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RESISTING THE TRUMP AGENDA



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Yes, They Can
(And Did)**

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RESISTING TRUMP

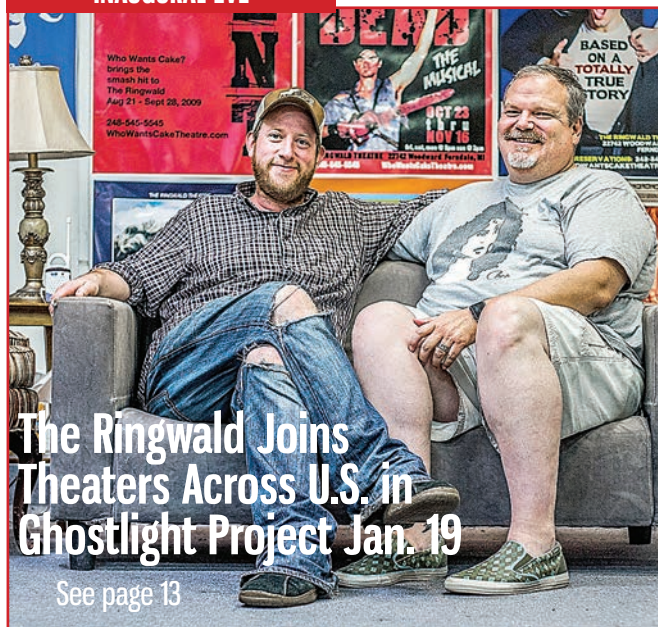


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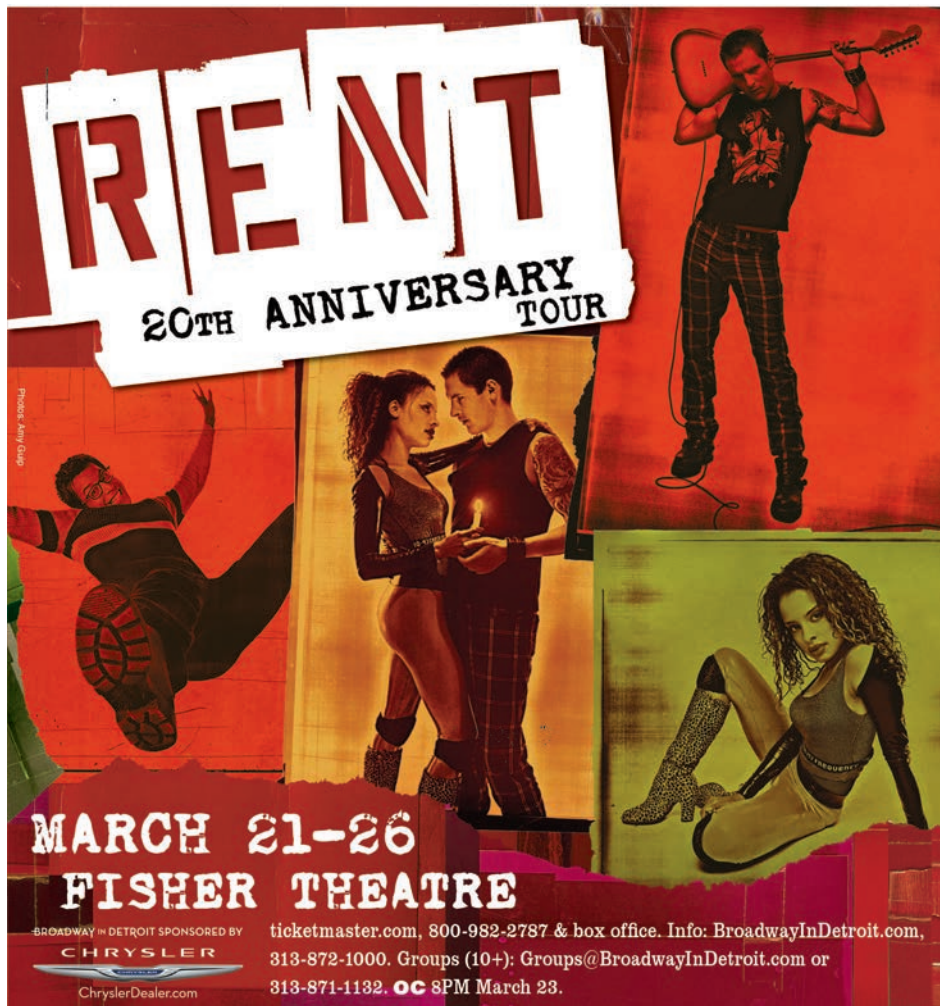
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Detroit Native Announces Plans to Run for Detroit Mayor

DETROIT - Detroit native, Myya D. Jones, has announced that she will be running for mayor of the city of Detroit in 2017. She wants to be a voice for women of color and millennials in the U.S. government sector at the age of 22..

"I believe it's time for Millennials to have a seat at the table when it comes to our political system," said Jones. "It's our constitutional right and its time for us to start exercising it."

Jones has been working with members of her community for the Grassroots campaign. She provided opportunities in her campaign as a starting point for anyone that wishes to be politically active but does not know where or how to get started.

Jones is excited to get her campaign moving. In the up and coming months, she is looking forward to meeting with the public and her supporters, as well as discussing her platforms, such as rebuilding neighborhoods and creating more opportunities for other Detroit natives.

"There's more to Detroit than downtown and Midtown. As we continue to develop our downtown area, we need to also rebuild our neighborhoods and create more opportunities for the Detroit natives. Millennials have begun to start businesses and nonprofits to progress our city – now it's time for us to step up for public offices," she said.

The primary election is Aug. 8; the general election, Nov. 7.

For more information about Jones' campaign, please visit www.MyyaDJones.com or contact Myya Jones For Detroit via email at myyajonesfordetroit@gmail.com.

Comedy Shows to Raise Funds for Local LGBT Center

TRAVERSE CITY - Traverse City comedy group Falling Down Stairs Productions will donate proceeds from its February, March and April shows to help the Polestar LGBT+ Community Center, which serves Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Kalkaska, and Antrim Counties, and beyond.

"Falling Down Stairs Productions has generously offered to help raise funds for the center, which will be used to help open a physical center to host volunteer-run programs, put on a prom for LGBT teens, offer trans programming and more," Polestar organizers said in a statement.

Polestar is fully functioning since November 2016 when the exploratory committee compiled the first board of directors and made it official at a meeting in December 2016.

For more information, please visit the Polestar website www.tcpolestar.org.



The spiritual and physical beauty of 50 African-American women in the Flint community will be on display from Jan. 22-April 15 at the Flint Institute of Arts. Photo courtesy of the FIA

Women of Flint Featured in FIA Exhibit

If you seek the soul of a people, look to its women. For it is at their bosoms that the seeds of love, compassion and courage are first planted and nurtured. Look into their faces and see what was and what will be. - Jerry Taliaferro, Photographer, Women of a New Tribe Project

The spiritual and physical beauty of 50 African-American women in the Flint community will be on display from Jan. 22-April 15 at the Flint Institute of Arts. The "Women of a New Tribe" exhibition is part of a larger project that has travelled to a number of cities in the U.S. including Indiana, Pennsylvania, Florida, and North Carolina. Photographic portraits by artist Jerry Taliaferro are done in a style reminiscent of the high glamour photography of 1930s and '40s Hollywood. The subjects come from all walks and stages of life: they are mothers and daughters, artists, professionals, and community activists. For the exhibition in Flint, the FIA asked the community for nominations in January 2016.

On Jan. 21, the FIA celebrates the opening of "Women of a New Tribe" during the 10th annual Community Gala, which features a conversation with Taliaferro from 6-9:30 p.m. He will discuss the origins of his project and his experience photographing the women of Flint. Following the discussion, view the exhibition, enjoy a reception with live music, a strolling dinner, and a cash bar. Cocktail attire suggested. Tickets are \$40 per person for FIA members in advance, \$55 at the door. Tickets are \$60 per person for non-members, \$75 at the door. Proceeds benefit FIA programs and exhibitions.

Visit www.flintarts.org for more information.

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Thousands Gather at Michigan Rally to Tell Congress: 'Save Our Healthcare'

BY AMY LYNN SMITH

WARREN – This was more than a great turnout. The response to the “Save Our Healthcare” rally in Warren on Sunday was so overwhelming the event had to be moved to a larger venue than the one originally announced. According to Michigan Democratic Party Chair Brandon Dillon, 9,000 people RSVPed for the rally.

“9,000 is a huge response,” Dillon told me. “This is a real issue for people – they are telling us the Affordable Care Act saved their lives.”

It’s no surprise that the ACA, or Obamacare, is saving people’s lives. I’ve been telling those stories here for three years. But that isn’t stopping Congressional Republicans and President-elect Donald Trump from moving to repeal the law at the first opportunity.

I talked to people at the rally about why they were there. Here’s what Carl from Warren told me:

“I’m here to support the Progressive movement. I’m a retired autoworker, so I’m not as worried about myself as I am about others. I’m pretty sure this rally is the beginning of something and it’s imperative that we stand up.”

Brigitte from Southfield told me she doesn’t want to see 11 million kids lose their healthcare if the ACA is repealed. A U.S. Army veteran with a special-needs child, she doesn’t want to see veterans lose their healthcare, either.

Shawn, a 26-year-old from Pontiac, told me this: “I’m here because I work over 40 hours a week and I don’t get healthcare at work. Obamacare is affordable. I looked around at other options and, without the ACA, I could not afford insurance.”

Renee, a registered nurse who came all the way from Howell for the rally with one of the coolest signs there, believes everyone has a right to healthcare.

“Whether it’s the Affordable Care Act, Medicare, Medicaid – healthcare is important to all of us and we should all have healthcare,” she told me. “Every industrialized country provides healthcare to its people but us. The time has come to have healthcare for all. Because I’m a nurse, I’m very aware what people’s needs are and what people go through if they don’t have access to healthcare. People end up getting chronically ill or dying because they don’t have access to care. That’s just not right in a country such as ours.”

One of my favorite interviews of the day was with Lauren and Anne, a pediatrician and a family physician who came out to lobby on behalf of their patients, particularly kids with pre-existing conditions including Lauren’s son, and “those who can’t speak for themselves



This was one of 70 rallies across the country on Sunday -- and the first of many actions to come to protect and improve the Affordable Care Act. Photos courtesy of Amy Lynn Smith

Gary Peters, and Congressional Representatives John Conyers, Sander Levin, Dan Kildee, Brenda Lawrence and Debbie Dingell. Among the speakers were also Michigan citizens who have benefited from the ACA, some in lifesaving ways.

I spoke with Senator Gary Peters after the rally, and he had this to say about the human cost of ACA repeal.

He said, “At my office, we’re hearing from people who are quite simply afraid. This is about saving lives. You’ve got hundreds of thousands of folks who would immediately lose their healthcare coverage if there’s straight repeal. These are the people who called my office in tears to thank us when the ACA was passed, saying ‘Now I can get insurance. I have a pre-existing condition. I didn’t have the money.’ Every story was compelling and something that touched them and their family in the most direct way. And now they’re afraid of going backward, so it’s a scary time. That’s why we’re here, outside on a cold Sunday morning in Michigan, and we got thousands of people to come out. Rallies are

important, but hopefully they’re a catalyst for folks to get out and talk to friends, co-workers and their families, to make phone calls and make their voices heard.”

The elected officials and leaders at the rally were fired up and their message was loud and clear: We are all in this together. They are fighting for us, and they’re not going to back down, but we all have to stand up, too. They need all of us in the fight with them, rallying our friends and neighbors and letting our elected officials know their jobs are on the line if they don’t protect our access to health insurance and healthcare.

