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**April 27, 2017**


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# Kelly Chameleon

**Osbourne Rebel on Being Open to Dating Women,  
Celebs Who Fake Gay and Mom Sharon  
Sneaking Her Into a Drag Bar**



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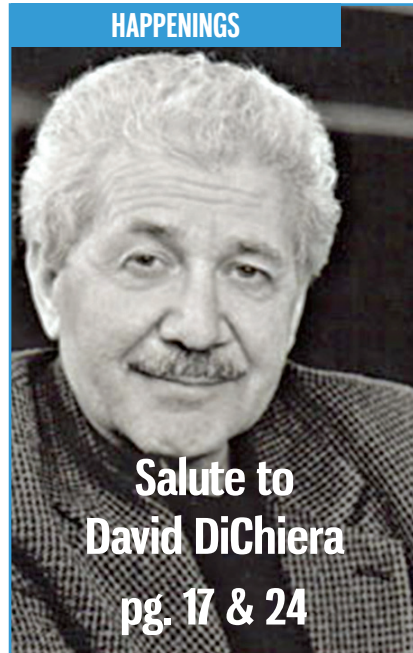
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# NEXTGen Detroit Pride Celebrates a Year of Service

Young Adult Group with the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit Turns One in May

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

It was the brainchild of Sam Dubin. After graduating from Central Michigan University in 2014, Dubin returned home to metro Detroit. He quickly became involved with NEXTGen Detroit, the young adult division of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit.

“I started getting involved with NEXTGen Detroit simply by going to events and meeting people and learning the fundamentals of the Jewish community back home,” said Dubin.

Soon enough, he had joined the board.

“I decided I wanted to apply for the board of directors for NEXTGen,” said Dubin. “I got on and this is my second year on the board.”

Shortly after joining the board, Dubin came out as gay.

“I’m really one that follows whatever passion that I have and try to do something about it,” said Dubin. “I was really oblivious

of the LGBT community at that point, specifically the LGBT Jewish community or lack thereof. I have a lot of gay friends who I grew up with, none of which live in Detroit. A lot of gay Jews here haven’t historically found that they’ve had a home in Detroit. I’ve always felt that I have had a home here. So I knew I wanted to do something about that.”

To that end, Dubin set about creating a new branch of NEXTGen Detroit.

“We pitched a broad idea of NEXTGen Detroit Pride,” recalled Dubin. “It didn’t have a name at that point. We just knew that we wanted to reach out to our Jewish LGBT young adults. So that was really the start of the creation of what would soon become NEXTGen Detroit Pride.”

Since the group’s inception a year ago in May, NEXTGen Detroit Pride has produced a bi-monthly series of events in LGBT-friendly areas like Ferndale and Royal Oak including a launch party at Pronto, GAYme Night at MBrew, Painting with a Twist, a post-election forum at Affirmations, a Shabbat dinner and a story slam at Chazzano Coffee.

Response, Dubin said, has been great.

“It’s honestly been astounding,” he said.

“A lot of gay Jews here haven’t historically found that they’ve had a home in Detroit. I’ve always felt that I have had a home here. So I knew I wanted to do something about that.”

- NEXTGen Detroit Board Member Sam Dubin

“We’re really hitting our goals. Starting this just really broadly, one goal was to create an environment where people felt comfortable coming out – that really hit home for me – then creating an environment for people who were already out. For that demographic we’ve created a community within the Jewish community that’s never existed before. We have so many new faces coming to our events who they have told me they had not felt they had a place in our community up until this point.”

Steven Davis sits on the NEXTGen Detroit Pride planning committee. He, too, is happy with their first year’s progress.

“I am proud of the events that NextGen Detroit Pride has produced so far and am excited at the direction the group is going,” Davis said. “Our initial goal was to put out a calendar of events that brought the community together every other month. In accomplishing our goal, we have done both social and religious programming that has attracted as many as 30 participants at a single event.”

Moving forward, NEXTGen Detroit Pride plans to host a barbecue to celebrate their one-year anniversary. They also plan to have a booth at this year’s Ferndale Pride.

