- 11 "Modern Family" adoptee
- 12 Chili pot

- 13 Possible STD symptom
- 18 "Glee" character Abrams
- 21 Bugs or Erin
- 23 Hot-tempered
- 24 Kind of man in a Village People hit
- 25 Oral performances
- 26 Release from bondage
- 27 Tying-up place
- 28 Use the Divine Miss M's name in vain?
- 29 Explode
- 30 Cole Porter's "\_\_\_ I Kissed My Baby Goodbye"
- 31 Gave head at home?
- 33 Be unfaithful to your lover
- 34 Takes advantage of pupils?
- 36 Dumbledore might cast one
- 39 Sondheim's Todd
- 40 Like Jeremy Irons in "The Borgias"
- 43 Closet triangle
- 44 "Gone with the Wind" guy
- 45 Gus Van Sant film "\_\_\_ For"
- 46 Where a sailor may hit bottom
- 47 Tennessee Williams' "Summer and Smoke" heroine
- 48 Stop bleeding
- 49 Swampy area
- 50 Marlene's "Blue Angel" role
- 51 Lithographer James
- 52 Trickle through the cracks
- 53 Wonders aloud
- 55 Frat boys tap it

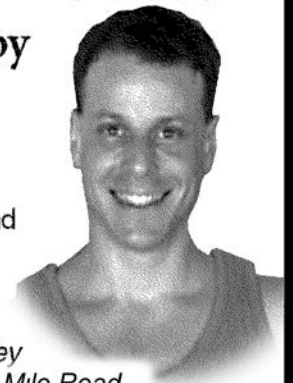
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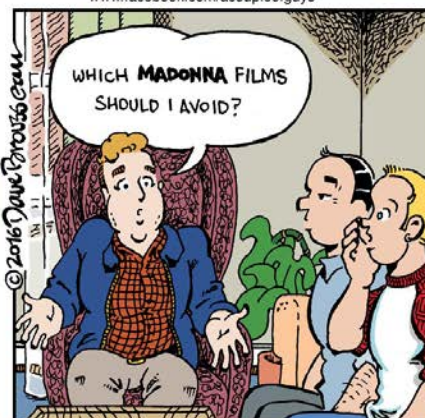
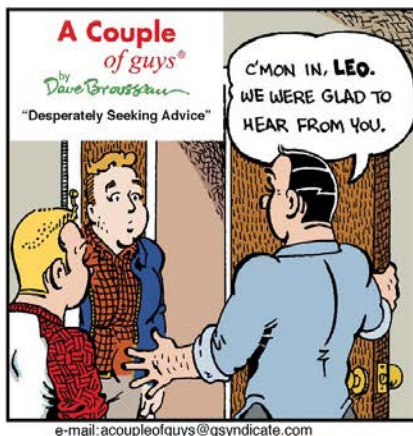
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**NATIONAL  
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OUT  
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**Editor's Pick**

**28th Annual National  
Coming Out Day**

LGBTQ and ally people across the country come together every Oct. 11, on National Coming Out Day, to celebrate the lives and the local and national accomplishments towards full LGBTQ equality.

National Coming Out Day was first observed 28 years ago on the anniversary of the National march on Washington for LGBTQ rights. The day of celebrations continues as a reminder that one of the most basic tools is the power of coming out. Coming out and being visible, whether one is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or allied, still matters post marriage equality. The HRC has provided multiple guides and resources to help LGBTQ and allied individuals come out and speak their truth. For more information visit <http://www.hrc.org/resources/national-coming-out-day>.

**Happenings**

Continued from p. 22

games for children. Event provided free of charge. Bell Global Justice Institute, 3663 Woodward Ave, **Detroit**. 313-593-3584. [detroitcenter@umich.edu](mailto:detroitcenter@umich.edu) [www.facebook.com/events/1232149333475701/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1232149333475701/)

**Sunday, Oct. 16**

**Walk 2 Rescue** 9 a.m. To benefit DDR Detroit Dog Rescue, 31300 Metropolitan Pkwy, **Harrison Township**. [www.detroitdogrescue.com](http://www.detroitdogrescue.com)

**Trans Youth Empowerment Workshop** 9:30 a.m. Come for a day of learning, skill building, community and friendship for trans youth ages 12-22. Includes 12 sessions to choose from including

a bonus workshop with ACLU LGBT Projects Attorney, Jay Kaplan. Parent session begins at 3 p.m. Must register to attend. Only 75 spots available. Stand With Trans, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [laura@temple-israel.org](mailto:laura@temple-israel.org) [www.standwithtrans.org/registration](http://www.standwithtrans.org/registration)

**MUSIC & MORE**

**Jewish Senior Life** "Lily Tomlin" Ages 13 and up. Tickets: \$75 - \$250. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 6:30 p.m. Oct. 13. 248-399-2980. <http://bit.ly/2cBD7zl>

**Comedy**

**Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University** "Comedian Hasan Minhaj" Tickets: \$33. Pasant Theatre, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 7 p.m. Oct. 7. 517-432-2000.