This was the first day of rallies across the country – with many more events and actions planned to protect the ACA and other hard-won rights Congressional Republicans and President-elect Trump want to take away. Check out the hashtag #OurFirstStand on social media to see some of what went on in Michigan and across the country.

Follow the Michigan Democratic Party on Facebook to stay updated on the next steps to protect the ACA – and more.

Check out Amy Lynn Smith’s interview at <http://gaybe.am/AS> with Congressman Dan Kildee, who she also spoke to after the rally.

18 Things You Can Do Right Now to Protect LGBTQ Rights Under Donald Trump

BY JARED MILRAD

Editor's note: In the aftermath of the election, Mic's readers have asked what they can do to take action and lend support to the causes they care about. So we turned to our generation's leading activists and crowdsourced their solutions. We are publishing stories that present their suggestions for what you can do on topics like racial justice, gender equality and immigration. This list of ideas for LGBTQ rights has been edited for clarity. - Jake Horowitz, Mic's co-founder and editor-at-large

In the days since the election, I created a campaign called “We Won’t Go Back,” designed to give Americans of all backgrounds the opportunity to fight for the highest ideals of the country we love. It’s a place to contact our elected officials, support the causes we believe in, organize, volunteer, get registered to vote and build an inclusive, hopeful future. Fortunately, I’m not alone. Hundreds of LGBTQ organizations and leaders around the country have joined the fight to protect the progress we’ve achieved, not only for marriage equality, but also for the rights of LGBTQ youth, seniors, the homeless and other vulnerable members of our diverse communities.

In that spirit, here are 18 ways you can get involved in your own community and take a stand to protect LGBTQ rights after Trump’s election, provided by some of our generation’s leading LGBTQ activists and organizations:

1. Learn your rights

Many people don’t realize that their rights are, in fact, protected on a local, state and federal level — specifically in health care, employment and in school. These laws cannot simply be undone overnight. Understanding your legal protections is very important to fighting discrimination. Lambda Legal has compiled a post-election FAQ and Know Your Rights information guide. Read the materials carefully. If you need help with any legal matter related to LGBTQ issues or HIV discrimination, contact Lambda Legal’s Help Desk.

2. Donate or volunteer with Trans Lifeline

Trans Lifeline is the only crisis hotline specifically designed for transgender people. They’ve experienced an unprecedented number of calls from trans people in crisis following the election (more than 300 within the first day or so). They’ve continued to experience a high level of demand in the days since. Transgender people are nine times more likely to attempt suicide than the general population. In the wake of the election, trans people fear for their rights and lives even more. Trans people who call suicide hotlines face ignorance and discrimination. They need your support.

3. Get LGBTQ individuals elected to office

We need more diverse talent in public life. Support the Victory Fund, an organization which works to support LGBTQ candidates running for office nationwide. Victory Fund provides trainings, endorsements, fellowships and resources for LGBTQ candidates. In November 2016, 87 of the Fund’s endorsed candidates won elections across all levels of government, including Kate Brown of Oregon, the nation’s first openly LGBTQ governor. Carlos Guillermo Smith became the first openly LGBTQ Latino elected to the Florida State Legislature, representing the Orlando area after the Pulse nightclub tragedy. All six openly LGBTQ members of Congress were re-elected. You can find a list of all of the candidates that Victory Fund endorsed here.



Demonstrations broke out all across the U.S. after Trump was elected Nov. 8. They continued for over a week. This is a scene from demonstrations in Philadelphia on Nov. 10

4. Gear up for the Supreme Court fight

There’s an upcoming Supreme Court case that is very important for the future of transgender rights: Gavin Grimm v. Gloucester County School Board. In 2015, the ACLU and the ACLU of Virginia filed a lawsuit against the Gloucester County School Board for adopting a discriminatory bathroom policy that segregates transgender students from their peers. The question will be heard at the Supreme Court in February, with a decision expected in summer 2017. Become familiar with the case, and then donate and show your support.

5. Support media that correctly represents the LGBTQ community

Now more than ever we need correct representation across all media, especially when it comes to the casting of cisgender people in transgender roles (ex. Eddie Redmayne

in “The Danish Girl”) and the erasure of people of color and trans sex workers in stories of our history (ex. the “bioflick” Stonewall). Here are a few shows and films that do this the right way: “Orange is the New Black,” with Laverne Cox as trans prisoner Sophia; “Tangerine,” which casts two trans women, Mya Parks and Kitana “Kiki” Rodriguez, as trans sex workers; “Sense8,” in which Jamie Clayton plays a lesbian trans woman and cyberactivist; and “How to Get Away With Murder,” where Alexandra Billings plays a trans woman on trial for her husband’s murder.

6. Call your members of Congress

Tell your elected officials how important it is to protect LGBTQ people. Tell them you will be watching what they do.

You don’t even need to be a citizen to do this! You can find your local representatives at CommonCause.org. Also check out the Human Rights Campaign’s guide to elected officials Follow these tweets <http://gaybe.am/mH> for guidance on how to effectively contact your member of Congress. And here at <http://gaybe.am/0e> you can use when you call, which includes a section about marriage equality.

7. Support LGBTQ centers around the country

Leading organizations are providing mental health, counseling and support group services to vulnerable LGBTQ people. Now more than ever, they need support. Consider donating or volunteering with CenterLink, a member-based coalition founded in 1994 that supports the development of strong, sustainable LGBTQ community centers in the United States and around the world. The Center Orlando organized vigils and provided counseling following the Pulse nightclub shooting. The Los Angeles LGBT Center serves Southern California, home to some of the most vulnerable LGBTQ populations in the country, and sees more than 42,000 client visits per month.

8. Specifically, support local homeless youth shelters

An estimated 40 percent of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. Centers geared specifically toward youth are instrumental in providing career placement, school, college and secondary school mentorship and health care. Here’s a database (<http://www.lgbtcenters.org/>) of LGBTQ centers, where you can search for a homelessness-focused group. If you don’t have a center in your community, consider starting one or checking to see if shelters near you properly provide for their LGBTQ clients. Also, consider donating food, clothing or money to LGBTQ shelters in other communities. At this time of year, many hold toy and clothing drives; others accept donations year-round.

See 18 Things, page 9

Protests at State Capitol Planned to Usher in Trump Era

BY TODD HEYWOOD

LANSING – As Donald Trump raises his right hand to swear the presidential oath of office on Friday, hundreds of thousands of protesters opposed to his policy positions will be traveling to D.C. for planned protests the following day. They want to put him and his cabinet on notice that his rightwing agenda will be confronted at every turn.

In Michigan, the Jan. 21 protests will align in time with the D.C. Womens March, when thousands of Michiganders are expected to turn out at the state capitol. That protest and rally will run from 1-3 p.m. The target? Michigan's extreme GOP majority in all three branches of the government.

"Everything just seems really terrible and it seems like now's the time to make a change," said Katie Schmiedeknecht. The state employee said she will be in Lansing on Saturday to join in the protest.

And that's exactly what organizers like Sarah Eisenberg said they want.

Eisenberg was seeking ways to engage her fears and frustrations right after the election. "Hey," she recalled saying to various groups, "I am an individual who's terrified about what's just happened; what can I do?" Initially



there were few answers for her, but through social media she connected with others and helped plan the statewide rally the day after the inauguration.

Trump's inauguration will usher in a presidency by Twitter with a variety of mixed bag political promises. And that has caused fear and anxiety in the U.S. and across the globe.

That fear is fed, at least in part, by Trump's

unpredictability. He campaigned on a complete repeal of the Affordable Care Act, but has since seemed to have softened that stance, calling for the healthcare law to be "repealed and replaced." Over the weekend he said he wants "healthcare for everyone," but was unclear how his plan would deliver that. He also campaigned on building a wall on the Mexican border and making Mexico pay for it. Now, while still promising the wall, he is expecting

Congress to foot the bill and chase Mexico down like a creditor to have them pay for it.

Adding concern for many was the Trump campaign's promise to deport millions of undocumented workers, ban people from certain countries who adhere to the Muslim faith from the U.S., and calling for the potential creation of a registry of Muslims. Trump's also threatened to end same-sex marriage by sending the issue "back to the states" to decide.

Add on top of this his open flirtation and political nods to the rising right wing, white nationalist movement known as the Alt-Right, and the recipe for fear and anxiety has only grown since he was elected. One of his key advisors, Steve Bannon, ran the Alt-Right website Breitbart, prior to being tapped to run his campaign in August. He will now have a key seat at the table with an office in the White House.

Michigan Focus

Eisenberg said organizers of Saturday's rally and protest are focused on Michigan related issues.

See Protests at Capitol, page 16

Resist the Trump Agenda with 'Indivisible: A Practical Guide'

Former Progressive Congressional Staffers Reveal Best Practices for Making Congress Listen

BY BTL STAFF

Do you want to do your part to beat back the Trump agenda? If so, that will require more than calls and petitions according to a group of former progressive congressional staffers who saw the Tea Party beat back President Obama's agenda.

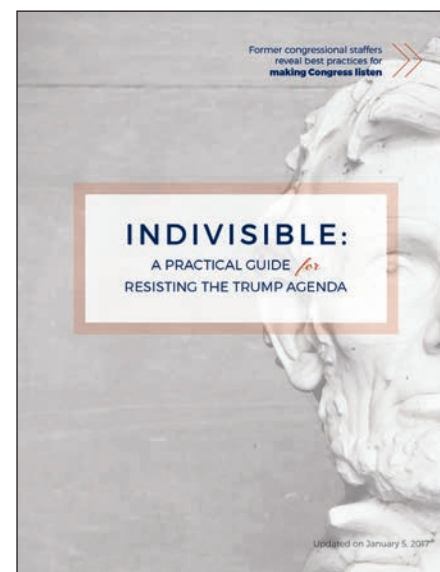
In response, this collective has created "Indivisible: A Practical Guide" (www.IndivisibleGuide.com) to share insider information and offer step-by-step instructions for individuals, groups and organizations looking to replicate the Tea Party's success in getting Congress to listen to a small, vocal, dedicated group of constituents. The guide is intended to be equally useful for stiffening Democratic spines and weakening pro-Trump Republican resolve.

"We saw these activists take on a popular president with a mandate for change and a supermajority in Congress. We saw them organize locally and convince their own members of Congress to reject President

These volunteers believe that the next four years depend on citizens across the country standing indivisible against the Trump agenda.

Obama's agenda. Their ideas were wrong, cruel, and tinged with racism – and they won. We believe that protecting our values and neighbors will require mounting a similar resistance to the Trump agenda – but a resistance built on the values of inclusion, tolerance and fairness. Trump is not popular. He does not have a mandate. He does not have large congressional majorities. If a small minority in the Tea Party can stop President Barack Obama, then we the majority can stop a petty tyrant named Trump," the group's website reads.

These volunteers believe that the next four years depend on citizens across the country standing indivisible against the Trump agenda. They believe that buying into false promises or



accepting partial concessions will only further empower Trump to victimize citizens of the U.S. They hope that this guide will provide those who share that belief with useful tools

to make Congress listen.

The guide, live on Google Doc, is intended as a work in progress, one that the group hopes to continue updating as the resistance to the Trump agenda takes shape. "We wrote this guide because we believe that the coming years will see an unprecedented movement of Americans rising up across the country to protect our values and our neighbors. Our goal is to provide practical understanding of how your members of Congress think, and how you can demonstrate to them the depth and power of the opposition to Donald Trump and Republican congressional overreach. This is not a panacea, nor is it intended to stand alone. We strongly urge you to marry the strategy in this guide with a broader commitment to creating a more just society, building local power, and addressing systemic injustice and racism," the group's website reads.

