

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

# BTL

24  
Years

## Between THE Lines™

**Spicer Hints at  
Coming Action on  
Anti-LGBT 'Religious  
Freedom' Order**

**PAGE 4**

**Transgender  
Michigan Calls  
for Action**

**PAGE 12**

**Arkansas Supreme  
Court Strikes Down  
Pro-LGBT City  
Ordinance**

**PAGE 15**

**Comedy Fest Offers  
Time to Laugh Out  
Loud**

**PAGE 16**

**March 2, 2017**

**VOL. 2509 | FREE**

**WWW.PRIDESOURCE.COM**

# The Color of Marriage

**Until We All Can Reap the Benefits of Marriage,  
We Haven't Won Marriage Equality** PAGE 6



**Affirmations**

People Building Community

AFFIRMATIONS  
PRESENTS

# Emerald City

SPRING BASH 2017

PLEASE JOIN US  
FOR OUR ANNUAL BLACK-TIE CELEBRATION  
OF METRO DETROIT'S LGBTQ COMMUNITY  
AND ITS ALLIES.

## 2017 Spring Bash Honorees

The Jan Stevenson Award: Hannah Hartley • The Lorna Utley Outstanding Ally Award: Debbie Kenjorski  
The Charles Moyer Philanthropy Award: Henry Grix and Howard Israel • Community Hero Award: John Corvino  
Volunteer of the Year Award: John White

MARCH 18 | MGM GRAND DETROIT

**To purchase tickets, please visit [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org).**

### SPONSORS TO DATE

Affordance Office Environment, AT&T, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Care One, Inc., Comerica Bank, Daniel Fulmer, Domino's Pizza, Masco Corporation, MGM Grand Detroit, Henry Grix & Howard Israel, Howard & Howard Attorneys and Wayne State University.

### EXCLUSIVE MEDIA AND IN-KIND SPONSORS

Affordable Flowers, M-1 Studios, Between The Lines, Hour Magazine, Out Post, Wolverine Printing and Whole Foods.

For more information, contact Katie: [kkoch@goaffirmations.org](mailto:kkoch@goaffirmations.org)

290 W. Nine Mile | Ferndale | MI 48220 | 248-398-7105 | [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)



# Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com



## 6 COVER

A Conversation with Rev. Roland Stringfellow

## NEWS

- 4 Spicer Hints at Coming Action on Anti-LGBT 'Religious Freedom' Order
- 6 View From the Bottom: The Color of Marriage
- 8 MDP Elects Openly Gay Vice Chair for First Time In Its History
- 12 Transgender Michigan Calls for Action
- 14 Protestors: Trump a 'Bully' for Rescinding Trans Student Protections
- 15 Arkansas Supreme Court Strikes Down Pro-LGBT City Ordinance

## OPINION

- 10 Parting Glances
- 10 Viewpoint: ACLU of Michigan Responds to Trump Administration's Actions
- 11 Creep of the Week: Michael Brown

## LIFE

- 16 Michigan LGBT ComedyFest Returns to Dearborn
- 19 Cool Cities: Ann Arbor
- 20 The Outfield: Stephen Alexander, Little Rhody's Big Trans Man
- 22 Happenings
- 24 'Hedwig' Rocks The Fisher from Top to Bottom
- 26 Classifieds
- 27 Puzzle and Comic
- 28 The Frivolist: 6 Signs Your Open Relationship is Hurtling Toward Disaster

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- 30 Meet EQM's Department of Victim Services Team
- 30 Actress Lena Dunham Pledged \$50,000 to Ruth Ellis Center
- 31 KGLRC Changes Name, Gets New Location



**Trump a 'Bully' For Rescinding Trans Student Protections**

pg. 14

**Jay Kaplan Looks at Trump's Actions**

pg. 10

**Hedwig Rocks The Fisher from Top to Bottom**

pg. 24



## HAPPENINGS

**The Comedy Fest Arrives**

pg. 16

## POLITICS

**MDP Elects First Openly Gay Vice Chair in its History**

pg. 8

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**REC Get's \$50K from Lena Dunham, pg. 30**

VOL. 2509 • MARCH 2, 2017  
ISSUE 1004

**PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP**  
20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone 734.293.7200

**PUBLISHERS**  
Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

**MEMBER OF**  
Michigan Press Association  
National Gay Media Association  
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber  
Q Syndicate



**EDITORIAL**  
Editor in Chief  
Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12  
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

**Entertainment Editor**  
Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24  
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

**Senior News Editor**  
Kate Opalewski, 734.293.7200 x 10  
kate@pridesource.com

**News & Feature Writers**  
Emell Derra Adolphus, Todd A. Heywood,  
Jason Michael, Amy Lynn Smith

**CREATIVE**  
Webmaster & MIS Director  
Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

**Columnists**  
Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown,  
Mikey Rox, Dan Woog  
Gwendolyn Ann Smith

**Cartoonists**  
Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

**Contributing Photographers**  
Andrew Potter  
Alexander Godin

**ADVERTISING & SALES**  
Director of Sales  
Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22  
jan@pridesource.com

**Sales Representatives**  
Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13  
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 16  
donelle@pridesource.com

**National Advertising Representative**  
Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for claims made by our advertisers, nor can we accept responsibility for materials provided by advertisers or their agents.

Copyright 2017 Pride Source Media Group

**ONLINE AT**

- "Between The Lines Newspaper"
- Follow us @YourBTL
- Email your op-eds to editor@pridesource.com
- Sign up online to receive our E-Digest



# Spicer Hints at Coming Action on Anti-LGBT 'Religious Freedom' Order

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

Amid renewed concerns President Trump would sign a "religious order" undermining LGBT rights, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said Monday he expects the administration would soon "have something."

Spicer made the remarks in response to a question from the Daily Signal, an arm of the anti-LGBT Heritage Foundation, on whether the order is still coming and whether it would extend beyond the Johnson Amendment, a law Trump has pledged to repeal barring churches from making political endorsements.

"I think we've discussed executive orders in the past, and for the most part, we're not going to get into discussing what may or may not come until we're ready to announce it," Spicer replied. "So, I'm sure as we move forward we'll have something."

It wasn't immediately clear whether the "something" to which Spicer was referring was an actual executive order or a statement on a policy position for the way forward.

Although Trump initially passed up the opportunity to sign a proposed anti-LGBT "religious freedom" executive order at the



White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer says he expects something on a "religious freedom" executive order.

time of the National Prayer Breakfast during the start of the administration, a recent report in The Huffington Post raised concerns a different order will come soon.

The report quotes Ken Blackwell, a senior

fellow at the anti-LGBT Family Research Council who oversaw domestic policy for the Trump transition team, from an interview he had with Sirius XM's Michelangelo Signorile in which Blackwell says the order is being

redrafted and on the way.

"In the final analysis, what we want is an executive order that will meet the scrutiny of the judicial process," Blackwell is quoted as saying. "If there is no executive order, that will disappoint [social conservatives]. But a good executive order will not. So we're still in the process."

Blackwell reportedly said the former director of Family Research Council's Center for Religious Liberty, Ken Klukowski, had "actually structured" the initial draft order as a legal adviser to Trump's transition team and is now one of the lawyers "in the process of redrafting it." Klukowski is now a senior attorney at the Liberty First Institute and a contributor to Breitbart, a conservative website.

The "anchor concept" of the order, Blackwell is quoted as saying, is a directive allowing people in the course of business to refuse services to LGBT people out of religious objections.

"I think small business owners who hold a religious belief that traditional marriage is

See Spicer, page 14

# relish

New restaurant.

New Taste.

New Atmosphere.

NOW SERVING

BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

HAPPY HOUR MONDAY-FRIDAY 5PM - 7PM

SIGNATURE CRAFT COCKTAILS, LOCALLY SOURCED BEERS & WINES

Visit us on OpenTable & GrubHub

relishannarbor relishannarbor

610 Hilton Blvd. Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

734.369.2810





**WE FOCUS ON HIV**  
TO HELP YOU FOCUS ON  
**TODAY**

Ask your doctor if a medicine made by Gilead is right for you.

[onepillchoices.com](http://onepillchoices.com)



# View From the Bottom: The Color of Marriage

## Until We All Can Reap the Benefits of Marriage, We Haven't Won Marriage Equality

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

If you Google search Rev. Roland Stringfellow, you'll find a picture of him in his religious robing speaking to a sea of people on Castro Street in San Francisco, California, circa 2008.

Stringfellow lived in San Francisco Bay Area when then Mayor Gavin Newsome directed the city's county clerk to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples in 2004. The window to get married was brief between Newsome's directive and the California Supreme Court's nullification of the resulting marriages. Nevertheless, the gay community persisted.

The moment, though short-lived, was monumental for all lesbian and gay couples in the Golden State, explains Stringfellow, because marriage seemed tangible for the first time.

"As a gay man, up to that point, we all were just accustomed that marriage is not for us," he remembers.

Not yet ordained, Stringfellow was a student minister at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. And while there certainly was groundswell of support for marriage equality in California, his real watershed as a Black gay man in the marriage equality fight came in 2008.

Barack Obama was on the election ticket as well as Proposition 8 - a ballot proposition that would make same-sex marriage illegal in California. Each of them had immense support for different reason, but Black people were blamed for the success of both.

"Many whites in the LGBT community began to scapegoat African-American voters. So a false narrative was told," says Stringfellow. The perception of some California voters was, he explains, "Why would Black people vote against us?"

"There were walls erected and it took time and a lot of head-butting to get the campaign decision makers to understand that we have to create a greater coalition if we want to be successful," he remembers.

From that moment, Stringfellow says he set out to change the color of marriage equality fight on the frontline: to show that marriage equality was more than something that only white couples were interested in.

*View from the Bottom is a column written by Emell Derra Adolphus that examines black gay sex, people & politics in metro Detroit. The "bottom" refers not to sex but to societal position, taken from the point of view of someone who is continuously marginalized. Commiserate and share your stories at [EmellDerraAdolphus@gmail.com](mailto:EmellDerraAdolphus@gmail.com).*

BTL photo: Andrew Potter



“Even within the Trump era, LGBTQ equality will continue to make strides. Yet, how long will LGBTQ Christians have to wait for their churches to also make strides in welcoming them home ‘just as they are?’”

– Rev. Roland Stringfellow

“The fact that I was clergy, every time I showed up to an event or a rally, I came in my clergy collar,” he says. “I wanted to challenge the image that religious people, particularly Christians, were not all set against marriage for same gender loving people. And that was my mantra from 2008 to 2013.”

In Michigan, after the monumental marriage equality decision came down two years ago, celebrations spilled into the streets of cities Ferndale, Royal Oak and Saugatuck, the gay Hamptons of the Great Lakes. However, what seemed like a world away, some black lesbian and gay men in Detroit were not as moved.

Here’s why: When it came to mobilizing for marriage equality, pictures were worth more than a thousand words. In one quick snap, they can eternize memories and emotions. But depending on where you’re standing when the camera flashes, especially if you are a person of color, you could be left out of a movement entirely.

“In order to motivate the masses, the masses have to see role models or examples they can relate to,” says Stringfellow. “Thus we now have skin in the game. And yes, we are going to be more politically active for that reason.”

Now that couples can legally be married, Stringfellow, senior pastor and teacher at the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit (MCC Detroit), has turned his attention to making sure everyone everyone can reap the benefits of the fight for marriage equality. This process takes shape in first teaching people why same-sex marriage is not wrong.

When Prop 8 was passed in California, Stringfellow was approached to formulate a curriculum to help African-American religious leaders, from a biblical scriptural standpoint, understand the benefits of having a community that is unified and not divided on the topic of LGBTQ inclusion in the church.

“Is it possible to love and embrace those who are in your community who are LGBTQ and keep your integrity,” he says. The curriculum is entitled “Umoja,” from the Swahili word meaning “unity.”

“I explain to these pastors and bishops the harm that is caused when they encourage parents to abandon their children when they come out of the closet. That’s what’s breaking up the family,” he says, explaining that marriage is still mostly considered religious act, leaving many black LGBTQ people to feel rejected by its idea.

Stringfellow, 48, grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was a Baptist minister and left his church when he came out in 2000, thinking he couldn’t be gay and godly.

Last month, Stringfellow presented his Umoja Project to a group of about 11 people studying to become leaders within the church from different branches of faith at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit. On the subject of same-sex marriage, some people were conflicted. Others were curious. But all of them wanted to understand.

“When I came out the closet, I had to make a decision, do I stay in the black Baptist church that is non-affirming and even lashes out in spiritual violent ways towards me? Or do I find a church that is more affirming that might not speak to me culturally? Where do I go?,” says Stringfellow, “And I think for many queer people of color that’s a serious dilemma.”

With the passing of time, as same-sex marriage and LGBTQ equality becomes more accepted, it’s important that more diverse community leaders are included at the decision-making tables. In the black community, that starts with the church, says Stringfellow. “Even within the Trump era, LGBTQ equality will continue to make strides. Yet, how long will LGBTQ Christians have to wait for their churches to also make strides in welcoming them home ‘just as they are?’”

With leaders like Stringfellow, we won’t have to wait long.

*All are welcome at MCC Detroit, 2441 Pinecrest Drive, Ferndale. Call 248-399-7741, email [mccdetroit@gmail.com](mailto:mccdetroit@gmail.com) or visit [www.mccdetroit.org](http://www.mccdetroit.org) for more information.*

# RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS



Dedicated to make our  
community brighter  
One Smile At A Time  
248-399-4455

**Zoom Special**  
**\$249**  
**One-hour Teeth**  
**Whitening**

\*Must mention this BTL ad - Expires 3/31/17

Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)  
Proud participants in the Ryan White Program  
No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.  
Uninsured? No problem. Significant savings with our in-office club.

Care Credit



1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4,  
Berkley, MI 48072  
[www.rontwilliamsondds.com](http://www.rontwilliamsondds.com)

Find us on  
facebook

## PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL CARE FOR WOMEN OF ALL AGES

*PartridgeCreek*  
Obstetrics & Gynecology

**OUR NEW LOCATION IS:**  
**1991 Hall Road, Suite 105 • Macomb, MI 48044**



Center: Rhonda L. Kobold,  
DO, FACOOG

Left:  
Marcie S. Mullins, MSN, CNM  
Hina Javaid, MD  
Beth K. Mutch, MSN, FNP-BC

Right:  
Tanya M. Vaughn, MS, CNM, FNP-BC  
Angela V. Viviano, MSN, FNP  
Teresa C. Kuz, MSN, WHNP-BC

MAIN OFFICE  
1991 Hall Road,  
Suite 105  
Macomb, MI 48044

586.247.8609

[partridgecreekobgyn.com](http://partridgecreekobgyn.com)

NORTH OFFICE  
58851 Van Dyke,  
Suite 100  
Washington Twp., MI 48094



# MDP Elects Openly Gay Vice Chair for First Time In Its History

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

At the Michigan Democratic Convention on Feb. 11 at Cobo Hall, not only was Mark LaChey reelected as the Chair of the LGBT & Allies Caucus, but for the first time in its history, the Michigan Democratic Party elected him, an openly gay Vice Chair of the state party.

The LGBT&A Caucus within the MDP is composed of members of the community in Michigan who are registered Democrats. These progressive-thinking people are committed to the advancement of candidates and legislative issues which are of particular significance to the LGBT&A community.

LaChey has been a litigation attorney for more than three decades having maintained his solo practice first in Royal Oak and now Saugatuck for the past 22 years. He was one of Michigan's first attorneys to accept LGBT clients starting in the mid-1980's. He has participated for more than 20 years in Democratic politics at various levels from local club and county organizations through congressional districts and the statewide party.

LaChey has served as an elected delegate to MDP's State Central Committee, its main governing body, for the past 10 years, as well as an appointed member of its Executive Committee for the past four years.

LaChey spoke with BTL about his reelection as Chair of the LGBT&A Caucus, and what his new role involves as a Vice Chair of the MDP.

## What does your election to the MDP mean for the LGBTQ community?

First and foremost, it's a significant accomplishment for Michigan's LGBTQ Democrats. It shows recognition by key state Democratic players that we have not just earned a seat at the table, but also the right to have a key leadership role in the party.

It should also be mentioned that this nomination and my unanimous election by the convention's attendees demonstrates both a recognition of the enhanced engagement of our community during the several past election cycles but also that our community's votes and contributions of time and money are not being taken for granted. In short, this represents both a "thank you" as well as an incentive to keep up our efforts as we move toward the vitally important elections in 2018.