“Not only are we seeing a lot of new faces but we’re seeing a lot of returning faces at our events,” said Dubin. “We’re actually becoming friends outside of the formal NEXTGen Detroit Pride structure. Long-term, what I would love to see happen is let’s say there’s a gay U of M senior and they have to decide between going to Chicago or coming back to Detroit after college. I would love for them to know that NEXTGen Detroit Pride exists.”

For more information about NEXTGen Detroit, visit their website <https://jewishdetroit.org/nextgen> or their Facebook [www.facebook.com/NextGenD](http://www.facebook.com/NextGenD)

## Join the Revolutionary, Unprecedented Convening for Trans Women of Color

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The Trans Sistas of Color Project is seeking sponsors for their first national convening for transgender women of color May 18-22 at the Crowne Plaza Downtown Detroit Riverfront.

“We are looking for partners, collaborators, co-creators and investors who share our vision, its intrinsic value and buy into our mission of uplifting, impacting and influencing the lives and welfare of transgender women,” said Bre’ Campbell, TSOCP’s executive director. “Your partnership and support is vital to the success of The Gathering.”

There are several sponsorship opportunities and levels. Official Partner opportunities range from \$500-20,000. TSOCP is also looking for event partners to help produce a total of five events over the long weekend. The events include the #SAYHERNAME #BLACKTRANSLIVESMATTER Welcoming Reception; the Opening Plenary Breakfast; a Health, Safety & Wellness Fair; a Trans Night @ the Movies; the Partners Gathering; Cocktails with Black Women’s Blueprint; the I AM MY SISTA Community Brunch & Closing Plenary; and the DOLLHOUSE annual fundraising benefit showcase featuring some of Detroit’s most fabulous and amazing female illusionist talent.

TSOCP is also looking for event table sponsorships, souvenir booklet ads and donations for a silent auction during the I AM MY SISTA Community Brunch & Closing Plenary.

“I really want to remind people about just being thoughtful in their giving,” said Campbell. “As an organization yes, we need money. But I would be really interested to see people leverage access to their resources to make sure that trans people have all of the things that they need.”

These resources include a variety of things like housing and employment opportunities, hormones, medical and dental care from inclusive providers, clothing vouchers, Bridge cards, bus passes, name changes, gender marker and ID changes, food, access to education, mental health services, HIV prevention and

See next page



Sam Dubin, second from left, with NEXTGen Detroit Pride members posing with their finished products at the Painting with a Twist event hosted by the group.



Members of Trans Sistās of Color Project

treatment, to name a few.

“The Gathering is organized as a rapid response convening to combat the growing levels of transphobia, transmisogyny and discrimination embedded in the current administration’s anti-trans, anti-woman, anti-other rhetoric, legislation and policies,” said Campbell, adding that this work began during the 2016 Detroit Trans Community Gathering, which was created as a grassroots organizing, community building and engagement event for, by and around the lived experiences of trans women of color.

“It was designed with the intent to deepen the relationships, connections and sisterhood of trans women of color and, at the same time, develop a pipeline to shared resources, skills and opportunities for our collective and individual liberation and advancement,” Campbell continued. “We aim to gather and bring some of Detroit’s and the nation’s fiercest trans advocates, activists and change makers to Detroit to work toward building a better, safer world for our sisters.”

The theme of The Gathering this year is “Resistance as an Act of Resilience.”

“When I think about trans communities we’ve always been resisting,” Campbell explained. “We’ve been resisting since before Trump and we’re going to continue to resist. I think the idea really came from like honoring the people who have been resisting and making sure that they have access to spaces that can help them further resist.”

President Donald Trump is, in fact, part of the reason that TSOCP expanded The

Gathering to make it a national event.

“We weren’t expecting to have the current president that we have,” said Campbell. “So I think for us it was a real priority shift. I don’t know if there’s ever really been a space that was dedicated to black trans women in terms of resisting. That looks different to different people in different spaces. So we wanted to bring trans women from around the country to see how they’re resisting and make sure they have the resources to continue the work that’s important in their communities.”

While some events will be exclusive to trans women of color, others will be open to all.

