

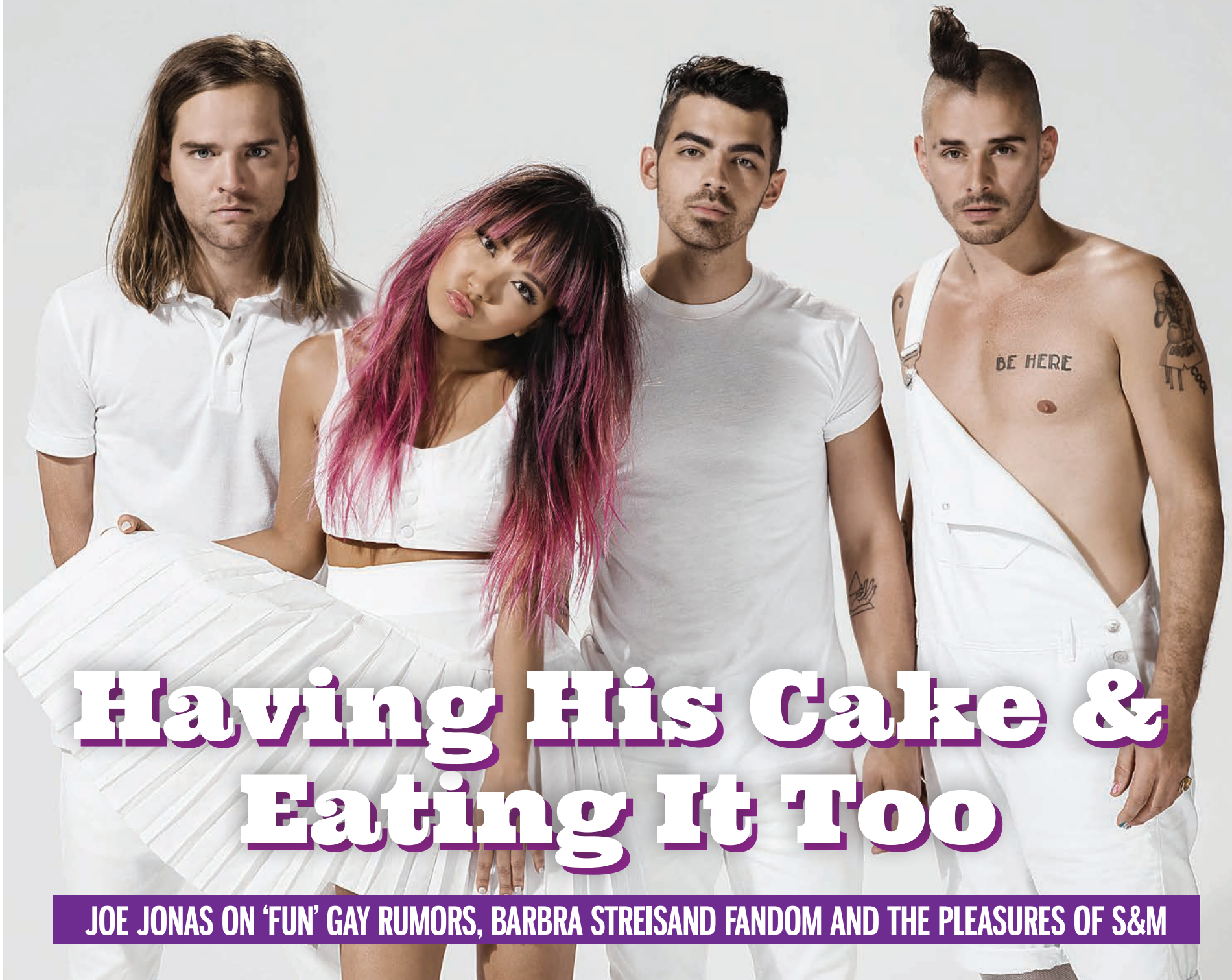
MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Equality Michigan Award Controversy

Keith Orr Talks Safe Spaces

2016 Worship Guide



# Having His Cake & Eating It Too

JOE JONAS ON 'FUN' GAY RUMORS, BARBRA STREISAND FANDOM AND THE PLEASURES OF S&M

### What is DESCOVY?

DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older. DESCOVY is not for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. DESCOVY combines 2 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day. Because DESCOVY by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1, it must be used together with other HIV-1 medicines.

### DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.

To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking DESCOVY. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

#### What is the most important information I should know about DESCOVY?

##### DESCOVY may cause serious side effects:

- **Buildup of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large and fatty. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turning yellow (jaundice); dark "tea-colored" urine; light-colored bowel movements (stools); loss of appetite; nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCOVY for a long time. In some cases, lactic acidosis and serious liver problems have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking DESCOVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

### What are the other possible side effects of DESCOVY?

#### Serious side effects of DESCOVY may also include:

- **Changes in body fat**, which can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking DESCOVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCOVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems**, such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

**The most common side effect** of DESCOVY is nausea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

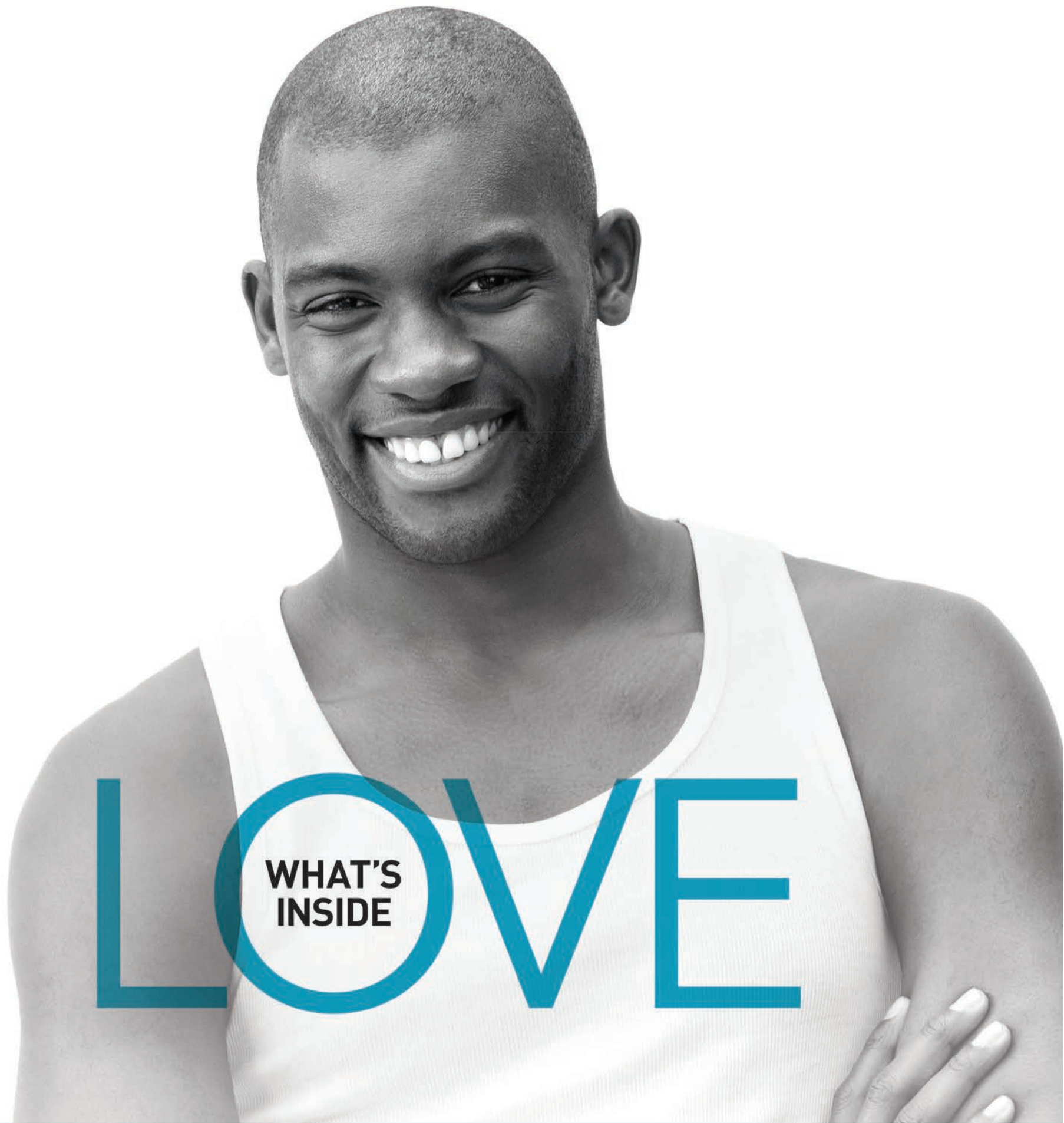
#### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking DESCOVY?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how DESCOVY works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take DESCOVY with all of your other medicines.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if DESCOVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking DESCOVY.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

**Please see Important Facts about DESCOVY, including important warnings, on the following page.**

**Ask your healthcare provider if an HIV-1 treatment that contains DESCOVY<sup>®</sup> is right for you.**



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WHAT'S  
INSIDE

(des-KOH-vee)

## IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about **DESCOVY**® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

### MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY

**DESCOVY may cause serious side effects, including:**

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark “tea-colored” urine; loss of appetite; light-colored bowel movements (stools); nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking DESCOVY. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCOVY or a similar medicine for a long time.

### ABOUT DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older. DESCOVY is **not** for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

### HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine that is taken with other HIV-1 medicines.
- Take DESCOVY with or without food.

### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY

**DESCOVY can cause serious side effects, including:**

- Those in the “Most Important Information About DESCOVY” section.
- Changes in body fat.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.

**The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea.**

These are not all the possible side effects of DESCOVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking DESCOVY.

**Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with DESCOVY.**

### BEFORE TAKING DESCOVY

**Tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- Have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical condition.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:**

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with DESCOVY.

### GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to [DESCOVY.com](http://DESCOVY.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [DESCOVY.com](http://DESCOVY.com) for program information.

# Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com



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## NEWS

### Calling Metro Detroit Artists for Kresge Artist Fellowship

BY BTL STAFF

Metro Detroit artists are invited to apply for a 2017 Kresge Artist Fellowship. Fellowships are funded by The Kresge Foundation and administered by Kresge Arts in Detroit at the College for Creative Studies.

Now in its ninth year, the program will award 18 fellowships – nine in Literary Arts and nine in Visual Arts – to artists living and working in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. Kresge Artist Fellowships are no-strings-attached \$25,000 prizes given to both emerging and established artists whose commitment to artistic achievement, in contemporary or traditional forms, is evident in the quality of their work.

Fellowships also include a professional practice program, designed and delivered by Creative Many Michigan, which includes individual advising, a retreat experience, group workshops, networking events, validation and legal services. Since 2009, the professional practice program has brought over 148 esteemed national and international arts professionals to Detroit to work with fellows and the wider creative community.

In addition, two Gilda Awards, \$5,000 no-strings-attached prizes solely for emerging

artists, will also be awarded – one in Literary Arts and one in Visual Arts. Gilda Awards recognize artists who are early in their careers, are gaining momentum and who demonstrate exceptional potential through creative risk-taking and pushing the boundaries of their chosen art form. The awards were piloted in 2015 and are named in honor of Gilda Snowden (1954–2014), who was one of the 18 inaugural artists to receive a Kresge Artist Fellowship in 2009. Snowden served as Interim Chair and Professor of Fine Arts at the College for Creative Studies where she taught painting for more than 30 years.

“We began the fellows program with the goal of advancing the careers of artists living in Kresge’s hometown and to shine a light on the creativity that resides here,” says Kresge Detroit Program Senior Officer George Jacobsen. “Year after year we’re awe-struck by both the selected fellows’ depth of artistry and the evolving careers and achievements of past-years’ fellows.”

The online application deadline is Jan. 19. Visit [tinyurl.com/KAF17](http://tinyurl.com/KAF17) for an FAQ document about the program and additional media elements, including an animated video created by 2016 Gilda Award recipient Ellen Coons.

### Harmful Voter ID Bill Clears Mich. House Committee

A harmful voter ID bill known as HB 6066 cleared the Michigan House Elections Committee on a 5-3 party-line vote Dec. 1.

House Bill 6066 requires people who do not have “photo identification for voting purposes” to vote with a provisional ballot. In order for their vote to be counted, they must then return to their clerk’s office within 10 days of the election to show photo ID or to present “a document to establish the elector’s current residence address as provided in section 523a(5) and executing an affidavit, on a form prescribed by the secretary of state, affirming under penalty of perjury that the elector is the same individual who cast the provisional ballot on election day and is or has either of the following: (i) Indigent and attempted but was unable to obtain photo identification for voting purposes without payment of a fee. (ii) A bona fide religious objection to being photographed and does not possess a photo identification for voting purposes.”

This is one of three bills that, if passed into law, will create burdensome barriers to voting in Michigan by imposing stringent new identification requirements for voters.

“This legislation will disenfranchise scores of voters and its impact will fall particularly hard on transgender Michiganders. The bills are bad for Michigan and bad for the LGBTQ community,” said Nathan Triplett, director of

public policy and political action at Equality Michigan.

In addition to the barriers of time and money that everyone faces when attempting to obtain the required identification, transgender Michiganders face unique challenges in securing government-issued ID that accurately reflects their gender identity. Even when transgender voters are able to obtain the necessary documentation, voter ID laws invite additional scrutiny of transgender individuals at the polls. People of color, low-income people, students, and people with disabilities are disproportionately impacted.