Anyone interested in building on the tactics outlined in the guide, email IndivisibleAgainstTrump@gmail.com.

► 18 Ways

Continued from p. 7

9. Support or create after-school programs for queer youth

Now more than ever, LGBTQ youth need safe spaces to build closer relationships with teachers and friends outside of their potentially hostile home environments. If you're in a position to do so, start a gay-straight alliance or a chapter of PFLAG in your local school so that queer youth have a place to express their concerns, fears and needs without the threat of ridicule, rejection or outing. Check out GLSEN or PFLAG for more information and tools to start a program in your community.

10. Support the Human Rights Campaign

HRC is the largest national LGBTQ civil rights organization, representing more than 1.5 million members and supporters nationwide. Here are a few of the issues HRC is focused on: transgender equality and bringing visibility to the discrimination and violence transgender people experience daily; banning discrimination in housing and the workplace for all LGBTQ people; and advocating for fair-minded Supreme Court justices. Become familiar with HRC's work and donate or volunteer to show your support.

11. Utilize the power of your wallet

You have tremendous power as a consumer to support brands that support LGBTQ rights. Conversely, don't line the pockets of corporations that support anti-LGBTQ legislation and elected officials. To find out more about which companies to support, consider these resources: OpenSecrets (www.opensecrets.org), the HRC Corporate Equality Index (www.hrc.org/campaigns/corporate-equality-index) and Guidestar (www.guidestar.org), which allows you to review the expenditures of corporate foundations.

12. Take a stand as a business

Advocacy from businesses is particularly important at this time. If you're an employer, make sure you have an internal LGBTQ group for your LGBTQ employees. Companies like Salesforce, Facebook, Apple, Google, and the Gap have great internal organizations that can serve as models. Salesforce's Marc Benioff and PayPal's Max Levchin have both been proactive in getting businesses to take a stand in the wake of LGBTQ protests in North Carolina and Indiana. For LGBTQ employees, make sure to join your company's group if one exists.

13. March, rally, make noise and fight

The modern American queer revolution started with a brick thrown through a window. Today, we can't afford to take a passive role in this fight. Here are a few different tactics you can use to get involved: On social media, follow groups like @MarchAndRallyLA and monitor popular events in your area on Facebook to find large organized protests.

Visit www.aclu.org/know-your-rights for a full list of your rights as a public protester. If you don't live in a large metropolitan area, or don't feel safe protesting in your community, take action online. Write protests in the form of blog posts, emails to your government officials, vlogs, or guest op-eds on news sites.



14. Be visible

One of our most effective and powerful weapons is sharing our own stories publicly. In March 2016, South Dakota's conservative Gov. Dennis Daugaard vetoed HB 1008, an

anti-trans bill, after meeting with trans students and hearing their stories. It's important for LGBTQ people to be loud and bold members of the community. If you're in a position to do so safely, make sure people understand who you are and how you feel about queer issues. Post pro-LGBTQ articles on your Facebook page. Hold your partner's hand in public. Wear a Pride shirt. Talk to your friends and family about who you and other queer people are. As long as you keep yourself safe, do everything to ensure others you meet know you're living as your authentic self and not going anywhere.

15. Study LGBTQ history

Contrary to popular belief, the LGBTQ movement as a whole did not begin at Stonewall. The first documented gay rights organization in the U.S., the Society for Human Rights, was formed much earlier, in the 1920s, and LGBTQ history

See 18 Things, page 17

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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.

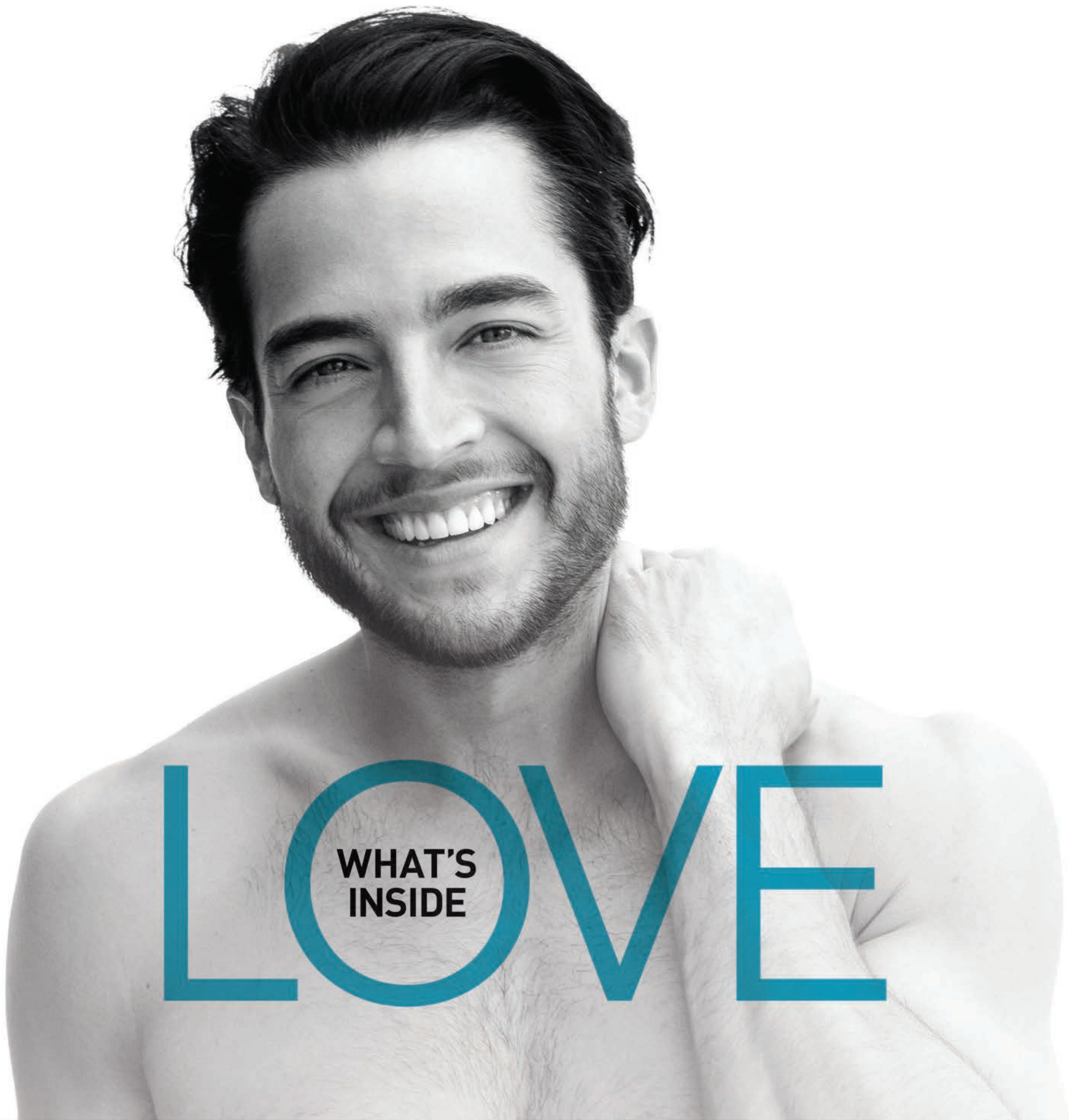
What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking DESCOVY?

- **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, 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[®] is right for you.



LOVE

WHAT'S
INSIDE

(des-KOH-vee)

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.

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.

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 or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit DESCOVY.com for program information.

Local Theaters Join in Solidarity for Ghostlight Project

On Eve of Trump Inauguration Events Across Region, Country Seek to Create ‘Light’

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

In each time zone across the country on Jan. 19 at 5:30 p.m. members of the theater community will come together to launch The Ghostlight Project.

On the eve of the presidential inauguration, people from Broadway to regional theaters to high schools and colleges, and community theaters, will join in a collective, simultaneous action, together creating “light” for challenging times ahead. Inspired by the tradition of leaving a “ghost light” on in a darkened theater, artists and communities will make or renew a pledge to stand for and protect the values of inclusion, participation, and compassion for everyone regardless of race, class, religion, country of origin, immigration status, (dis)ability, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

The Ghostlight Project aims to create brave spaces that will serve as lights in the coming years and to activate a network of people across the country working to support vulnerable communities. These gatherings are a pledge for continued vigilance and increased advocacy.

The event marks the initiation for some artists and theaters, and marks another step for others with a long history of fighting for social justice and equity. As the participants all have varied backgrounds, so too is it up to each institution and individual to determine what ongoing action will best serve their institution and community.

Ferndale

“I am so thrilled to be participating in The Ghostlight Project. As we approach what feels like very perilous times for a number of Americans, having safe spaces is so important. I feel like The Ringwald has always been that for a number of people, but I’m glad to have the opportunity to reaffirm that,” said Joe Bailey, artistic director at The Ringwald Theatre at 22742 Woodward Ave. in Ferndale.

“I know that most of the theaters in Detroit feel the same way. Building and re-building communities will be so important over the next four years and doing everything we can – together – to make sure everyone feels included, that everyone does indeed have a seat at this great table called America, is the focus of what The Ghostlight Project is aiming to do. And really, we are willing to do whatever it takes to further that goal.”

Following a ceremony at The Ringwald, everyone is invited into the theater where a

community meeting will be held to discuss and celebrate the current theatrical scene and to open a dialogue for what projects and/or ideas the community may have for the future. Everyone who attends is encouraged to bring a dish to pass to foster a true community feeling.

After the community discussion, The Ringwald will present its revived staged reading of Tony Kushner’s “A Bright Room Called Day” at 7 p.m. A representative from the ACLU of Michigan will be on hand to

Greater Lansing and facilitators to discuss and celebrate the current theater scene in the Lansing community. Also, what projects, ideas, and dreams they would like to see take place or established moving forward, with an eye toward social justice, inclusion, and diversity.

Present at the event will be representatives from Ixion Theatre, Lansing Community College Theatre Department, Michigan State University Department of Theatre, Over the Ledge Theatre, Owosso Community

champion diversity, equity and inclusion in our storytelling,” said co-artistic director Chad Swan-Badgero.

“It is so tremendously important, at a time when these very attributes are being questioned and diminished, to stand for and protect the values of inclusion, participation, and compassion for everyone regardless of race, class, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation. The theater as an art form has always been a method in which we can address and explore sensitive and thorny topics, and Peppermint Creek is proud to have a mission that aligns so much with this endeavor. We are thrilled to host an event of this nature that stands so firmly in compassion for all.”

It is in the MSU Department of Theatre’s mission to provide the auspices for enhanced understanding of current issues through theatrical expressions, to provoke and sustain interest in the theater as a source of truth and insight into the human condition, and to address the re-definitions of dramatic and theatrical styles, forms, and structures as they emerge as artistic responses to the changing world.