## Discuss your responsibilities as Vice Chair.

There are no specific duties or responsibilities spelled out for a Vice Chair in the Party's bylaws or elsewhere. So while I have some



Mark LaChey

freedom to make its role whatever I want, my present intentions are primarily twofold: first, to bolster and continue the Democrats' support of the LGBTQ community.

I want to use my enhanced bully pulpit to keep talking to the leaders of the Democratic party, both elected and behind the scenes, to make sure that the issues and concerns of LGBTQ Michiganders remain "on the front burner".

Secondly, a lesson learned from the 2016 election was that every vote across Michigan must count equally and that voters from all corners of our state should get equal attention regardless of gender, race or ethnic background, sexual orientation or gender identity and perhaps most importantly, their geographic location.

Especially now that I live on the west side

of Michigan rather than southeast Oakland County, one of my tasks is to do whatever I can to make sure that resources, both from the MDP as well as the state and federal Democratic campaign committees, get spread further out into the state of Michigan including both the lower and upper peninsulas. This will, in turn, help LGBTQ residents who don't happen to live in a bastion of gayness in southeast Michigan, and often feel ignored.

Lastly and related to both of the above, I publicly pledged at the MDP convention that I will go anywhere in the state of Michigan to attend a county, congressional district or club event on behalf of the MDP. I am excited to hop in my truck and go wherever to meet and talk with my fellow Democrats (and Democrats-to-be) and have already one such event under my belt. And in so doing, I do not

leave my "gayness" behind.

## What has been accomplished since you came on board four years ago as Chair of the LGBT&A Caucus?

As recently as 2012, we had Democratic candidates in Michigan who were not openly pro-equality (such as not being willing to openly endorse amending Michigan's ELCRA to add sexual orientation and gender identity).

I'm very proud to say that in 2014 and again in 2016, I'm unaware of a single Democratic candidate for state House or higher that was not fully and openly in favor of full LGBTQ equality at either the state or federal level. So that's a major step. While our Caucus does not possess an actual veto over a particular candidate, we do have our foot in the door to insure that our supported candidates will support our issues once elected. Additionally, four years ago, we had no elected openly-gay legislators in Lansing. I'm very proud to say now we have three (Tim Sneller, Jeremy Moss and Jon Hoadley) serving in our state House. Was the Caucus directly responsible for that? No. But we did help recruit, finance, and otherwise support these three candidates along with, at least, three others who were unfortunately not successful in their bids.

The Caucus provides a vehicle to promote these folks and our allies as candidates to our LGBTQ Community both here in Michigan and nationally. Moreover, I continue to work with other constituencies and stakeholders both within the Democratic Party and otherwise on behalf of candidates who share common issues. This is significant because in addition to what could be considered core LGBTQ issues, our community is also part of the larger world with concerns about affordable, available and adequate health care, a good environment, accessible education and jobs that provide a living wage.

So partnering with labor, other minorities, conservation groups and others to help elect mutually supportive candidates is a win-win.

Lastly, I am proud of the success of our Caucus Facebook page. Although the Caucus doesn't presently have a formal membership structure or collect dues, the popularity of this page by the number of its followers and the level of its activity is one indication of people paying attention to the LGBT&A Caucus and what we're doing.

## When reflecting on the past four years, have there been any surprises?

There has been ups and downs. Previously,



a sizable chunk of our LGBTQ community felt disengaged or felt comfortable that they did not need to be involved in the political process – either because life was okay for them or because they thought politics just wouldn't respond to them.

I think after this election I've been really gratified at the overall increase of people saying "oh no, this is not acceptable." Especially with respect to people in the LGBTQ Community now being "woke" and recognizing that our rights are at risk and that we need to do something about it.

I am gratified and proud to say that when Michigan's LGBTQ community has specific issues that are important to them such as marriage equality, they do show up to vote. This especially was evident in our community's disproportionately high turn-out in 2014 when marriage equality was still at issue, and I am optimistic that our community will be similarly motivated in 2018.

### Are there challenges you see ahead for the Caucus?

There's a lot of energy both in our community and more generally that needs to be responded to and put to good use. So a part of the challenge over the my next two years is to first educate folks as to what the Caucus (and Party) does in terms of finding and electing good Progressive candidates to our legislature, statewide offices and Congress rather than direct issue advocacy and also to find ways to increase the presence of and information available to LGBTQ Michiganders whether it be through our Facebook page, Instagram or Twitter or an enhanced web page, for example.

As with everyone, members of our community are busy in their own lives – school or work or caring for kids or elders – and sometimes they need to have some particularly egregious issue thrown in their face to say "hey, wake up" with suggestions of who or what can be done about it. For example, our community is now aware that marriage equality, which they all thought was great when it passed, might be at risk again. That it is not guaranteed and I think that gives a lot of concern. But I think we are also awakening to the reality that there is a lot of issues other than marriage equality – either ancillary to that or completely separate – that have not yet been addressed or could be at risk of being rolled back.

Channeling that new energy and motivation toward preserving what our community has gained and hopefully moving forward toward full equality over the next two and four years will be, perhaps, the ultimate challenge for myself and others in both the Caucus and Democratic leadership.

### How can people get involved with or help the Caucus?

First, "like" the Caucus's Facebook page @TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP. That is an indication not only of how much support we have, but it provides them with a significant amount of information, and not just about LGBTQ issues.

Separately, I would ask them to join the MDP, and in order to get recognized as an openly LGBTQ member, we suggest you join at [www.secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/mdplgbt](http://www.secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/mdplgbt). No extra money goes to the Caucus, but it does register you as an LGBTQ person with the state party so that we (and they) can track our strength as Democrats.

We are the first constituency group to do this and I'm kind of proud of that. Then consider joining and attending a local club, county or congressional district meeting or event. Separately, the MDP raises money through its fundraising dinners and the LGBT&A Caucus has had multiple tables at each event over the past four years and will again this year at

“Partnering with labor, other minorities, conservation groups and others to help elect mutually supportive candidates is a win-win”

the Legacy Dinner in April at Cobo and then this Fall in Grand Rapids. Equally important: find out who's running for offices near you, do your research. Let us know if you need some guidance about who's pro-LGBTQ, who's viable and who has a chance of winning. Then volunteer as often as you can for candidates from school board and city council to governor and U.S. Senate. All of the will need and appreciate help with hosting events, making phone calls and knocking on doors –

and be sure to let those candidates know you're LGBTQ. Politics 101 – elected officials respond to those people who help them get where they are. Some people look at that as a dirty word when it's donations from big corporations, but it's also the \$25 from 1,000 people or a bunch of us showing up at a campaign headquarters on a Saturday morning to stuff envelopes, take a phone bank shift or walk a neighborhood. This is how we'll ensure that our issues remain in the forefront and that we're not taken for granted or ignored.

Learn more about the LGBT&A Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party online [www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP](http://www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP) on Facebook.



**AMERICAN MATTRESS GALLERY**

**43235 12 Mile Rd. at Novi Rd.  
Novi MI. 48377  
248-349-2000**

Open Daily: 10-9 Saturday: 10-8  
Sunday: 12-6

[www.americansmattressgallery.com](http://www.americansmattressgallery.com)  
In the Hagopian Building

---

**icomfort** Sleep System by Serta  
From **\$699.00**

SYNCHRONY 0% FINANCE 12-24-36 MONTHS

**TEMPUR-PEDIC** From **\$1149.00**



**90 Day NO CREDIT CHECK - NO INTEREST - NO PROBLEM**

---

**Savvy Rest**

Certified Americas BEST Organic Mattress from **\$749.95**  
Amish Solid Wood Furniture Built to last a Life time  
Custom Finished in Oak-Maple or Cherry



**90 Day NO CREDIT CHECK - NO INTEREST - NO PROBLEM**

---

Complete Sets, and a Free Frame **\$249<sup>95</sup>**

**\$299<sup>95</sup>**

**\$399<sup>95</sup>**

**\$499<sup>95</sup>**

**\$599<sup>95</sup>**

---

The Perfect bed for guests, studio apartments or vacation condos. No installation required and includes an 8-inch Memory Foam Mattress for perfect comfort. All wood cabinet in several finishes and styles. Includes Free 30" TV

**Adjustable Bed with Memory Foam Mattress**  
Your Choice Twin XL - Full or Queen  
**\$888<sup>88</sup>**

Sale Ends March 31



---

DRN020517AMGBC

Michigan's Largest Mattress Gallery

---



A GOOD HEALTHY LIFESTYLE BEGINS WITH

**HEALTHY NIGHTS SLEEP**





## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### Whap! Thud! Kick! Kill! Shazam!

An oft-quoted U of M study of juvenile couch-potato-derangement-in-the-making blames adult violence on TV programs that feature heroes who are admired for bravery but imitated for violent acts. (Watch now. Wallop later.)

Not everyone agrees. Dennis Wharton, spokesperson for the National Association of Broadcasters says, “Other studies find just the opposite of what this U of M report concludes.” Perhaps Mr. Wharton is myopic. Or, maybe it’s all in the eye of the beholder, after all.

Sixty years ago a shrink named Fredric Wertham, claimed the bitter seeds of crime were sown by comic books. His study “Seduction of the Innocent” also claims comics turned impressionable kids gay. (In or out of capes and leotards isn’t specified.)

“I have never come across any adult or adolescent who had outgrown comic-book reading who would ever dream of keeping any of the ‘books’ for any sentimental or other reason,” Wertham adds. (Let’s see, “Action Comic #1; 1938” markets for \$38M to \$350M.)

I’ll admit as a kid I admired Captain Marvel. I knew that his alter ego, dot-eyed Billy Batson, was an ordinary runt like me. That was encouraging. With exercise, Wheaties, eight hours of sleep, and Brill Cream – “a little dab’ll do ya” – life held possibilities for real rooftop soaring.

But Wertham’s darts weren’t directed at Captain Marvel, Mary Marvel, Superman, Plastic Man, Submariner, The Flash, and Mr. Tweedle Dee Dee. (All heroes of mine.) They were aimed at closet queers Batman and Robin and crypto-dyke Wonder Woman.

Yes, the Caped Crusader had a “ward” (guardian, not prison) and Wonder Woman, well – as plump sidekick Etta Candy woo-woo’d it, “Aphrodite be praised!” – she hailed from an island of Amazons, and they weren’t selling books online in that same-sex forum, either.

“At home they lead an idyllic life,” observes Wertham. “They are Bruce Wayne and ‘Dick’ Grayson. They live in sumptuous quarters with beautiful floweres in large vases. Batman is sometimes shown in a dressing gown. It is like a wish of two homosexuals living together.”

(Under 30s, please note: A dressing gown is not drag. Large vases are House & Gardens optional. But, as everybody knows, ‘Dick’ is dick.)

“For boys Wonder Woman is a frightening image,” warns Wertham. “For girls she is a morbid ideal. Where Batman is anti-feminine, the attractive Wonder Woman and her counterparts are definitely anti-masculine.”

Wertham may have been on to something about the Wayne-Graysons. DC Comics, which drives the lucrative Batmobile to the bank, refuses to grant permission to use any illustrations of the crusading pair – gardening or fisticuffing – for psychological gossiping about the their sexual orientation.

As far as gays and real-time violence is concerned, David Nimmons, in his book “The Soul Beneath the Skin” (St. Martin’s Press) says instances of LGBT street or public violence are remarkably few. (Straight violence against us is another story, with Trump now in a Homophobic & Gaybash decorated Oval Office.)

Nimmons data are taken from police records, notably those of Greenwich Village, Province Town, Boy’s Town, Chicago, Washington, D.C., where, of five large-scale gay events held in one year, with 1,400,000 attendees total, only 10 disturbance arrests occurred.

“Oddly enough,” says Nimmons, “America has a vast peaceable kingdom in its midst, yet has scarcely noticed.” (Too busy duct-taping Gotham City, no doubt. Holy Oil Wells, Batman!)



## Viewpoint



### ACLU of Michigan Responds to Trump Administration’s Actions

#### Decision to Rescind Transgender Student Guidelines ‘Harmful to Communities and Schools’

BY JAY KAPLAN

Shameful. Political pandering. Heartless. Cowardly. A terrible message to send to some of our most vulnerable youth.

All of these are appropriate responses to the Trump Administration’s decision Feb. 22 to rescind guidance to public schools regarding the fair and equal treatment of transgender students.

The guidance, promulgated by the Departments of Justice and Education last year during the Obama Administration, makes clear that transgender students are to be afforded the same dignity as cisgender students and are permitted to participate in school activities in accordance with their gender identity, including using restroom facilities. In explaining its decision to revoke these protections, the Trump Administration claimed that Obama Administration guidance created confusion in public school districts and that this was a matter best left to the States.

So now, I would now like to add the word “disingenuous” to the list of characterizations of Trump’s decision.

Far from providing confusion, the Obama Administration provided clarity to public school districts that transgender students are protected under Title IX, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including gender stereotyping. This conclusion is consistent with numerous federal court and agency decisions that when a transgender person is discriminated against due to his or her failure to conform to gender stereotyping, that this constitutes sex discrimination. In other words, transgender people are targeted for discrimination in employment, housing, education, and public accommodations because they are considered to be gender non-conforming.

Federal courts throughout the country have interpreted our civil rights laws this way, and courts in Colorado, Wisconsin, Ohio, Virginia, Illinois and Minnesota have held that transgender students have the right to use facilities in accordance with their gender identity.

See Kaplan, next page



## ► Kaplan

Continued from p. 10

Along with sending a message that it's OK to discriminate against and diminish our transgender youth, the Trump Administration has created confusion by offering a position that is inconsistent with federal legal precedent.

But make no mistake: The meaning of Title IX cannot be changed by the Trump Administration and its revocation of the guidance, nor by the current position of the Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos (who capitulated to the Trump Administration's insistence on rescission). School districts can and must protect all students from discrimination, including transgender students. Barring transgender students from single-sex spaces, consistent with the gender the student lives every day is not consistent with a district's obligations under Title IX and the Constitution. If the Department of Education will no longer act, the ACLU will.

Yes, the Trump Administration has indeed sent a terrible message to vulnerable transgender students - that they are not welcome in their schools as they are. But the law and the Constitution has not changed - which means we will continue to fight any efforts to undermine transgender students' rights to a fair, safe and supportive learning environment.

It's important to note that far from causing confusion or overreaching (as Betsy DeVos said), the guidelines were consistent with a line of federal case law precedent interpreting Title IX as covering transgender students and protecting them from discrimination, including use of facilities. And of course, the time-worn saying that this is a "states rights issue" is the same argument that was used not to get involved in other civil rights issues, such as racial discrimination. The federal government has chosen to punt, and given the conservative stronghold in the state of Michigan, it is highly unlikely that legislative leaders in Michigan will do the right thing on this issue anytime soon.

There are understandably questions regarding what this means for transgender students and public schools. Answers to those questions are as follows.

### **What weight does this change in position carry?**

The meaning of Title IX cannot be changed by the Department of Education, and neither the revocation of the guidance nor ED's new position alters the substantive protections of the federal statute. But of course, the change in position does send a terrible message to vulnerable transgender students that they are not welcome in their schools as the people that they are -- and we know that to have devastating educational and psychological effects.

### **What does the change in position mean for school districts?**

School districts can and must continue

Far from providing confusion, the Obama Administration provided clarity to public school districts that transgender students are protected under Title IX, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, including gender stereotyping.

to protect all students from discrimination including transgender students. Barring transgender students from single-sex spaces and activities consistent with the gender the student lives every day is not consistent with a district's obligations under Title IX and the Constitution. They may not be subjected to OCR investigations by the new administration but they will risk lawsuits by trans students if those students are barred from common restrooms that match who they are.

### **Is the Gloucester County School Board v. G.G. case moot?**

No. When the Supreme Court granted certiorari (took the case), it decided to review two questions. Though the first question (how much deference to give the Department of Education's interpretation of Title IX) could be mooted in light of the new position, the second question is about the substantive meaning of Title IX with respect to transgender individuals and restrooms -- that question is not mooted by any action taken by the Trump administration.

### **Since the 4th circuit relied on ED's guidance, does the current position hurt our chances of prevailing?**

No. The Supreme Court is considering the question of the meaning of Title IX independent of any administration's interpretation of the law. The Fourth Circuit deferred to ED's interpretation of Title IX because that interpretation was reasonable and consistent with the statute. Indeed, it is the only reasonable interpretation of Title IX and the law's implementing regulations that does not undermine the statute's central purpose of ensuring educational opportunities to all.