“During the conference we’re going to split off into two groups, one specifically for trans people who are doing the work and one for allies,” she said, noting that most of the events are open to the public, like the DOLLHOUSE event and the Health, Safety & Wellness Fair.

As the TSOCP continues to pick up steam since forming less than two years ago, Campbell said she hopes The Gathering will put the agency on the national map.

“I’m really excited to invite some of my well respected advocacy friends from across the country to Detroit,” she said. “I think it will create an opportunity for community members from Detroit to meet some well-seasoned activists and build comraderies and exchange some ideas. To be able to hold space with and for trans people, to share resources, ideas, stories – I’m excited about that.”

For more information, to inquire about partnership or submit your partnership information, call 313-537-7000 Ext 107 or email [tsocproject@gmail.com](mailto:tsocproject@gmail.com).

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## What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

#### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
  - Have fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

#### TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- ◆ **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

### Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

**Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

**Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (EpiVir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).**

### What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

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

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
  - ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
  - ◆ **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.
- Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- ◆ **Pregnancy Registry:** A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed.** Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

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

**Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.**



Have you heard about  
**TRUVADA** for PrEP™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

**Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.**

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## IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

### MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

**Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:**

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

**While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:**

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the "How to Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.**

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

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

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

### ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

**Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:**

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

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

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

### BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

**Tell your healthcare provider if you:**

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

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

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

### HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You **must** practice safer sex by using condoms and you **must** stay HIV-1 negative.

### HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

### GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) for program information.



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# Jim Toy Turns 87, Reflects on a Lifetime of Activism

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

His self-edited bio reads that he's originally from New York. It's a line that's partially true at best.

"I was born in New York in Manhattan and my mother died when I was born," explained longtime gay and civil rights activist Jim Toy. "So my dad moved us to Ohio to live with my grandparents."

He lived in Ohio until he graduated from Denison University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1951. Then he moved to France for two years before returning to his birthplace.

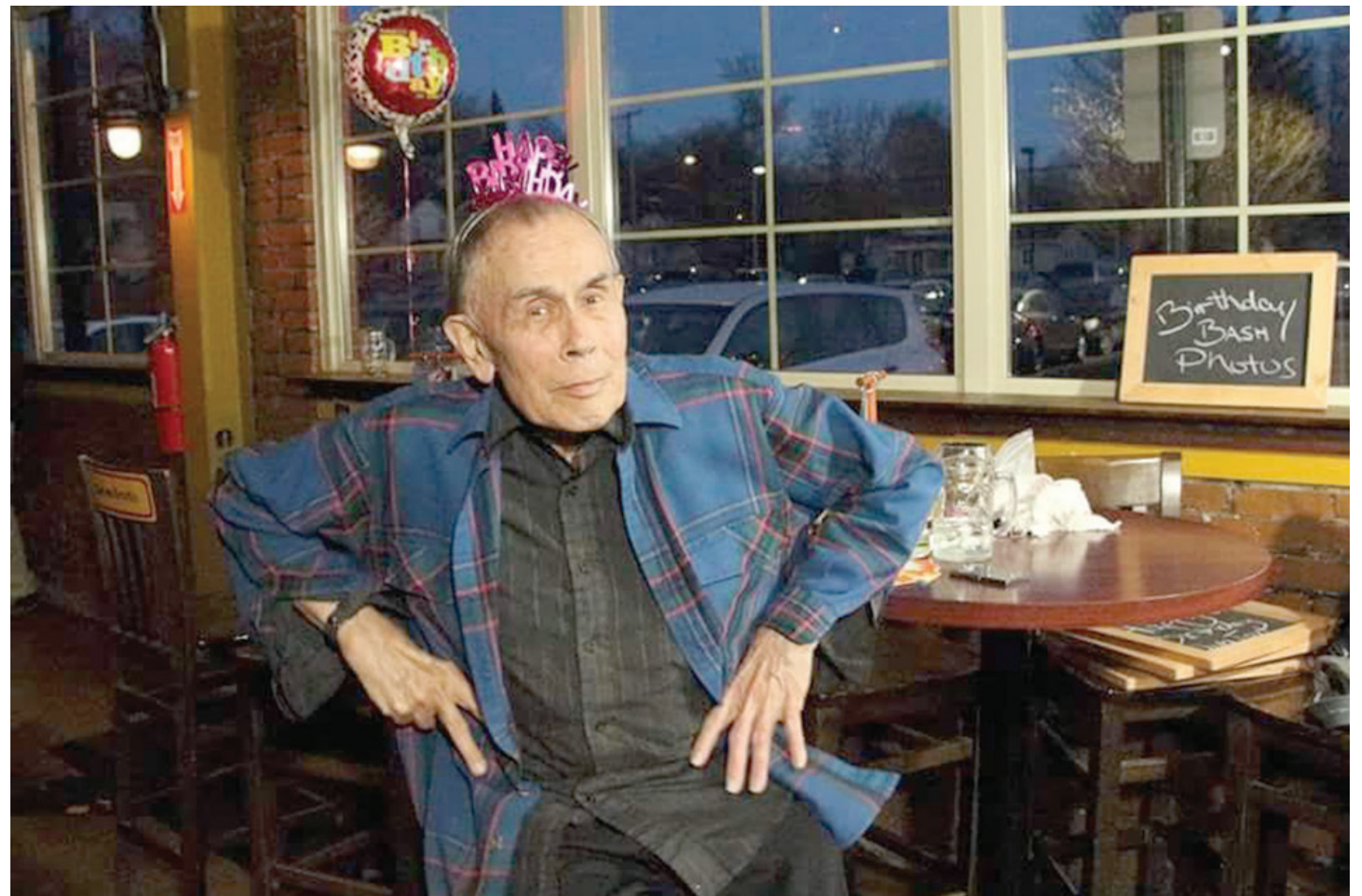
"I was a conscientious objector and I had refused to register for the draft," Toy recalled. "I had to do a two-year alternative service. So after France I moved back to Manhattan and worked as a clerk in a blood bank."