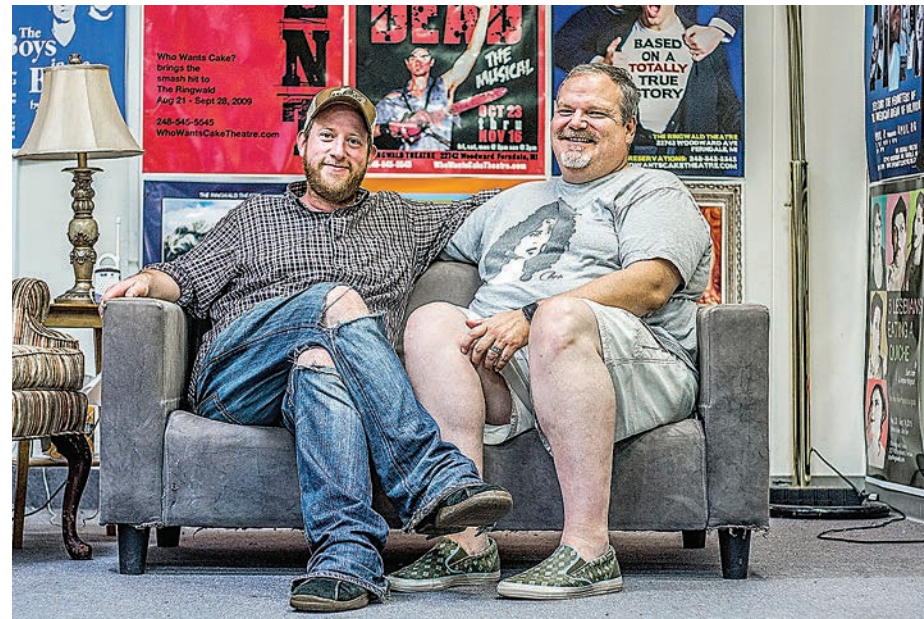
With that in mind, “we are honored to be a contributing partner in this effort to promote diversity and inclusion, and be a part of this very important communal voice against hatred and discrimination of any kind. In our classrooms and our rehearsal rooms, we strive for democratic dialogue and civil engagement, with participation and compassion for all,” said Dionne O’Dell, associate director of arts and cultural management at MSU, and faculty for the department of theater.

“We strive to give our students opportunities to learn and perform a wide range of stories reflecting diverse voices. Participating in The Ghostlight Project confirms our commitment to nourish our students’ aspirations and our connection with a strong theater community, and to affirm inclusion for all,” said Melissa Kaplan, performing arts producer and CMA academic coordinator at LCC Theatre.

The Lansing event will also include music, excerpts from historical speeches, and a “community lighting”. All are welcome at this free public event.

The Ghostlight Project is a resource for theaters, arts communities, and individuals to identify and create meaningful action steps, or to continue in the social justice work already underway.

More information about The Ghostlight Project can be found on their website at <https://theghostlightproject.com>.



Joe Plambeck and Joe Bailey sit in The Ringwald Theatre green room surrounded by a showcase of posters representing their work over the last ten years. They are one of the Michigan Theaters participating in the Ghostlight Project Jan. 19 Photo courtesy of Jim Harper

“I am so thrilled to be participating in The Ghostlight Project. As we approach what feels like very perilous times for a number of Americans, having safe spaces is so important. I feel like The Ringwald has always been that for a number of people, but I’m glad to have the opportunity to reaffirm that.”

– Joe Bailey, artistic director at The Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale.

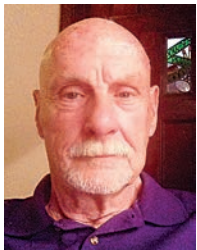
lead a talkback after the performance.

Lansing

Nine theaters in the Lansing community will come together at the Miller Performing Arts Center at 6025 Curry Lane for a program led by Debbie Mikula of the Arts Council of

Theatre, Peppermint Creek Theatre Company, Riverwalk Theatre, Starlight Dinner Theatre, and Williamston Theatre.

“Peppermint Creek is proud to be joining with the rest of the Lansing theater community and theaters across the nation to take part in The Ghostlight Project, a celebration of the theater’s role and responsibility to



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

If Ever a Wiz that Wasn't!

Contrary to rumors circulating for years in Story Bookland Weekly Tabloid there never was any real friction between Dorothy, Cowardly Lion, Tin Woodsman, Scarecrow. (And those horrid pictures of an aging Dorothy are photoshopped.)

Although the famous foursome each went separate ways – Cowardly Lion becoming a respected animal rights advocate; Tin Woodsman, expert on emerging robot technology; Scarecrow, an IRS specialist; and Dorothy – what else? – a big-time diva on the fabled LGBT rainbow circuit – they kept in touch by Smart Phone and email.

They also made it something of a ritual to get together every 25 years on the occasion of the anniversary of their first Yellow Brick Road adventure to seek out the Wizard of Oz, just to say a friendly hello, to renew Little People acquaintances, and to see how things were playing out in Oz.

As spokesperson for the fabled partners Dorothy messaged, “I know you last texted that we drive to Oz in your new Lexus 017, Tin Woodsman, but let’s play the game as we always have. Waltz the Yellow Brick Road, holding hands. Singing our theme song, “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.”

So, agreed, they met at the Red, White and Blue neon sign, This Way to Oz! But failed in their excitement to note a new flashing purple addition to the sign: Be prepared for surprises when you get there!

Midway down the Yellow Brick Road they were stopped. Startled, Tin Woodsman dropped his cellphone; Cowardly Lion, waved his cane excitedly, Scarecrow pulled some straw hair out and Dorothy sang a few notes just a hint or two off key.

“Where might you dudes be headed?” demanded a hooded militant type, sporting a big silver badge. Government Oz Police. “What business you got here?”

After brief explanations that the four were old friends of the Wizard of Oz, and after a thorough electronic vetting, they were permitted to continue their journey. As they proceeded with understandable caution, it seemed that the temperature dropped and the sky became overcast. Their singing turned to faint mumbling.

After what seemed like hours of walking not waltzing, Dorothy, Tin Woodsman, Scarecrow, Cowardly Lion (who was visibly trembling) arrived at the entrance of a gigantic, brand-new, Wizard of Oz Tower. “Well, well, well! I’ve been expecting you,” bellowed an imperial broadcasted voice. “You four don’t know me yet! But I’m the newly crowned Wizard of Oz.”

Dorothy, Tin Woodsman, Scarecrow, Cowardly Lion stood stunned. Silent, as an orange neon-halo’d Wizard of Oz trumpeted. “OK, guys! From now on here are your marching orders. Or else! You get me?” He paused for emphasis. “Ready!”

“Tin Woodsman, you are ordered to make robots who will do my bidding only! Cowardly Lion, listen up. My rights take precedence over all rights. Human. Animal. Political. Religious. Scarecrow, forget about my taxes, past and present. And Dot! You are ordered never, never – no, no way ever – to sing “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.”

“Got that, good buddies! From now on: if ever there was a Wiz Bang who was it’s me.”

Next day, Dorothy texted, “Auntie Em, I’ve had the most gawdawful nightmare. Thank my lucky stars, I’m awake now. And back in Kansas City! (I think).”

Charles@pridesource.com



Transmissions



OPINION BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Standing Up to Sit Down

We’re very clearly under attack. Buoyed by the Trump victory and control of all branches of the government – and in spite of the disastrous effect House Bill 2 has had on North Carolina and their former Gov. Pat McCrory (R) – states have been rushing to introduce anti-transgender laws. Many of the bills introduced have been built on North Carolina’s, while also taking on new tactics, designed to further marginalize trans people.

After several months of work, Texas decided to go big. Lieutenant Gov. Dan Patrick (R) filing Senate Bill 6, dubbed it the Texas Privacy Act. It, of course, does nothing for the privacy of transgender people in restrooms. Rather, transgender women – it should be noted that there is specific language in the bill, meaning that trans men will be allowed to use appropriate facilities – will be barred from using restrooms, locker/dressing rooms, and showers in public buildings, schools and universities. It also allows private businesses to do the same if they so wish. Like many other bills, this essentially “deputizes” private citizens, asking them to report violations to the state, so that the Texas Attorney General can impose penalties on locations that are not following SB6.

In Virginia, State Delegate Bob Marshall (R) has

introduced his own bill, House Bill 1612. Picking up on Texas’ language by naming it the Physical Privacy Act. As well as prohibitions against restroom use, it also includes a requirement for schools to contact parents or guardians if a student requests to be treated as a member of a gender other than their birth gender.

It’s a Democrat taking the lead in Kentucky, with State Rep. Rick Nelson (D). His bill, House Bill 106, will require public buildings, schools and university restrooms to be “used by persons based on their biological sex.” Nelson also filed a “right of conscience” bill the same day, which would allow businesses to discriminate against LGBT customers due to their religious beliefs.

Washington is pushing House Bill 1011. It covers the same basic ground as the others, though specifying that gender-specific facilities be disallowed to people with “genitalia of a different gender from that for which the facility is segregated.” It is not quite clear how such genitalia would be determined within these facilities.

What many of these bills do is require applying the gender on one’s birth certificate, a document that few carry in their wallet, and in some cases cannot be altered. What’s more, Virginia’s HB 1612 specifies that sex is defined by one’s “original birth certificate,”

Defy Trump. Defy Pence. Defy hate.

If their cabinet secretaries treat us like we're less than other people, we're going to defy them.

If they come after our basic rights as citizens, we're going to defy them.

If they appoint judges who would roll back the progress we've made on equal rights, we're going to defy them.

DEFY

– Chad Griffin, President, HRC
01/17/17

► Standing Up

Continued from p. 14

meaning that even those who have changed all their paperwork and even their physical characteristics would still face discrimination in the stalls.

With this in mind, let's note a bill that was recently shot down out of Indiana. State Rep. Bruce Borders (R) penned House Bill 1361. It would have barred transgender people in the state to make changes to the gender on their birth certificates. State Rep. Cindy Kirchhofer (R) blocked it.

While these bills do indeed, on the surface, work to prevent us from using appropriate facilities, there is so much more to it. If you reduce us to our genitals, or our birth certificates, or what have you, you've taken a step towards dehumanizing us and delegitimizing our identities. If you're making a barrier out of a birth certificate, then making it impossible to update or augment it, then you've made it clear that we can *never* have equal treatment under the law, and that our identity will be determined by your religion and morals.

These are only the first bills, and make no mistake – we will see these spread through additional states and likely even at the Federal level. With *G.G. v. Gloucester County School Board* – a case involving the rights of transgender student Gavin Grimm to use appropriate facilities in Virginia -- heading for the Supreme Court, the issue of transgender public accommodation rights is only going to get bigger. We are the center of the culture war now – whether we wish to be or not – and our very right to exist is on the line.

Barring a nuclear hellscape, worldwide economic collapse, or other global calamity – and with the incoming President, I am not ruling out any of the above – we are going to be one of the big hot button issues for 2017 and beyond.

They want to legislate us out of existence, falsely assuming that if they simply make our lives hellish enough, we'll fall in line and be good little men or women living in our birth genders. It's the same attitude they have used against practically every other minority. It is simply our turn, I suppose.

We're not a "fad" like many presume, but our visibility has opened the doors for many others who may not have felt they could explore options for their own gender identity or expression. We've reached a size where we are visible, where we cannot easily be ignored nor pushed aside, so now – like so many other groups – we have to face an onslaught of lawmakers attempting to use their power to drive us away. This is unacceptable.

In the last several years, we have seen scores of bathroom bills come and go, and few have had any staying power. In spite of the slight of hand attempted by the North Carolina legislature, the state's new Governor, Roy Cooper (D), has made it a priority to repeal HB 2. Many of the "bathroom bills" mentioned above will likely not make it through their legislatures and to their Governor's desk, and fewer still will pass that hurdle. Even if they do become law, we and our allies will stand against them.

We're under attack, but still we rise.

Gwen Smith always uses the right facilities. You'll find her at www.gwensmith.com

Creep of the Week

The Colson Center for
Christian Worldview

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

This is a watershed moment for religious leaders in the United States. Over 75 Christian leaders have come together to do a remarkable thing: They've signed a statement titled *Preserve Freedom, Reject Coercion*, which, according to the statement host Colson Center for Christian Worldview, is "a statement that affirms every American's freedom to peacefully live their lives according to their beliefs and opposes government coercion or censorship of fellow citizens who have different views." The signatories "are united by the idea that all laws must respect freedom and promote justice for every citizen, no matter who they are."