### **What does the change in position mean for states considering passing anti-transgender legislation?**

States are still subject to Title IX and the U.S. Constitution. Anti-transgender legislation like North Carolina's HB2 violates both. Not only will states risk the loss of business, sports and job opportunities that North Carolina lost if they pass anti-trans laws, they will also be subject to lawsuits for violating Title IX and other federal laws, as well as the Constitution.

*For more information about the ACLU of Michigan, visit their website [www.aclumich.org](http://www.aclumich.org) or find them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ACLUofMichigan>.*

# Creep of the Week

## Michael Brown

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Whenever someone begins a statement with, "I'm sorry, but..." that's usually a sign that 1) They are not sorry and 2) They're about to say something nasty.

Which is exactly the effect of Michael Brown's Feb. 27 Townhall column titled, "I'm Sorry, But Caitlyn Jenner Is a Man Wearing a Dress."

Brown is the host of the right-wing radio program "In the Line of Fire" who "met the Lord in 1971 as a sixteen year-old, heroin-shooting, LSD-using Jewish rock drummer," according to his bio. Which obviously makes him an expert on gender identity.

Now, I don't think of Jenner much. On the one hand, I think trans visibility is good and she's very visible. But she also voted for Trump, which is gross.

She's a big girl with plenty of money, so having someone like Brown disparage her probably doesn't hurt her much. Of course, Brown's not really talking about Jenner. She's just a jumping off point for him to attack the right of transgender people to exist.

As you surely know, the Obama administration issued guidelines to schools about protecting LGBT students. Trump has yanked those guidelines and folks like Brown are celebrating because they love trans people so much they have to hate them, per Jesus.

On his Feb. 24 radio show Brown declared, "[Students] don't need tolerance. They need to be told boys are boys and girls are girls and Johnny is confused so be nice to Johnny, but he's confused."

In other words, anyone who dares to deviate from the two rigid gender choices is someone to be pitied. After all, says Brown, being trans "is some kind of handicap: mental, emotional." But you can't decline to teach kids tolerance and then also expect them to be nice to people who are different, so you're effectively teaching them that trans people deserve to be punished.

Anti-trans hysteria isn't about protecting women any more than building a wall is about protecting America.

As far as Brown's concerned, the whole issue is "transanity," as he calls it.

"If I think I'm a girl, I'm a girl. If I think I'm Chinese, I'm Chinese. If I think I'm seven foot tall, I'm seven foot tall," Brown says. "Well why not? If I think I'm black, then I'm black. If gender is what I perceive it to be, then why not other things?"

So much easier to trot out these hypotheticals than to actually acknowledge that gender identity is actually complex and nuanced. Not to mention the fact that trans folks are real people.

To hear Brown tell it, he just wants to protect girls from sexual predators.

"How about the many girls who have been traumatized by the presence of a boy in their bathroom, in their locker room, next to them in a shower stall?" Brown asks. "And since when is it tolerance to tell a girl you just have to get used to seeing a boy's private parts in your locker room?"

Excellent question! A lot of girls and women ARE traumatized by penises, but those penises are attached to cis gendered heterosexual men. Sexual assault is crazy common in the U.S. It's almost like men feel entitled to women's bodies for their own gratification. Surely America would want to protect women from, say, some guy who brags about grabbing women "by the pussy," right? It's not like he'd be elected President! Oh, wait...

Anti-trans hysteria isn't about protecting women any more than building a wall is about protecting America.

I'm sorry, but Michael Brown is a creep.



## ERGs Focus at Next LGBT Chamber Event

**DETROIT** – How to create and sustain an Employee Resource Group is the topic at the next event hosted by the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce, March 9 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Union Street, 4145 Woodward Ave. in Midtown Detroit. Kevin Heard, chair of the national ERG for Gannett News and president of the Detroit LGBT chamber, will present strategies and tactics that have proven to work best within large organizations.

Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar will be available, and it is free and open to the public. For more information go to the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce Facebook page.

## Support the Heidelberg Project in Detroit

**DETROIT** – The Heidelberg Project is a Detroit-based organization improving the lives of people and neighborhoods through art. The organization needs help to preserve one of only two houses left on 3600 Heidelberg St. in Detroit. The iconic Numbers House is the community center where the youth and neighborhood workshops are hosted along with up-and-coming artist exhibitions. It's cool, it's eclectic, but it's also falling down and help is needed to restore it. The building has no running water, a hole in the roof and is in need of new windows and a new electrical system, to name just a few of the required renovations. The project was created in 1986 by Tyree Guyton and his grandfather Sam Mackey to be enjoyed by future generations. Help the organization reach their goal of \$100,000 by March 31 so they can begin construction this spring. Visit the Heidelberg 3.0 campaign page <https://fundrazr.com/Heidelberg> for more information. Visit the organization's website <http://heidelberg.org> or call 313-974-6894.

# Transgender Michigan Calls for Action

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Rachael Crandall, executive director of Transgender Michigan said, "A lot of people in my community are really afraid." She points to the number of transgender people who are worried about their civil rights' protections after the sweeping Republican election victory. More so now as the Trump administration revoked guidance barring discrimination against transgender youth in schools, which validates that they have no intention of protecting the rights of the LGBT community, particularly LGBT young people.

Trump's conservative cabinet is likely to roll back the progress the LGBT community has made in terms of policies and protections. This causes a great deal of concern for transgender people that continue to encounter barriers despite the government's best efforts under former president Obama to protect them.

## Healthcare Concerns

Crandall said what transgender people fear most is the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. And while many service providers in Michigan are prohibited from discriminating against LGBT people in their care and service (those that are federally funded or who have an explicit policy), few have been attentive to the environment in which their LGBT clients, customers and patients are being served.

According to "When Health Care Isn't Caring" by Lambda Legal, 56 percent of LGB people and 70 percent of T people have experienced one or more of the following:

- refusal of care
- refusal to touch client/patient or using excessive precautions
- use of harsh or abusive language
- health condition/status is blamed on their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- racial bias increases maltreatment

## International Transgender Day of Visibility Events

### Flagship Event

March 29, 6-8:30 p.m.  
Five 15, 515 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak

### "Visibility & Activism: A Showcase of Transgender Activism" Gallery Show

April 1 - May 27  
Opening Reception, April 6, 7-9 p.m.  
Pittman-Puckett Art Gallery  
Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale

dramatically for transgender people of color.

Further, 8 percent of LGB and 27 percent of T individuals reported being outright refused care. An additional 19 percent of those with HIV were refused care.

Regardless of the legality of discrimination and mistreatment, these things happen in the moment by untrained staff and without an advocate, LGBT people are vulnerable, which can result in severe health-related consequences.

Crandall highlights a few of these consequences.

"Transgender people choose to undergo hormone replacement therapy to more closely align their bodies with their identities," she said, noting that transgender people face significant job loss and job fragility and, therefore, a higher rate of uninsurance. Obamacare expanded Medicaid to cover individuals with incomes at less than 133 percent of the poverty level.

With little to no money, she said many transgender people will abruptly stop this process, which is "dangerous" and has the potential to cause various emotional and physical problems.

"We're worried that's what will happen when people can no longer afford to purchase them," she said. "The people who are able to get hormones might not be able to go to the doctor for any monitoring of these hormones. When you're on them, the doctor needs to pay attention to hormone levels and make sure they aren't having a negative affect on any parts of your body."

Crandall said she is concerned that more transgender people will try to purchase hormones in the bathroom at the gay bar or on the street, and when you buy anything on the street, she said, "You don't know what's really in it, do you?"

Under the ACA currently, insurers who cover mental health conditions cannot exclude coverage of treatment for gender dysphoria. The Act also opened the door for insurance companies to pay for gender reassignment operations. Both of which are in jeopardy under the Trump administration as is the defunding



Rachael Crandall

of Planned Parenthood which Crandall said will affect a lot of female-to-male individuals.

As the transgender community anxiously awaits ACA repeal and replacement with dread hope, TGMI provides on their website, [www.transgendermichigan.org](http://www.transgendermichigan.org), a list of medical professionals who are welcoming and willing to help.

## Take Action

As the oldest, active transgender organization in Michigan, Crandall said she believes she and her wife, Susan Crocker – who established the organization with her in 1997 – are responsible for educating the community.

During a recent speaking engagement, Crandall said many people asked her what they can do to help.

"Well, you could start by having a conversation at work or with your family and educate them regarding trans issues," she said noting that one population – butch or masculine of center lesbians – are really suffering as a result of the political bathroom debate.

"Many of them are being shamed, harassed or thrown out of restrooms, too. So it's not only a trans issue, it's a whole LGBT issue and that's one thing we're trying to get people to understand."

More local activism is needed and Crandall plans to shed light on this during the International Transgender Day of Visibility on March 31.

Since 2009, she has been working hard to establish a worldwide coalition via Facebook, reaching the transgender community and its allies in places as far as Russia and Africa.

"This gives me a lot of hope and it also gives us all a network. It gives us all power to work together and not only as individuals," said Crandall.

"Which is what this day is all about - for transgender people to visibly celebrate being transgender. Also for allies to show their support for the transgender community. The first step to empowerment is visibility."

TGMI has more than 10 chapters throughout the state including metro Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Jackson, Lakeshore, Lansing, Marquette, North Michigan, Port Huron, Sault Ste. Marie, Traverse City, Mt. Pleasant, Midland, Bay City, Saginaw, and some rural areas that are often isolated from support groups in major cities.

For more information about Transgender Michigan at 23211 Woodward Ave., #309, Ferndale, visit [www.transgendermichigan.org](http://www.transgendermichigan.org) or call the organization's help line at 855-345-TGMI.



**SATURDAY**  
**March 4, 2017**



**M I C H I G A N**

*Lesbian - Gay - Bisexual - Transgender*

# COMEDYFEST

a production of:



**A**  
**FABULOUS**  
**FOUR OF A KIND!**

**ONE HUGE**  
**SHOW**  
**8:00 P.M.**

*WITH 1,000 PEOPLE ATTENDING, GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY BEFORE THEY ARE SOLD OUT!*



**JENNIE**  
**MCNULTY**

WEST HOLLYWOOD, CA



**JEFF**  
**JONES**

ORLANDO, FL



**GLORIA**  
**BIGELOW**

LOS ANGELES, CA



**ROXANNA**  
**WARD**

LAUNA BEACH, CA

**Dearborn's Ford Community & Performing Arts Center**

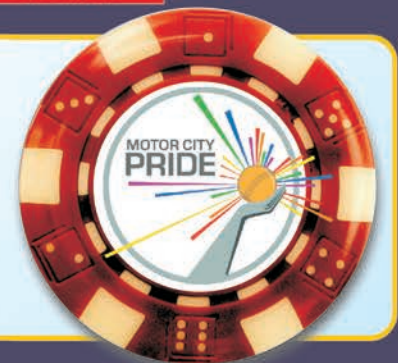
**Advance Tickets:**



\$35 at the door (if available)

15801 Michigan Avenue at Greenfield (just east of Southfield Fwy.) in Dearborn, Michigan

**Tickets available online at**  
**[www.comedyfest.org](http://www.comedyfest.org)**



This is a fully-accessible event. An ASL interpreter will be present. We offer early seating for people with disabilities.



## ► Spicer

Continued from p. 4

between one man and one woman should not have their religious liberty trampled upon,” he explained. “I would imagine that that will be, strongly and clearly, the anchor concept [of the order].”

No federal law prohibits discrimination in public accommodations on the basis of gender, sexual orientation or gender identity and an executive order like this would send a signal to individuals they should feel free to discriminate. A federal “religious freedom” executive order wouldn’t preempt state laws barring anti-LGBT discrimination.

Klukowski is also quoted in the Huffington Post article as saying he’s “not at liberty to speak about” the order specifically, but nonetheless expressed confidence Trump would act to protect religious freedom both through judicial appointments and possibly administrative actions.

“And I’m confident,” Klukowski reportedly said, “that the president is showing -- much to the shock of many establishment people who said, ‘There’s no way this’ll happen’ -- that he keeps his promises, even when they’re things that an establishment player would never do. And I’m confident that he’s going to keep his promise when it comes to protection of religious liberty as well.”

Last month, a draft executive order began circulating among federal advocacy groups that would allow persons and religious organizations - broadly defined to include for-profit companies - to discriminate on the basis of religious objections to same-sex marriage, premarital sex, abortion and transgender identity.

At the time, the White House downplayed the draft executive order and said Trump wouldn’t sign it - at least for the time being. Media reports circulated that Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner convinced Trump not to sign the “religious freedom” order and the president wasn’t ever seriously considering doing so.

The White House issued a statement saying Trump would preserve the Obama-era order against workplace discrimination among federal contractors and is “respectful and supportive of LGBTQ rights.” That pledge of support was undermined after the administration later rescinded guidance protecting transgender students from discrimination at schools.

Olivia Dalton, the Human Rights Campaign’s senior vice president for communications and marketing, said renewed plans for an anti-LGBT “religious freedom” order shouldn’t come as a surprise.

“Donald Trump and Mike Pence have repeatedly threatened the LGBTQ community, and by their own admission this ‘license to discriminate’ order has been circulating for weeks,” Dalton said. “No one should be surprised - their despicable attack on transgender kids last week showed just how low they’re willing to go.”

*This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National Media Association.*



Hundreds of people gathered outside the White House on Feb. 22, 2017, to protest President Trump’s decision to rescind guidance on how public schools should accommodate transgender students. Washington Blade photo by Michael Key

## Protesters: Trump a ‘Bully’ for Rescinding Trans Student Protections

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS, WASHINGTON BLADE

Hundreds of people gathered outside the White House on Wednesday to protest President Trump’s decision to rescind guidance on how public schools should accommodate transgender students.

Gavin Grimm, a trans student who filed a lawsuit against his Virginia school district’s bathroom policy that the U.S. Supreme Court will hear next month, is among those who spoke to the crowd.

“In one month I will do what few teenagers have the chance to do, stand before the United States Supreme Court,” said Grimm. “My lawyers from the ACLU will be asking the court to decide whether transgender students like me have the right to be treated just like our peers at school.”

Grimm spoke to the crowd less than an hour before Trump formally rescinded the Obama administration’s guidance to public schools that said Title IX of the U.S. Education Amendments of 1972 requires them to allow trans students to use bathrooms consistent with their gender

identity.

“This is an issue best solved at the state and local level,” Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said, according to the Associated Press. “Schools, communities and families can find -- and in many cases have found -- solutions that protect all students.”

Grimm noted the Title IX guidance protected “hundreds of thousands of transgender students across the nation.” He became emotional at the end of his remarks.

“We will not be silenced and that we will stand with and protect trans youth,” said Grimm, speaking through tears. “No matter what happens, no one, not even the government can even defeat a community so full of love, color, diversity and most importantly love.”

Ros-Lehtinen: Rescinding Title IX guidance ‘lamentable decision’

U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), who has a trans son, is among those who echoed Grimm’s criticism.

“This lamentable decision can lead to

hostile treatment of transgender students and studies have shown that bullying and harassment can be detrimental to the emotional and physical well-being of teenagers,” said Ros-Lehtinen in a statement she released earlier on Wednesday, noting she and gay Colorado Congressman Jared Polis introduced the Student Non-Discrimination Act that would prohibit schools from discriminating based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

National Black Justice Coalition Director of External Affairs Isaiah R. Wilson described Trump’s decision to rescind the Title IX guidance as “shameful and contrary to American values.” Those who spoke outside the White House on Wednesday echoed this sentiment.

“They’re being bullies,” said National Center for Transgender Equality Executive Director Mara Keisling, noting trans students routinely face bullying.

See Protesters, next page



► **Protesters**

Continued from p. 14

Catherine Lhamon, chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, helped write the Title IX guidance the Departments of Justice and Education issued in May 2016.

She told those who gathered outside the White House that “today is a really hard day” because “we lost a federal champion for nondiscrimination with the declared withdrawal of that guidance.” Lhamon further stressed Title IX itself remains in place.

“They withdrew the guidance today, but they haven’t changed the law,” she said.

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin criticized Trump directly.

“Donald Trump is a bully,” said Griffin. “Our job is to hold the bully accountable.”