In 1957, he came to Detroit at the invitation of an Episcopal priest he had known. He was invited to become the minister of music at St. Joseph's. Shortly afterward he met a woman and was married.

"After a couple of years we decided I should go to graduate school," said Toy. "That would have been 1960. I rented a room in Ann Arbor and I would live there during the week and then I would go back to Detroit for the weekend."

Toy went on to earn a master's degree in clinical social work from the University of Michigan. He remained married until 1966.

"I was totally in the closet and my communication with my wife consequently was worse than zero," said Toy. "So Janet



understandably got totally frustrated and filed for divorce. In Michigan it used to be called a no-fault divorce and I had to pay \$1 in symbolic damages."

## Coming Out to the World

By this time, the war in Vietnam was raging. Toy had moved on from conscientious objector to protestor. And it was at an anti-war rally in Detroit that he surprised himself by coming out. He swears, though, that it was totally unplanned.

"I was speaking out against the Vietnam War and suddenly I said, 'My name is Jim Toy, I'm 40 years old and I'm a gay man.' What prompted me to do that I cannot say. I had not thought about it in advance. The Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News had reporters there and they wrote up the rally. They mentioned me and that I was gay so I was out of the closet publicly," said Toy.

The year was 1970. The uprising at the Stonewall Inn in New York – often referred to as the beginning of the modern gay rights movement – had taken place less than 12 months before.

Suddenly out, Toy wasted no time in getting to work on gay rights. He was a founding member of both the Detroit Gay Liberation Movement and the Ann Arbor Gay

Liberation Front. In 1971, he helped establish the Human Sexuality Office at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The HSO was the first staff office in a U.S. institution of higher learning, and presumably the first of its kind in the world, to respond to sexual-orientation concerns. Toy served as its co-coordinator and gay male advocate from 1971 until 1994.

Upon coming out, it was at the HSO where Keith Orr met Toy for the first time in the early 80s.