When you consider the level of anti-Muslim hatred that helped Donald Trump win enough votes in the Electoral College (but not the popular vote. If only he could have gotten 3 million more racists to the polls!), Christian leaders coming together and speaking out in favor of religious freedom for every American, surely this truly groundbreaking folks. Maybe we can all get along.

Ha ha, just kidding. The statement has nothing to do with protecting religious rights for Muslims and everything to do with Christians demanding the right to discriminate against LGBTQ people.

According to *Christianity Today*, "The declaration follows months of conversations among Christian college leaders around the Fairness for All strategy, which would bring religious leaders and LGBT advocates together to try to secure satisfactory legal protections for both."

The signers of the so-called "Preserve Freedom, Reject Coercion" statement have two words for LGBTQ community: "Bye, Felicia."

You see, what the Fairness for All coalition calls "compromise," the PFRC calls "coercion." In other words, they're not so much in favor of LGBTQ people having any rights. At all.

"In recent years, there have been efforts to add sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classifications in the law – either legislatively or through executive action," the statement reads. "These unnecessary proposals ... threaten basic freedoms of religion, conscience, speech, and association; violate privacy rights; and expose citizens to significant legal and financial liability for practicing

The signers conclude that the only good LGBTQ non-discrimination policy is NO non-discrimination policy. Ever. At all.

their beliefs in the public square."

I suspect that LGBTQ people didn't have any input into this statement. Because basic civil rights protections are hardly "unnecessary." In fact, LGBTQ people are still fighting for basic rights across the country. Marriage equality may be the law of the land (for now anyway), but people can still be fired in more than half the states in America simply for being, or being perceived as LGBTQ. This is the kind of thing the PFRC signers are fighting to "protect."

These Christian leaders have this paranoid belief that Christianity is under attack in America, which couldn't be further from the truth. When they have to come up with a secret hand signal that means "Merry Christmas," as opposed to demanding that everyone say Merry Christmas only so that their fragile sensibilities are not damaged by the words, "Happy Holidays," then they can start claiming they're persecuted. Oh, and about that: I don't know, but you'd think Christians, of all people, would set the bar a little higher when claiming persecution.

The signers conclude that the only good LGBTQ non-discrimination policy is NO non-discrimination policy. Ever. At all.

"We therefore believe that proposed [laws], including those narrowly crafted, threaten fundamental freedoms, and any ostensible protections for religious liberty appended to such laws are inherently inadequate and unstable."

"Inherently inadequate and unstable?" You must be talking about the Trump/Putin administration.

Seriously though, it's galling how in order to make this argument the signers have to completely disregard LGBTQ people are human beings capable and worthy of love.

But, hey, Christian leaders: enjoy your rapey adulterer Putin finger puppet in the White House. Looks like Santa, er, I mean, Jesus, has been very good to you this year!

Openly Gay Members of Congress Raise Serious Concerns About Betsy DeVos' Record on LGBT Equality

BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Reps. Mark Pocan, D-WI; David Cicilline, D-RI; Sean Patrick Maloney, D-NY; Jared Polis, D-CO; and Mark Takano, D-CA, Co-Chairs of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, sent a letter Jan. 12 to members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) urging them to closely examine Secretary of Education nominee Betsy DeVos' views on issues affecting LGBT students and parents during her confirmation process.

"It is unfathomable that the next Secretary of Education would oppose basic protections for LGBT students and roll back the progress we have made to ensure all students feel safe and supported in our schools," said Rep. Pocan. "Ms. DeVos' history of opposing equality for LGBT individuals is deeply troubling, and the public deserves to know whether she will work with us to improve lives or continue to advocate an extremist agenda that bullies our students."

The letter specifically highlights the millions of dollars DeVos and her family have contributed to organizations and candidates that oppose equality for LGBT families and actively promote dangerous practices like "conversion therapy." Rep. Pocan and his colleagues called on Senate HELP Committee members to demand Ms. DeVos denounce these inhumane positions and stand up for policies to protect LGBT students and parents before being confirmed.

Below is the text of the letter:

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, we write to express our deep concern with President-elect Donald Trump's nominee for the Secretary of the United States Department of Education, Betsy DeVos. While Ms. DeVos' stances on a number of public education issues raise concerns, we cannot hold our silence regarding her opposition to the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students.

Betsy DeVos' career has been marked by repeated attempts to undermine the rights of the LGBT community. She and her family have donated extensively to groups which promote the idea that students who identify as LGBT must undergo "conversion" therapy and have also affiliated with groups that oppose anti-bullying legislation. The next Secretary of Education must represent all students in our country. Anyone who promotes such fervently anti-LGBT viewpoints is wholly unqualified to serve as the Secretary of Education.

Since 1998, Betsy DeVos and her family's foundations have donated at least \$6.1 million to Focus on the Family, a right-wing organization which has spent millions of dollars attempting to defeat marriage equality amendments at the state level. Even more troubling, this organization supported by the DeVos family promotes "conversion

therapy," opposes the right of LGBT parents to adopt children, and has referred to transgender individuals as "mentally ill." This organization has even gone so far to oppose anti-bullying policies and opposes basic workplace protections for LGBT individuals. The DeVos family's support for anti-LGBT groups and policies extends beyond just this organization to many other groups known for their anti-LGBT activities, such as:

- \$1,000,000 to the Institute for Marriage and Public Policy, which has claimed that the overturning of the Defense of Marriage Act amounted to a "fatwa;"

- \$15,000 to the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which has opposed adoption with same-sex couples;

- \$433,750 to the Council for National Policy, a highly secretive group that is led by extremists like Focus on the Family's James Dobson among other extremists; and

- \$13,498,000 to the Heritage Foundation, which has stated that "Despite activist judges' opinions, the majority of Americans continue to affirm the reasonable conclusion that marriage is the union of one man and one woman."

The DeVos family does not stop with contributions to intolerant organizations as they also support anti-LGBT politicians. For example, the DeVos family -- including Ms. DeVos -- were top contributors to Michigan State Representative Andrea LaFontaine, who sponsored legislation allowing adoption

agencies to discriminate against LGBT parents and deny them the ability to adopt a child.

The LGBT community has made significant and long overdue advancements when it comes to equality in education. During President Obama's tenure in office, the Department of Education took important steps to combat bullying and ensure that Title IX, which prohibits discrimination based on sex, appropriately reflects the rights of transgender students. It is imperative that the rights of LGBT students are adequately protected moving forward.

As you move to consider the nomination of Betsy DeVos, we strongly encourage you to seek out answers regarding Ms. DeVos' stance on important education equity issues, including her views on protecting LGBT students from bullying and discrimination in K-12 and higher education spaces. We are particularly troubled by Betsy DeVos' past support for inhumane "conversion therapy" treatments and believe it is imperative that any Secretary of Education nominee denounce such practices before being confirmed.

As Members of the LGBT community, we know our schools must be a safe place for all children. As you consider the nomination of Betsy DeVos for Secretary of Education, we strongly encourage you to stand up for the civil rights of LGBT students and ensure the next Secretary opposes any action to roll back our progress toward equality.

► Protests at State Capitol

Continued from p. 8

Those include:

- Amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Addressing the threat to women's health care, including the ongoing assault on abortion
- Protecting Medicaid expansion and access to healthcare
- Making voting in Michigan more transparent
- Addressing the gerrymandering which has given the GOP consistent control the state legislature.

She said the group is particularly keen to address deficiencies identified in precincts in

the state during the Green Party recount late last year. While that count was stopped by the U.S. 6th Court of Appeals, the reality is that many precincts in Detroit were found to have missing ballots, improperly locked ballot containers and other issues. Those precincts with such issues, under state law, were not eligible for a recount. She said the organizers also want to fight the push for voter ID laws and overcome the "continued resistance to no reason absentee voting."

She said it is clear Michigan law makers simply are not "listening to the voters." She cited examples such as the Emergency Manager law, which voters struck down, only to see it put back in place days later by the state legislature – only this time with a budget appropriation, making it referendum proof.

As Trump has assailed immigrants,

“We need to stand up and do something about this because clearly the people who are running our country don't seem to be listening to those of us who are living in it.”

Eisenberg and other organizers want to celebrate them and their contributions.

"We're really proud that Michigan is a state of immigrants, and of first generation immigrants particularly in metro Detroit,"

she said. "We want to support our neighbors. We want to welcome immigrants to the state of Michigan."

She's excited to see the engagement from everyday folks.

"The fact that citizens are engaging, that they're rising up and saying, 'Whoa, whoa, wait a minute,'" she said. "They don't care what we think, but we need to stand up and speak louder. We need to stand up and do something about this because clearly the people who are running our country don't seem to be listening to those of us who are living in it."

More on the Event:

On the Web: www.marchonlansing.org

► 18 Ways

Continued from p. 9

dates back hundreds of years. It is important to get educated on this history. One great resource for learning this history is Quist (www.quistapp.com), an app that provides “this day in history” info about LGBTQ issues. Another is The Lavender Effect (www.thelavendereffect.org), which works to document LGBTQ history in creative ways. Finally, consider going to LGBTQ archives across the U.S.

16. Convert your most unlikely friends into LGBTQ allies

Identify the most unlikely high-profile potential allies in your life and create a game plan to get them to become champions of LGBTQ equality. Perhaps you went to college with someone who is now a professional athlete, prominent preacher or politician? Maybe you are family friends with a local business owner who is well known in your community? In every community, there are people who perpetuate anti-LGBTQ stigma and stereotypes. If individuals from within the communities we trust the least become our vocal supporters, it will change hearts and minds. To educate and activate your friends, articulate the why and what: “Why” should they care about LGBTQ equality, and “what” do we want them to do about it?

17. Have conversations with Trump supporters

Find ways to engage loved ones and others who voted for Trump. Have honest, respectful and ongoing conversations. Here’s a resource with some suggested language, including some areas specifically focused on LGBTQ rights and gender identity.

18. Make your advocacy intersectional

Over the next four years, there will be many communities that find themselves isolated, excluded or othered. The only way to meaningfully prevent that is by working together. Pick three social justice issues with which you feel least comfortable and get educated about them by learning about the organizations doing the work in those spaces. Here are a few to start with: BYP100, a member-based activist organization creating justice and freedom for all black people; United We Dream, the largest immigrant-youth-led organization in the nation; and URGE, an organization mobilizing young people to support reproductive and gender equity.

Jared Milrad is an award-winning actor, writer, producer, consultant, entrepreneur and lawyer. Jared worked in The White House for President Barack Obama, founded a nationally recognized nonprofit organization, and was featured in Hillary Clinton’s historic presidential campaign commercials (“Getting Started,” “Equal”). Milrad has launched “We Won’t Go Back”, a people’s movement for Americans of all backgrounds fighting to protect the country’s highest ideals of inclusivity, equality, justice and opportunity.



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'Suited' Pushes the Fashion Boundaries of Gender Identity

OU Film Festival Spotlights HBO Documentary to Look Beyond the Gender Binary

BY BTL STAFF

Fashion has no gender. To validate that, Oakland University's Women and Gender Studies program will spotlight the HBO documentary "Suited" at the 33rd annual film festival "Style Beyond the Binary, Transgender Visibility and Recognition" on Jan. 21 from 12-3 p.m.

The film follows the journey of a handful of customers at Bindle & Keep, a Brooklyn tailoring company that caters to a diverse LGBTQ community. The company creates custom-made suits for gender-nonconforming and transgender clients as they look beyond the gender binary.

Going deeper than the fabrics being created, "Suited" takes a modern, evolved look at gender through the conduit of clothing and



Rae Tuter takes Grace Dunham's measurements in "Suited." Photo courtesy HBO

sheds light on the private and emotional experience surrounding each subject's personal narrative.