“Michigan’s existing voter ID law has already resulted in far too many unnecessary challenges for transgender voters, which will be made even worse by the proposed legislation,” said Triplett.

Proponents of these bills are attempting to rush them through the lame duck Legislature. The bills were introduced on Nov. 30 by State Rep. Lisa Lyons and referred to the committee (which Rep. Lyons chairs) for a hearing on Dec. 1. Legislators need to hear from members of the community as soon as possible to express their discontent with HBs 6066, 6067 and 6068.

It only takes a moment to email and call state legislators. Find contact information for state representatives online at [www.house.mi.gov](http://www.house.mi.gov).

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## 305 Claims Approved for Pulse Victims' Fund

**ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)** - Officials with a fund created from donations for victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting say they will distribute \$29.5 million on 305 claims when the process is completed.

Officials with OneOrlando Fund said Friday that \$27.4 million has been distributed for 299 claims so far.

Officials say six claims remain unpaid because family members haven't agreed about who should get the money.

Fund officials say 348 claims were submitted but 43 claims were deemed ineligible, primarily because the claimant wasn't inside the nightclub.

Forty-nine people were killed and dozens of others injured in the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

Estates of the deceased patrons each received \$350,000.

Surviving patrons got anywhere from \$25,000 to \$300,000 each, depending on if they were injured and the extent of their injuries.

## Walmart Cites Settlement Agreement in Same-Sex Benefits Case

**BOSTON (AP)** - Lawyers for a former Walmart employee who sued the retail chain for denying her same-sex spouse health benefits have asked a federal court judge to approve a \$7.5 million class-action settlement.

Jacqueline Cote sued Walmart in 2015, saying the Bentonville, Arkansas-based company repeatedly denied medical insurance for her wife before 2014, when it began offering benefits for same-sex spouses.

After Cote's wife was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2012, the couple incurred \$150,000 in medical costs.

The proposed settlement agreement would pay for claims by Walmart associates in the U.S. and Puerto Rico that they were unable to obtain health insurance coverage for their same-sex spouses from Jan. 1, 2001 and Dec. 31, 2013.

Walmart and Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders said in a statement that they are pleased they could reach an agreement.

## Civil Rights Commission to Discuss Flint Water Crisis Report

**DETROIT (AP)** - The Michigan Civil Rights Commission will discuss an early version of its report about the lead-contaminated water crisis in Flint at its next meeting.

The commission, which meets Dec. 12 at the University of Michigan Detroit center, is expected to check on progress and provide feedback. The report is scheduled to be released next month.

The commission held public hearings this year exploring whether Flint residents faced racial and ethnic intimidation in connection with the water crisis. In March, a state task force concluded it was a "case of environmental injustice."

Flint developed a lead problem because it used water from the Flint River for 18 months without treating it to prevent pipe corrosion. As a result, the water caused toxic lead to leach from old pipes and into homes.



Ferndale Pride Committee members. Photo courtesy of Ferndale Pride.

## Ferndale Pride Donates \$11,000 to Local Charities

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

**FERNDALE** - Ferndale's annual celebration of love and diversity for the LGBTQ community - Ferndale Pride - is not just an event that brings people together. It's an event that raises money for local charities. And this year \$11,000 was given to groups that make a difference in the community.

On Monday Ferndale Pride organizer Julia Music presented checks to Affirmations Community Center, Matrix MAC Health, Transgender Michigan and GNA - Gender Identity Network Alliance. The Ferndale Community Foundation, who is the fiduciary for the event, also received funds.

"The check will go a long way to providing helpline services to people around the country and beyond," said Rachel Crandall Crocker executive director of Transgender Michigan. Transgender Michigan runs a hotline for those with questions about transgender issues or who need support.

They also host events like Transgender Pride in the Park. "I've been really honored to watch it grow over the years," Music said, making it the largest gathering of transgender people in Michigan.

Matrix MAC Health provides the services of a volunteer coordinator

to help with Ferndale Pride. Monica Mills organized about 100 people who did tasks from setting up booths, monitoring security, distributing information, assisting performers and vendors, and cleaning up. "It's exciting, meeting more and more people," Mills said. "It's an opportunity for blumz\_holidayvolunteers to meet other people who are interested in the same missions. Volunteers can also be grateful that money raised from Ferndale Pride goes back into the community."

Matrix MAC Health serves the community with HIV testing, prevention and services for people living with HIV or AIDS.

GINA also works to uplift people regardless of their gender identity. Music talked about going to Transgender Day of Empowerment, which was held at Affirmations and hosted by GINA. "Every year I think I know everything, and every year I walk away realizing I know nothing." In an interview after the presentation Music added that the quality of speakers at Day of Empowerment were "amazing and inspiring."

Ferndale Pride began in 2011 when Motor City Pride relocated their event to Hart Plaza in Detroit. The Ferndale event grows each year, with a variety of musical performances, activism opportunities, and involvement from

the business community. This year's Ferndale Pride included legal same-sex marriages for the first time, performed by Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter.

The event also specifically had opportunities to show that transgender people are welcomed in light of more general public discussions including debates over bathroom laws, prominent transgender people in pop culture, and the debate over whether to include gender identity and expression in the state's civil rights laws. "Pride is a safe place where all people are welcomed. Ferndale Pride wants trans and gender nonconforming people to feel the love and respect they deserve as individuals," Music said.

Greg Pawlica, treasurer of Ferndale Community Foundation said "Ferndale Pride is important to our city because it brings all that is great about Ferndale together to celebrate our uniqueness! It is our acceptance and celebration of our differences that make us stronger. Part of the mission of the Ferndale Community Foundation is to serve the people of Ferndale and build community partnerships. What better way to do this than by being an integral part of one of the most diverse events in Ferndale?"

Learn more about Ferndale Pride at [www.ferndalepride.com](http://www.ferndalepride.com)



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# EQMI Political Mixer Raises Concerns

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

It's been two years since Equality Michigan hosted a major fundraising event, and while the organization's Fall reception – a political mixer – on Dec. 2 offered up a number of reasons to celebrate, a cloud loomed over DTE Energy's Headquarters in Detroit where the event was held.

The 200 or so people in attendance might agree that the event logistically was stunning. The venue was gorgeous and all were welcomed by gracious hosts. Awards were given to some worthy recipients who exemplify leadership and deserve to be acknowledged for their work as LGBT activists.

They are Aiden Ramirez Tatum, recipient of the Henry Messer Youth Award; Detroit Police Officer Dani Woods, recipient of the Heather McAllister Activist Award; and Congressman Dan Kildee, recipient of the Catalyst Award.

But this was overshadowed by EQMI's decision to also honor Greg McNeilly with the Change Maker Award. Many viewed this as problematic since McNeilly has been a long-time trusted political advisor to the DeVos family, known for their anti-gay past and has himself advocated on behalf of anti-gay positions.

Last month, President-elect Donald Trump named Betsy DeVos to his cabinet as Education Secretary. Her selection leaves civil rights and LGBT groups feeling “deeply concerned” as DeVos has a long, well-documented history of funding organizations dedicated to undermining and restricting the rights of LGBT people.

This controversy begs the question: Does McNeilly deserve to be recognized having done harm without apology to LGBT citizens across the state?

As demonstrated in her speech Friday night, and again in this week's BTL op-ed (next page), White explains EQMI's choice to award McNeilly as part of a strategy.

“To be clear, we're not endorsing the educational philosophy of the DeVos family and we don't agree with Greg on everything,” she said. “But he's been an important and powerful ally in helping reach segments of our state that have been resistant to us. If ever there was a way to bridge the gap between the LGBTQ community and the conservatives in Michigan, Greg is that bridge and we celebrate his courage to engage in this work with us.”

Political operatives in the room, who preferred to remain anonymous, are fully aware of McNeilly's past. They understand that tactics matter when reaching across the aisle to unite in a bipartisan fashion. But not before McNeilly “delivers the goods” and

“acknowledges the pain he inflicted upon the LGBT community.”

April DeBoer and her wife Jayne Rowse attended the event and were acknowledged and applauded for their historic fight for marriage equality. However, in what seemed a glaring omission, they did not receive an award for helping change history for same-sex couples in the state and across the country.

EQMI also seemed to drop the ball forgetting to mention the late Jeff Montgomery, according to Stephanie Newman, a former volunteer and events coordinator for the organization for more than 20 years.

“There was no silent auction, no official ‘ask’ for donations, and the biggest missed opportunity – and most importantly – was that of honoring the legacy of the organization's founder,” she said about Montgomery, who was a renowned leader in the LGBT community until his recent passing in July.

“I'm sure not everyone agreed with him at all times, but I can safely say we all benefited from his groundbreaking work in victim's service work and moving the LGBT movement forward. It saddened me that the organization missed the perfect opportunity to honor a man who literally built it from the ground up with his blood, sweat and tears. I would hope that Equality Michigan would do something in the near future to acknowledge this missed opportunity and honor him somehow – to ensure that Jeff's memory and legacy lives on and that the very real history of our struggle as LGBT people won't be forgotten.”

Newman points out that activist and former staff member Heather McAllister and co-founder Henry Messer both have awards named after them.

“It seemed awkward and out of place that Jeff wasn't even mentioned,” she said. She was not alone in this sentiment.

## Anti-Gay Behaviors Demonstrated

During his speech at the event, which was much longer than other award recipients, McNeilly shared a story about the first time he admitted in the workplace that he was gay. It was 2003 while serving as executive director of the Michigan Republican Party.

An unnamed senator threatened to expose him. McNeilly said he found himself conflicted about how to handle the situation and sought advice from Betsy DeVos who – as it appears to many in the LGBT community – helped him keep his job, stay in the closet and continue to advocate anti-gay and anti-union positions. While he recalled this as a positive experience



Greg McNeilly was the recipient of the EQMI Change Maker Award. Community organizers were upset that McNeilly received an award having never apologized for the work he did on behalf of anti-gay causes.

on Friday night, it's hard to look past the damage that followed when he leapt into the Dick DeVos campaign for governor just a few years later.

McNeilly is best known in the LGBT community for his anti-gay rhetoric in 2004 while serving as the Michigan GOP Executive Director.

He told the Detroit Free Press that the Republican Party vowed to attack Gov. Jennifer Granholm on the same moral issues that helped President George Bush defeat Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

“The 2006 race has begun today, and we are laying the values debate at Gov. Granholm's doorstep...She's wrong on abortion, she's wrong on gay marriage and she's wrong on the war on terror,” he said.

For many in the LGBT community, becoming one of the first gay men to marry in Michigan – to attorney Doug Meeks after Judge Bernard Friedman's March 2014 ruling – does not excuse these remarks.

In addition to his other work, McNeilly helped the Michigan Family Forum, an organization that has a long and troubling history of anti-gay activism. On behalf of the group, a younger McNeilly would swing into various political districts and work for candidates. A former state GOP operative, who did not wish to be identified because of their current work situation, said McNeilly worked for “pretty much any (Republican) in the mid-90s,” including current Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette.

Also in the early to mid-90s, while a student

at Lansing Community College, he penned several anti-gay columns at the campus newspaper, The Lookout.

When asked to speak about McNeilly, Ernesto Todd Mireles, former editor and a straight LGBT ally, said McNeilly was the “strict, right-wing Christian type, outspoken on homosexuality. It was wrong and immoral. He was a conservative fuck.” Mireles, now an associate professor at Prescott College in Arizona where he teaches about political activism and intersectionality, said he agrees that McNeilly owes the LGBT community an apology.

“Yes, I absolutely believe he should. When it comes to people like him who do play a role with respectability politics that allows them to benefit from appearing on the surface of being part of a dominant paradigm when it becomes convenient to them, they come out.”

He continued, “Clearly this is a person who has gone through some serious self-loathing and if this is behind him – and I'm not sure it is – it doesn't mean he shouldn't be standing up and saying this is what I did and this is why it's wrong and this is why I need to become a role model. Because we're killing ourselves otherwise.”

BTL contacted McNeilly's office for comment at the time the award was announced and the call was not returned.

## The McNeilly Backlash

Members of the community have expressed their disdain in a variety of formats. One

event attendee said, “Giving Greg this award dishonors Jeff, dishonors the organization and dishonors the LGBT community. Think about this: the organization’s foundation was in establishing coalitions with like-minded progressive organizations – environmental groups, unions, you name it. Then you give an award to someone who is anti-union, Republican. It destroys all those years of coalition building. We could have potentially lost allies. At least the organization did for sure. For what? To give a Republican an award? And him? His own Wikipedia page states the awful things he has done - leading the Michigan Republican Party - trying to get sexual orientation in Elliott-Larsen all while supporting a religious freedom bill that allows someone to use that excuse while discriminating against our community. So therefore getting sexual orientation into Elliott-Larsen means nothing because someone could just say, ‘I can’t hire you, it’s against my religion.’ So what was the point? You just negated your so-called victory.”

While some people have “liked” or shared posts regarding McNeilly on Facebook, others have not.

John Joannette said, “Un-freaking-believable.”

Eddie Mitchell said, “Jeff Montgomery and Henry Messer are rolling over in their graves. Equality Michigan is a joke. I don’t know if there is something in the water over there or we’ve just been sold out by the Board to Republican interests. It’s like I’m living in some terrible parallel universe.”

Rosemary D Ruppert said, “So all I have to do to get equality in Michigan is sell my soul, become a wealthy Republican and chum around with Betsy. Cool, I’ll start working on that right away.”