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

**Concerts**

**AEG Live & React** "Getter WAT THE FRICK TOUR feat. Josh Pan" Ages 16 and up. Tickets starting at \$20. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Oct. 6. 248-399-2980. [www.axs.com/events/312250/getter-tickets](http://www.axs.com/events/312250/getter-tickets)

**AEG Live and React** "Autograf and Goldroom" Tickets: \$18-\$25. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 15. 313-833-9700. [www.majesticdetroit.com](http://www.majesticdetroit.com)

**Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** "Romeo & Juliet". Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 8. 734-668-8397. [www.a2so.com](http://www.a2so.com)

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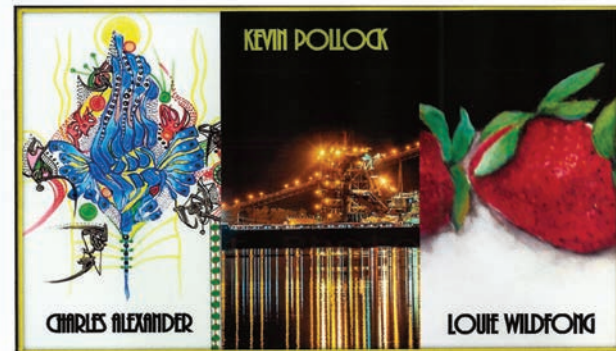
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# The OutField: Changing the Game

As a high school student, Shane Wickes' life was good.

The Reno, Nevada native was an all-state football player (offensive guard) and a state champion discus thrower.

Life got even better the next year: He walked on, and won a spot on Boise State University's storied football team.

But halfway through his freshman season, Wickes blew out his knee. He moved back home. He was hired at McQueen High School – his alma mater – as a junior varsity line coach. Last year he was offered a varsity spot, coaching the offensive line. Just 22 years old, he was fulfilling a lifetime passion.

He was also gay.

Throughout high school, Wickes says, he suppressed any homosexual feelings. "I really wanted to play college football," he says. "Doing that and being gay seemed unfathomable." He dated girls, and denied that part of himself.

Moving back from Boise, though, Wickes finally realized who he was. He told one close friend. He experimented sexually for the first time with a guy – and scurried back in the closet.

Gradually, he became comfortable with his sexuality. In August 2014 he told his family. They offered plenty of support.

But Wickes knew no football coach at any level who was gay. He thought it would be impossible to have a coaching career in the sport he loved. Yet he was also dating men. Balancing both parts of his life was excruciating. He was self-conscious and nervous. He drank heavily.

Last summer, the curator of the TEDX University of Nevada series – who knew Wickes' story – asked him to tell it publicly. His first reaction was "hell no!" But the more he drank – and the more he grappled with whether he could really be an out gay coach – the more Wickes realized he could not live a double life.

Before his first season as a varsity coach – and before his TED Talk, scheduled for this past January – Wickes came out to his head coach. The coach was surprised, but reacted fairly well. Still, Wickes stayed largely in the closet.

Before his public talk, Wickes googled "gay football." He learned of an out head coach in California. He discovered Outsports, the online LGBT site. Still, he lacked a real network of support.

Wickes' TED Talk – filmed at the Pioneer Center in downtown Reno – was "a huge relief." The audience gave him a standing ovation. But the word was not completely out in the small world of Nevada football. It took a few weeks of editing before the video appeared – and before a story about the gay

high school football coach appeared in the Reno Gazette-Journal and USA Today.

In between, Ernie Howren got wind of Wickes' tale. Howren is a legendary Reno coach. His Edward C. Reed High School teams, in nearby Sparks, have won numerous championships. They're McQueen's big rival.

Howren asked Wickes to speak to his players. Then he offered him a job, as varsity offensive line coach.

"That's one of the reasons he's such a great football coach," Wickes says. "Plenty of guys know strategy, Xs and Os. But to build a great program, year after year, you need a coach with character who instills values in his players." There have been a couple of complaints to the Washoe County School District about hiring a gay coach, Wickes says. But he's unconcerned. Howren is handling them.

Wickes' first season at Reed is a couple of months away. But he's already worked with the players. He senses a different attitude than at McQueen.

"My first year as a varsity coach, 'faggot' was used so much," he says. "I never said anything. I didn't feel comfortable. I was afraid of outing myself."

Now that Wickes is out, he says, the language is different. One player who called something "so gay" stopped, caught himself, and apologized.

Of course, Wickes knows, the football environment can be tough. "It's pretty stereotypical, usually," he says. "It's not really a friendly place."

A college coach told him, "Football locker rooms are offensive to everyone." Wickes replied, "There's a difference between offensive and hateful."

Terms like "faggot" are "so ingrained," he adds. "They just get passed over or ignored. Unless you're the closeted kid, who doesn't feel safe."

Now, he looks forward to "putting a face to sexuality. This is a chance to really change the game."

Recently, Wickes spoke to the Santa Clara High School football team in California. Parents were invited but did not know his topic. Afterward, a mother said that her son had come out a few days earlier.

The timing was perfect. Just as it has been for Shane Wickes – blown-out knee, TEDX Talk and all.

*Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is "We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars." He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.*



Shane Wickes

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