"It's not a story about the LGBTQ community. It's about a group of people becoming self-realized," said director Jason Benjamin about the film.

The festival strives to show films that speak to the needs of women, LGBTQ people, and other historically underrepresented groups on campus.

"For people of all genders to feel welcome, involved and supported," said Ami Harbin, Ph.D., assistant professor in women and gender studies and chair of the film festival planning committee.

"The film is an upbeat documentary geared towards raising awareness about experiences of some people who identify as transgender or genderqueer, and about the importance of supporting people

of all genders. That is consistent with our work in Women and Gender Studies at OU, and we think the film will open up a lively and thought-provoking discussion."

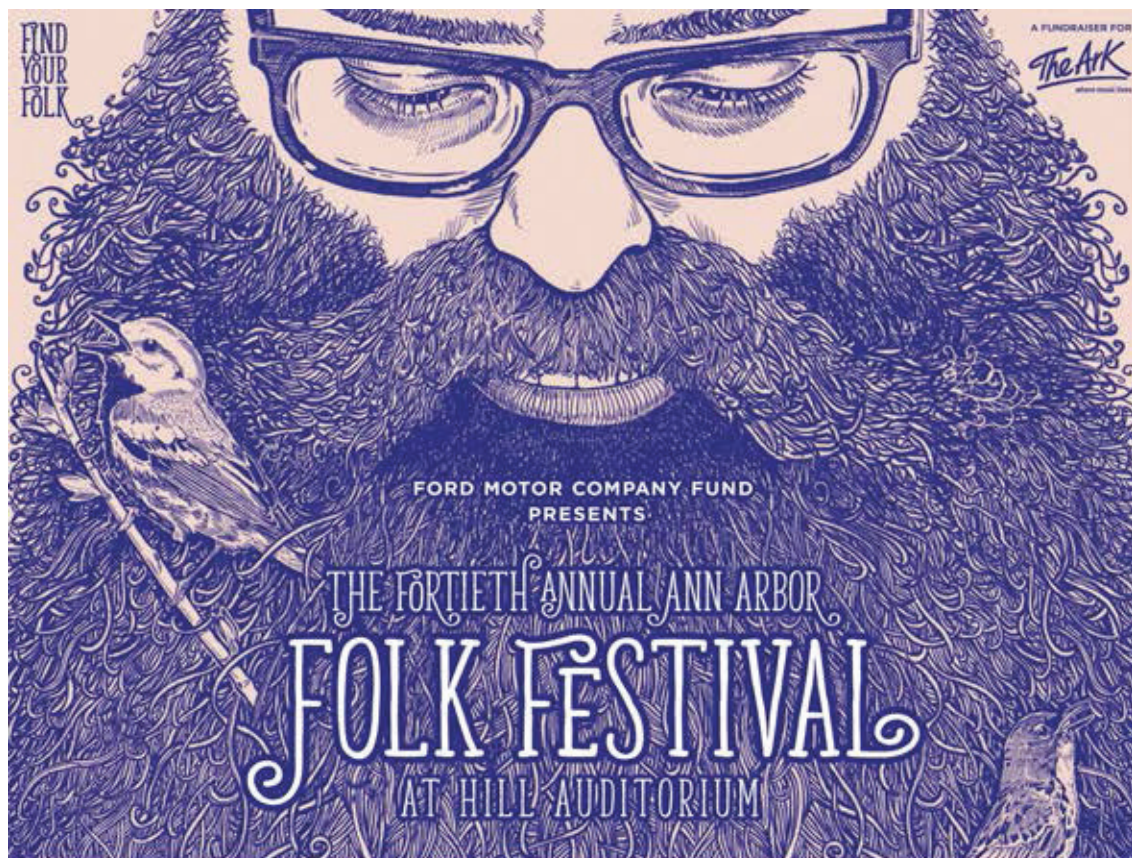
The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with students and professors about

media representation, university life, health care and legal resources for trans* individuals and communities.

Panelists include Dr. Kathleen Battles, associate professor, department of communication and journalism, Oakland University; Jake Semma, Oakland University student, student assistant at OU Gender and Sexuality; Center Morgan Shaw-Andrade, Transcend the Binary in Ferndale; and Aiden Ramirez-Tatum, Spectrum Center at the University of Michigan.

The event is free and open to the public in room 201 in Dodge Hall at OU. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, call 248-370-2154 or visit the Women and Gender Studies website <https://oakland.edu/cas/news/2017/wgs-film-festival-suited>.

This year's event is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, Modern Languages and Literatures, Cinema Studies, English, Communication and Journalism, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Center for Ethics, Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work & Criminal Justice, the OU Libraries, WXOU radio and The Oakland Post.



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 Susan Werner, MC

Saturday, January 28 | 6:30PM
INDIGO GIRLS
MARGO PRICE
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 CORN POTATO STRING BAND
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Between The Lines Debuts New Wedding Website in Time for 2017 Expo

Beyond The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo, our new website is the place to find one-of-a-kind show specials from more than 100 of these vendors – bakers, photographers, banquet halls, hotels, cruise lines, travel agencies, caterers, wedding planners, officiants and churches, and adoption agencies – all ready and willing to work with LGBT couples to make our celebrations the best possible.

Many of our exhibitors from Michigan’s top wedding merchants offer booking incentives and special discounts not found anywhere else. They are on hand – with lavish exhibit displays showcasing their products – to answer all of your important planning questions. With our new website, we hope to build on the service we offer to you, our clients, and are looking forward to continuing to work with you to develop your people, teams and cultures.

All of us at Between The Lines are totally excited about the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo at the MotorCity Casino Hotel, March 26 from 12-4 p.m. We hope that you will join us for this fabulous celebration complete with the companies and business people who value us not just as potential customers but as full celebrants of marriage equality. They are happy for and with us.

Visit The Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo, a Between The Lines project at www.MILGBTWedding.com.

MILGBTWedding.com Connects Community with Welcoming Businesses

BY BTL STAFF

Over the last seven years, the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo has grown exponentially, allowing us to offer a one-stop shopping experience where you and your entire wedding party can walk along aisles and aisles of the area’s best wedding products and services in one convenient location.

In an exciting step toward enhancing your experience, we have launched a brand new website. With a fresh look and a new intuitive design, MILGBTWedding.com is designed with same-sex couples and their allies in mind to make wedding planning accessible, easier and more fun.

We understand the needs of same-sex couples that are quite nontraditional in their wedding planning. The new website can help LGBT people write their own rules for their celebrations.

Our range of articles gives us the chance to meet and talk with the professionals that do this every day – the ones that know how special we are as couples and to each other. We cover everything from “10 Practical Wedding Gifts For Your Gay Buddies” to “How To Be A (Gay) Wedding Guest” to “Gay Wedding Cakes: More Than Just Dessert,” ensuring you have access to a full spectrum of information and advice. Our revamped editorial section now features Wedding Snapshots – stories about local same-sex couples and how they celebrate their love.

Fully optimized for mobile devices, the new website for the Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo will allow wedding planners to learn more about what we do, how we do it and the LGBT-inclusive vendors we work with across the state of Michigan, whether you’re at your desk or on the move.



YES, THEY CAN (AND DID)

Photo: Jeremy Cowart

Indigo Girls Look Back On 'Fearful' Coming Out, Talk New Music & How Art Will Change Us During the Trump Era

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Marriage equality was a mere pipe dream when Indigo Girls duo Emily Saliers and Amy Ray came out in 1988, coinciding with the release of their eponymous Epic Records debut. There was no groundbreaking “Ellen” sitcom. Melissa Etheridge wasn’t formally out, and wouldn’t be until 1993, when she released “Yes I Am.” With regard to popular entertainment, particularly within the music business, Saliers and Ray were at the forefront of the queer rights movement. They won a Grammy and released chart-toppers like “Closer to Fine.” And they refused to let their sexuality get in the way of their success, brazenly being themselves at a time when being a gay public figure was uncommon and even downright scary.

I caught up with Saliers, 53, and Ray, 52, at the beginning of 2017, just days before Donald Trump would become our 45th president. The trailblazers talked about how

music will unify despite the divisiveness of his administration, why “this is a really good time for artists to come to the forefront and stand up and be brave,” and their initial grade-school encounter that led to a devoted musical career and dear friendship spanning three decades.

You’re on the road fairly frequently. What keeps you touring as often as you do?

Amy Ray: Every audience is different, so every experience is different, and I just think it’s good to get out there and play in front of people and keep that community... build it and keep it vibrant and have that exchange.

Emily Saliers: The demographic is more mixed now, and there are younger people who come to the shows. I don’t know how they find out about us, maybe their parents. Also, a lot of young women who are looking for bands that have a feminist reality about them. Self-empowered, self-worth, self-questioning – all those things that are all over our lyrics. Even though we’ve gotten much

older, I don’t feel like the experience of going to one of our shows is like we’re just this old band that’s been around forever. It still feels new and fresh. I love it as much or more than I ever have.

Given the divisiveness of what’s happening politically, is building that sense of community more important now?

Ray: It might be. I guess in some ways there are other levels where community is always important, because even when you have the best kind of administration and a president that you love, there are still pockets within our own country that need community and need that glue where there’s hard things going on, whether it’s different queer communities or Native American communities or communities of color that are disenfranchised in some way. But right now, it’s pretty daunting. There might be reversals that are negative environmentally and human rights-wise. I think it’s definitely a time to batten down the hatches and roll up

the sleeves and start working.

What part do you think the arts, including music, will play in the political climate of Trump’s America?

Ray: This is a really good time for artists to come to the forefront and stand up and be brave and make themselves known, and not be worried about alienating people with their art. Sometimes in the music community – still – there are people who go, “Oh, we don’t want to rock the boat and alienate our audience.” But I feel like people are feeling less of that and more like, “Screw it.” I can see it happening around me with my friends even, who didn’t want to rock the boat, who might’ve been scared to alienate somebody in their audience. But now I think it’s like, “Well, what do we have to lose?”

Visual art and movies and theater right now are very important – music, also. Popular culture, like with “Ellen,” the original sitcom, for instance, really impacted people. It broadened a lot of people’s horizons, and

“Transparent” does that as far as issues around queerness and trans issues and issues around Jewishness.

During Obama’s administration, there was, in a good way, a lot of permission given to all this really beautiful art to blossom, and I think that’s good because there’s this strong groundwork that’s been laid that just needs to continue happening well into the next administration. Art can really bring people together who might feel alienated from each other, like in my community. I live in a rural community where maybe 80 or 90 percent of the people voted for Trump, but I don’t really demonize people. I can’t go there ’cause they’re my neighbors, and I know them. I know them in their best moments. And I just try to understand where they’re coming from.

Saliers: I think (art is) going to play a huge part. For me, personally, the second the election was over I wrote a song about it, and it’s gonna be on my new record, because for my own personal reasons, I had to have a catharsis. I know people need music to help speak their challenges and their struggles, and I think music is going to do two things, maybe more. First of all, for people who are just horrified that he’s our president, and the cabinet that he’s bringing in – possibly the Supreme Court justices – it’s gonna let them know they’re not alone. They’re gonna be able to tap into music that makes them realize that they’re part of a vast community of people who are opposed to all that stuff, and that’s really important. It’s going to remind Trump that the musical culture is not with him. That can be a very real pressure – that there is a movement against hate. Also, it’s a way for us to soothe our souls in troubled times. Go out and hear live music and listen to music and keep the conversation going, and don’t forget that we have elected someone who is frightening and incapable. Americans get lethargic, and we forget bad things happen. But this is an ongoing reality. We can’t forget, and I really believe music is going to keep reminding all of us what we’re up against.