Raffi Freedman-Gursan, a trans woman who Obama appointed as his LGBT liaison in March 2016, also spoke outside the White House. GLSEN Executive Director Eliza Byard, Pride at Work Executive Director Jerame Davis and Equality California National Policy Director Valerie Ploumpis were among those who attended the protest.

*Michael K. Lavers is the international news editor of the {URL Washington Blade www.washblade.com}. Follow Michael This article is made possible through the National Gay Media Association.*

# Arkansas Supreme Court Strikes Down Pro-LGBT City Ordinance

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

The Arkansas Supreme Court on Thursday struck down a pro-LGBT ordinance enacted in the state’s third largest city as an act of defiance over a state law barring municipalities from passing such measures.

In the 10-page unanimous decision, Associate Justice Josephine Linker Hart determined the pro-LGBT ordinance enacted by Fayetteville “creates a nonuniform nondiscrimination law and obligation in the City of Fayetteville that does not exist under state law.”

“This necessarily creates a nonuniform non-discrimination law and obligation in the City of Fayetteville that does not exist under state law,” the decision says. “It is clear from the statutory language and the Ordinance’s language that there is a direct inconsistency between state and municipal law and that the Ordinance is an obstacle to the objectives and purposes set forth in the General Assembly’s Act and therefore it cannot stand.”

The decision reverses the decision of a

lower district court, which that upheld the ordinance despite state law, and remands the case for further action.

Approved at the ballot by Fayetteville voters in 2015, the ordinance sought to defy Act 137, which prohibits municipalities from enacting non-discrimination measures beyond the scope of state law. Because Arkansas has no protections for LGBT people, the law essentially prohibits cities from enacting ordinances against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Act 137 became law in 2015 after the Arkansas legislature approved and Gov. Asa Hutchinson took no action on the legislation.

Kendra Johnson, the Human Rights Campaign’s Arkansas state director, blasted the Arkansas Supreme Court ruling in a statement as “an attack on LGBTQ Arkansans and takes away hard-won protections approved by voters in Fayetteville.”

“Fayetteville’s leaders and citizens chose to protect their friends and neighbors when their representatives in Little Rock would not,” Johnson said. “Removing these protections

leaves LGBTQ people without local, municipal or state protections, putting them at heightened risk of discrimination as they simply go about their daily lives. We oppose this harmful ruling.”

Mat Staver, chair of the anti-LGBT Liberty Counsel, praised the decision in a statement as “on point” with laws in other states that have rules from city ordinances, referencing his organization’s ongoing against a pro-trans student measure in Fairfax, Va.

“It makes no sense to have competing and conflicting laws within a state,” Staver said. “This is the same issue that I will argue next week before the Virginia Supreme Court. Moreover, adding gender identity to a non-discrimination law makes a mockery of the law. The law should not give legal sanction to a confused mind or to those intent on causing harm or invading the privacy of other citizens.”

*This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National Media Association.*

**#TIME2KNOW GET TESTED**  
NOW OFFERING INTEGRATED TESTING

- Rapid HIV
- Rapid Hep C
- Gonorrhea
- Chlamydia
- Syphilis

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>CONVENIENT METRO DETROIT LOCATIONS</b> TESTING ALSO OFFERED IN BARS, CLUBS AND OTHER METRO AREA LOCATIONS	Matrix MAC Health <b>FERNDALE</b> 1PM-6PM By Appointment	Matrix MAC Health <b>FERNDALE</b> 11AM-4PM By Appointment <b>MIDTOWN</b> 2PM-7PM Walk-In	Affirmations <b>FERNDALE</b> 5:30PM-8:30PM Walk-In or Appointment	Matrix MAC Health <b>FERNDALE</b> 9AM-12NOON AND 2PM-5PM Walk-In or Appointment

Matrix MAC Health in Ferndale & MidTown Detroit • Affirmations in Ferndale

Call 1.888.226.6366 to make an appointment or for information. **1 (888) A CONDOM**

MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES

MATRIX MAC HEALTH IS A PROGRAM OF MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES. LEARN MORE. GIVE. VOLUNTEER. DISCOVER MORE AT [MatrixHumanServices.org](http://MatrixHumanServices.org)



# LGBT ComedyFest Returns to Dearborn

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The Michigan LGBT ComedyFest returns to the Ford Community and Performing Arts Center in Dearborn for its 21st installment March 4 at 8 p.m. Formerly a production of Equality Michigan, the ComedyFest is now under the Motor City Pride umbrella - MCP having recently spun off from EQMI to become its own entity.

This year's ComedyFest will be "one huge show" featuring four fresh faces, including Jennie McNulty from West Hollywood. McNulty grew up in the Detroit area and said she is "super excited to be coming back home," Jeff Jones from Orlando, Gloria Bigelow from Los Angeles, and Roxanna Ward from Laguna Beach. BTL gets to know each comedian a little bit in the following Q&A.

## WHEN DID YOU FIRST REALIZE YOU WERE FUNNY?

**Jennie McNulty:** I don't know, as a kid I guess. I remember being really little and seeing the president on TV talking about something he was going to do. I don't remember now what, but I remember saying "Well, ya better hurry up. Ya only got two years left." And my parents both burst out laughing.

**Jeff Jones:** I always loved making people laugh. For my 30th birthday my coworkers paid for me to take a standup comedy class. After making a full audience laugh I was hooked. That was 11 years ago. If your readers are doing the math, I'm obviously 32 now.

**Gloria Bigelow:** I first realized I was funny when I was in elementary school. I had a pajama party and made a joke. I said, "If you see a little black thing running around at night, it could be a mouse or my brother." That's a ridiculous joke. But I remember being in my basement and saying that and all of my friends laughing. Beyond being funny, I was just that highly dramatic child that was probably both amusing and annoying to my teachers at a very young age.

**Roxanna Ward:** Probably 1st grade. The teacher left the classroom and I sat down and the piano and played "There's a place on Mars where the ladies smoke cigars." And then "There's a place in France where the ladies wear no pants." When Mrs.

Salstrand returned to class 30 first graders were singing the bawdy lyrics at the top of their lungs and laughing.

## WHAT'S THE HARDEST PART ABOUT CREATING AN IDENTITY IN COMEDY?

**McNulty:** Ha! Probably finding it in life. I'm not a character comic so who I am onstage is pretty much who I am. But, as you change as a person, then your stage identity changes, too. When I started doing standup, I still thought I was straight!

**Jones:** I think the hardest part is not getting stuck in a specific identity. I just want to be funny. I don't like being labeled as a gay comic. I'm a comic that happens to be gay. I would say 99 percent of my shows are for straight people in small southern towns. For me the trick is getting them to like me and laugh with me before hitting them with any gay material.

**Bigelow:** Sometimes it's hard to find things to laugh about, [especially] when there are a lot of un-funny things happening in the world. It can seem out of touch or self-indulgent to be joking around when you know stuff is going on.

**Ward:** I think the hardest part is showing the audience who you are in a very short time. It's like speed dating hundreds of people all at once.

## WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WON'T YOU JOKE ABOUT?

**McNulty:** I think, it's not what you joke about it's how. I really don't like mean-spirited comedy. I'm not saying that something mean can't be hysterical. And, to be honest, most of the things I've said about the dude at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. could very well be construed as not nice. I may have even used the term jackass. Don't judge. But, what's the "funny part" of your joke - the thing that makes 'em laugh? When it's mean or negative it puts your brain in that mode and then, to a certain level, your emotions follow and I just don't want to be there. I've joked about not wanting to be a rapper for that same reason. (Well, that and that I can't sing). "#MCPassiveAggressive..." So, to



Jennie McNulty



Jeff Jones



Gloria Bigelow



Roxanna Ward



“ I really don't do political humor on stage, especially now. A political joke will almost always piss off half of the audience. Plus I think we are so saturated with politics lately that people want to go to a comedy show as an escape.. ”

– Jeff Jones

me, as far as topics go, if you can make it funny go for it. But, to paraphrase the golden rule, “joke unto others....”

**Jones:** I really don't do political humor on stage, especially now. A political joke will almost always piss off half of the audience. Plus I think we are so saturated with politics lately that people want to go to a comedy show as an escape.

**Bigelow:** There are plenty of things that I don't joke about. But I'm also kind of sensitive so, you know, I would prefer not to be hurtful. I wouldn't make fun of physical disabilities, probably wouldn't make light of illness or something that's really unkind about another person's race.

**Ward:** I try not to joke at someone else's expense... Laughing with someone not at someone.

## WHO ARE YOUR COMEDIC INFLUENCES?

**McNulty:** Cher. And, of course, Carol Burnett and Mary Tyler Moore - both so amazingly talented and funny. And, then SNL. As far as stand ups, when I was growing up I Loved Steve Martin. He was so smart and creative and silly. He still fricken' cracks me up. I almost hit him crossing Melrose a few years ago. I was trying to make a right turn and there was this dude, draggin' ass across the street, NOT in the crosswalk, and just as I started to cuss him out, I realized it was him and I almost yelled out but all I could think to say was, “I love you Steve!” And, I knew that would have sounded really weird, especially, if he'd seen the face I must have been making immediately before. All in all, probably best I didn't profess my love.

**Jones:** I love the old school comics. I'm a huge fan of Buddy Hackett. Joan Rivers was a trailblazer. I was fortunate enough to work with her a few times. Both of them were able to say horribly dirty things on stage but the audiences didn't care because they were so likable.

**Bigelow:** Some are well known folks like Wanda Sykes and Dave Chappell and others are comics that I work with and admire like Erin Foley, Jackie Monahan and Page Hurwitz. These are all folks who in one way or another I have been influenced by.

**Ward:** Victor Borga, Steve Allen, Bette Midler, and my entire dysfunctional loving Arkansas/Oklahoma family.

## WHAT'S THE BEST DONALD TRUMP JOKE YOU'VE HEARD AND/OR WRITTEN?

**McNulty:** I can't remember the exact words, but it started out, “I do solemnly swear...” Trump did it on his Jan. 20 show... There are soooo many good ones. And, you'll have to wait 'til the show if you want to hear mine! But, my favorite sign from the march the day after the inauguration was “I've seen smarter cabinets at Ikea.”

**Jones:** Trump jokes are so hard to keep fresh. If you write a joke about something he says or does it has a very short shelf life. In 24 hours he'll do or say something even more ridiculous that you basically lose that old joke. He's comedy gold for the late night comics though because he's a never ending supply of fresh material.

**Bigelow:** He is the joke. No writing needed.

**Ward:**  
Melania having tea with Michelle Obama.  
Michelle: How do you take it?  
Melania: I close my eyes and think about Slovenia.  
Michelle: I meant the tea.

Tickets for ComedyFest are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Dearborn's Ford Community & Performing Arts Center is located at 15801 Michigan Ave. at Greenfield just east of Southfield Fwy. Visit ComedyFest online [www.comedyfest.org/](http://www.comedyfest.org/) for more information.



**GENTLEMEN'S CONSIGNMENT**

The finest Upscale Men's Clothing at a Fraction of the Price

Products Include:

- Suits
- Sports Coats
- Dress Shirts
- Slacks
- Shoes
- Ties
- Belts
- Accessories

**METROTIMES BEST OF DETROIT 2016 & 2015 & 2014**

Consignors Welcome by Appointment  
Ask About Our Deep Discount Policy

623 S. Washington, Royal Oak, MI 48067 | Mon-Sat 11am-7pm | Sun 12 pm-4pm  
248.591.4554 | [www.GentlemensConsignment.com](http://www.GentlemensConsignment.com)



**THE SUBARU A LOT TO LOVE EVENT**

We know that moving forward means remembering where you came from. That's why we're proud to say that Hodges is celebrating nearly 90 years in Ferndale, Michigan; and over 40 years as Hodges Subaru. Since we may have had the pleasure of helping your grandparents purchase their first Subaru 360, or helped your parents pick out that blue GL, we would love the opportunity to find the perfect Subaru for you. We'll help you get where you're going, because you've helped us get where we are. Thank You!

**2017 CROSSTREK 2.0i**

**HODGES SUBARU**  
Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

21205 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220  
248.547.8800 • [www.hodgessubaru.com](http://www.hodgessubaru.com)  
HOURS: TUES, WED, & FRIDAY SALES - 9 A.M.-6 P.M. SERVICE - 7:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.  
MONDAY & THURS SALES - 9 A.M. - 8 P.M. SERVICE - 7:30 A.M. - 8 P.M.  
SATURDAY SALES - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. SERVICE - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.



# BTL Cool Cities Ann Arbor

## IGLESIA MARTELL Law Firm, PLLC

Holistic Law - Practicing From The Heart.

Angie Martell, Partner

Experienced attorney and mediator with over 23 years of legal experience.



Specializes in:

Divorce & Family Law • Criminal Defense  
Estate Planning & Elder Law  
LGBT Issues • Mediation • Civil Litigation  
Civil Rights • Business Law • Litigation  
Employee Rights



117 N. First St., Suite 111, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
www.Iglesiamartell.com | 734-369-2331



### ANN ARBOR ADVERTISERS

Abracadabra Jewelry & Gem Gallery .... 1	D'orio, Jd, Plc, Lynn B. .... 7	Lewis Jewelers ..... 12	Rosenberg, David ..... 12
Anderson, PLLC, Mary K. .... 2	Downtown Home & Garden ..... 8	Lord of Light Lutheran Church ..... *	Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery ..... 6
Ann Arbor Animal Hospital ..... 12	Esquire Interiors ..... *	Men's Yoga ..... 13	Spectrum Center ..... 19
Ann Arbor Civic Theatre ..... 3	First Unitarian Church of Ann Arbor ..... *	Merkel Carpet One ..... *	Three Chairs Co ..... 20
Ann Arbor Saline Family Chiro ..... *	Frick, LMSW, BCD, CBT, Julie ..... *	Mitchell Gold & Bob Williams ..... 14	Tios Mexican Cafe ..... 21
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra ..... 4	Gail van Langen Ph.d. .... 9	Necto ..... 15	Top of the Lamp ..... *
The Ark ..... 5	Greene, LMSW, ACSW, Marge ..... 10	Orion Automotive Services Inc. .... *	Trillium Real Estate ..... 6
/aut/ Bar ..... 6	Groom N Go ..... *	People's Food Coop ..... 16	Two Men And A Truck ..... *
Bassett & Associates ..... *	Hillers ..... *	Performance Network ..... 17	UMHS Comprehensive Gender Services Program ..... *
Common Language ..... 6	HIV/AIDS Resource Center (Harc) ..... *	Peterson, PLLC, Lisa J. .... 18	University Musical Society ..... 22
Dependable Collision Center ..... *	Humane Society of Huron Valley ..... *	PFLAG Ann Arbor ..... *	
	Iglesia Martell Law ..... 11	Polo Fields Golf ..... *	
	Jim Toy Resource Center ..... 6	Rock Shoppe ..... *	

\* Not shown on map

## HEARTS ON FIRE®

THE WORLD'S MOST PERFECTLY CUT DIAMOND®



IGNITE FOREVER



2000 W. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor  
734.994.5111 www.lewisjewelers.com

**Linda Lombardini**  
Helping people make good decisions.

trusted dedicated consummate pro

**You're home.**  
www.LindaLom.com • 734-216-6415  
323 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

### Dependable Collision Center

**FREE** loaners on any job  
(subject to terms and conditions)

We are committed to providing the highest quality precision service.

5133 Carpenter Road, Suite A  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
Phone (734) 528-9581  
Fax (734) 528-9593  
www.dependablecc.com

**We work with all insurance companies!**

COME CELEBRATE THE STATE THEATRE'S 75<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY WITH A SCREENING OF THE CLASSIC FILM

# CASABLANCA (1942)

MARCH 10 | 7:00 PM

THE FIRST 200 GUESTS WILL RECEIVE A FREE CUPCAKE!

ANN ARBOR'S DOWNTOWN CENTER FOR FINE FILM AND THE PERFORMING ARTS  
603 E. LIBERTY ST. • ANN ARBOR (734) 668-8397 • MICHTHEATER.ORG





Fireplace Tablescape at Rel•ish in Ann Arbor. Photo courtesy of The Kensington Hotel

## 'Enjoy Immensely' at Rel•ish Restaurant

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

**ANN ARBOR** – The Kensington Hotel on State Street in Ann Arbor recently underwent a multimillion dollar renovation last year to modernize the 200-room hotel, which is a 10-minute drive south of the city's downtown area.