Kevin McAlpine said, “So much for being part of a progressive movement. EQMI has let our community down.”

Sommer Foster said, “I’m sure McNeilly will put his ‘changemaker’ award from Equality Michigan right on his desk, so he can look at it every time he writes a check from the DeVos family to some anti-LGBT politician.”

Fröken Sassen said, “All I know is every time I think they can’t get worse, they surprise me by getting worse. The board is truly the root cause of all the problems over there and why they can’t seem to actually progress and do meaningful work. I am proud of the work our team did when we were there. We didn’t always get it right, but we worked our butts off to do what was just and right for our community and the people in it. We did it all in spite of the board, who actively worked against

us most of the time. It was maddening and hard, but we all loved serving our community. We worked to honor Henry and Jeff and the legacy they left us. Looks like when we left, honor did too.”

Johnny Rheume said, “Wtf?”

Nick Krieger, author and blogger at Fix the Mitten, wrote about “Betsy DeVos’ Unlikely New Ally” on Nov. 30.

“In a recent Politico, a representative of Equality Michigan seemed to support Trump’s choice of Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education, indicating that she hoped DeVos ‘will protect LGBT kids.’ This statement was apparently based, at least in part, on the fact that ‘Greg McNeilly, a political adviser to DeVos...is gay and was one of the first to marry his same-sex partner in Michigan.’

How, exactly, will Betsy DeVos ‘protect LGBT kids’ as Secretary of Education? And even more importantly, why would a progressive group like Equality Michigan speak out in support of a future Secretary of Education who happens to hate public schools? I’d sure like to know.

“I’d also like to know why Equality Michigan has decided to honor Greg McNeilly – an executive in the DeVos family’s company Windquest Group and a former campaign manager to Betsy DeVos’s husband – as a ‘Champion for Equality’ at an upcoming event. Yes, McNeilly is gay; I completely understand that. But he’s also a vocal proponent of right-wing ideas that don’t generally mesh with progressive causes. For instance, McNeilly serves as chairman of the Michigan Freedom Fund, an organization that advocates repealing the prevailing-wage law, breaking up unions, and eliminating teacher certification and endorsement requirements. McNeilly has also defended partisan gerrymandering by the Michigan Legislature – the very scheme that keeps Republicans in control even when they receive fewer votes than Democratic candidates statewide. And yes, I’m talking about the same GOP-controlled Michigan Legislature that has promoted anti-LGBT policies and expressed disdain for public education. McNeilly, like DeVos, has worked hard and spent money to keep these anti-LGBT, anti-public education lawmakers in office.

“Equality Michigan wants us to believe that, with McNeilly by her side, Betsy DeVos will be an inclusive and reasonable Secretary of Education. I just don’t get it. The naiveté would probably be humorous if it weren’t so thoroughly frightening.”

*BTL reporter Todd Heywood contributed to this story.*

## The Road Ahead



BY STEPH WHITE

I know a lot of you are worried about the recent election and what this means for all of us in the LGBTQ movement. Many people are rightly concerned about the rights that we’ve fought so hard for and won over the past eight years.

After all, we are coming to a close on the most pro-LGBT presidential administration this country has ever seen.

There’s no doubt that things are going to change, and I can’t say that it will all be OK. But what I can say is that Equality Michigan will be here to continue to fight for the rights and dignity of every gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer person in Michigan. We will do what we’ve always done – work with you all to serve our community and fight for our rights.

First and foremost, if anyone in our community is experiencing violence and harassment, our Department of Victim Services is ready to support them in getting justice. In fact, we’ve already expanded this year and added resources to this work. We’ve added a new position to respond to the critical needs of the trans community, we’ve established regular office hours in Grand Rapids and Traverse City so we can be available when and where our community needs us and, just recently, we got another \$10,000 gift to bolster that department further. But even beyond responding to assaults, we’ve been working proactively with federal law enforcement agencies since last summer in partnership with Muslim leaders to address our common threats of violence. We all know that we are stronger when we work together.

Next, we will continue to be the eyes and ears of our community in Lansing. With your help we will defeat any attempt to roll back our hard-earned rights just as successfully as we’ve done throughout this past year. And, with our allies on both sides of the aisle, we will continue to push for civil rights protections for gay and transgender people. We won’t stop demanding and expecting full equality under the law.

And if Washington, DC and Lansing won’t meet our needs right away, we will make a path forward. Sometimes LGBTQ people face setbacks in our progress, but when we do, we keep fighting and we find a way to make progress. There are hundreds of fearless local leaders in cities and towns, on school boards, and in county governments all over the state who want to protect marginalized people. We’ll keep partnering with them to advance the local protections that can make the difference in peoples’ lives.

Perhaps most importantly, we will stay in relationship with everyone who has the power to impact our lives and our rights. In fact, we will build bridges to new communities and to new

## Viewpoint

people who don’t know us and don’t understand the realities of our lives. A year ago, I laid out a vision for how the movement for LGBTQ equality can win our rights that included the work to build relationships with both political parties. At that time, I wrote:

“There’s an old adage in politics: ‘There are no permanent allies and no permanent enemies. Just permanent interests.’ Today in Michigan’s movement for LGBT rights, that couldn’t be more accurate. Historically we have been much more successful expanding our legal rights with the help of our Democratic friends. And too often, we’ve had to fight Republican enemies who demonize us. But of course, neither party is homogenous and we see people evolving every day.

“Winning equality requires us to become more nuanced in working with lawmakers of both political parties. This isn’t easy to do, especially in a highly polarizing presidential election year, but it can be done.”

Our award for Greg McNeilly, which has been controversial, has been part of this strategy. To be clear, we’re not endorsing the educational philosophy of the DeVos family and we don’t agree with Greg on everything. But he’s been an important and powerful ally in helping reach segments of our state that have been resistant to us. If ever there was a way to bridge the gap between the LGBTQ community and the conservatives in Michigan, Greg is that bridge and we celebrate his courage to engage in this work with us.

Today, with Republicans poised to control not only every branch of our state government, but our federal government as well, this work takes on even greater urgency. When people don’t know us, they make up myths and use those myths to cause us harm. As Harvey Milk implored us to come out, we have to keep coming out and building more relationships.

The more people know us, the less they see us as a threat. And as people begin to take baby steps towards us, we will celebrate their progress. We’ll accept those minor wins and add them up to build major progress.

And lastly, if we find that government at any level is failing to live up to our country’s promise of equal rights, with your help, we will hold them accountable for the decisions that they make. Together we will speak out, we will mobilize our community and we will respond. Just as we did when Sen. Casperson tried to introduce a North Carolina-style “bathroom bill,” and that was quickly defeated.

As I look forward to the next years ahead, I know there will be challenges, but one thing that gives us all strength is the depth and breadth of our movement. The network of leadership in our community is smarter, more sophisticated and bigger than ever and we are in this together.

*Steph White is executive director of Equality Michigan. She can be reached at [swhite@equalitymi.org](mailto:swhite@equalitymi.org).*



## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### The Age of Treason? Perhaps

If one person can be truly said to have single-handedly pushed this country into a War of Independence from England, it was patriot and pamphleteer Thomas Paine (1737-1809).

His book "Common Sense" provided a clarion call to open rebellion. When it appeared in January 1776 it sold 500,000 copies. One copy for every eight persons. Its stirring prose and cogent reasoning motivated Americans to defy King George III. We chose to fight for freedom.

Paine's second book (1784), "The Age of Reason" – a well-crafted Bible sandblasting – rebuffs today's Reiblican fundamentalists who, in their misguided zeal, would have us believe America's founding fathers were gung-ho for making this a Christian Nation, and to hell with separation of church and state.

The main reason Paine's name is drool on the parched and cracked lips of the biblical boob-ocrats is because Paine was a sharp-honed skeptic. "Every national Church or religion has established itself by pretending some special mission from God," he wrote.

"Each accuses the other of unbelief; and for my own part, I disbelieve them all. If someone claims to hear the voice of God, it is a revelation to that person only. When he tells it to a second person it becomes hearsay;

Come to think of it, instead of being a Christian Theocratic Nation as political right-wingers like to claim these days, we are actually by heritage a Masonic Nation

and consequently no one is obligated to believe it."

Paine also questioned important Christian religious doctrines: "It appears that (Doubting) Thomas did not believe in the resurrection (of Jesus) and would not believe without ocular and manual proof himself. So neither will I: and the reason is equally good for me and every other person as for Thomas."

Paine identified himself as a Deist. He found God was revealed in Nature; Jesus was human not God; both the Old and New Testaments were replete with myths, contradictions and errors. In the "Age of Reason," he gave many examples to prove it.

Other important American patriots also challenged established Christian sovereignty. John Adams was a Unitarian (and you know what they're like!) as was son, John Quincy. Thomas Jefferson put together his own version of the New Testament, editing out mythology and doctrine in favor of ethical content.

Jefferson urged his nephew to "question with boldness even the existence of God." (Would that he had said the same of slavery, as he owned slaves and fathered children by one.)

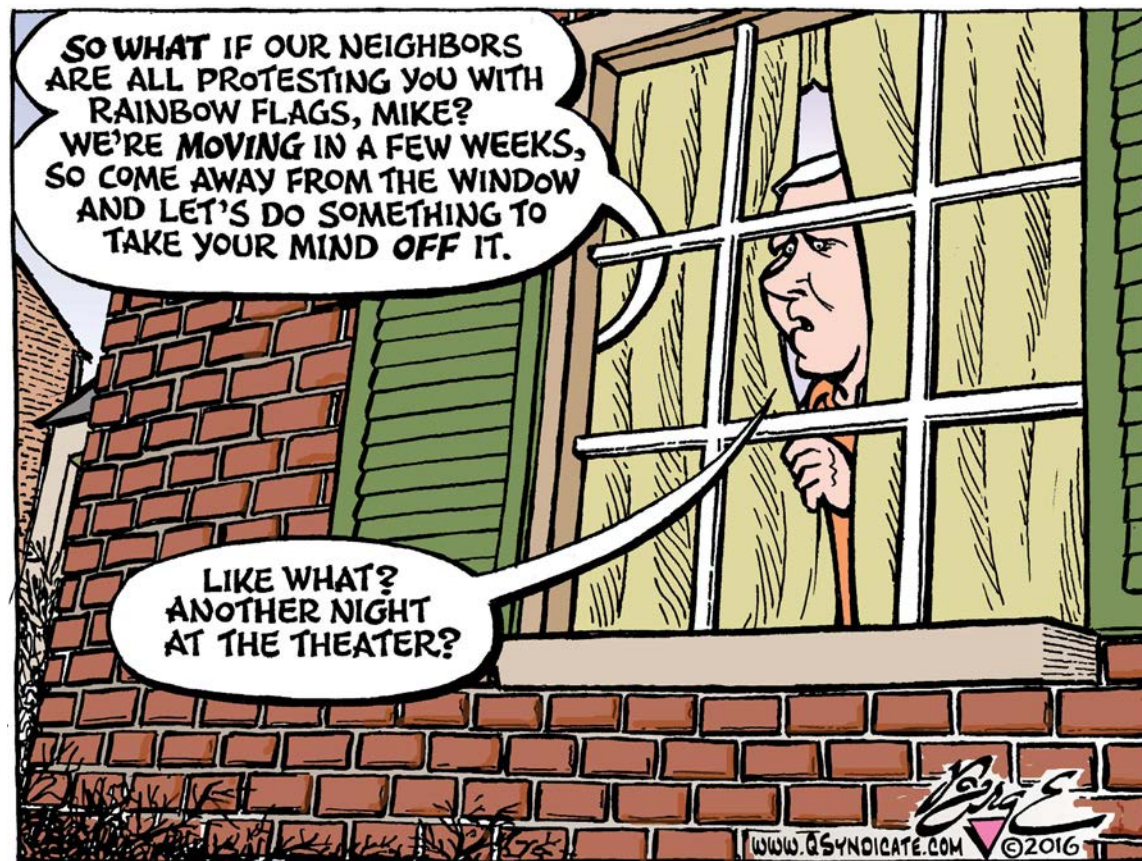
James Madison was jailed for criticizing the Episcopal Church when it was Virginia's established religion. Benjamin Franklin, another freethinker, was a Mason and a Rosicrucian occultist. He told many a true believer of his day to go fly a kite.

George Washington, nominally an Episcopalian, rarely attended church, although he spoke of the importance of religion in the life of the newly independent nation. Our first president was also a Mason, as were some 26 signers of the U.S. Constitution.

Come to think of it, instead of being a Christian Theocratic Nation as political right-wingers like to claim these days, we are actually by heritage a Masonic Nation – with not six, but 32 degrees of separation.

I personally belong to the Fraternal Order of Rainbow Rebels myself. Or, is it the Lambda Outback of Older Odd Fellows Outspoken?

Charles@pridesource.com.



BY KEITH ORR

## Viewpoint

### Why We Need Safe Spaces

My husband and I are the owners of the \aut\ BAR, a gay bar and cafe. We work hard to provide good food and drink. We strive to provide good, or even exceptional, customer service. In general we are pretty successful at achieving those goals. Any bar and cafe should strive to achieve these things. It's how you survive. And we have survived for 30 years. So we must be doing something right.

But that is not our mission. First and foremost, our mission is to provide a safe space for the LGBT community.