Amy, what was your post-election catharsis?

Ray: I definitely wrote. I write all the time. I just didn’t have the visceral... it didn’t totally surprise me, I guess. I’ve worked it out in my community. I really made this commitment to myself to reach out to people even though I know they voted for Trump (laughs) – family members. I really tried to take Michelle Obama’s word and “go high.” She’s a very important person to me, and so is Barack. I just really tried to look at how they were dealing with the situation and follow their example. I hate to say that, because I am my own person, but in some ways, I needed some inspiration, and they inspire me in a lot of ways to reach beyond my little world and little bubble of friends. I’m the kind of person who processes by doing, and so volunteering – something concrete – is how I process stuff. Writing helps me. Generally, I write every day, so I’m always processing everything. But I haven’t written an anti-Trump song,

INFO

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and I probably won’t.

People have long revered you as gay icons.

Ray: (Laughs.) I think it’s funny.

Why is it funny?

Ray: I mean, it’s flattering, but my god, we have such a lot to learn. I feel like we’ve been students more than teachers in the world of activism. The people who came before us and the people who are younger than us have really constantly challenged us to think about things and look at intersectionality, things that more people in their teens and 20s are really focusing on.

Our activism is really an area that is constantly evolving and morphing, so it’s hard to think about myself as an icon when I still think of myself as a student.

I guess we’ve been at it a long time and we’re older, and we certainly have seen a lot of things change. We’re stronger than we used to be in our convictions and are able to love ourselves more than we used to, so in some ways I guess we have some experience. A little bit of gained wisdom. But that’s always been a long road, and we’ve made mistakes along the way and been scared, so in that way we can still understand people and how they feel if they’re struggling with it. We don’t forget our struggles.

Emily, what does being a gay icon mean to you?

Saliers: I feel humbled to hear that, but I don’t feel like an icon. I always feel like somebody built the bridge, paved the path and suffered more before I got to be part of the movement.

Someone’s gotta carry the torch, though.

Saliers: I feel like a torch-carrier, that’s what I feel like. I also feel like the fact that we’ve been able to be out, open and supportive of the queer rights movement and of the trans evolution and of civil rights now has just been – I’m so grateful for it. I’m happy that we’ve been able to be out and free for so long, and real active members for the community, standing up for our family members who are still suffering.

Does being an out artist mean anything different to you now than it did when you first came out?

Ray: When we first came out, we were fearful of what it meant. Our biggest fear was alienating part of our audience – I wouldn’t even think about that now, honestly. It’s a

See Indigo Girls, page 31

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	CLARINET CONCERTO Leonard Slatkin, conductor Kimberly Kaloyanides Kennedy, violin Hai-Xin Wu, violin Johanna Yarbrough, horn Ralph Skiano, clarinet Fri., Jan. 27 at 10:45 a.m. & 8 p.m. Overture to <i>La Clemenza del Tito</i> Concertone Horn Concerto No. 3 Clarinet Concerto	SYMPHONY 40 Leonard Slatkin, conductor Robert Williams, bassoon David Everson, horn Sat., Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. Sun., Jan. 29 at 3 p.m. Overture to <i>Così fan Tutte</i> Bassoon Concerto Horn Concerto No. 4 Symphony No. 40
	“NACHTMUSIK” Leonard Slatkin, conductor Thu., Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. Fri., Feb. 3 at 10:45 a.m. <i>Eine kleine Nachtmusik</i> Symphony No. 35, “Haffner” Overture to <i>The Abduction from the Seraglio</i> Symphony No. 36, “Linz”	JUPITER SYMPHONY Leonard Slatkin, conductor Sharon Sparrow, flute Yolanda Kondonassis, harp Fri., Feb. 3 at 8 p.m. Sat., Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. Symphony No. 38, “Prague” Concerto for Flute and Harp Symphony No. 41, “Jupiter”

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The Absolut Elyx Main Stage features a sexy and exciting hair and fashion show presented by Lover's Lane, supported by hair designers from London Calling and Alex Emilio Salon, and with fashion by Madison Boutique, and Matthew F. Richmond's Paper Dress Code.

Tickets for the Grand Tasting are \$40 including 10 drink tickets and a commemorative glass. VIP tickets are \$55 including 12 drink tickets, a commemorative glass, appetizers, access to Tito's Handmade Vodka VIP Terrace with exclusive cocktails and hand passed hors d'oeuvres and a VIP gift bag. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for VIP guests and at 7:30 p.m. for other patrons. Vodka Vodka benefits Back Alley Bikes, a non-profit community bike shop, which has been operating in the Cass Corridor for 17 years. The organization's mission is to provide cycling education and services with a focus on youth development, sustainable practices and community access. It works to achieve this mission by offering a variety of educational programs, volunteer training and opportunities, as well as rides and other types of support related to cycling education, materials, and resources.

For more information, visit <http://mtvodkavodka.com>.

Avoid the service fees and purchase tickets direct from Metro Times by calling 313-961-4060 or email vodka@metrotimes.com.

Detroit Zoo Invites Residents to FrogWatch USA Program

For anyone interested in identifying frogs and toads based on their breeding calls, The Detroit Zoological Society is inviting southeast Michigan residents to hop to it and join the local chapter of FrogWatch USA. The citizen science program teaches volunteers how to identify frogs and toads by their breeding calls and to gather and record data that supports a national network.

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program lets people in southeast Michigan help monitor our native amphibians and make sure their populations are healthy," said DZS Chief Life Sciences Officer Scott Carter.

FrogWatch volunteers choose from locations throughout the tri-county area and monitor the sites for several weeks. Their observations provide valuable insight into whether amphibians in the region are declining or increasing or if new species are being found in areas where they have not been identified before.

"FrogWatch is a unique opportunity for our community to join the Detroit Zoo in helping amphibians," said Carter.

FrogWatch training classes for 2017 will be offered free of charge at the Detroit Zoo's Ford Education Center on the following dates: Jan. 31, 5-9 p.m.; Feb. 5, 12-4 p.m.; Feb. 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Feb. 16, 5-9 p.m.; and March 12, 12-4 p.m.

Tom Green Comedy Tour Visits Royal Oak

Love him or hate him, Tom Green is still around – and almost as active as ever. Experience one of the great comic minds in the field of entertainment, live and in person, when he takes the stage Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle in Royal Oak. Green is known for providing non-stop

BTL Cool Cities Royal Oak

laughter with his brilliantly cracked view of the world around him. People remember Green from his anything-goes run as the funniest, most unpredictable personality on MTV, and his unforgettable, deliciously loony roles in uproarious film comedies including "Road Trip" and "Freddy Got Fingered." In 2010, Green started to do stand-up sets, in addition to his other productions. What is notable about these is their content. Rather than focused around antics or absurdity, Green's standup comedy is almost entirely focused on our culture's digitization, especially the effects social media has had on our communication. While Green hasn't seen much popular acclaim for his stand-up, he has managed to find a new outlet in an era past MTV. Combined with his live-streaming YouTube show, Web-O-Vision, Green is continuing to demonstrate his ability to keep up with the changing field of comedy, and may even be a bit ahead of the curve. Tickets to see Green are \$30. 18 and over welcome. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit <http://comedycastle.com>.

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Happenings

Editor's Pick

Sensations Aroused 'In the Next Room'

See what all the buzz is about at the Arthur Miller Theatre Jan. 19-22 when "In the Next Room (or the Vibrator Play)" by Sarah Ruhl is showing.

The production, nominated for three 2010 Tony Awards, is about Dr. Givings, a young doctor obsessed with the potential of new technology for treating his patients, while his wife, Catherine, feels like a bystander. Though titillating in title, this is a beautiful story of human emotion and our struggle to understand and connect; a tightly-laced corset of a show, whose poetry cannot help but burst forth from its seams.

Directed by Melissa Freilich, showtimes are Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 p.m. at 1226 Murfin Ave. in Ann Arbor. To purchase



tickets (\$11-22), call 734-971-2228 or visit www.a2ct.org.

OUTINGS

Thursday, Jan. 19

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

Friday, Jan. 20

No Name-Calling Week It is an important opportunity to show allyship to LGBTQ students, particularly transgender and gender nonconforming students, as well as LGBTQ students of color. GLSEN, Detroit. www.glsen.org/nonamecallingweek

Call to Courage: Supporting Justice, Resisting Wrong 6:30 p.m. A gathering for United Methodists First United Methodist Church of Ferndale, 22331 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. pjohnson@etseminary.edu

Come on In, Come on Out - Safe and Sound with Out Loud 8 p.m. Out Loud Chorus explores the concepts of safety and finding a home and is our response to the Pulse shootings. Songs include: Come to My Garden, Rather Be, Somewhere Only We Know, Earth Song and Would You Harbor Me. Tickets are \$15 in advance/\$18 at door, \$12 for seniors & students (65+). Free for children under 4 and unemployed people. Out Loud is sponsored in part by the Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs and the NEA. Our Saturday night performance is sponsored by the WCC Out-Space Club. Paul Haebig directs the chorus. Brendan Jacklin accompanies us on piano, Tamara Perkuhn plays drums and Edie Herrold rounds out the trio on bass. Out Loud Chorus, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor. 734-265-0740. outloudchorus@gmail.com www.0lonline.org

Saturday, Jan. 21

Women's March on Washington Bus leaves Lansing 1/20 at 8:45 p.m. Returns 1/22 at 9 a.m. Roundtrip cost is \$135. Email to reserve a spot on the bus. Lesbian Connection, Washington. lansinglesbiansL2L@gmail.com

Sunday, Jan. 22

PFLAG Monthly Meeting 2 p.m. Entry from parking lot behind church. Every third Sunday. PFLAG Ann Arbor, 306 N. Division at Catherine Street, Ann Arbor. 734-741-0659. info@pflagaa.org www.pflagaa.org

Monday, Jan. 23

FtM Support 7 p.m. Support is limited to transmasculine, AFAB people. FtM Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. ftmdetroit@gmail.com

Tuesday, Jan. 24

Gamenight 1 a.m. Gay Geeks Social Group, 4636 15 MILE RD Apt. xxx, Sterling Heights. www.meetup.com

Wednesday, Jan. 25

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

Newly Single 7 p.m. A support and discussion group for those who are newly single and are coping with the loss of a

relationship. The group offers support, resources, skill building opportunities and social events. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

Thursday, Jan. 26

All Genders Film Night 6:30 p.m. A social group to view and discuss films that relate to the unique challenges in the LGBTQ community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

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

LGBTQ Book and Movie Club 7 p.m. Meets the 3rd and 4th Thursday of each month. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com www.goaffirmations.org

Parent Support Group 7 p.m. Dr. Melissa Farrell, LCP and Roz Keith facilitate ongoing group for parents of trans youth to better understand what it means to be transgender. Event is free. Stand With Trans, 5725 Walnut Lake Rd, West Bloomfield Twp. 248-661-5700. laura@temple-israel.org

Friday, Jan. 27

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

Mobile Check-In 7 p.m. Public broadcast online FtM Detroit, Detroit. www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/

Saturday, Jan. 28

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

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

Smear Lipstick 3 p.m. A discussion group for self identified feminine lesbian women to identify issues specific to them. The group also does a monthly community service project to increase their visibility in every community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

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

KGLRC Winter Gala and Fundraiser Tickets: \$35-75. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. 248-349-4234. margy@kgllrc.org www.kgllrc.org

Sunday, Jan. 29

Drag Queen Bingo 11 a.m. Tickets: \$20-\$30. Reservations required. 18+ Five15, 515 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak. 248-515-2551. www.five15.net