General Manager Daniel Fine describes the space as transformed into an "urban boutique" ambience.

The transformation wasn't limited to the structure and esthetics but through the service mission and community involvement as well. The goal was to reinvigorate local ties to the area and to establish an iconic venue where traditions will be made for families, sports fans, business travelers, friends, and locals.

An intricate part of the planned changes included the rebranding of the hotel restaurant. Graham's became Rel•ish, which opened January of this year. The concept changed from a "mainstream meat and potatoes restaurant with an Irish flair" to one that features "historical classics blended with the freshest ingredients possible."

Executive Chef Robert Rosencrantz is thrilled at the idea of presenting a fantastic fresh menu with an urban flare while subsiding in a upscale hotel. The concept excites the team at the Kensington Hotel and Rel•ish as they can offer their guests an amazing meal while travelling and the locals the area experience they have grown to expect. With ease of parking and accessibility, weekly lunch specials and local craft cocktails, there is something for everyone. "Creating the menu is

the fun part of my job. It's a smaller menu that allows me to be creative and transition items seasonally" said Rosencrantz. "There are so many great options in the area for dining, but by keeping it simple, we can provide a fantastic meal, great value, and a welcoming atmosphere, while utilizing the amazing local produce, dairy and meat providers Michigan has to offer."

Rosencrantz said he and his team use Michigan-sourced companies whenever possible, "which means something to us." This includes RoosRoast Coffee, a local Ann Arbor favorite.

With so many great selections to choose from, the favorites include the 610 House Burger complete with Applewood bacon, blueberry jalapeno jam, melted brie and arugula served with parmesan fries.

"The ground beef is a blend of dry-aged beef and chuck mixed with prim cuts. We want the best local product as a burger is never just a burger," he said.

There is a little something for everyone on the breakfast, lunch, bar and dinner menus. The breakfast menu boasts the Michigan Farm Bowl with a trio of quinoa, maple-roasted sweet potatoes, toasted pepitas, dried cherries, sliced apples, shredded coconut, served with warm almond milk and a not to miss Chicken and Waffles with maple butter.

A lunch time favorite is the Michigan Apple Cherry Chicken Salad. Walnut halves are glazed with Michigan bourbon, sugar, and tiny bit of cayenne to "wake them up," then they are tossed with a blend of lettuces,

See Relish, page 21

# TÍOS TEQUILLA BAR!



## THURSDAY LATE NIGHT SPECIAL

1/2 OFF

### ALL TEQUILLAS - 10PM-2AM

### HAND-CRAFTED MEXICAN FOOD & DRINKS IN ANN ARBOR

You can now enjoy one of our Classic Margaritas or Sangria Especial along with your scrumptious Mexican meal. Taste the difference!

HOME OF ADAM RICHMAN'S MT. NACHEESMO CHALLENGE!

open 7 days 10 am - 2 am



OVER 100 DIFFERENT TEQUILLAS! TASTE OUR SPECIAL HERRADURA PRIVATE RESERVE! OUR BEERS, LIKE OUR FOOD, ARE THE BEST OF MICHIGAN & MEXICO

401 E. LIBERTY • ANN ARBOR MI  
761-6650 • WWW.TIOSMEXICANCAFE.COM



ORION AUTOMOTIVE  
FIRST IN CLASS

## SERVICE

proves what it *IS* by what it *DOES*

**A QUALITY** experience is assured when the team serving you really cares. At ORION we believe we are in the customer service business, we just happen to be car experts. Every detail of your experience is important to us, from the way you are greeted, to the spotless facility, to the delivery of quality service for your fine automobile.

At ORION we are here to give you forthright advice about your vehicles maintenance needs, treat you with respect and guide you through the service process.

We are a shop like no other. Let us show you today!



101 PARKLAND PLAZA, ANN ARBOR, MICH. USA  
734-995-3188 ORIONA2.COM





**MCC**  
METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCH  
OF DETROIT

**COMMUNITY RE-IMAGINED**

Join us for  
Sunday Worship 11am  
Children's Church 11am  
2441 Pinecrest Ferndale, MI  
248-399-7741

[www.mccdetroit.org](http://www.mccdetroit.org)

**Prism of Possibilities**  
Psychotherapy  
Christine Cantrell, PhD  
Fully Licensed Psychologist



Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

- ▼ Speak Your Truth
- ▼ Discover What You Want
- ▼ Create Your True Self
- ▼ Heal Old Hurts, Find Wholeness

Located in Royal Oak  
[www.christinecantrell.com](http://www.christinecantrell.com)  
[christinecantrellphd@gmail.com](mailto:christinecantrellphd@gmail.com)

**CALL NOW! 248-591-2888**

# The OutField

## Stephen Alexander: Little Rhody's Big Trans Man

BY DAN WOOG

Stephen Alexander was a typical boy. He loved Transformers and Gobots (but did not find out until later that they were a product of Hasbro in Providence, Rhode Island, just a few miles from his home in Chepachet).

He spent hours with the neighborhood kids, playing basketball, baseball and Wiffle ball. "I never wanted to go home," he recalls.

There was one problem: His parents treated him like a girl. That's what they saw when they looked at his genitals.

And that's why Alexander competed on girls teams at Ponaganset High School. He was a superb athlete – one of the best in the school's history, male or female. He scored more than 1,000 points for the Chieftains' girls basketball team, winning four consecutive state championships and earning All-State first team honors.

He was offered a full scholarship for the basketball team at Stonehill College, a Division II Jesuit school in Massachusetts. But he gave it up, because being in the women's locker room finally became too unbearable.

Majoring in religious studies, psychology and philosophy, Alexander sought to discover who he really was.

His journey of self-discovery took him about as far away from Rhode Island as he could go: Tasmania. There he studied Buddhism. Studying further, through a Semester at Sea program, he finally understood himself as a transgender man.

"I tell people I've crossed the equator, the prime meridian and the gender spectrum," he quips, laughing. He says the process took him from gender identity disorder, to gender identity difference, and finally to gender identity feelings.

He returned to his home town, and finally came out to his parents. But Chepachet is a very small place. Soon, he headed to the biggest city in the U.S.: New York.

Everyone knew him in Chepachet. In New York, no one did. That's where he began his career as a teacher. It's also where he had gender reassignment surgery. His parents, who had taken their



Photo: Stephen Alexander

own path to understanding their son, were there. Doctors told them that most parents seldom are.

But the pull of home was strong. His sister has two children, and Alexander wanted to watch them grow up. He returned to Rhode Island, and tried to figure out what to do next.

A female friend told him the boys middle school soccer team needed a coach. Alexander stepped in. Soon he was coaching their basketball and baseball teams. Tennis and volleyball followed. He coached boys teams, and girls.

He loved what he was doing. There were challenges – managing young adolescents is not easy, and their parents can be a handful too – but that's part of the joy of coaching.

Though he was in a small town, and most people there had known him as a champion female athlete, he says that being a trans man was never an issue. No one said anything to his face; no one complained to the school board. There may have been whispers, he admits, and perhaps one or two youngsters did not try out for his teams because of the coach. But if that happened, he says, "I never heard about it."

He worked with coaches he'd gone to school with. He coached boys and girls whose parents he'd played sports with, or been taught by. Some of those adults still call him by the name they remember. They try to call him "Stephen," but old habits die hard.

Perhaps they're reminded by the banner hanging in the Ponaganset High

School gym. It honors the few players who scored more than 1,000 points in their basketball careers. Alexander's is there, with his girl's name.

There is one place his name does not appear: the Ponaganset Athletic Hall of Fame. His sister nominated him, but he has not been selected.

Alexander was surprised – but then again, he wasn't. What people say behind closed doors is not always what they say to his face.

Alexander has a lot to say. He's created a website called Transition Games ([www.transitiongames.com](http://www.transitiongames.com)), in part to highlight his public speaking career. "Stephen's story brought me to tears, and to a new understanding of diversity in sports," praises a college student who heard him talk.

"It's so important to have conversations about transforming sports," Alexander says. "We need to help kids recognize early what happens when we separate the sexes. There's this notion that boys are better, faster and stronger than girls. Sports is really about finding out who you are, whoever you are, then working together to heighten competitiveness and honor your opponents. There's still a lot of work to be done."

And Stephen Alexander – a trans man, and boys and girls sports coach in rural Rhode Island – is doing it.

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



## ► Relish

Continued from p. 19

grilled Otto Farm chicken breast, sliced Granny and Gala apples, Michigan sun-dried cherries, shaved Gouda, and apple balsamic vinaigrette.

During University of Michigan athletic events, Rosencrantz said he looks forward to tailgating with local fans, appealing to millennials and Generation Xer's as well with a burger and brew. When opposing team fans visit the Kensington Hotel and Relish, he might even create a dish representative of their hometown.

Rosencrantz is determined to make Relish known for "really good food." Having a talented sous chef, Ryan Shelly, who graduated from Arizona Culinary Institute, several line cooks who have been established for more than 15 years, and with gracious servers like Anna Brooks, that shouldn't be a problem.

Relish provides a comfortable and casual experience at 3500 South State Street in Ann Arbor. Call for reservations at 734-369-2810 or visit the restaurant online at [www.kcourtaa.com/dining/restaurant](http://www.kcourtaa.com/dining/restaurant). Select menu items can also be ordered through GrubHub.

## Relish Hours

### Breakfast

Monday-Friday, 6:30-11 a.m.  
Saturday and Sunday, 6:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

### Lunch

Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Dinner

Daily, 5-10 p.m.

The Relish Bar is open daily from 5-11 p.m. with Happy Hour daily during 5-7 p.m. The restaurant offers a Bar Menu featuring appetizers and sandwiches to pair with a great selection of Michigan craft beers and spirits, a thoughtful wine list, and innovative hand-crafted cocktails.



## Help Relish Support the ChadTough Foundation

From March 2-5, Relish will be donating 10 percent of each bill to the ChadTough Foundation. The mission of the foundation is to fund research and raise awareness for Pediatric Brain Tumors with an emphasis on Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG). For more information, visit [www.chadtough.org/#](http://www.chadtough.org/#). Contact Relish to make a reservation at 734-369-2810 or click on the "Book Now" button on their website [www.kcourtaa.com/dining/restaurant](http://www.kcourtaa.com/dining/restaurant).

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



## BASSETT LAW

**Legal Services  
for Life's Changes**

Elder Law - Adoptions  
LGB & Transgender Law  
Assisted Reproduction Law - Estate Planning

[www.bassettlaw.com](http://www.bassettlaw.com) 734-930-9200

# BTL

## Cool Cities Ann Arbor

## Coming March 26, 2017 MotorCity Casino

**Between Lines**  
THE ULTIMATE LGBT  
WEDDING & ANNIVERSARY EXPO

## Shop The Rainbow

# BTL

Between Lines

There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and welcome everyone.

Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan's LGBTQ community!

ums

BE PRESENT

Druid by Stephen Cumiskey

## *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* Druid

Written by **Martin McDonagh**  
Directed by **Garry Hynes**  
Thursday, March 9 // 7:30 pm  
Friday, March 10 // 8 pm  
Saturday, March 11 // 8 pm  
Power Center

As tragically funny as it is horrific, this brilliantly subversive play takes place in an economically depressed Irish village in the early 1990s, with a vicious and relentless war of wills between a manipulative, aging mother, Mag, and her plain and lonely 40-year-old daughter, Maureen. After years of caring for her ungrateful mother, Maureen has little hope of happiness or escape, especially after Mag ruins her first, and perhaps only, chance of a loving relationship. Never has mother-daughter dysfunction been so thrilling — or chilling.

PRESENTING SPONSOR (FRIDAY)  
**Emily Bandera**

SUPPORTING SPONSOR (SATURDAY)  
**The James Garavaglia  
Theater Endowment Fund**

FUNDED IN PART BY  
**Doris Duke Charitable  
Foundation Endowment Fund**

[ums.org](http://ums.org)

734.764.2538

2014 National Medal of Arts recipient





Hedwig and The Angry Inch is at the Fisher Theatre now through March 5. Tickets are on sale at all Ticketmaster locations, by phone at 800-982-2787, online at [www.broadwayindetroit.com](http://www.broadwayindetroit.com) or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), and at the Fisher Theatre Box Office. Tickets start at \$39.

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, March 2

**KGLRC March Mixer** 6 p.m. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. [www.kglrc.org](http://www.kglrc.org)

**PFLAG Trans Meeting** 7 p.m. First Thursday monthly PFLAG Tri-Cities, 815 N. Grant, **Bay City**. [leishashaler@gmail.com](mailto:leishashaler@gmail.com) [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

### Friday, March 3

**Spotlight on Human Trafficking** 9 a.m. Human Rights, Literature, the Arts, and Social Sciences Conference Central Michigan University, 103 Preston St., **Mt. Pleasant**. 989-774-3117. [eke1mn@cmich.edu](mailto:eke1mn@cmich.edu) [www.cmich.edu/colleges/chsbs/conferences/HLRASS/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cmich.edu/colleges/chsbs/conferences/HLRASS/Pages/default.aspx)

### Sunday, March 5

**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](http://www.five15.net)

**Fair Michigan Outreach Event** 1 p.m. Women Organize Michigan Summit, 1903 W. Michigan Ave., **Kalamazoo**. [www.fairmichigan.org](http://www.fairmichigan.org)

**Women Organize Michigan Summit** 1 p.m. Free. \$10 suggested donation. Child care available. Women Organize Michigan, 1903 West Michigan Ave., **Kalamazoo**. [www.eventbrite.com/e/women-organize-michigan-summit-kalamazoo-tickets-30329389019](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-organize-michigan-summit-kalamazoo-tickets-30329389019)

**PFLAG Monthly Meeting** 2 p.m. Char Davenport, board member of Transgender Michigan will present at 3:30 p.m. Owosso Area Chapter PFLAG, 429 N. Washington, **Owosso**. [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

### Monday, March 6

**Tuxedo fittings for Spring Bash** 6 p.m. Tickets available for the event at <http://goaffirmations.org/spring-bash-2017>. Valente Tuxedos, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**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](http://www.necto.com)

### Tuesday, March 7

**Gamenight** 1 a.m. Gay Geeks Social Group, 4636 15 Mile Rd., **Sterling Heights**. [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

**Sexual Assault Survivors Support Group** 4 p.m. Facilitated by LGBTQ Victim Advocate/Counselor Brooke Lindley. Youth group (13-17) from 4-5 p.m., adult group

(18+) from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St. #102, **Kalamazoo**. 269-345-5595. [blindley@ywcakalamazoo.org](mailto:blindley@ywcakalamazoo.org) [www.kglrc.org](http://www.kglrc.org)

### Wednesday, March 8

**Foster Care and Adoption Orientation** 6 p.m. For more information please call 877-529-5532 or visit the website. Orchards Children's Services, 24901 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 601, **Southfield**. 248-258-0440. [smarks@orchards.org](mailto:smarks@orchards.org) [www.orchards.org](http://www.orchards.org)

### Thursday, March 9

**Free Legal Consultations & Services for LGBTQ Immigrants** 1 p.m. Second Thursday of every month Grand Rapids Pride Center and Justice for Our Neighbors, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 616-458-3511. [www.grpride.org](http://www.grpride.org)

### Friday, March 10

**3rd Annual BMM GSAs Working Summit** 12 a.m. An all day event for youth, by youth to educate, learn, network, and get inspired. Adults welcome. No registration fee. Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health, 1 Campus Dr., **Allendale**. 517-318-1414. [info@moash.org](mailto:info@moash.org) [www.moash.org/join-our-email-list](http://www.moash.org/join-our-email-list)

### Monday, March 13

**RuPaul's Drag Race Premiere** 8 p.m. Briggs Detroit, 519 E. Jefferson, **Detroit**. 313-656-4820. [www.briggsdetroit.com/](http://www.briggsdetroit.com/)

### Thursday, March 16

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

**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](mailto:redbellysenegal90@gmail.com) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

## Editor's Pick

### Common Ground

Three diverse companies - Eisenhower Dance, State Street Ballet, and ezdanza - bring classical and contemporary styles together to create Common Ground, a stunningly original piece with visionary choreography by Edgar Zendejas to Max Richter's re-composition of Vivaldi's The Four Seasons. The Michigan Opera Theatre presents one performance only on March 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St. Tickets and pre-paid parking can be purchased online at [www.michiganopera.org/dance/common-ground/](http://www.michiganopera.org/dance/common-ground/) or by calling 313-237-7464.