We live in a bubble called Ann Arbor. This is one of the most progressive cities in the country. We had the first openly gay elected official in the nation. Local ordinances protect us across the LGBT spectrum.

The last few years have brought acceptance of LGBT Americans in the armed forces across the country. We have achieved marriage equality. We have openly gay members of Congress.

Our mission was beginning to sound rather quaint. I recently had a customer arrive directly from the hospital. He was hungry and came in for the good

food and drink (see above). He had spent the day at the VA hospital, as he had been attacked the night before at a TGI Fridays by a Trump supporter. I am neither knocking nor endorsing TGI Fridays, just pointing out that "safe space for the LGBT Community" is not part of their mission statement.

One of the owners of another business in our little courtyard was attacked in front of her house. She was attacked because she still had her Hillary sign up. The rainbow flag was probably a further provocation. Rainbow flags are being destroyed and threatening notes are being left on cars and on front doors. We have been hearing reports across the country of similar incidents.

Suddenly the idea of a safe space doesn't seem so quaint.

I often say we are a neighborhood bar, except that our neighborhood is demographic, not geographic. We try and build community and strengthen our political position: locally, statewide and nationally. We are even a footnote in LGBT history for our response to the late

See Safe Spaces, next page

The Underground Railroad journey was composed of points of safe spaces connected by perilous journeys.... We need to be ready to put ourselves on the line for the defense of civil liberties for all races, genders, religions, gender identities and sexual orientations. That will mean perilous journeys.

## ► Safe Spaces

Continued from p. 12

Fred Phelps and the wackos from Westboro. We have fundraised and lobbied. We have marched and protested.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.”

That arc is not a smooth arc. Look at the gays who celebrated their great gay life during the Weimar Republic. Within a couple of years, the Nazi party sent them to concentration camps. They went from cabarets to wearing the badge of the pink triangle. Many did not survive.

Swastikas are showing up across this country. The white nationalist movement believes this election was a mandate ... not a mandate for the business magnate Donald Trump, but for their white nationalist aspirations.

People are afraid and have good reason to be.

A day or two after the election I found myself in a small, cozy and very warm room. I wondered if it would be possible to hibernate in that little space for, say, four years.

Many of my friends report similar urges. Finding a safe space is a natural response to fear. But hiding in those safe spaces does not contribute to Dr. King’s long moral arc.

To quote Elie Wiesel, “Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented”.

Action is required. We are all struggling to find positive ways to react. In these early days we are giving money to the ACLU, Planned Parenthood and other groups who can help. We are calling Congress regarding appointments and issues. In the future, we may have to put ourselves into more dangerous positions such as signing up for Muslim Registries in solidarity and other means of civil disobedience.

The Underground Railroad was resistance to the most brutal and dehumanizing American experience: human slavery. Over the long course of its existence, between 25,000 and 100,000 people escaped slavery on the Underground Railroad. The journey was composed of points of safe spaces connected by perilous journeys.

It is both a metaphor and a model for us to follow. We need to be ready to put ourselves on the line for the defense of civil liberties for all races, genders, religions, gender identities and sexual orientations. That will mean perilous journeys.

Support those organizations which will organize and fight: ACLU, Southern Poverty Law Center, Equality Michigan and Democracy for America. We need our safe spaces more than ever. Support your local community centers, Planned Parenthood, open and affirming churches, mosques, temples, and your local LGBT businesses.

Here’s a very important point about the Underground Railroad: it could not exist without allies willing to risk everything. We need allies in our struggles. And we need to be allies to others. There are many of us who have suffered prejudice in the past: gays, lesbians, transgender people, queers, Muslims, women, African-Americans, Latinx, to name a few. Since the election, the acts of prejudice have not just increased, they have transformed into something more openly hateful and violent.

When a woman wearing a hijab is being harassed, we need to step forward and be an ally. When someone starts spouting racist crap publicly, we need to be the first voice that says, “Sit down and shut up.” And when some jerk dude starts telling a woman that we live in “Trump’s America” now, we need to let the jerk know that America belongs to all of us.

None of us can predict the future. But to ensure that Dr. King’s long moral arc is sustained, we will need the courage to stand up for what is right, and to protect the security of our safe spaces.

# Creep of the Week

## Donald Trump

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

When I watched a video of President Obama giving Ellen DeGeneres the Presidential Medal of Freedom and



heard him talk about her bravery for coming out back in 1997, I am not ashamed to admit that I cried. But then again, so did Ellen, and so did Obama. So there.

“It’s easy to forget now ... just how much courage was required for Ellen to come out on the most public of stages almost 20 years ago,” Obama said. “Just how important it was. Not just to the LGBT community but for all of us.”

And it’s true! The LGBTQ community has come so far in such a short time. We have made so many gains. And brave people coming out publicly even at great risk to themselves and their careers is a big reason why LGBTQ people are no longer relegated to closets

Obama is the most LGBTQ affirming president this nation has ever known. And he won’t be the last. But man is his successor a nightmare for LGBTQ people.

Donald Trump may have dared say “LGBTQ” from the GOP convention stage, but it’s important to remember the context of that utterance. He vowed to protect LGBTQ people from foreign ideologies. He mentioned nothing about ideologies right here at home.

And yet some LGBTQ people bought it. Some LGBTQ people, and people who love LGBTQ people, voted for Trump. And it’s safe to say even before he’s been inaugurated that they’ve been swindled.

Trump has been busy putting together his cabinet, that is when he’s not busy complaining about “Saturday Night Live” on Twitter. And what do you know, looks like every single pick so far is anti-LGBTQ. Every. Fucking. One. Here are some lowlights:

Ben Carson, who Trump wants to be head of Housing and Urban Development, thinks that being LGBTQ is “absolutely” a choice and has compared same-sex marriage to bestiality.

Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions (incoming Attorney General) and CIA Director pick Mike Pompeo of Kansas have in common efforts to get their state’s definition of marriage to override the federal one to circumvent marriage equality.

I highlighted anti-public education crusader Betsy DeVos’s participation in and ties to anti-LGBTQ organizations in a previous column. But it bears repeating that the woman Trump wants to be Education Secretary is a foe to the very students who are often most vulnerable in school. No doubt she will scrap the small steps the Obama administration took in making schools safer places for trans students.

Tom Price, Trump’s pick for Health and Human Services secretary, is also against protections for trans students. He also thinks it’s a-ok to fire people for being LGBTQ and that marriage should be for heterosexuals only.

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, tapped to be ambassador to the United Nations, also believes that marriage should be kept away from the gays.

Jeff Sessions of Alabama, Trump’s pick for Attorney General, has a long anti-LGBT voting record. Sessions and CIA Director pick Mike Pompeo of Kansas have in common efforts to get their state’s definition of marriage to override the federal one to circumvent marriage equality.

I could go on, but I don’t have enough room to detail the level of anti-gay hate Trump is unleashing on this country. And he’s just getting started. Wait until he announces a Supreme Court nominee. Anyone who voted for him expecting LGBTQ people to find any kind of safe harbor under his administration was wildly delusional.

Now those LGBTQ people might very well point out that they aren’t single issue voters. And I get that. Nobody is. But I have to ask, if you vote against your very own humanity, then what other issues even exist?

## Michigan Non Profit Resource

### Have You Experienced Discrimination?

If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, intimidation, harassment or violence because of sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity, contact Equality Michigan's Department of Victim Services at :

**report@equalitymi.org or call 1-866-962-1147**

Equality Michigan is working with state legislators to update the Ethnic Intimidation Act to include proper protections for the gay and transgender community.

To get involved in the movement for better hate crimes law, contact [policy@equalitymi.org](mailto:policy@equalitymi.org).

**Hundreds more resources can be found at**  
**[www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)**

## Going High: Hard Work, Frank Talk & Not Backing Down



BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

It goes beyond Democrats to Republicans. It crosses every line and is more than a “them and us” conversation. Of course we have to push back against “the deplorables,” those hard-core racists and bigots, like the KKK, who no amount of talk, reason or logic will ever change. They haven’t gone low, they’ve been low and intend to stay low. Now that they feel emboldened to openly speak hate, attack, disclose their shady dealings and flaunt the laws, we have to hit back hard.

We must go higher, not by turning the other cheek, but by putting on our game face. The election has given them the rope. They’ve put the noose around their necks. We can let them stand up there and continue to spew their hate while we wring our hands and shake or we can – by protest, legal actions, speaking out and voting – pull the lever and let the bastards swing.

But a bigger threat are those family, neighbors, co-workers and community members who don’t, at a core level, understand that “injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Some might be easily recognizable, but some might be sitting right beside us in so-called solidarity. They might not have voted in their own self-interest but by their actions/inactions perpetuate the very system we, “in solidarity,” rail against.

So how do we talk to each other? How do we move forward and not shut down? How do we engage friends, colleagues, even strangers in a way that will challenge their preconceptions, core beliefs, biases and systems so that they will at least begin to think critically?

Can we talk for real now?

In a post “Turkey Day” conversation, I said that if I shopped it would be on Small Business Saturday and at African-American owned small businesses. A progressive/liberal longtime friend, who happens to be a white woman, asked me if that was supporting diversity. She asked, “Why not just shop small businesses, and leave it at that?”

My first reaction was, “If you don’t understand why I want to buy Black, you don’t understand me, so this is not for you.” I was ready to just internally shake my head, chalk it up to liberal naivete and shut her down. Isn’t this what we do? Shut down. Shake our head and avoid conversations that would take us both

out of our comfort zone on many issues especially when it touches on race and our own biases.

Instead, we began a dialogue.

We don’t have to look far to find small businesses representing other communities (i.e Greek, Italian, Jewish, Asian, etc.). When members of those communities shop at those shops, no one questions their support of diversity. Supporting black-owned businesses creates jobs, builds up communities and provides economic prosperity. African-American children, and children of all communities, who grow up seeing businesses owned by all races will understand there is a level playing field in the world of entrepreneurship and that everyone has access to the American dream.

It was an awkward conversation but necessary. If we are to move forward, we all must really understand, not just say it, but understand we’re in this boat together. We can’t pick and choose what/who we are going to stand up for or deny the consequences of our choices. We have to use a different lens, dig beneath the surface. Diversity means respecting individual identities/ethnicities while recognizing these individual identities/ethnicities make up the whole. The stew is better when you can taste the potatoes, carrots, peas and other vegetables than when you boil it down to a nondescript mush.

We have just finished an election cycle where we were told to fear the “other,” to put our personal “getting over” ahead of the well-being of everyone else. We let that little flame get fanned to a blaze that seems out of control. How do we move forward and turn this blaze into a controlled burn so we can grow again, better and stronger? It begins with a conversation across the table, around the water cooler, wherever with friends, family, colleagues – even strangers – with words that will open minds and lead to actions for the betterment of all. They went low, and now we must soar higher than ever before.

*Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. Her program “Collections By Michelle Brown” launches on Jan. 5, 2017 on WatchtheLiveNetwork.com. Learn more at [www.collectionsbymichellebrown.com](http://www.collectionsbymichellebrown.com) and [www.twitter.com/collectionsbymb](http://www.twitter.com/collectionsbymb).*




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I remember being told as a child that “sticks and stones will break your bones but names/words can never hurt you.”

There was even a snappy retort – “I’m rubber and you’re glue. Whatever you say bounces off me and sticks to you!” The message seeming to be that, being the “better person,” just holding your head up high or turning the other cheek, would somehow make things alright.

Even our beloved FLOTUS told us that when “they went low,” we should go high. Words hurt and can cut deeper than any sword, leaving scars fostering feelings of hatred, bigotry, insecurities and self-loathing that can last generations.

This presidential campaign saw a plethora of hate-filled names, words and actions. Despite “going high” and not going tit-for-tat with “the deplorables,” we lost this one. We can’t all pack up our toys and move to Canada or stay in our beds with our heads covered hoping it was all just a bad dream. Each day we have to go to work, attend holiday events and otherwise interact with these people.

Post-election, one of the most frequent questions I have heard or been asked is, “How do we talk to each other?” So much was said that it is easy to demonize those who openly supported the campaign rhetoric of the GOP candidate. Family, coworkers, neighbors may not have said the words directly but cosigned them with their vote.

Many, myself included, wonder how many people I encounter every day at work, in stores and on the street – by voting for their own self-interest or not voting at all – ushered in the storm coming for the next four years. In the days, months and years to come, how do we engage in dialogues to heal the wounds, build understanding and develop a nation of, for and by the people – all the people regardless of race, class, ethnicity, age, gender identity or sexual orientation?

# UN LGBT Expert Vows Broad Investigations into Abuses

BY DAKE KANG

**BANGKOK (AP)** - The first-ever U.N. independent expert selected to examine violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people has vowed to forge ahead with wide-ranging investigations despite formidable opposition to his appointment in a U.N. vote.

“This mandate will cover every country under the sun and under the moon,” Vitit Muntarbhorn said at a LGBT conference in Bangkok Nov. 30. “There can never be a political or legal vacuum in terms of protecting people.”



Vitit Muntarbhorn

This includes working with countries opposed to his appointment, Vitit said.

“We also have to cover not only peace, but war,” he said, noting that members of the Islamic State group have reportedly killed people accused of being gay by throwing them off buildings.

Vitit’s U.N. position was in peril last week when a group of African nations nearly derailed his appointment by the Human Rights Council, saying the U.N. was prioritizing LGBT issues over discrimination based on race or religion. Blocking a Human Rights Council appointee would be unprecedented, according to U.N. officials.