"I had access to invaluable programs and attended sessions with a bunch of other gay people, some of my best friends. I was not alone, especially back then when coming out was difficult for everybody...it can still be a challenge for a variety of reasons, some situations more than others...Jim created such an affirming atmosphere," said Orr, who co-owns the Aut Bar and Common Language Bookstore in Ann Arbor with his longtime partner Martin Contreras.

"Martin and I often refer to him – when we hear younger people who don't know who he is say, 'There's actually a person named Jim Toy' – that he is our own Harvey Milk," said Orr. He remembers a few marches down Woodward with only a couple hundred people at the time including Toy, who was known for "getting cheers going."

Still, Orr said, Toy is "encouraging to

everybody. I can't remember him ever telling somebody, 'Oh, that's a bad idea.' He's a swing his fist, way to go kind of guy. It's pretty amazing."

## 1971

In 1971, Toy was appointed a founding member of the Diocesan Commission on Homosexuality by Bishop Richard Emrich of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan. The following year he co-authored the first official Lesbian Gay Pride Week Proclamation for the Ann Arbor City Council.

1971 was a significant year for Toy. He also founded the Ann Arbor Gay Hotline and would go on to serve as its coordinator and trainer until 1985.

By the mid-80s, the gay rights movement was facing perhaps its greatest threat to date: the AIDS crisis. Toy was active from the start.

"When we first became aware of it three of us social workers got together at a local restaurant and said, 'What are we going to do about this?'" Toy remembered. "We were all members of the Gay Men's Health Crisis in Ann Arbor. So we organized an educational effort and we had become aware of what was then called Wellness Networks Detroit. We

See Jim Toy, page 15

## 6th Annual Jim Toy Birthday Bash

April 28 brings together the LGBTQ community, allies, political leaders and other community notable community members for a night of celebration to honor the Jim Toy Community Center's namesake. This event - hosted by Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, Equality Michigan, Paradigm Research and Engineering, Committee to Elect Evan Pratt, Ann Arbor City Council Member Jack Eaton, Ron and Barbara Kramer, and Jim Toy Community Center Board Member Leigh Greden - celebrates the legendary Jim Toy and his lifetime of advocacy and accomplishments on behalf of the LGBTQ community. The celebration begins at 6:30 p.m. at Bona Sera Restaurant, 200 W. Michigan Ave. in Ypsilanti. A suggested donation of \$10 is encouraged at the time of arrival. For more information about the event, visit [www.jimtoycenter.org/birthday-bash](http://www.jimtoycenter.org/birthday-bash).



## Low Down on the Down Low

# Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I've been out of the LGBT lovebird loop-the-loop for so long that it rarely occurs to me that dating can be hazardous to ones mental and physical well being. Can occasionally require subterfuge, quick costume change, 911 calls. Bedroom fisticuffs.

Even at my age there are lessons to be learned, and I learned a lot from "The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook: Dating and Sex" (Chronicle Books; \$14.95).

Had I had the benefit of this combat manual – written by psychological, behavioral, toxicological, forensic majordomos – in my tossed salad days, my dating life would have been a little more sparky, a lot more pushy, and certainly double-oh-seven!

Come to think of it, I'd recommend this "Worse-Case Scenario" to any ex-gay who – for whatever reason of Adam & Steve rib-kicking, spinal slumping, erogenous ineptitude – is in need of a macho blueprint for opposite-sex seduction and sacking. (A switch in time saves nine – or gets same, if you're lucky).

Yes, dating is no Sunday school picnic, according to the author warlords: "You'll find out how to survive dozens of physically and emotionally threatening situations in bars, restaurants, bedrooms, and airplane lavatories. And in the handy appendix, you'll find excuses you might need, a guide to pickup lines to avoid ["I have Comcast cable TV."], and body language interpretation chart for encouragement – or for extra protection."

Selections include: How to Determine If Your Date Is an Axe Murderer [Hint: He's probably a bed-wetter]; How to Determine Your Date's Gender ["Look for the Adam's Apple."]; How to Fake An Orgasm; How to Have Sex in a Small Space; How to Spot Breast Implants; How to Survive Snoring, and How to Survive if You Have Excessive Gas.