## Editor's Pick

### Forum with Shaka Senghor

Growing up in the gravitational pull of poverty, violence and hopelessness, he was convicted of murder at age 17. His inspiring story of forgiveness and redemption, "Writing My Wrongs," was featured on Oprah's Super Soul Sunday. Now experience it for yourself on March 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library of Michigan, 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. The event is free to the public, but registration is required. Call 517-367-6312 or visit [cadl.or/events](http://cadl.or/events).



**Free Legal Consultations & Services for LGBTQ Immigrants** 1 p.m. Second Thursday of every month Grand Rapids Pride Center and Justice for Our Neighbors, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 616-458-3511. [www.gpride.org](http://www.gpride.org)

### Friday, March 10

**3rd Annual BMM GSA's Working Summit** 12 a.m. An all day event for youth, by youth to educate, learn, network, and get inspired. Adults welcome. No registration fee. Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health, 1 Campus Dr., Allendale. 517-318-1414. [info@moash.org](mailto:info@moash.org) [www.moash.org/join-our-email-list](http://www.moash.org/join-our-email-list)

### Monday, March 13

**RuPaul's Drag Race Premiere** 8 p.m. Briggs Detroit, 519 E. Jefferson, Detroit. 313-656-4820. [www.briggsdetroit.com/](http://www.briggsdetroit.com/)

### Thursday, March 16

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

**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. [redbellsenegal90@gmail.com](mailto:redbellsenegal90@gmail.com) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

### Sunday, March 19

**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](mailto:info@pflagaa.org) [www.pflagaa.org](http://www.pflagaa.org)

**Support Ferndale Pride 2017** 6 p.m. Jay's will donate 20 of proceeds during March Madness to Ferndale Pride. Ferndale Pride, 22726 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-398-4070. <http://ferndalepride.com>

## MUSIC & MORE

**Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers** "Midwest Regional Alternative Dance Festival" Wellspring/Cori Terry & Dancers presents the eighth annual Midwest Regional Alternative Dance Festival (RAD Fest), which will feature over 200 acclaimed national and international contemporary dance artists in five different live performances, a free screendance series held at the Alamo Drafthouse, six different master classes, and social networking events. For more information, please visit [www.midwestradfest.org](http://www.midwestradfest.org). Wellspring Theater in the Epic Center, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall Ste. 204, Kalamazoo. March 19 - March 10. 269-873-2833. [www.Midwestradfest.org](http://www.Midwestradfest.org)

### Comedy

**Gilda's Club Grand Rapids** "Gilda's LaughFest 2017" Festival include stand-up, improv/sketch, college stand-up and college improv. Individuals of all ages, and groups of any size are encouraged to showcase their talents. Gilda's Club Grand Rapids, 1806 Bridge St NW, Grand Rapids. March 9 - March 19. 616-735-HAHA. [www.laughfestgr.org/](http://www.laughfestgr.org/)

**Motor City Pride** "21st Annual LGBT Comedyfest" Jennie McNulty, Jeff Jones, Gloria Bigelow, and Roxanna Ward. Tickets: \$30. Dearborn's Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. 8 p.m. March 4. [www.comedyfest.org](http://www.comedyfest.org)

### Concerts

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint (UUCF)** "Tret Fure" Legendary Women's Music Pioneer, Storyteller and Activist in Concert. Tickets: \$12-15. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint (UUCF), 2474 S. Ballenger Highway, Flint. 7 p.m. March 9. 8102324023. [uufint.org](http://uufint.org)

### Dance

**Michigan Opera Theatre** "Common Ground" Features diverse companies - Eisenhower Dance, State Street Ballet, and ezdanza. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. March 4. 313-237-7464. [www.michiganopera.org/dance/commonground/](http://www.michiganopera.org/dance/commonground/)

## THEATER

### Professional

**Almost, Maine** Tickets: \$17-22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. March 9 - March 12. 734-971-2228. [www.a2ct.org/shows/almost-maine](http://www.a2ct.org/shows/almost-maine)

**Dr. Heidi Jekyll** Tickets: \$12. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Slipstream Theatre, 460 Hilton Road, Ferndale. Through March 12. 3139869156. [www.slipstreamti.com](http://www.slipstreamti.com)

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

**Gay Fan Fiction Wanted** Submit a script (performance time of 30 minutes or less) for the 8th Annual Gay Play Series. Deadline is April 15. See website or email for details. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through April 14. 2485455545. [www.theringwald.com](http://www.theringwald.com)

**Hand to God** Tickets: \$10-20. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through March 13. 2485455545. [www.theringwald.com](http://www.theringwald.com)

**Hedwig and the Angry Inch**. Broadway in Detroit, Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through March 5. 313-872-1000. [www.broadwayindetroit.com](http://www.broadwayindetroit.com)

**Macdeath** Shakespeare with musical adaptation. Tickets: \$10-20. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff, Hamtramck. Through March 18. 3133654948. [www.planetant.com](http://www.planetant.com)

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Affirmations** "Beautiful Brushwork - A Collection of Painters and Expression" 25 percent of every art purchase benefits the community center. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 7 p.m. March 2. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Detroit Institute of Arts** "Detroit After Dark: Photographs from the DIA Collection" Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Feb. 5 - April 23. 313-833-7900. [www.dia.org](http://www.dia.org)

**Detroit Institute of Arts** "BitterSweet: Coffee, Tea & Chocolate" What is your ritual for drinking coffee, tea or chocolate? Take a picture and share it on Instagram. It's all part of the Detroit Institute of Arts' exhibit - the first of its kind at the museum to engage all five senses. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jan. 1 - March 5. 313-833-7900. <http://www.dia.org>

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "How Many More?" An anti-assault weapon themed all media exhibit Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave, Ferndale. March 1 - March 31. 248-544-0394. [www.lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://www.lawrencestreetgallery.com)

**The Guild of Artists and Artisans** "Royal Oak Market: Spring Art Fair" Admission is free. Royal Oak Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. March 2 - March 3.

Promote Your Events  
Online & In Print

Submit Calendar Listings online  
@ [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

**Little Women**  
by Mark Adamo

7:30PM • Saturday  
March 11, 2017

2:30PM • Sunday  
March 12, 2017

MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE

Louisa May Alcott's classic Civil War era Coming-of-age story, featuring the Studio Artists of MOT and the MOT Orchestra, Suzanne Mallare Acton, Conductor

At Macomb Center for the Performing Arts  
44575 Garfield Road, at Hall Road - Clinton Township

With generous support from:  
THE ANDREW W. MELLON FOUNDATION  
communityfoundation FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

For tickets:  
[michiganopera.org](http://michiganopera.org) or 313.237.7464  
[macombcenter.com](http://macombcenter.com) or 586.286.2222

Royal Oak Market:  
**Spring Art Fair**

March 2 & 3, 2017  
Thursday and Friday, 11am-8pm  
Inside the Royal Oak Farmers Market

Featuring:  
75 Jury Selected Artists  
Food Trucks • Beer/Wine  
Live Entertainment

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

Produced by  
THE Guild f t BTL  
BetweenLines

Pottery by Sarah and Thomas Gelsanlter



# ANGELINA

Steeped in Italian tradition  
with a refreshing modern twist!  
Casual-fine dining room

Extensive Wine List  
Free WiFi Internet Access

Located across from Comerica Park  
& Detroit Opera House

1565 Broadway, Detroit, MI 48226  
313 962 1355  
angelinadetroit.com

ITALIAN BISTRO



'Hedwig's' Euan Morton brings the gender-bending musical to life at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. Photo courtesy of SMZ in Troy

## 'Hedwig' Rocks The Fisher from Top to Bottom

TANYA GAZDIK, ENCORE MICHIGAN

**DETROIT** – I saw a low-budget production of Hedwig and the Angry Inch a few years ago at a small local theater. While the acting was good, it was like day and night compared to the over-the-top Broadway extravaganza which just opened at the Fisher Theatre.

Every element of this production shined from beginning to end. The acting is top-notch. The singing is amazing. The costumes (especially the wigs!) are incredible. The set is over-the-top. I'm a critic, I need to find something to criticize, but I am really coming up short. So fire me, I guess. If spared from my duties, I might just become a Hedwig groupie and follow the show from city to city.

Directed by Tony Award winner Michael Mayer, it is the story of one of the most unique characters to ever hit the stage. "Internationally ignored song stylist" Hedwig Robinson, who is out to set the record straight about her life, her loves, and the botched operation that left her with that "angry inch."

Rolling Stone called Hedwig "the best rock musical ever." That's high praise. While I've not seen every rock musical that ever was, Hedwig is right up there with two of the other most popular ones which I have seen multiple times: Rent and Hair. There's a reason this show has a cult following. The songs are catchy, the story is compelling and there's plenty of camp to spare.

I'm not really sure whether to call Hedwig "him" or "her." Normally, it's polite to call drag queens "she," but he presents as a gay male, and refers to

himself as originally a "slip of a girly boy," who only had the surgery in order to present as female and escape communist East Berlin with his first husband, Luther Robinson, a serviceman. As for the drag, he has the mannerisms down perfectly, including the hilarious and frequent insults to the audience, who nervously laughs in fear of being next to take a hit.

The winner of four 2014 Tony Awards including Best Musical Revival, Hedwig and the Angry Inch has been dubbed brilliant, heartbreaking and mischievously funny. The Detroit show hit all those high notes. It runs a very quick 90 minutes with no intermission. While some audience members might have a difficult time going that long without a bathroom break, there's a reason for the straight-thru performance. The energy builds throughout the show. An intermission would seriously disrupted the flow and eventual climax.

Tony and Olivier Award-nominated Euan Morton plays Hedwig and he couldn't be any better suited for the role. Morton originated the role of Boy George in the musical Taboo in London and New York, garnering Tony and Olivier Award nominations and receiving the Theatre World Award for Outstanding Broadway Debut. His command of gold platform boots is astonishing. He dances up and down on the bumper, hood and roof of the beaten-up car that occupies center stage with incredible grace, all the while sporting short skirts and the elaborate and no-doubt very heavy wigs.

Hannah Corneau, who plays Hedwig's husband, Yitzhakt, makes her Broadway National Touring debut. Although she has limited dialogue, she manages to express

many emotions via facial expressions. She has the voice of an angel, even though her character is a man. The character truly blooms at the end of the show, when she/he finally is allowed to shine in the gender she/he prefers. The rest of the cast – members of Hedwig's band, called "The Angry Inch" – all originated their roles on Broadway and several play in rock bands when not on Broadway.

There are some nice local references incorporated into the show which make you feel like you were watching a concert and not a play. Hedwig talks to the audience in between songs and at one point references the Motown Museum and its "gender neutral bathroom."

There are some serious and poignant moments, particularly when Hedwig laments about finding his "other half," but this is by far a comedy and a musical. It's bawdy and there are many blowjob jokes, so leave the kids at home. And leave your preconceived notions about gender identity at home, while you're at it. You won't be sorry you did. As one theatre-goer observed on the way out of the theatre on opening night: "Mind. Officially. Blown."

Hedwig and The Angry Inch is at the Fisher Theatre now through March 5. Tickets are on sale at all Ticketmaster locations, by phone at 800-982-2787, online at [www.broadwayindetroit.com](http://www.broadwayindetroit.com) or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com), and at the Fisher Theatre Box Office. Tickets start at \$39.

For more Michigan professional theater news and information, visit [www.encoremichigan.com](http://www.encoremichigan.com).

**DIGNITY DETROIT**

A Catholic Faith Community of  
LGBTQ individuals, families and friends

Box 558 - Royal Oak, MI 48068 - (313) 278-4786  
[www.dignitydetroit.org](http://www.dignitydetroit.org)

**BTL** Shop The Rainbow  
Between Lines

There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and welcome everyone.

Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan's LGBTQ community!

**Coming March 26, 2017**  
**MotorCity Casino**

**Between Lines**  
**THE ULTIMATE LGBT WEDDING & ANNIVERSARY EXPO**



# Ireland's Druid Brings 'The Beauty Queen of Leenane' to UMS in March

BY ENCORE MICHIGAN STAFF

ANN ARBOR – Druid, the famed theater company from Galway, Ireland, which made its acclaimed UMS debut in 2011 with The Cripple of Inishmaan, returns with a new production of Martin McDonagh's dark comedy The Beauty Queen of Leenane.

As tragically funny as it is horrific, this brilliantly subversive play takes place in an economically depressed Irish village in the early 1990s, with a vicious and relentless war of wills between a manipulative, aging mother, Mag, and her plain and lonely 40-year-old daughter, Maureen. After years of caring for her ungrateful mother, Maureen has little hope

of happiness or escape, especially after Mag ruins her first, and perhaps only, chance of a loving relationship. This is confrontational theater at its most potent, with characters locked in mortal combat and mutual loathing. Mother-daughter dysfunction was never so thrilling or chilling.

This new production casts Marie Mullen in the role of the scheming mother; she won a Tony Award for the role of the daughter in the 1996 Broadway production.

There will be an artist Q&A after the March 9 performance.

Performances take place at the Power Center March 9 - 11. Tickets are available online at [ums.org](http://ums.org).

# Wild Swan will Hold Annual Benefit Concert March 19

ANN ARBOR – Children, adults and families are invited to celebrate Wild Swan Theater's 37th season and their annual benefit concert, An Afternoon of Ann Arbor's Best. The concert will be held at The Ark on March 19 at 1 p.m. and will feature a line-up of family-friendly talent, including Gemini with Emily Slomovits, Peter Madcat Ruth, and Frank Pahl. Each of these gifted artists has collaborated with Wild Swan in creating theater innovative theater experiences. Storyteller and AADL Youth Librarian Laura Pershin Raynor will be the emcee. This event will be shadow interpreted by Synergy on Stage for Deaf audience members.

Gemini, twin brother musicians Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits, write and play acoustic music for children and families. Peter Madcat Ruth is a Grammy Award-winning virtuoso harmonica player based out of Ann Arbor. Frank Pahl is a Michigan-based

musician/composer/sound artist, working in several styles including "toy pop", or music made with toys.

Tickets are \$20 adult, \$15 youth/senior, or \$60 for a FOUR-pack. Tickets are available through at [www.wildswantheater.org](http://www.wildswantheater.org) or by calling Wild Swan at 734-995-0530. If available, tickets may be purchased at the door on the day of the concert.

Wild Swan Theater is dedicated to producing professional children's theater of the highest artistic quality for young people and families that is accessible, diverse and inclusive, through affordable ticket prices and innovative outreach programs. For more information about the company, its current season, touring programs, and drama camps and classes, visit the Wild Swan website at [www.wildswantheater.org](http://www.wildswantheater.org).

**ALMOST, MAINE**  
DIRECTED BY KAT WALSH  
BY JOHN CARIANI

MARCH 9-12, 2017 | ARTHUR MILLER THEATRE | THURS AT 7:30, FRI & SAT AT 8:00, SUN AT 2:00  
FOR TICKETS & INFO: VISIT [WWW.A2CT.ORG](http://WWW.A2CT.ORG) OR CALL 734.971.2228

**A2ct**  
Ann Arbor Civic Theatre  
your theatre. your town.

**Norton's**  
FLOWERS & GIFTS

We Deliver the **WOW**

**YPSILANTI STORE**     **ANN ARBOR STORE**  
2900 Washtenaw Ave.     2558 W. Stadium  
734-434-2700             734-769-9100

**800-682-8667 - WWW.NORTONSFLOWERS.COM**

**\aut\ BAR**  
Common Language

**Tuesdays at the \aut\ BAR are:**

**TACO TUESDAYS**  
**\$2 TACOS**  
**\$3 SPECIALTY TACOS**  
Specials on Margaritas, Tequila, and Cerveza

**TUESDAY JAZZ**  
Jesse Kramer Trio  
9p - midnight

Every Wednesday  
**Camp Wednesday**

Every Thursday  
**Trivia with Terry 8pm**

Every Friday  
**Bistro Friday**  
**Prix fixe Dinner**

Every Saturday  
**DJ Nicole Myint**

Like us on Follow us on

**\aut\ BAR**  
315 Braun Court Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 994-3677 [www.autbar.com](http://www.autbar.com)

**Common Language Bookstore**  
317 Braun Court Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 663-0036 [www.glbttbooks.com](http://www.glbttbooks.com)

**When We Rise**  
Book Available at Common Language.  
Watch the Series at the \aut\



# PHARMACY UPGRADE

248.542.2300

www.medcartpharmacy.com  
1964 West 11 Mile Road, Berkley  
Between Woodward & Coolidge



## Relationship Skills Class



Building stronger connections with coworkers,  
family, friends, and romantic partners

**Thursdays, April 6 - May 18, 2017**

**6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Affirmations' Community Room**

The class is centered on LGBTQ experience but is open to everyone.  
Topics include healthy conflict, establishing boundaries, exploring values, and more!