Vitit, who was appointed on Sept. 30 and has started his duties, faces a final vote in the U.N. General Assembly later this month but is expected to be approved. In the meantime, he says he will “just carry on with the work.”

He is in charge of writing a U.N. report on violence against LGBT people, as well as receiving and responding to complaints of abuse on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

To achieve these goals, he plans to visit a “balance” of developed and poorer countries in different regions.

“No entity, no authorities are monolithic,” Vitit said. “We will find strands, advocacy of kindness, consideration, humanity, in pretty much every region, and we must use that well in terms of building the capacity to rationalize with those authorities that might not yet be open enough.”

“You will always find someone, even among those governments, that are slightly more open to discussion,” he added.

Along with Africa, opponents to Vitit’s appointment include countries in the Middle East as well as China and Russia. At least 76 countries have laws in place that criminalize or discriminate against people based on sexual orientation or gender identity, according to a U.N. report last year.

In a fiery speech to hundreds of cheering gay rights supporters, Vitit emphasized the need for a wide, inclusive focus.

Vitit was previously a U.N. outside investigator into human rights in North Korea, which consistently denied his requests for meetings during his six years in the role.

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Tom Wopat’s warm, engaging baritone, lyrical phrasing and far-ranging interpretive skills have made him a favorite with audiences and critics alike. He received Tony nominations for his performances in “A Catered Affair” and “Annie Get Your Gun,” and he also appeared on Broadway in “Sondheim on Sondheim,” “Glengarry Glenn Ross” and “42nd Street.” Wopat will be joined on stage by Linda Purl, a three-time Los Angeles Drama Critics’ Choice best actress nominee. Praised by the *Los Angeles Times* as a “gifted song stylist,” Purl enjoyed a recurring role as Helen Beasley on “The Office,” and her New York stage credits include “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer,” “Getting and Spending” and “The Baby Dance.”

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# World AIDS Day Detroit Engages Youth

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

More than 400 Detroit-area students attended the World AIDS Day Detroit Youth Symposium on Dec. 1 at the Garden Theater in Detroit.

The purpose was to engage youth in a dialogue about issues related to HIV/AIDS including stigma and discrimination, testing/PrEP and transgender health.

“Find yourself, find your community and find your voice,” said 18-year-old HIV activist Ashley Rose Murphy, who spoke during the event about the importance of accepting herself. Born to an HIV-positive mother, she was expected to live only a few months when she was adopted.

By doing so, Murphy said she is “well on her way to shattering boxes people put themselves in and embracing her inner ‘odd man out.’”

Now, the high schooler from Toronto is an ambassador for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation and works to raise awareness about HIV, especially among her peers.

Murphy said she understands what it feels like to be the “only one trying to fit in, blend in and hope no one notices that you’re different.”

WADD board president and founder Phil Kucab explained the importance of World AIDS Day, pointing to the “remarkable stories of community that we have in our history ... We have come so far, standing on the shoulders of so many giants. We honor the people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS by coming here today.”

Detroit-area mayors, elected officials, community-based organizations and university and business leaders were in attendance earlier on Dec. 1 at the WADD Giving Breakfast to hear a keynote address from the Deputy Director of the Detroit Health Department, Lesley Welch, MPH, and Dr. Richard Baker, Vice Dean of Medical Education at the WSU School of Medicine.

Ryan White’s mother Jeanne White-Ginder also attended to offer a powerful reminder of the obstacles faced by those living with HIV in the past, and the work the community still needs to do in order to achieve an AIDS-Free Generation. Ryan’s struggle to be accepted



Phil Kucab, World AIDS Day Detroit board president and founder, takes a selfie with HIV activist Ashley Rose Murphy on Dec. 1 at the Garden Theater in Detroit. Photo courtesy of WADD.



David Nelson, early intervention specialist with HELP (Health Emergency Lifeline Programs) with Detroit area residents Stacia Cottrell and C. Williams, and longtime HIV survivor Grayling Daniel of SEMHAC. MIDDLE: Trans Sistas of Color Project executive assistant Alexandria Gibson and executive director Bre Campbell. BOTTOM: The Detroit Children’s Choir performed at WADD’s Winter Wonderland event on Dec. 1 at the Garden Theater in Detroit. Photos courtesy of Tony Lowe

by his community still resonates today, as many people living with HIV/AIDS face stigma and discrimination based on their diagnosis.

Congress passed the Ryan White CARE Act in 1990, four months after his death, to provide access to medicine and treatment for Americans impacted by HIV/AIDS. There are approximately 40 AIDS service organizations in the state of Michigan. This year’s WADD event was produced in collaboration with a number of AIDS Service Organizations in the area including Gilead Sciences, Matrix MAC Health, Results, HELP (Health Emergency Lifeline Programs), Black Nurses Rock Detroit Chapter, Unified HIV Health and Beyond, the City of Detroit Health Department’s Ryan White Program, and SEMHAC (Southeastern Michigan HIV/AIDS Council).

The day wrapped up with WADD’s Winter Wonderland fundraiser where “American Idol” Season 14 Finalist Rayvon Owen, the Detroit Children’s Choir, and Patrick Fitzgibbon and Steel Sound performed. In addition, this year was WADD’s soft launch of their evening silent auction. A variety of holiday wreaths were designed by community



members, partners and WADD’s corporate sponsors.

“It was fairly successful. We were able to auction off a total of 12 wreaths, and we are hoping to grow our evening event next year,” said Maxwell Cameron, executive director of WADD.

“In terms of the whole event, we were very pleased with the outcomes,” he said. “We have over 1,000 people participate in our events. Our youth symposium in particular was phenomenal ... Overall, it was a great success and we can’t wait for WADD 2017.”

For more information about WADD, visit <http://2016.worldaidsdayus.org>.



# Faith Leaders Work Toward Healing a Divided Community

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Reconciliation and healing is needed right now as the community moves forward post-election. As more LGBT people are cautiously entering houses of worship, the way they are approached is crucial.

It's with that in mind the faith-based coalition Inclusive Justice has been reaching out to congregations statewide to provide encouragement, hope and a reminder of the community's potential through and beyond these hard times.

"We are the only movement in Michigan that is working within and through the faith community to advocate for LGBTQI people," said Pat Horton, co-chair of IJ, about their recent efforts.

By way of a \$16,000 Hope Fund Grant - co-written by Randy Block, director of the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network - IJ has partnered with MUUSJN, Nonprofit Enterprise Works and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force to produce the first transgender-focused annual conference with 96 attendees from 22 different organizations.

"Along the way we produced 14 formal programs in six of the seven counties attracting over 35 churches and have requests for many more," said Horton.

"We partnered with the four Episcopal bishops in helping to promote our programming in the southeast Michigan region, and most recently extending into the Tri-Cities as well as western Michigan, all as a result of attending one of our southeast Michigan programs."

With help from Kathleen Campisano, the Task Force faith organizing manager, they now have more than 1,200 new contacts.

"While most are in southeast Michigan, many have indicated interest from other parts of the state. They see what we are doing," said Horton. "The Task Force has given us and several of our new contacts training on 'How to build an Inclusive Church' as well as board training on fundraising and organizing."

Common questions are: Do you have concerns on how to better welcome all people into your faith community? Are you struggling with scripture and how it applies to LGBT people?

Do you know how to offer the best hospitality to all couples? Are you ready for marriage equality?

The answers are becoming more clear within the faith community as a result of this work done by spiritual leaders.

"We are finally talking," said Judy Lewis, training and education coordinator with SAGE Metro Detroit, who has helped facilitate IJ programs. "People are awakened. They want to know what they can do to help. We need to keep these conversations going. Nobody has to feel alone anymore. We want other congregations to join with us in this work."

So far, IJ's partnerships include the Task Force, Fortunate Families, the Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health, Transgender Michigan, Stand with Trans, Transgender Connect, the Michigan Project for Informed Public Policy, Equality Michigan, the ACLU of Michigan LGBT Project, Oasis Center, Affirmations, LGBT Detroit, PFLAG, the Oakland University SOGI Project, Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ, Perceptions, the SOGI Youth Advocacy Council and Michigan Roundtable for Inclusion and Diversity.

Horton said this list is growing as public issues and policies continue to highlight the need for education, advocacy and policy initiatives in support of LGBT citizens.

## Down the Spiritual Path

As IJ looks toward the future, Horton said they hope to hire a full-time organizer to engage and empower faith-based LGBTQI activists, train 20,000 advocates on building inclusive faith communities in Michigan, and establish regional faith-based groups to advocate on behalf of LGBTQI people.

Why is this important? Rabbi Mark Miller of Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills said as Michigan's first Jewish congregation, they "take seriously our responsibility to be a house of prayer for all people. We are committed to the physical and spiritual support of the LGBT community, especially at a time when so many are responding to the hateful rhetoric that has become commonplace in American political discourse. We embrace the fundamental Jewish notion that every person is created in the image of God, and strive to be welcoming to

## WORSHIP GUIDE

anyone who is seeking access to the sacred nature of tradition in a modern world."

Rev. Bryan Smith, pastor of Geneva Presbyterian in Canton, reminds the community of the words spoken by Jesus to a large crowd 20 centuries ago: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

"...we're an invitation to ALL people. Jesus put no qualifications on his invitation - not race, gender, nationality, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic or social status. He excluded no one. Come, all of you, who are weary and burdened. At Geneva, we take Jesus' invitation seriously. The family of God includes all people, and we know that God created us in such a way that we are incomplete without one another," said Smith.

"...And so, as a community of faith, we extend the same invitation Jesus did - come *all* you who are weary and burdened, no matter what your burden, no matter who you are, where you come from, what you have or have not done. Come into the love and fellowship of the family of God. Come."

*Help is needed from the community. More information about how to contribute can be found at [www.inclusivejustice.org](http://www.inclusivejustice.org).*



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St. John's service times are:

Sunday mornings 8:00am - Holy Eucharist  
Sunday mornings 10:15am - Holy Eucharist (with music)  
Thursday mornings 11:00am - Healing and Eucharist

# WORSHIP GUIDE Holiday Services Calendar

COMPILED BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit  
2441 Pinecrest, Ferndale  
248-399-7741 www.mccdetroit.org

Christmas Eve Service  
11 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24

Christmas Day Service  
11 a.m., Friday, Dec. 25

Woodside Church  
1509 E. Court St., Flint  
810-767-4911 www.woodsidechurch.net  
Hanging of the Greens  
11 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 18

"The Longest Night"  
7 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 21

Christmas Eve Service  
8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 24

Service of Lessons and Carols  
11 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 1

Journey of Faith Christian Church  
1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor  
734-971-4245 www.journeyoffaitha2.org  
Blue Christmas Service  
5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10

Christmas Eve Service  
5 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 24

Christmas Day Service  
10:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 25

Unity of Royal Oak  
2500 Crooks Road, Royal Oak  
248-288-3550 www.unityroyaloak.org  
Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service  
6 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 24

Sunday Service  
10 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 25

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham  
1669 W. Maple Road, Birmingham  
248-644-2040 www.everybodyschurch.org  
Christmas Eve Service  
2 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m., 11 p.m.,  
Saturday, Dec. 24

Christmas Day Service  
12:01 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 25

Trinity Lutheran Church  
1400 Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor  
734-662-4419 www.trinityaa.org  
Christmas Eve Service  
3 p.m., 5 p.m., 8 p.m., Sat., Dec. 24

Christmas Day Service  
10 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 25

King of Kings Lutheran Church  
2685 Packard St., Ann Arbor  
734-971-1417 www.kingofkingslutheran.org  
Christmas Eve Service  
3 p.m., 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 24

Christmas Day Service  
11 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 25

Temple Echad  
Friends Center, 1420 Hill St., Ann Arbor  
734-926-8249 www.temple-echad.org  
Shabbat Evening Service  
7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 23

Journey of Faith Center  
1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor

Chanukah Meditation Recovery Service  
7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 30

Genesis Lutheran Church  
7200 Mack Ave., Detroit  
313-571-7371 www.genesislutheran.org  
Christmas Eve Service  
6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24

Holy Faith Church  
6299 Saline-Ann Arbor Road, Saline  
734-429-2991 www.holy-faith-church.org  
Christmas Day Service  
8:15 a.m., 10 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 25

Zion Lutheran Church  
143 Albany St., Ferndale  
248-398-5510 www.zionlutheranmi.org  
Christmas Eve Service  
5 p.m. Family, 6:30 p.m. Musical  
Prelude, 7:30 p.m. Traditional, 11 p.m.  
Candlelight, Saturday, Dec. 24

Christmas Day Service  
10 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 25

Timothy Lutheran Church  
8820 Wayne Road, Livonia  
734-427-2290 www.timothylutheranchurch.com  
Christmas Eve Service  
7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 24

Christmas Day Service  
10 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 25

Check out other inclusive services in the area  
at the following places of worship:  
Spirit of Hope Church  
1519 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Detroit  
313-964-3113 www.sohdetroit.org

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www.lordoflight.org

• **King of Kings Lutheran Church**  
2685 Packard St.  
www.kingofkingslutheran.org

• **Trinity Lutheran Church**  
1400 Stadium Blvd.  
www.trintyyaa.org

• **Burton**  
Our Risen Lord Lutheran Church  
4040 Lapeer Rd.  
www.ourrisenlordelca.com

• **Detroit**  
Spirit of Hope Church  
1519 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
www.spiritofhopedetroit.org

• **East Lansing**  
University Lutheran Church  
1020 S. Harrison Rd  
www.ulcel.org

• **Ferndale**  
Zion Lutheran Church  
143 Albany St.  
www.fernzion.org

• **Kalamazoo**  
Lutheran Church of the Savior  
3616 East G Avenue  
www.lcoskzoo.com

• **Kentwood**  
Ascension Lutheran Church  
4252 Brenton Rd. SE  
www.twochurches.org

• **Livonia**  
Timothy Lutheran Church  
8820 Wayne Rd.  
www.timothylutheranchurch.com

• **Muskegon**  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
1132 Southern Ave.  
www.oslcmuskegon.org

• **Port Huron**  
St. Martin Lutheran Church  
805 Chestnut St.  
phone: 810.982.9261

• **Rochester Hills**  
Abiding Presence  
Lutheran Church  
1550 Walton Rd.  
www.AbidingPresence.org

• **Saline**  
Holy Faith Church  
6299 Saline-Ann Arbor Rd.  
www.holy-faith-church.org

• **Trenton**  
St. Philip Lutheran Church  
1790 Fort St.  
www.stphilipelca.org

• **Toledo, Ohio**  
St. Lucas Lutheran Church  
745 Walbridge Ave.  
www.stlucastoledo.org

# Top 35 LGBTQ Christian Books of 2016 Named

Lesbian Christian author Kittredge Cherry announced a diverse list of LGBTQ Christian books to include queer theology, Biblical history, memoir, fiction and church life for all ages.