The Legend of Georgia McBride 3 p.m. Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Potluck 6 p.m. Residential location. FtM Detroit, 313 W. Webster, Ferndale. www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/

Monday, Jan. 30

Alcoholics Anonymous 5:45 Serenity 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile

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

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

Factory Monday 9 p.m. Goth-industrial night. Main room: DJ Void6 hosted by MC Yoda. Red Room: DJ Madisi. Tickets: \$1-3. Necto, 516 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. www.necto.com

Tuesday, Jan. 31

Coming Out Over Coffee 7 p.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

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

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

Suicide Prevention and Addiction 7:30 p.m. By Raymond Dalton, MA, CAADC. Free, open to anyone with a personal or professional interest. Dawn Farm, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. info@dawnfarm.org <http://www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series>

Thursday, Feb. 2

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

MUSIC & MORE

Dawn Farm "How To Support Recovery and Not Support Addiction" By Dr. Charles F. Gehrke, MD, FACP, FASAM. Free, open to people with personal or professional



Editor's Pick



You Can't Make This Stuff Up

Long Island Medium Theresa Caputo is coming to Detroit on Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m. for an intimate live performance at MotorCity Casino Hotel's Sound Board. Do you believe Caputo can speak to your departed loved ones from "beyond the physical world?" Here's your chance to find

out. Get up close and personal with the reality TV star as she gives interactive readings to audience members and also shares personal stories about her life and her unique gifts. Tickets for the show at 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit are \$62-125. Purchase online at www.ticketmaster.com or call 800-745-3000. For more information on Caputo, visit www.theresacaputo.com.

interest. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 24. 7344858725. <http://www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series>

Concerts

Out Loud Chorus "OLC Winter Concert" Come On In, Come On Out: Safe & Sound with Out Loud. Towsley Auditorium in the Morris Lawrence Building at WCC, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor. Jan. 20 - Jan. 21. 734-265-0740. www.olconline.org

Other

Penny Stamps Speaker Series "Hank Willis Thomas: The Truth is I Love You" Free admission. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 5:10 p.m. Jan. 26. www.stamps.umich.edu

Penny Stamps Speaker Series "Joe Sacco: Galvanizing Social Justice Through Comics" Free admission. Michigan

Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 5:10 p.m. Jan. 19. www.stamps.umich.edu

Shows

Michigan Falun Dafa Association "Shen Yun" Tickets: \$70-120. DeVos Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, Grand Rapids. Jan. 24 - Jan. 25. 844-647-4697. www.shenyun.com

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

In the Next Room, or, The Vibrator Play Tickets: \$17-22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. Jan. 19 - Jan. 22. 734-763-3333. www.a2ct.org

Romeo & Juliet Tickets: \$12-20. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Slipstream Theatre, 460 Hilton Road, Ferndale. Through Jan. 29. 313-986-9156. www.slipstreamti.com

Professional

A Bright Room Called Day . The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 8 p.m. Jan. 19. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Firepower by Kermit Frazier Tickets: \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through March 12. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

Phantom of the Opera Tickets: \$35-130. Broadway in Detroit, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Through Jan. 22. 313-237-SING. www.broadwayindetroit.com

Riot Grrrl 90s Tickets: \$10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through Jan. 28. 313-365-4948. www.planetant.com

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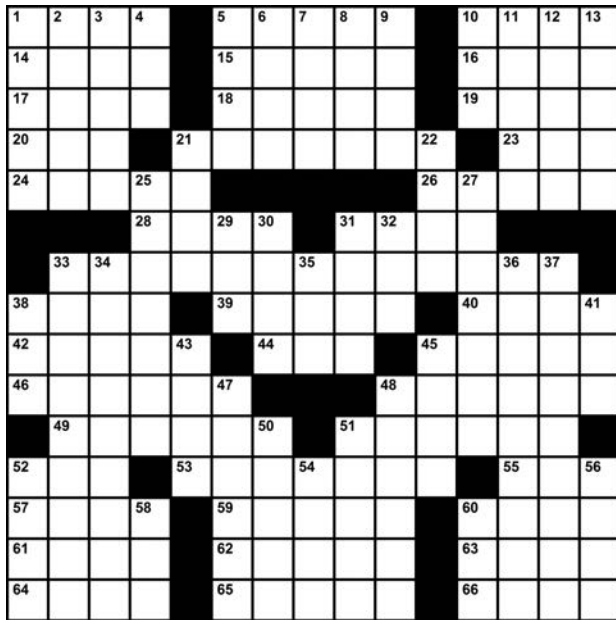
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Q Puzzle



- 42 Emulated Zachary Quinto
 44 Dreaded ink color
 45 Lake, of "Hairspray"
 46 With 48-Across, source of the quote (1956-2016)
 48 See 46-Across
 49 1990 Kathy Bates film
 51 Like Elton John's glasses
 52 Unbar, to Byron
 53 End of the quip
 55 Cone starter
 57 Where a queen bee rules
 59 Former New York state senator Tom
 60 One way to cook fruit
 61 "___ ideal world..."
 62 Artist Hernandez
 63 Highland dialect
 64 Gaze at gays, e.g.
 65 Like a nocturnal emission?
 66 Word after "Hail Mary"
- 12 "So long!"
 13 Segment for Roberta Gregory
 21 "___ Rhythm"
 22 Rita Mae's horses may do this
 25 Cheese shredders
 27 Flake of the upper crust
 29 Pose for Bruce Weber
 30 Out and then some
 31 Treated a swollen member
 32 Article of Fassbinder's
 33 Participate in an outing, in scouting
 34 Hunting dog's job
 35 Dick's running mate
 36 Group that played with Bernstein
 37 Maximum tattoo exposure
 38 D.C. lobby group
 41 To me, to Hirschfeld
 43 Chubby chaser's bane
 45 Gay wedding item
 47 Eats away at
 48 Clothing worn to the Oscars
 50 Pronoun in Aaron Copland's borough
 51 Like a muscle Mary's abs
 52 John Goodman's "Normal,"
 54 A little behind
 56 Is in the hole
 58 Uey from WSW
 60 Autumn mo.

Now, or Preferably Sooner

Across

- 1 Cathedral of Hope area
 5 Patron of Wilde's homeland, briefly
 10 Sound like Harvey Fierstein
 14 Draw a cross over
 15 Your place, or mine
 16 Request from one's knees
 17 Nastase of the net
 18 Socrates' market
 19 Bearing

- 20 "Village Voice" columnist Hentoff
 21 Start of a quip
 23 Ball in the skull
 24 Allman ex of Cher
 26 Of the kidneys
 28 Lorca's pink
 31 American follower?
 33 More of the quip
 38 Verlaine or Rimbaud
 39 More of the quip
 40 Coal porter's vehicle?

Down

- 1 Cutting with a heavy tool
 2 Kind of bear
 3 "Plaza ___" (1968 Broadway hit)
 4 Summer for Colette
 5 Hayes of "Will & Grace" reruns
 6 Puts out, like Billy Bean
 7 Bapt. or Meth.
 8 Gillette brand
 9 "Better ___ Chocolate"
 10 Tachometer's meas.
 11 Mork, for one

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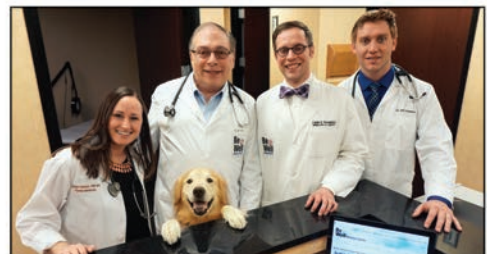
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► Indigo Girls

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more positive thing now. Back then it was... there was so much derogatory language around us being gay in the first half of our career. So many reviews that would refer to us in a really negative way, and people would make fun of our audience. We were always the punching bag for gay humor. It just felt like a bummer sometimes. Over time, we've had to learn how to just look at it as a positive thing.

Back then, I did think about visibility, and that's probably what spurred us to (come out). We were feeling guilty because we were hiding something. We were out in our communities and we were community activists, so our lens, even in the late '80s, early '90s, was a political lens, although it definitely got more and more political through the '90s. But we did think about (visibility) because where we lived in Atlanta, post high school, when we were in college at Emory, HIV/AIDS activism was really big, and they were trying to get artists, actors and people in the arts to come out in support of HIV/AIDS activism. So, it was something we were thinking about. It wasn't like we were scared we were going to get caught and then crucified. It was more like, "This is a compelling reason. If we're sitting in front of our audience and talking about the importance of self-esteem and individualism, and we're activists and we're not willing to be visible when all these other people are willing to be visible, there's something wrong with that." That was our conversation with each other.

Saliers: We were always out in our lives, and with our families, friends and locally, and then we got signed to a major label and the national press wanted to talk about it. I had a lot of fear at that time about talking about it in the national press. When I got the courage to be out, it was a feeling of relief and pride. I had fears that we'd be stigmatized and judged and the same old crap. We ended up being all those things, but it didn't matter. The way I felt about being an out musician then was like (whispers), "OK, we've announced it. We're in it." Now, it's like, this is really who we are and we are part of a community and things are too important *not* to take a stand.

I think it's become a very important part of what the Indigo Girls represent.

Saliers: And I'm really thankful for that. Over time, and with age and wisdom, I think you just have a different perspective on how important it is.

Are you working on any solo material, Amy?

Ray: I'm writing right now for it, and I'd say I'm about a third of the way through. It'll be a country-tinged record with punk influences. Emily's got her record coming out; we just gotta figure out timing. And how to make

another Indigo record, 'cause we're both like, "We're ready for the next record," but then we're like, "When are we gonna write for the next record?" I think her solo record is gonna be bigger than she thinks it will be, so I'm standing back a little bit. She wrote me a text and was like, "I'm really excited to write for the next Indigo record." She's such a team player. It's good for us. We're both in it for each other.

Amy, what's your earliest memory of Emily?

Ray: I remember seeing her in the lunchroom with a gaggle of girls around her and she was playing a song on her guitar and singing. I think a couple of them were singing with her, maybe, and I was like, "That's the new girl and she plays and sings." I was playing guitar already too. And I think my first memory was immediately realizing how far ahead she was of the curve. (Laughs) It kind of made me feel intimidated. She was a year older, and you know, we didn't get to be friends until high school, when we were around 15. I was 9 when I first saw her.

You were just admiring her from afar?

Ray: Yeah, just kind of taking stock. Emily has this revision of history that she wasn't popular, and I beg to differ with her about that all the time. I'm always like, "Well, to me, you were popular because I always saw you with all these people around you, and you were always singing and everybody was adoring you, and I was totally intimidated. So, in my little world, you were very popular." We ended up being the best of friends, so it all worked out.

Was there ever a moment in your career when you wanted to pursue something outside of music?

Saliers: The only time I ever thought about the possibility of not doing what I was doing was when I had stage fright for a year-and-a-half, and it just derailed me. I thought, "I can't do this." This was a long, long time ago – over 10, 15 years ago. Honestly, that's the only time I've ever thought, "I can't do this." And it was because of the fear, not anything else. Also, we get to do so many outside projects from Indigo Girls I've never felt like I'd rather be doing something else. I just finished tracking my solo record! I'm very excited. I've been talking about it for years. It's very rhythm-centric. A lot of R&B inspiration. I set out to make a record for what I wanted that I wasn't hearing. I really wanted the African-American presence of drummers who come from the soul-gospel-church background.

When can we expect your debut solo album?

Saliers: In the spring. I hope for April, maybe May. In the spring. (Amy and I are) gonna go record with University of Colorado's symphony orchestra, and we're gonna make a record of symphonically performed songs. We're also working toward making another Indigo Girls studio record. It's just onto the next thing. There's no stopping us.

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