**Register by March 31, 2017**

Contact Becca Budde, [bbudde@goaffirmations.org](mailto:bbudde@goaffirmations.org)

248-398-7105 • [www.goaffirmations.org/RSC](http://www.goaffirmations.org/RSC)



290 W. Nine Mile | Ferndale | MI 48220 | 248-398-7105  
[www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

Only totally cage-free facility in Michigan



## Off The Chains. Always.

673 South Main Street • Plymouth • 734-459-3647  
[www.happyhoundsdaycare.com](http://www.happyhoundsdaycare.com)

## Classifieds Call 734-293-7200 ext.22

350 PETS – PETS

**HappyHounds Dog  
Daycare & Boarding  
Always Cage-Free  
734-459-3649**

**Call Us Today to Place  
Your Classified Ad Here!  
734-293-7200 x22**

Always FREE  
to listen and  
reply to ads!

Playmates  
or soul mates,  
you'll find them  
on MegaMates

1-888-MegaMates™

Detroit:  
**(313) 481-9301**  
[www.megamates.com](http://www.megamates.com) 18+

320 EMPLOYMENT –  
WANTED

**Licensed Veterinary  
Technician**

PetCalls – in Midtown Detroit  
In home veterinary company  
looking for motivated individual.  
Must be personable, open to  
new technology, be able to carry  
30 lbs up a flight of stairs, have  
an excellent driving record and  
must be licensed with the state of  
Michigan.

Excellent pay, Benefits included  
Email resume to [kjackson@pet-calls.net](mailto:kjackson@pet-calls.net)  
or call (313)788-7387  
(PETS)

Full-time, Required licenses  
or certifications: Veterinary  
Technician, Drivers license

401 AUTOS

**Ferndale Honda**

Call Eric Hay today!  
248-548-6300  
[hay@ferndalehonda.com](mailto:hay@ferndalehonda.com)

**HIRING MUST  
LOVE DOGS !!**

Happy Hounds Dog Day Care is  
now hiring part-time hourly dog  
lovers. Please call or stop in to  
fill out application.

734-459-DOGS  
673 South Main St.  
Plymouth, MI 48170

**1102 EROTICA –  
MASSAGE**

**MASSAGE**

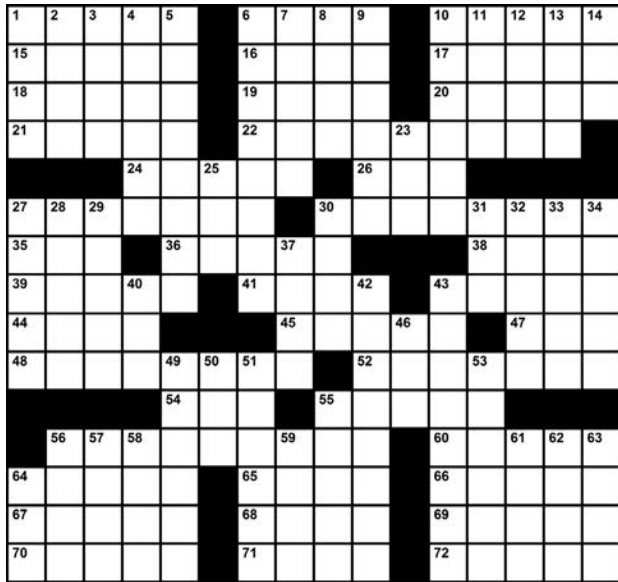
Massage for men. Safe-Discrete,  
good prices. Royal Oak Area.  
12yrs. Experience.  
Call Lee 248-548-6516

**Hot Oral  
Massage**

Soothing gentle massage with  
happy ending. I am Jake, white,  
42, short dark hair, clean shaven.  
I host hotel (\$150). I travel (\$120).  
Call 248-765-2402.



# Q Puzzle



## Feud: Bette and Joan

### Across

- 1 R.E.M. follower?
- 6 In the pink
- 10 Roehm's sausage
- 15 Cocoon creator
- 16 "Uh-oh!" to Shelley
- 17 Cole Porter's "\_\_\_ Men"
- 18 Part of a daisy chain?
- 19 Left to pirates
- 20 Out
- 21 Bette said she had the most fun with Joan \_\_\_\_\_. (See 22-,

- 41 -, and -56-Across)
- 22 See 21-Across
- 24 You, to Frida
- 26 Bowie collaborator
- 27 Volgaís outlet
- 30 Joan, who feuded with Bette
- 35 Bill written by Alice Paul
- 36 Playground retort
- 38 Sons of, at Beth Chayim Chadashim
- 39 Lindsay of "Liz & Dick"
- 41 See 21-Across
- 43 Michelangelo sculpture

- 44 Former Vibe editor Wilbekin
- 45 Andes animal
- 47 Refusal in Rouen
- 48 "Whatever Happened to \_\_\_?"
- 52 George once of San Francisco
- 54 Moist ending
- 55 Piece of a pansy
- 56 See 21-Across
- 60 Bette, who feuded with Joan
- 64 Rock Hudson movie with James Dean
- 65 Singer La \_\_\_ Jackson
- 66 Be a ham in \_Hamlet\_?
- 67 Joe of "JFK"
- 68 Moon of Endor inhabitant
- 69 Streisand's \_Prince of Tides\_ costar
- 70 White as a ghost
- 71 Hard to come by
- 72 A flamer does it

- 12 Rex Reed et al. do this to movies
- 13 Direction from Susan Feniger
- 14 Caesar's X
- 23 Bambi character
- 25 Feathers adhesive
- 27 "Advocate" cover, often
- 28 It arouses two body openings
- 29 Madras title
- 30 Part of Batman's costume
- 31 J. Edgar Hoover's org.
- 32 Bridge call, informally
- 33 Boca \_\_\_
- 34 Frasier's lover in Boston
- 37 Shoe bottom
- 40 Son of Aga Khan
- 42 The Windy City, to Judy Chicago
- 43 Rose Bowl city
- 46 A word from Verlaine
- 49 Timberlake once of 'N Sync
- 50 Kahlo's output
- 51 Less messy
- 53 Much ado about nothing, perhaps
- 55 Richard of "The Wiz"
- 56 Executive bondage tools
- 57 Illegal Amsterdam export
- 58 Suffix with differ
- 59 "The Music Man" setting
- 61 Knoxville team, to fans
- 62 "Tell \_\_\_ the judge"
- 63 James Baldwin's "The Evidence of Things Not \_\_\_"
- 64 1.0, for one

### Down

- 1 Side at Hamburger Mary's
- 2 S&M unit
- 3 Art Deco design name
- 4 Get back to level
- 5 Neighbor of Stein abroad
- 6 What a funny thing did on the way to the forum?
- 7 How to moan in bed
- 8 "Gay Cosmos" author Eighner
- 9 Cultural anthropologist Newton
- 10 Etheridge's "Come to My \_\_\_"
- 11 "Look out ..."

Find solution to this puzzle at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)




**Whosoever**  
MINISTRY

*Rev. Dr. Selma Massey*  
FOUNDER & PASTOR

**SUNDAYS AT 11:00**  
2930 WOODWARD AVE.  
DETROIT, MI 48201  
313.259.0000

[WWW.WHOSOEVERMINISTRY.ORG](http://WWW.WHOSOEVERMINISTRY.ORG)

# Naked Men's YOGA

**Meets in Ann Arbor**  
**TUESDAYS AND SATURDAYS 6:30-7:30 PM**

Contact Dave at [message4@aol.com](mailto:message4@aol.com)  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan\\_mens\\_clothing\\_optional\\_yoga](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/michigan_mens_clothing_optional_yoga)

## A Tension Getter

### Massage Therapy

by David Rosenberg  
**(734) 662-6282**

Therapeutic Massage gets rid of back, neck and shoulder pain

2 Downtown Locations

<i>Ann Arbor</i> 209 West Kingsley	<i>Berkley</i> W. 12 Mile Road (just west of Greenfield)
---------------------------------------	--

(Couple blocks west of main, between Ashley & 1st.)

**"I can bring my massage table to your home, too!"**

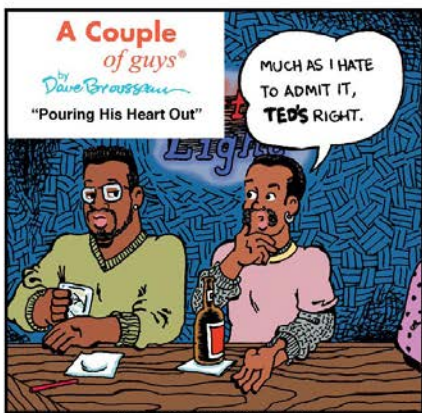
## Massage Class

### for Men

Learn some massage techniques.  
Meet others in a safe and caring environment.

Thursday at 2 pm.  
Tuesdays & Saturdays at 8pm  
\$10 per session  
209 W. Kingsley St.  
Ann Arbor, MI  
(734) 662-6282

Find me on the Internet at <http://www.trymassage.com>





THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!



ALL XXX  
DVD RENTALS  
AS LOW AS \$1.25  
EVERY DAY!



BUY  
ADULT DVD'S  
STARTING AT  
\$5.95



EVERY TUES & FRIDAY  
NEW  
RELEASE  
DAY

JOIN OUR  
VIDEO CLUB  
AND RECIEVE  
5 FREE  
RENTALS

MARCH 16-27, 2017

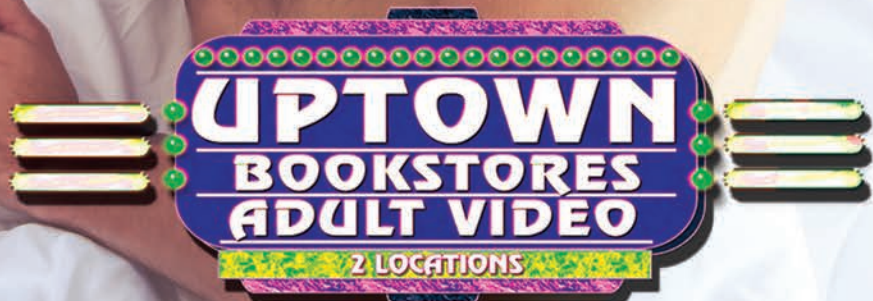
MARCH  
SPECIAL

50% OFF

BUY ONE DVD AT REG. PRICE  
AND GET THE SECOND DVD AT  
1/2 PRICE, SECOND MUST BE  
SAME OR LESSER VALUE, RED  
STICKER ONLY  
MAR 8-12, 2017



Rush - Jungle Juice Platinum - Maximum Impact - Swiss Navy Lube Silicone - Uninhibited 2-Ring Harness - Wii Vibe - Lucid Dreams #14 - Dual Bunny Teaser - Butterfly Kiss Pink - Titan Enlargment System - The Exotic Water Garden Massager



WWW.UPTOWNADULTVIDEO.COM

16541 Woodward Ave.  
at McNichols next to "Deja Vu"  
Highland Park  
313.869.9477

16401 W. 8 Mile  
Between Greenfield & Southfield  
Detroit  
313.836.0647

Hours:  
Mon-Sat 9am - 10pm  
Sun Noon - 8pm



# The Frivolist

## 6 Signs Your Open Relationship Is Hurtling Toward Disaster

BY MIKEY ROX

My soon-to-be ex-husband and I had an open relationship for most of our marriage; you can already tell how that turned out. Yes, it was exciting to fuck somebody new in the beginning (whether separately or together). We even gave an interview to The Advocate about how modern we were. But when lifted, the veil of carefree sex and intrigue revealed a darker, much more sinister side.

There are plenty of complications that accompany an open relationship, many of which I'll dissect below, yet they're all within your control. The one invariable, however – the loose cannon that can and probably will obliterate your relationship eventually – is not how you handle each other with regard to the arrangement but rather the rogue side piece. Blow through enough of them and one of you is bound to develop more than just a fleeting carnal attraction to him or her. If the feelings are reciprocated, you're in for a whole heap of trouble. Here are a few signs to look for.

### 1. Your Devices Have Become Increasingly Secretive

Most of us keep our phones and other

devices password-protected for general security reasons, but couples that have nothing to hide within them sometimes know each other's passwords in case of emergencies. That may not be the case for everyone, of course, and you may be used to keeping your private devices just that – private. That's certainly OK – we all have a right to our privacy – but if you notice usage patterns changing, something may be up.

If your partner puts the phone in lock mode when they put it down (or keeps it attached to them virtually all the time), like when they excuse themselves to the bathroom at a restaurant, or they turn away from your line of sight when having text and app conversations – and it seems out of the ordinary – you may have reason to be suspicious.

That doesn't mean you should automatically jump to conclusions, though.

Instead, if you think something's up because your partner's device habits have noticeably changed, bring it up. While you don't have the right to dig through their personal device, if you're in a relationship, you do have credence to ask with whom they're chatting that's causing them to ignore you. If they sputter, you have a lot more to discuss.



## 2. There Are More Out-of-Town "Business" Trips

There's a fine line between having an open relationship and cheating, and that line is trust. A healthy open relationship should include a commitment to making this situation work for you and your partner while keeping the lines of communication open. If one or the other of you feels put out, the situation is not going according to plan.

That's especially true if your partner starts traveling for business or more frequently if their job already includes travel. Part of the open-relationship rules in my own marriage included being able to hook up while away from each other – my husband traveled for work; I didn't – but when it began to include trips established strictly to hook up with someone, I knew the problem was bigger than me. I felt like my husband was planning getaways – under the guise of business travel – just to get away from me. In a sense, that was true. He was also planning them to rendezvous with a hookup he had met previously while on actual business. Huge red flag – and a big no-no for a couple that was supposed to honor honesty.

## 3. The Frequency of Sex Between You Two Has Decreased

If sex with your partner goes from a couple times a week to a couple times a month, something's up. That's not to suggest that he or she is banging other people more frequently than you, but something's obviously off and it's worth a discussion. Any number of factors can affect your sex life – like stress, fatigue, self-confidence – but if you're not being satisfied by your partner sexually because they've used up all their energy with someone else, you need to speak up.

## 4. The Frequency at Which Your Partner Wants to Have Sex With Someone Else Increases

In the beginning of our open relationship, my husband and I tread lightly. We'd have a threesome together here and there, and one of us might hook up with someone in the gym steam room or while out of town. More and more, however, we were out looking for a thrill that didn't include each other. From my point of view, it was because he wasn't all that attracted to me at the time – I had gained a little weight – and I followed course with my own activities if only to quell the feelings of loneliness and

neglect. Eventually we stopped having sex altogether, which further exacerbated the problem until it triggered an avalanche of extra-marital promiscuousness that couldn't be stopped.

## 5. Communication Between You and Your Partner Virtually Disintegrates

In the beginning of our relationship, my husband and I could talk about anything. I'm the kind of person who prefers to clear the air, no matter how awkward it may be, so we can move on quickly. But as tension and resentment started to build in our relationship – mostly as a result of our open relationship going off the rails – it was hard to look each other in the eye, let alone have a civil discussion. Epic arguments erupted over the most inane things because of all the pent-up frustration. It wasn't healthy for either of us, and this aspect, in particular, signaled the beginning of the end.

## 6. You Feel Insecure About Yourself

By the time I decided to separate from my husband, I was beat down, defeated, literally struggling to stay alive. That's not dramatics, either; there were plenty of mornings I woke up not wanting to live anymore. But when I separated myself from the situation and started to recognize that the demise of my marriage was mostly the result of variables out of my control (that's not saying that I didn't contribute in my own way to my marriage ending, by the way – because I did), I was able to start putting the pieces of my life back together. It took a long time – and therapy and exercise – to get back to a place where I could crack a smile while looking at myself in the mirror, but I got there. If you're feeling similarly because your own open relationship isn't working out the way you thought it would, it may be time to face the hard facts: For some of us (actually, most of us), the situation doesn't work, it gets complicated very quickly, and there are usually no winners in the scenario. Make a decision – and soon. You deserve better than not knowing if you're the most important person in your partner's life. If you're not, that sucks – but life will go on with a clean slate. You just have to clean it first.

*Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.*



Did you know there is a  
**LONG-LASTING  
TREATMENT**  
for erectile dysfunction  
or bladder leakage?

Erectile dysfunction or bladder leakage may affect your confidence and intimacy.<sup>1,2</sup> Join us to get the facts about the latest treatment options.

### Attend a FREE Men's Health Seminar:

Presented by: Bahaa Malaeb, M.D. Assistant Professor of Urology

GenitoUrinary Trauma and Reconstruction Surgery, University of Michigan Urology

Date: March 13, 2017 Hyatt Place Detroit/Livonia  
Registration: 5:30 PM 19300 Haggerty Road  
Seminar: 6:00 PM Livonia, MI 48152

Partners and guests welcome. Refreshments will be served. Meet with a Patient Champion to learn more.

Space is Limited, call to register today. 877-433-2873

Boston Scientific Corporation has sponsored funding for this patient seminar and accompanying educational material.

1. DiMeo PJ. Psychosocial and Relationship Issues in Men with Erectile Dysfunction. Urologic Nursing. 2006 Dec; 26(6): 442-453.  
2. Hunskaar S, Sandvik H. One Hundred and Fifty Men with Urinary Incontinence. III. Psychosocial Consequences. Scand J Prim Health Care. 1993; 11:193-96.

**AMS**  
MEN'S HEALTH

Boston Scientific Corporation  
300 Boston Scientific Way, Marlborough, MA 01752  
www.amsmenshealth.com  
All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.  
©2016 Boston Scientific Corporation or its affiliates. All rights reserved.  
AMSUS/MH-01639/April 2015

**Dr. Paul Benson's**  
**Be Well**  
**Medical Center**

**Complete Medical Care since 1980**  
LGBTQ Primary Medical Care  
HIV Prevention (PrEP) • HIV Care & Clinical Trials  
**Transgender Welcome!**

1964 Eleven Mile Rd  
Berkley, MI 40872  
(248) 544-9300  
doctorbellow.com



## Meet EQMI's Department of Victims Services Team

BY BTL STAFF

As the founding member of the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, Equality Michigan is committed through their Victims Services Program, to providing support and advocacy services for LGBTQ, SGL (Same Gender Loving), and HIV-affected people experiencing various forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, hate violence, harassment and discrimination.

### Jeynce Poindexter

Jeynce Poindexter is a proud transgender woman of color who helps works as a transgender specialist and is the first official transgender advocate for the organization.



Jeynce Poindexter

Since joining the EQMI team, Poindexter has “worked diligently to be a voice and presence in and of the LGBT community, while also lending her advocacy and efforts to her clients, whom she prefers to call survivors,” according to the EQMI website. As an advocate, she helps people in need find housing, fight discrimination, navigate the tricky legal and health systems, and fulfills other immediate needs. Her open caseload includes survivors of racial injustice, domestic violence, sexual assault, partner-on-partner violence, HIV/AIDS prevention, and countless others.

Her advocacy work serves people not only in the Detroit area, but all over the state of Michigan. Poindexter hosts the Department of Victim Services pop-up office hours in Grand Rapids every other week, extending her reach to more people in need.

### Beyond Advocating for Survivors

When Poindexter is not taking care of clients, she is educating herself and others. She has completed countless trainings to broaden her skills as an advocate. Through the DVS, Poindexter also hosts trainings and workshops for local businesses, schools, and other organizations to increase their understanding of the LGBT community and to educate them on inclusion and diversity.

Poindexter is also active in the community beyond her day job. She is a proud founding board member of the Trans Sistas of Color Project ([www.facebook.com/TSCOPD](http://www.facebook.com/TSCOPD)) and a member of the National LGBTQ Taskforce. She can be found throughout the state speaking at community events.

Read more about Poindexter online <https://equalitymi.org/eqmi-staff-spotlight-jeynce-poindexter/>. Contact her with any questions via email at [jpoindexter@equalitymi.org](mailto:jpoindexter@equalitymi.org).

### Genny Maze

Geneva “Genny” Maze has been a strong advocate for all people her entire life. When the opportunity arose to advocate for her own community through EQMI, Maze hopped on board. Maze is the lead victim advocate, working alongside a team that is dedicated to community outreach, education, and equality. “We are victim-focused,” she said. “Our first goal is to reach out to any survivor who may need support.”



Genny Maze

### Mobilizing Statewide

From the moment she started her work at EQMI, Maze has worked tirelessly to help the DVS fulfill its mission of serving LGBTQ people statewide. After visiting Traverse City and seeing firsthand the need for advocacy, education, and better resources in the area, Maze moved full speed ahead to set up a pop-up office and understand how EQMI can better fill the gaps in the area.

In addition to keeping up with a demanding caseload from the Detroit office, Maze has been connecting with other agencies and resources in Traverse City so that EQMI will be well-equipped in Northern Michigan. Traverse City mayor and equal rights activist Jim Carruthers caught wind of the pop-up office and met with the DVS team to discuss the needs of the LGBTQ community in Traverse City.

Read more about Maze online <https://equalitymi.org/eqmi-staff-spotlight-genny-maze/>. Contact her with any questions via email at [gmaze@equalitymi.org](mailto:gmaze@equalitymi.org).

### Office Hours and Locations

Poindexter and Maze are looking forward to meeting and working with the Grand Rapids and Traverse City communities in addition to their work in Detroit. Check out the EQMI calendar online <https://equalitymi.org/calendar/> to keep up with office hours and more.

**Detroit**  
Equality Michigan Office  
19641 W. Seven Mile Rd.  
Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Grand Rapids**  
Pride Center  
343 Atlas Ave. SE  
Hours: 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month, 2-7 p.m.

**Traverse City**  
Imagine Health  
121 S. Garfield Ave. Suite A  
Hours: 4th Monday of every month, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.



## Actress Lena Dunham Pledged \$50,000 to Ruth Ellis Center

BY BTL STAFF

Actress Lena Dunham, writer and star of the HBO series “Girls,” is one of many celebrities outraged about President Trump’s decision to discriminate against transgender people including her sister Juliet.

In response, she pledged \$50,000 to the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park on Feb. 23, taking aim at Trump following the announcement by government officials to remove the federal guidelines that allowed transgender school students to use the bathrooms that matched their gender identity.

“Lena’s support of the Ruth Ellis Center, and more importantly, the youth the Center serves, has been overwhelming. None of us realized the impact her tweet would have around the country. We’re still in shock,” said Mark Erwin-McCormick, REC director of development and advancement.

“What we do know, is that every single dollar donated to the Center will result in tangible support for LGBTQ young people facing barriers to housing, health, and wellness - and for that, we are truly grateful. With everyone’s help, we might just meet her \$50K match challenge.”

Dunham’s tweet (@lenadunham) on Feb. 23 said, “Let’s fight hate & ignorance with love for trans teens, who are already facing steep odds and who need our support to grow and THRIVE.” This was followed by a second tweet that said, “I’m matching all donations up to 50k to the Ruth Ellis Center @REC\_detroit cc @allycoalition @jackantonoff Tweet me your donation receipt!”

Dunham has been a longtime supporter of LGBTQ causes. This action is one way she hopes to combat the discrimination the community faces by donating to the REC, which provides short-term and long-term residential safe space and support services for runaway, homeless, and at-risk LGBTQ youth.

For more information or to contribute to the Ruth Ellis Center, please contact Mark Erwin-McCormick at 313-680-3359 or [Mark.McCormick@RuthEllisCenter.org](mailto:Mark.McCormick@RuthEllisCenter.org).



Locate hundreds of non-profit resources online and in print at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)



# KGLRC Changes Name, Gets New Location

**KALAMAZOO** - After more than 28 years of operating as the Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, the organization will now be known as OutFront Kalamazoo.

"Now, more than ever, we believe it is imperative that we use our voices to stand out front here in Kalamazoo," board President Jessica Hermann-Wilmarth told MLive.com on Feb. 24. "We want to make sure we include all voices in our efforts, which is why changing our name to OutFront Kalamazoo is a fitting shift."

OutFront Kalamazoo will continue to offer the same quality programming and services available to the community, according to a press release.

The board of directors also announced that they will be moving to a new location in

downtown Kalamazoo. The organization will begin operating at their new 340 S. Rose St. location in March 2017.

According to OutFront, the change comes as an effort to meet the demands of the community while becoming "more visible and accessible."

Jay Maddock, executive director of OutFront Kalamazoo, told MLive.com on Feb. 24 that, "This move is a significant moment for our organization and the Kalamazoo community. It will allow us to reach more people and families, while letting us live out our mission visibly and proudly."

*OutFront Kalamazoo is busy behind the scenes building a new website. Check back at [www.kglrc.org](http://www.kglrc.org) for updates.*

## Our LGBT Community Centers

Community centers are the bedrock of the LGBT movement, providing safe spaces for LGBT people and allies to meet, receive services, organize, learn, volunteer and give back. The eight community centers in Michigan each provide social programs

tailored to the specific needs of their members and users. No matter where you live in Michigan there is an LGBT community center nearby that is ready to serve and to represent LGBT people to the larger population.

Learn more about each by visiting the websites listed below.

### ANN ARBOR

Website: [www.jimtoycenter.org](http://www.jimtoycenter.org)  
Jim Toy Community Center  
319 Braun Court  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
Phone: 734-995-9867

### JACKSON

Jackson Pride Center  
801 S. Mechanic St.  
Jackson, MI 49203  
Email: [Jacksonpridecenter@gmail.com](mailto:Jacksonpridecenter@gmail.com)  
Phone: 517-295-3582

### BENTON HARBOR

Website: <http://outcenter.org>  
The Out Center  
132 Water St.  
Benton Harbor, MI  
Phone: 269-925-8330  
Email the center at [info@outcenter.org](mailto:info@outcenter.org)

### KALAMAZOO

Website: [www.kglrc.org](http://www.kglrc.org)  
OutFront Kalamazoo (KGLRC)  
629 Pioneer Street, Suite 102  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-1860  
*See article above about move.*  
Open Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Phone: 269-349-4234

### DETROIT

Website: [www.lgbtdetroit.org](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org)  
LGBT Detroit  
20025 Grennfield Rd.  
Detroit, MI 48235  
Email: [detroit@lgbtdetroit.org](mailto:detroit@lgbtdetroit.org)  
Phone: 313-397-2127

### MUSKEGON

Website: <http://thecentermuskegon.org>  
Email: [lgbtssmc@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtssmc@gmail.com)  
The Center  
402 Center St., Suite A  
North Muskegon, MI 49445.  
Phone: 231-747-8329

### FERNDLAE

Website: <http://goaffirmations.org>  
Affirmations  
290 W Nine Mile Rd  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Monday through Saturday.  
Phone: 248-398-7105

### MIDLAND


Website: [www.perceptionsmi.org](http://www.perceptionsmi.org)  
Perceptions  
PO Box 1525  
Midland, MI 48641  
Email: [Info@PerceptionsMI.org](mailto:Info@PerceptionsMI.org)  
Phone: 989-891-1429

### GRAND RAPIDS

Website: [www.grpride.org](http://www.grpride.org)  
Grand Rapids Pride Center  
343 Atlas Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506  
Email [info@grpride.org](mailto:info@grpride.org)  
Phone: 616-458-3511

### TRAVERSE CITY









Website: [www.tcpolestar.org](http://www.tcpolestar.org)  
Polestar LGBT+ Center  
P.O. Box 7317  
Traverse City, MI 49696  
Phone: 231-715-9203




**Talk to a live expert about STDs**


# 800 872 2437

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

-  **FIND A TESTING SITE NEAR YOU.**
-  **LEARN ABOUT PREP, PEP AND OTHER RISK REDUCTION TOOLS.**
-  **LOOKING FOR FREE CONDOMS?**
-  **GET CONNECTED WITH CARE.**
-  **THINK YOU WERE PUT AT RISK?**
-  **NEED HEALTH INSURANCE?**
-  **FIND SUPPORT GROUPS.**
-  **LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?**



**ONLINE CHAT NOW AVAILABLE**  
[WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG](http://WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG)



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

## STD/HIV CLINIC

"The Risk is Not Knowing,  
Know Your Status! Get Educated! Get Tested!"


**Services Provided:**


- Risk Assessment Counseling
- Free Condoms
- Rapid HIV Testing/Counseling

**Testing and Treatment:**

Confidential, \$10.00 Administration fee, appointment Only, persons 12 and older

- Syphilis
- Scabies
- Gonorrhea/ Chlamydia
- Pubic lice
- Trichomoniasis
- HEPC
- Non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU)





"We take pride in taking care of our residents"

To schedule an appointment  
**CALL 586-465-9217** at the time listed below

Monday 10:00 a.m. | Tuesday 9:00 a.m. | Thursday 9:00 a.m.  
Staff is available Monday-Friday to answer any questions



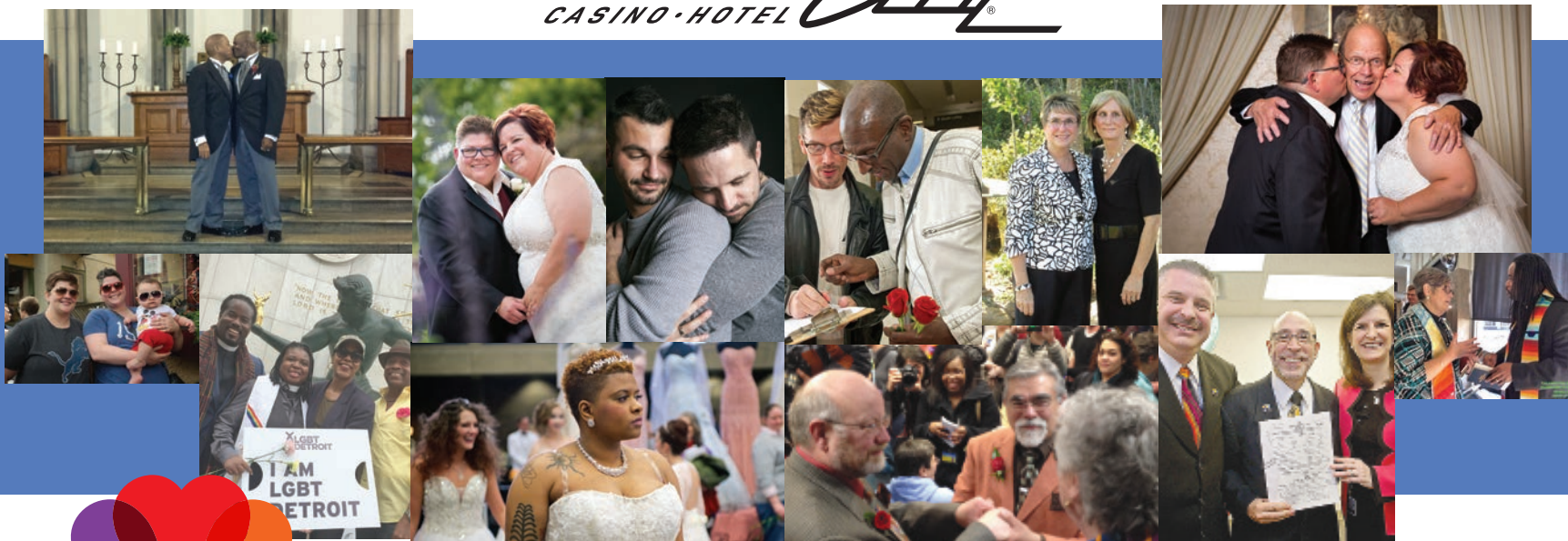
# Join Us Sunday, March 26 Celebrating Marriage Equality

Find Great Equality Vendors Who Value Your Business

## Between THE Lines™

at

### MotorCity CASINO · HOTEL



LOVE  
Wins

Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsor



Bronze Sponsor



# THE ULTIMATE LGBT WEDDING & ANNIVERSARY EXPO

Register Online

Tickets \$10 in advance • \$15 at the door  
Great Door Prizes • Floor Shows • Free Parking

Sunday, March 26 Noon to 4 p.m. @  
MotorCity Casino Hotel

[MiLGBTWedding.com](http://MiLGBTWedding.com)