Cherry shared the top 35 on the Jesus in Love Blog at Qspirit.net .

“Transgender themes are the hottest trend this year,” she reported. “More transgender Christian books were published, their quality was high and readers snapped them up.”

Another exciting development is the addition of children’s books as a new category this year.

A few of the books include “This Is My Body: Hearing the Theology of Transgender Christians” by Christina Beardsley and Michelle O’Brien; “Stand by Me: The

Forgotten History of Gay Liberation” by Jim Downs; and “Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know About Life and Love and How It Can Revitalize Christianity” by Elizabeth M. Edman.

“Even little kids can now hear stories that affirm LGBTQ people of faith when their parents read out loud to them,” Cherry said.

A less welcome trend was rising prices. A growing number of academic publishers crossed the line and started charging more than \$100 for a print book, despite reader protests.

The list purposely omits books that claim homosexuality is a sin, although publishers keep on churning those out too.

There were so many great LGBTQ Christian books, Cherry said, that she had to make the list “longer than ever this year.”

St. Martin Lutheran Church  
805 Chestnut St., Port Huron  
810-982-9261 [www.stmartinlutheran.net](http://www.stmartinlutheran.net)

St. Philip Lutheran Church  
1790 Fort St., Trenton  
734-676-7141 [www.stphilipelca.org](http://www.stphilipelca.org)

Lord of Light Lutheran Church  
801 S. Forest Ave., Ann Arbor  
734-668-7622 [www.intersectionlcm.org](http://www.intersectionlcm.org)

Christ the Good Shepherd  
22331 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale  
248-677-5700 [www.ferndalecgs.com](http://www.ferndalecgs.com)

Divine Peace Metropolitan Community Church  
1400 Scott Lake Road, Waterford  
248-332-1186 [www.dpmcc.net](http://www.dpmcc.net)

People’s Church  
1758 N. 10th St., Kalamazoo  
269-375-3262 [www.peopleschurch.net](http://www.peopleschurch.net)



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Sunday Worship and Children’s Ministry 11am  
2441 Pinecrest Ferndale, MI  
248-399-7741 [www.mccdetroit.org](http://www.mccdetroit.org)



## Advent Services:

SAT, 12/24 @ 6 PM  
Christmas Eve Service

SUN, 12/25 @ 10 AM  
Christmas Celebration

SAT, 12/31 @ 6 PM  
New Year’s Eve Burning Bowl Service

SUN, 1/1 @ 10 AM  
New Year’s Day White Stone Ceremony

Unity of Royal Oak  
2500 Crooks Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
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[info@unityroyalook.org](mailto:info@unityroyalook.org)



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2pm - Lively Interactive Worship  
5pm - Family-Friendly Worship  
8pm - Carols and Communion  
11pm - Lessons and Carols

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First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham  
1669 W. Maple Rd., Birmingham, MI 48009  
[www.everybodyschurch.org](http://www.everybodyschurch.org)



# Having His Cake & Eating It Too



Photo: Scott Schafer

## Joe Jonas on 'Fun' Gay Rumors, Barbra Streisand Fandom and the Pleasures of S&M

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**W**hy is Joe Jonas talking about whips and leather? Apart from recalling his experience with both, the answer is simply because he can. Because the former baby-

faced JoBro is all man now, from his 5 o'clock shadow to his steel physique, which he's not been shy about showing off.

While making the promotional rounds for his debut as lead singer of Los Angeles-formed collective DNCE, the newly liberated 27-year-old hasn't merely shifted away from the much-

publicized "purity ring" of his youth, taking on a kinky array of topics including porn, boners and penis size — he's erased its very existence.

Like younger brother Nick, middle sibling Joe wasn't done destroying any traces of his Disney halo when he freewheeled through our recent talk. Read on as he chats about

his fondness for S&M, gay fans who send him pics of their privates and preferring an "older, mature" man play his hypothetical onscreen lover.

**It's been surprising to hear you talk so salaciously while promoting this album. But then**

again, I keep forgetting you're not 17 anymore.

(Laughs) A lot of people do!

**What about your current professional life differs from your career as a Jonas Brother?**

The biggest difference is the writing. I'm proud of the stuff I did with my brothers, but you grow up and go through a lot of different things, so you may be talking about something very innocent – a first kiss, taking somebody out for the first time – when you're that age. But cut to when you're 27, and you're going through things that are a bit more mature, sexually or what not, and that's what you're gonna write about.

**A song from your new album, "Be Mean," is essentially about S&M. Tell me about your decision to be so sexually liberated in your music.**

Some people say, "We finally can talk about these kinds of things, and we want to go wild and crazy," but really, it's just stuff we're going through. I feel like I'm free in my life to speak about it, and yeah, everyone should try a little bit of something new in the bedroom. It's definitely fun when you bring some whips and leather and whatever you may be into – a little bit of S&M – into the bedroom. I wrote it about me and someone I was getting wild with, and maybe (we) busted some outfits out – you know, you get a little crazy. It's a fun song, and I hope people can have fun with it and learn from it.

**What do you want them to learn?**

(Laughs) Well... I would love for them to learn that it's good to try new things.

**Maybe you should teach them, Joe.**

I'll do a handbook.

**Have your brother, Nick, write the foreword.**

Exactly. I expect you to be one of the reviewers.

**Were there moments before when people were trying to guide you to be something different than who you felt you were?**

I would say "yeah" to that. Yes, because it may have been subconscious; it could just be friends you've surrounded yourself with, or on a deeper level it could be music people around you saying, "This is the right direction for you, and this is where you should go next."

I remember when I did a short run of a solo project (2011's "Fastlife," released on Disney Music Group's Hollywood Records), all signs were pointing to a very R&B, smooth, sexy vibe for an album, and I listened without taking time for myself to really utilize influences that I love. I learned from it, but at the same time, it was jarring.

But I feel really comfortable in my life and career right now. I definitely feel like the best version of myself, and I'm glad I can have a good label now that allows me to spread my wings and create music that really is, for all

of us (in the band), unique and special.

**Another change: Your body. What inspired the muscles?**

I wanted a change of pace and to put myself through a challenge. It's easy to eat junk food and party every night on tour, so I put myself through a season where I challenged myself physically, and I really enjoyed it. There were days that were tough, but seeing your body slowly changing, you just want to keep on it. I had a trainer on tour with me – this amazing boxer Ava Knight – and she came out and busted my ass, and I was really enjoying it.

**Has your beefier body gotten you more attention from gay men?**

I think so! Probably, yeah. I'm seeing it just through DMs. It's quite funny. But I take it as a compliment. It's cool. At the end of the day, for me, it goes back to the music, and DNCE has done a lot of cool concerts, like Pride shows. We have a lot of gay fans, and we love that they're so supportive, so hey, if that makes them happy, it's all good.

**What do gay men DM you?**

I bet you could take a wild guess. (Laughs) It's all over the map, from selfies to you-know-what. It's funny, too, because you can't really tell what people are sending because everything now is blurred out, and I like to read some of the DMs and hear stories. But, of course, sometimes there are crazy ones, and it's just straight nudity. You have to just find something good in it – or laugh, depending on what it is.

**I have to say, few things are making me feel optimistic about the current state of America, but your album is one of them.**

Oh, man. Thanks! You know, honestly, that's what we're all about: taking people out of a place they don't wanna be in and bringing some joy to a situation.

**Why is it important for you and the band to perform at Pride events or, like you did recently, at a club like G-A-Y in London?**

In the world we live in now more than ever, it's especially important that, like you said, our music can take you out of that. I think, what is a better time than now for everyone coming together and being stronger together, whatever your thoughts are on the election? It can be a heartache for some. I think for DNCE we try to bring some joy to you and happiness and share the love, and that's what it's all about for us. If we can put a smile on your face, that's what's important to us. And look, our gay fans are awesome and we want to give back in every way we can, so we're putting on shows for them.

**How have you been processing the election outcome?**

I've been able to see a lot of different

See Joe Jonas, page 27



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## Celebrate 40 Years of Folk Music

A selection of the world's finest traditional and contemporary performers will come together on Jan. 27-28 to celebrate the 40th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival presented by Ford Motor Company. Each night at the Hill Auditorium includes a blend of well-known and up-and-coming artists to provide festival-goers an opportunity to hear artists they know and love while discovering great new talent. Night one features Kacey Musgraves, Jenny Lewis, Nahko and Medicine for the People, Valerie June, Rainbow Kitten Surprise, Zach Heckendorf, and Susan Werner, MC. Night two features the Indigo Girls, Margo Price, Kiefer Sutherland, Over the Rhine, We Banjo 3, Davina and the Vagabonds, Corn Potato String Band, and Susan Werner, MC.

*Tickets for the festival at 6:30 p.m. at 825 N. University Ave. are \$37.50-200 for one night, and \$67.50-360 for two nights. They can be purchased online at <http://theark.org>.*

## Ann Arbor Officials Stand Against Hate, Sign Pledge

More than 70 elected officials in the Ann Arbor area have signed a pledge to stand with all people and do everything they can to ensure Washtenaw County is a safe and welcoming community for everyone.

Yousef Rabhi, a Democratic county commissioner from Ann Arbor and soon-to-be state representative, is leading the initiative, which is picking up support from local school board leaders, city and township officials, county leaders, state lawmakers from the area, and U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell.

The list of supporters is growing, MLive.com reports, and local elected officials are invited to sign the pledge by emailing [signonwashtenaw@gmail.com](mailto:signonwashtenaw@gmail.com). Area organizations also can add their names to the solidarity statement by emailing the same address.

**The full solidarity statement reads as follows:**

We, the undersigned Elected Officials of Washtenaw County, stand together against hate. We stand with everyone in



Indigo Girls Amy Ray and Emily Saliers will perform at the 40th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival on Jan. 28 at Hill Auditorium. Photo courtesy of Jeremy Cowart

Washtenaw County, in solidarity with the many diverse identities we all hold.

While the following enumeration may not capture every group in our community, we stand in opposition to any hateful words or acts aimed against any and all peoples of our community regardless of the political views they hold.

We stand with American Indian people of Washtenaw County.

We stand with Arab, Middle Eastern and North African people of Washtenaw County.

We stand with Asian people of Washtenaw County.

We stand with Black people of Washtenaw County.

We stand with Latinx people of Washtenaw County.

We stand with Immigrant and Refugee people of Washtenaw County.

We stand with LGBTQ+ people of Washtenaw County.

We stand with Muslims, Jews and people of all religions of Washtenaw

County.

We stand with People with Disabilities of Washtenaw County.

We stand with Survivors of Sexual Assault of Washtenaw County.

We stand with Veterans of Washtenaw County.

We stand with Women and Girls of Washtenaw County.

We pledge to use every power vested in our respective offices to protect the safety and dignity of everyone in this community. We pledge to engage, empower and listen to those who are most vulnerable.

We pledge to do everything in our power to defend this community against any policies, actions, or statements that discriminate against or target any individual or group.

We pledge to do everything in our power to ensure that Washtenaw County is a safe and welcoming community for everyone.

We pledge to stand united.

*Members of the public can show their support online also.*

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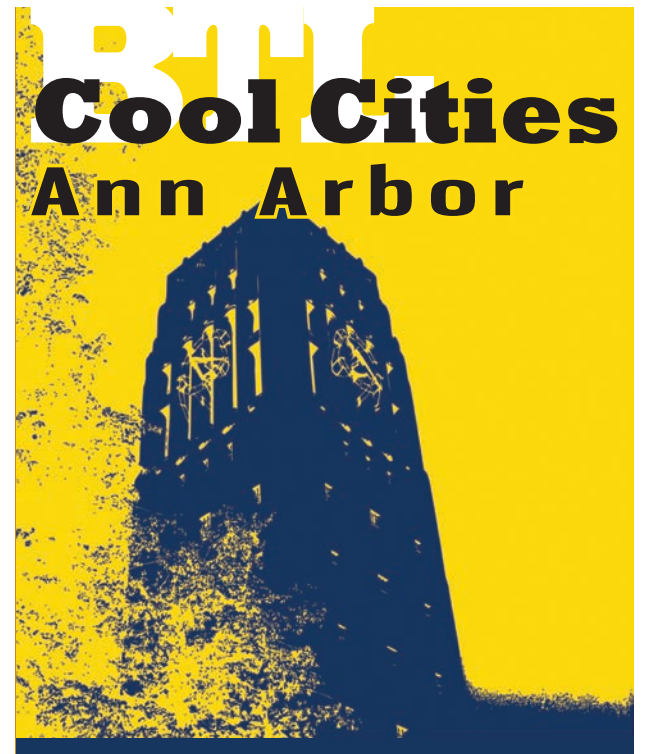
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Martin Contreras and Keith Orr . Photos courtesy of Unified - HIV and Beyond.

## Orr and Contreras Honored At Unified's Wine Cellar Benefit

### BTL STAFF REPORT

**YPSILANTI** - Dozens of wine lovers gathered at Bona Sera Cafe in Ypsilanti for the 13th Annual Wine Cellar benefit for Unified – HIV and Beyond Nov. 30. Celebrating the one-year anniversary of the merger between AIDS Partnership Michigan and HARC that created Unified – HIV and Beyond, and the final year of the Wine Cellar event, organizers went all-out to honor the fundraiser's originators, Keith Orr and Martin Contreras.

states in part; "Mr. Contreras and Mr. Orr have played a crucial role in building the LGBTQ community through their business and philanthropic initiatives. In 1995, they founded \aut\Bar, a gay bar and restaurant that today serve as a key pillar of the LGBTQ community in the Ann Arbor area."

Jimena Loveluck, deputy director of

Orr and Contreras hosted the first Wine Cellar in 2003 as a HARC benefit at their restaurant in Ann Arbor, \aut\ Bar. Each year the event expanded, attracting more people and raising more funds for the HIV/AIDS agency that served Washtenaw County with direct services to people living with HIV/AIDS. Over the past 13 years, the Wine Cellar event has raised over \$250,000.

Orr and Contreras were presented with two prestigious proclamations. Amanda Edmonds, Mayor of Ypsilanti, and Christopher Taylor presented a Proclamation from the City of Ypsilanti honoring the two activists, "who have tirelessly served our community as business owners and LGBTQ leaders for the last 20 plus years." Then, Jason Morgan from U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell's office presented a U.S. Congressional Citation that

Unified, then surprised Orr and Contreras with a near-life-sized original portrait of the two men with their beloved canine companion, Duke. The portrait was created from a photograph taken March 22, 2015 after Orr and Contreras were married in the brief window of opportunity after Judge Berndard Friedman's historic decision that declared Michigan's anti-marriage amendment unconstitutional

"We were overwhelmed," said Orr. "We knew we were going to be honored at the event, but had no idea the extent. We are deeply touched, honored and humbled."



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# Happenings

## Editor's Pick

### OUTINGS

#### Thursday, Dec. 8

**City Contracts an Outline of the Process** 6:30 p.m. Listen to Jill Ford and Portia Roberson give an outline on what the city is looking for, what projects are currently happening and the importance of being a certified business in the city of Detroit. Free for members. \$10 for non-members. Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce, 4145 Woodward Ave., Detroit. <http://bit.ly/2g5JEGv>

**Gender Non-Conformists** 7 p.m. A social and support group for genderqueer, gendertabulous, 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](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

**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](mailto:laura@temple-israel.org)

#### Friday, Dec. 9

**Winter Donation Drive** Accepting winter hats, coats, earmuffs, gloves, and scarves of all sizes. Each Friday



humiliating, but once the thousands of visitors start pouring through Santa's workshop, he becomes battle-weary and bitter.

"Season's Greetings" introduces the audience to Jocelyn Dunbar who is composing her annual holiday newsletter for family and friends. However, viewers will quickly realize her year has not been filled with good tidings and cheer.

Showtimes at The Ringwald at 22742 Woodward Ave. are at 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday and at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$10-20. For more information, call 248-545-5545 or visit the theatre online [www.TheRingwald.com](http://www.TheRingwald.com).

### David Sedaris Holiday Plays Return to The Ringwald

The Ringwald Theatre is pleased to announce the 10th Annual Production of their beloved holiday classic, "The Santaland Diaries" and "Season's Greetings" by David Sedaris, adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello, Dec. 16-22 at The Ringwald in Ferndale.

"The Santaland Diaries" is a brilliant evocation of what a slacker's Christmas must feel like. Out of work, The Ringwald's slacker decides to become a Macy's elf during the holiday crunch. At first the job is simply

from 5-7 p.m., Affirmations will hand out these items as needed until Jan. 27. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [lreyes@goaffirmations.org](mailto:lreyes@goaffirmations.org) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

#### Saturday, Dec. 10

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

**Holiday In December** 7 p.m. Dress in elegant emerald green and black. LGBT Detroit, 1023 Iroquois (at East Jefferson Avenue), Detroit. 313-285-9733. [www.lgbtdetroit.org/supportus](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org/supportus)

#### Sunday, Dec. 11

**Fun Home** 7:30 p.m. Winner of Five Tony Awards including Best Musical. Inspired by the life of Alison Bechdel. Not recommended for children under 13. Under 5 not admitted. Tickets: \$15-\$130. Broadway In Detroit, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. [www.broadwayindetroit.com/shows/fun-home](http://www.broadwayindetroit.com/shows/fun-home)

#### Tuesday, Dec. 13

**Gamenight** 7 p.m. Gay Geeks Social Group, 4636 15 MILE RD Apt. xxx, Sterling Heights. [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

#### Wednesday, Dec. 14

**FTM Detroit** 7 p.m. This discussion provides trans men an opportunity to discuss a fuller image of transition within their larger life including deconstruction of doubt, male privilege, vulnerability and more. Attendance restricted to FTM/

transgender men, anyone who identifies on the transmasculine side of the spectrum. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

#### Thursday, Dec. 15

**45+ Club Holiday Party for LGBT Adults** 12 p.m. No charge for this event. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Detroit Elders** 5 p.m. Attendance is free. SAGE Metro Detroit, 4750 Woodward, Detroit. 313-833-1300 ext. 15. <https://sagemetrodetroit.org>

#### Friday, Dec. 16

**Discussion on depression during winter season** 7:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Mark McMillan, LLMSW, 25600 Woodward Avenue, Suite 215, Royal Oak. 248-399-7447. [OfficeMgr@crsh.com](mailto:OfficeMgr@crsh.com) [www.crsh.com/workshops/Depression-and-the-Winter-Season](http://www.crsh.com/workshops/Depression-and-the-Winter-Season)

#### Saturday, Dec. 17

**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](http://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](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

**Free HIV + STD Testing** 1 p.m. Unified, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105.

**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](http://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](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

#### Sunday, Dec. 18

**PFLAG Ann Arbor** 2 p.m. Ann Arbor meeting for Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Free to attend. PFLAG Ann Arbor, 306 N Division St, Ann Arbor. 724-741-0659. [info@pflagaa.org](mailto:info@pflagaa.org) [pflagaa.org](http://pflagaa.org)

**Concert of Holiday Reflection and Celebration** 3 p.m. Support Gleaners Community Food Bank of Southeastern Michigan. Suggested donation of \$5 or five canned or boxed goods. Please no glass items. Shift Ensemble Detroit, 12935 W. 11 Mile Rd., Huntington Woods. [shiftenssembledetroit@gmail.com](mailto:shiftenssembledetroit@gmail.com) [www.facebook.com/sedetroit](http://www.facebook.com/sedetroit)

**Home for the Holidays 13 Songwriter Showcase & Charity Drive** 9 p.m. Annual songwriter showcase features

See Happenings, page 30



## ► Joe Jonas

Continued from p. 21

viewpoints. What I mean is, I just presented at the Glamour Women of the Year event, and it was a pretty somber crowd, obviously. Toward the end, there was a bit of hope. Bono actually won Man of the Year, and he said it best when he was like, I shouldn't even be up here, but now more than ever, men and women should be uniting and coming together. It was interesting to see how they're handling it, but for me, personally, I was bummed. Now, it's time to come together, and there's going to be some positive things hopefully. It may suck, but I love this country and I think that's what it's about.

**There are several videos online of paparazzi chasing you down and asking if you're gay. Why do people think you're gay?**

I don't know the real answer to it. I don't have an issue with it. I think it's a compliment. I have a lot of gay fans. It's not like it bothers me. Some people handle it differently, but at the end of the day, I'm cool with it and think it's kind of funny. You have to learn to laugh; people are gonna create a story out of anything.

You know, it's probably because I'm in touch with my feminine side. Look, I love fashion; I love to dress well. I love certain things like that. And I have a lot of gay friends, as well, so that could probably point them in that direction. But again, the gay community is something that is close to my heart, so I don't mind. Hey, if they wanna think I'm gay, it's fun.

**Reinforcing those rumors: the fact that you want to collaborate with Barbra Streisand.**

Yeaah! I love Barbra Streisand. It's so funny: Our stylist is like the biggest Barbra Streisand fan in the world, and it's amazing because I always make sure we play the song "Barbra Streisand" when we walk in the room before a fitting.

**Do you have a favorite Barbra album?**

That's tough to say. Look, I love theater as well. I had the opportunity to be on Broadway when I was younger, and I hope to be able to do it again one day. So, I would say the theatrical side of Barbra, I really love.

**You've also dabbled in acting. If you ever followed in your brother Nick's footsteps and played gay, who's on your shortlist of male romantic interests?**

That's a great question. I'd say for sure Daniel Craig. I think Matthew McConaughey is a hunk of a man. I'd have to go with George Clooney. Older, mature men.

**What message do you hope to send to people who are reluctant to support LGBT issues?**

Look, we're all human. Some of the best friends in my life are gay, and we don't look at each other any differently, and it's not like there's any separation of who we are as people. Love is love. And if you have a problem with that, then you can just get out of this world – first trip to the moon, first trip to space – because I honestly feel like life's too short to worry about dumb things like that. People are people, and I'm gonna help out in any way I can. And what better time than now?

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

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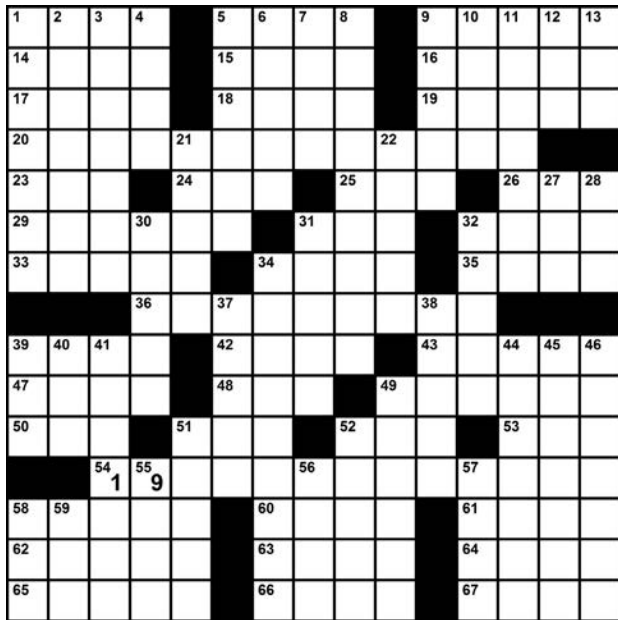
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# Q Puzzle



- 36 City where 20-Across is buried  
 39 "Billy Elliot" epithet  
 42 Stow, as cargo  
 43 Stonewall disturbances  
 47 Interjects  
 48 Green-lights  
 49 Like foamy heads in a gay bar  
 50 White or rose alternative  
 51 Eroded, with "away"  
 52 Brown's Sneaky \_\_\_\_  
 53 Word on either towel, perhaps  
 54 This enacted the right to vote for women  
 58 Comes to an end  
 60 Singer k.d.  
 61 Sommer of film  
 62 Nephew of Donald Duck  
 63 \_\_\_\_ homo  
 64 Astringent  
 65 Prudential rival  
 66 Will of "The Waltons"  
 67 Partners of bottoms
- 11 Poorly endowed Dickens character?  
 12 Malt drink  
 13 Work under Edith Head, perhaps  
 21 Response to an error in "Do Re Mi"?  
 22 Regular hangout  
 27 Genre for Eazy-E  
 28 Shooter in Bruce Weber's field  
 30 Workers at the bottom  
 31 Satellite broadcasts  
 32 Queer souvenir  
 34 "Move your ass!"  
 37 Dressmaker's need  
 38 Goofed up  
 39 Four to Sheehan, usually  
 40 Dedicated poem  
 41 Only thing that doesn't fit in  
 44 Tragic Shakespearean character  
 45 Conceive, non-heterosexually  
 46 Methods for counting queens and other cards  
 49 Rub the right way  
 51 Cruising, maybe  
 52 Homophobe veep-elect  
 55 Back-row bowling target  
 56 Spice made from nutmeg  
 57 Type of market, to the sexually insensitive  
 58 Patty Hearst's former org.  
 59 Foot fetish digit

## I Voted

### Across

- 1 "I Love Rock 'N Roll" singer Joan  
 5 Kinnear of "As Good As It Gets"  
 9 Pockets stuffed with meat  
 14 Currency on the Continent  
 15 Composition of some beds  
 16 DeBeque in "South Pacific"  
 17 Hose trouble  
 18 Jazz singer Anita

- 19 Muscle Mary's pride  
 20 Women placed "I voted" stickers on her headstone  
 23 First person in Berlin  
 24 Above, to Byron  
 25 Sex-toy batteries  
 26 Three for Sophia  
 29 Charles Atlas development areas  
 31 Bug with two homonyms  
 32 "See you later"  
 33 They may be kissed or kicked  
 34 In the public eye  
 35 Dave Pallone and others

### Down

- 1 "Guiding Light" actress Leccia  
 2 Castratos, e.g.  
 3 Spreads gossip about  
 4 It covered Caesar's Johnson  
 5 Big balls  
 6 Trooper's device  
 7 Wolfson of Freedom to Marry  
 8 Writer with a family name?  
 9 Colombian coins  
 10 Hacker's cry

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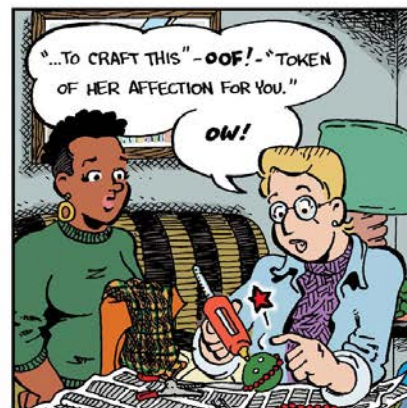
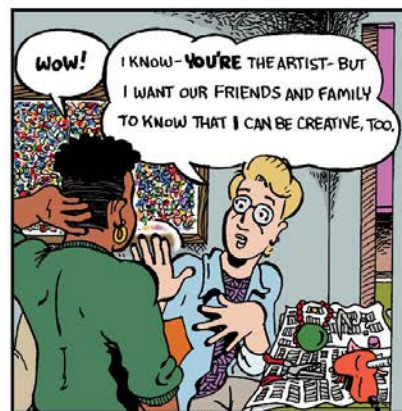
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# The OutField: A Show of Gratitude

BY DAN WOOG

It's the time of year when we show gratitude – and LGBT folks (and their allies) have a lot to be thankful for.

Not as much as if the presidential election had gone the other way, of course. From a gay point of view a Vice President Pence is at least as scary as a President Trump. The men (or women, but don't hold your breath) who could wind up on the Supreme Court may well roll back many of the hard-earned rights the LGBT community has gained over the past few decades. We are in uncharted waters, and the seas are likely to be very, very rough.

Fortunately, there is smoother sailing on the LGBT sports front. Over the past few years – especially during 2016 – gay issues and athletics have moved from a corner of the locker room out into the center of the arena. A tipping point was reached, then passed. Gay, lesbian and bisexual athletes and coaches are no longer seen as rarities, outliers or freaks. Allies are no longer afraid to speak up. Americans understand that we are indeed everywhere. "Gay sports" has moved from oxymoron to ho-hum.

So when we sit down to dinner this year, and say (Will and) grace, let's give thanks to all the men, women, organizations and institutions that have helped get us where we are today.

For nearly 20 years, for example, Outsports has been the go-to website for LGBT sports

news and commentary. Quietly, doggedly – but with spirit, humor and joy – Cyd Ziegler and Jim Buzinski have told stories about out competitors, coaches, referees and administrators. In the beginning, many of those tales were filled with fear and worry. Over time, they brimmed with hope. Now, they're almost uniformly positive.

Each story is different. Yet taken together – this experience at a religious school, that one on a curling team; this one describing a welcoming lacrosse culture, that one ending with a hug from a formerly unenlightened homophobe – they offer a clear, comforting picture of a segment of society that has changed quickly and significantly. The mainstream media has not taken much notice of the shift, but Outsports has. In fact, Outsports has made those changes possible.

Hot on Outsports' heels, in terms of value to the LGBT sports world, is Athlete Ally. The brainchild of Hudson Taylor – the straight University of Maryland wrestler whose decision to put a Human Rights Campaign sticker on his headgear sparked first a backlash, then a movement – Athlete Ally has emerged as a potent educational and advocacy force.

The organization provides public awareness campaigns, programming, tools and resources. It's mobilized an impressive list of "Ambassadors," at over 80 colleges and including over 100 professional athletes.

Through speaking engagements, op-ed columns and social media, Athlete Ally has moved the needle of public perception significantly. In doing so, it's helped make LGBT people aware of the importance of allyship and intersectionality. We often say that sports teaches lessons of value far away from the playing fields. These can be some of the most important ones.

Sports teams and leagues themselves have hopped aboard the gay athletics train. Nearly every major league club now sponsors some variety of "LGBT Night." Teams respond quickly to isolated incidents of unwarranted behavior, like homophobic chants or signs in the stands, and temperate comments by players and coaches. Those are (thankfully) fewer and farther between these days. And while the motive may be partly financial – gay and lesbian fans buy tickets too – it's also indicative of societal shifts. Change once came slowly to the sports world. Now it mirrors the real world.

For 34 years, the Gay Games has promoted equality in and by sports. Calling itself "the world's largest sports and culture festival open to all," the Games (which legally cannot be called anything close to the "Gay Olympics") are, well, like the Olympics but with broader participation, less commercialism

Gay, lesbian and bisexual athletes and coaches are no longer seen as rarities, outliers or freaks. Allies are no longer afraid to speak up. Americans understand that we are indeed everywhere. "Gay sports" has moved from oxymoron to ho-hum.

and a ton more fabulousness. Every four years, the Gay Games makes a major statement about the value of diversity and inclusion. Want to be part of the next one? It's in Paris in August 2018.

That's a lot of things to be thankful for. But websites, non-profits, teams and organizations are not really what drive change.

The LGBT sports movement would not be where it is now without the courage and conviction of the countless men and women (and boys and girls) who have come out of the closet. By standing up – in their locker rooms, on their fields and in the sports pages – they have enabled countless more to be who they are. They've opened the eyes and hearts of their teammates, coaches and fans. They are the true story of gay athletics.

And for that, we are very, very thankful.

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](mailto:OutField@qsyndicate.com).

## ► Happenings

Continued from p. PB 26

six acoustic artists performing for a good cause! Donations benefit three local homeless charities. Performing is Audra Kubat, Emily Rose, Alison Lewis, Michelle Held, Mark Bolohan and Mike Galbraith. Static Network, 4300 Cadieux Road, **Detroit**. 313-882-8560. [info@staticrecords.com](mailto:info@staticrecords.com) [www.facebook.com/events/1481457142161108/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1481457142161108/)

## Monday, Dec. 19

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

**Zumba with Josh** 6:30 p.m. \$6 per class. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 2483987105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

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

## MUSIC & MORE

### Comedy

**Michigan Radio** "Paula Poundstone" Tickets: \$32-\$60. On sale Aug. 19. All ages welcome. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 8 p.m. Dec.

17. 248-399-2980. <http://www.axs.com/events/309522/paula-poundstone-tickets>

### Concerts

**AEG Live** "Damien Escobar" All ages welcome. Tickets: \$45 - \$65. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7 p.m. Dec. 8. 248-399-2980. <http://bit.ly/2cwr9Jj>

**Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** "Holiday Pops". Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 9. 734-761-1800. [www.a2so.com](http://www.a2so.com)

**Sing Out Detroit** "Wonders Never Cease" Tickets: \$15-20. Seligman Performing Arts Center, 22305 W. 13 Mile Rd., Beverly Hills. 3 p.m. Dec. 11. 248-943-2411. [www.singoutdetroit.org](http://www.singoutdetroit.org)

**The Ark** "Blackthorn" Tickets: \$20. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Dec. 17. 734-761-1800. [www.theark.org](http://www.theark.org)

### Dance

**The Whiting** "The Hip Hop Nutcracker" A contemporary dance spectacle set to Tchaikovsky's timeless music, is a holiday mash-up for the entire family. Tickets: \$32-\$38. The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 8 p.m. Dec. 10. 810-237-8689. [www.TheWhiting.com](http://www.TheWhiting.com)

### Shows

**Bakers Keyboard Lounge** "Bakers Keyboard Lounge Presents Every Wednesday OGD ft. Sky Covington" Join the Detroit Jazz Greats OGD (Gerard Gibbs, Perry Hughes & Gene Dunlap) ft. Sky Covington for live jazz, drinks and fun. Bakers Keyboard Lounge, 20510 Livernois, Detroit. Oct. 12 - Dec. 28. 313-345-6300. [www.theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com](http://www.theofficialbakerskeyboardlounge.com)

**Static Network** "Home for the Holidayze" Cover: \$6 or \$5 with donation of canned food or winter clothing item. Cadieux Cafe, 4300 Cadieux, Detroit. 9 p.m. Dec. 16. 313-882-8560. [www.cadieuxcafe.com/](http://www.cadieuxcafe.com/)

## THEATER

**A Christmas Carol** Step back in time to see Tiny Tim and a handful of ghosts melt Ebenezer Scrooge's frozen heart and show him what Christmas really means. Tickets: \$20-\$42. Fun for the whole family. Meadow Brook Theatre, Meadow Brook Music Festival, 3554 Walton Blvd., Rochester Hills. Through Dec. 24. 248-377-3300. [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

**A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder** Tickets: \$49-\$139. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, Cobb Great Hall, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Dec. 13 - Dec. 18. 800-WHARTON. [www.whartoncenter.com](http://www.whartoncenter.com)

**Sugar Plum Panto** Tickets: suggested \$20 donation. Fun for the whole family. Featuring brand new songs by R. MacKenzie Lewis, "Kick Butt" and "Tick Tock," and classical pieces from the Nutcracker Ballet by Tchaikovsky, and reimagining of modern songs. Theatre Nova Ensemble, The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Dec. 22. 734-635-8450. [www.theatrenova.org](http://www.theatrenova.org)

### Civic/Community Theater

**David Sedaris's The Santaland Diaries and Season's Greetings** Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Dec. 16 - Dec. 22. 248-545-5545. [www.theringwald.com](http://www.theringwald.com)



information, visit [www.lgbtdetroit.org](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org), call 313-397-2127 or email [detroit@lgbtdetroit.org](mailto:detroit@lgbtdetroit.org).

## Editor's Pick

### Elegant Emerald Green and Black Holiday Party

The color of green signifies balance, harmony and growth. It's the perfect color of choice post-election for LGBT Detroit's 14th annual holiday cocktail party on Dec. 10 at 20025 Greenfield Road in Detroit. This holiday season is the perfect time to renew and restore our depleted energy. The evening - which includes entertainment, dinner and holiday surprises - begins at 6 p.m. It's also an opportunity to support the newly acquired #SafeBraveSpace. Tickets for \$100 are available at <https://app.donorview.com/y9LG>. For more information, visit [www.lgbtdetroit.org](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org), call 313-397-2127 or email [detroit@lgbtdetroit.org](mailto:detroit@lgbtdetroit.org).

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Affirmations** "Gender X Show" Open to all transgender and gender queer artists. Pittman-Puckett Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Nov. 12 - Jan. 7. 2483987105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Ann Arbor Art Center** "Stamped Clay Jewelry Workshop" Come create your own custom clay jewelry. Tickets: \$40 for ages 18 and up. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 1 p.m. Dec. 10. 734-994-8004. <http://bit.ly/2f6Ew0a>

**Ann Arbor Art Center** "Intro to Precious Metal Clay Workshop" Come learn

about the unique properties of precious metal clay in this one day workshop for beginners. Tickets: \$135 for ages 18 and up. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 10 a.m. Dec. 10. 734-994-8004. <http://bit.ly/2fNS00M>

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "Think Small 2016" All media and work is 12 inches in any direction or smaller and created by local artists. All work created by area artists. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. Nov. 30 - Dec. 24. 2485440394. [www.lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://www.lawrencestreetgallery.com)

**Yourist Studio Gallery** "Yourist Studio Gallery Annual Holiday Show and Sale" Join us for dazzling new ceramic art by our Studio Resident Artists and selected students, good company, festive food and drink, and seasonal cheer. Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway, Ann Arbor. Dec. 9 - Dec. 11. 734-662-4914. [www.youristpottery.com](http://www.youristpottery.com)

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



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The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline. Live weekdays, 10 am - 6 pm.



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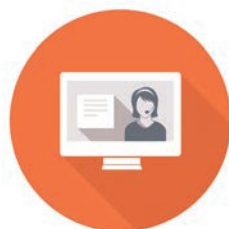
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THE MICHIGAN HIV/STD HOTLINE IS A PROGRAM OF UNIFIED - HIV HEALTH AND BEYOND



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Only, persons 12 and older

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- HEPC

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ACCESS, MAC Health, Matrix Human Services, OLHSA

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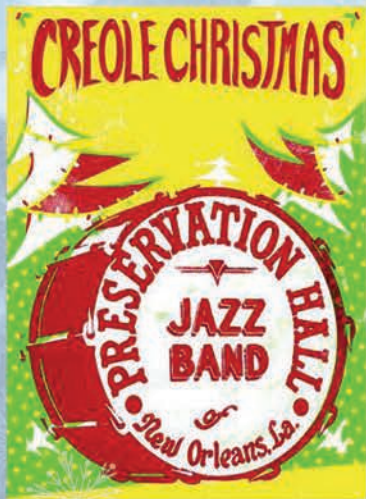
**ACCESS HIV**  
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WWW.ACCESSCOMMUNITY.ORG/SCREENINGHOURS

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with the  
**Detroit Symphony Orchestra**

December 31, 2016

Bash: 8-10 p.m.

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