While it's impossible to post sentries at all trenches, the following may help our hormonally charged privates – straight, gay, bi, trans, and Ex – safely through the dating battlefield until the hoped for Left Behind Rapture rolls around. Let's start with the Big O: How to Fake Same.

"Moan and cry out, building in volume intensity. You may say your partner's name over and over. [Bruce! Bruce! Oh, Gawd. Bruce!] Many people, in the thralls of ecstasy, will blurt out sentences or requests that are utterly incomprehensible. [Is there an extra charge for my golden shower?] Arch your back, scrunch your facial muscles, open your mouth wide, and curl your toes." [This little pig went to market.]

Having airborne sex: "Be ready for turbulence. The safest position involves one partner sitting on the closed toilet seat. Then, in the event of bumpy air, neither partner will be too close to the ceiling, risking a concussion [and an unscheduled stop for hospital admission]."

Dumping a dinner date: "Chew with your mouth open, eat with your fingers, argue with the waiter, close your eyes and pretend to sleep, light matches and drop them on your plate, ignore everything said to you, and/or call someone else on your cell phone [like the fire department]."

Getting caught cheating: "Do not try to be nice or understanding – it will only make things more difficult for your soon-to-be-ex-partner. Be a jerk – it will make it easier for them to move on [and loath you]."

How to Survive Flatulent Overload: "As a last resort, head to the bathroom. Kneel on the floor, bend forward, and stretch your arms out in front of you. Keep your buttocks high in the air, forming a triangle with your upper body and the floor. Release gas."

Under no circumstance remove your pants. Panties. G-String. Trump/Pence diaphragm for Jesus. (Sometimes life's a gas. Ask any Republican.)



BY JEFF BERRY

## Positive Thoughts

# Growing Pains

The future of HIV remains hopeful

These are uncertain times we live in. When daily messages of hopelessness and despair fill your newsfeed, there may be a temptation to shut down and tune out, or to return to old, self-destructive behaviors in an effort to cope.

If you just tested positive, you might be thinking it's the last straw. But I need you need to know...you will be OK. You're going to be OK.

If you're a long-term survivor of HIV, you've come a long way, baby. Don't give up now. We've come too far to be defeated this easily.

Lately, I've been reading up on something called post-traumatic growth. Research shows that many people who face trauma, adversity, or other life challenges actually report positive benefits, becoming

stronger and having a more meaningful life in the wake of tragedy or a life-altering experience. We've seen this played out time and time again in HIV, where people turn their life around, and find meaning in their lives by helping others.

There are numerous instances of life after testing positive that are uplifting and inspiring. Take Magic Johnson, for example. He used his diagnosis to raise awareness about HIV, how it's transmitted (and more importantly how it's not transmitted), while providing hope to many of us living with HIV that we can still live a full, happy and healthy life. AIDS activist the Rev. Rae Lewis-Thornton is another inspirational figure, someone who has been living with AIDS since the

See next page

With recent reports that the overall rate of new infections are actually falling in the U.S., largely due to Treatment as Prevention (TasP, or undetectable equals uninfected) and the rising use of daily oral PrEP for those who are HIV-negative to remain negative, the future of HIV in this country looks hopeful.

### ► Berry: Growing Pains

Continued from p. 10

1980s, yet uses her remarkable journey and life story to help inform others, especially youth, about HIV and AIDS.

HIV stigma still remains a stubborn issue, unfortunately. It's important to understand the many layers of stigma, if we are ever truly going to put a dent in the alarming number of new infections taking place in many of our disadvantaged and disempowered communities.

So whether you just tested positive, or are a long-timer like me, I encourage you to try to take your adversity and mold it into a strength. Taking control of your life and making healthy choices, helping you to become informed about HIV treatment so that you can advocate for your own health, or the health of someone you care about, can be your first step toward a new, more meaningful life.

The HIV treatment landscape continues to evolve. For those who are newly or recently diagnosed, one pill once a day with few or no side effects is pretty much

a given these days. But it wasn't long ago that we had to take handfuls of pills several times a day, with horrible side effects like diarrhea, bone loss, kidney stones or, worse, lots of restrictions and qualifications on when and how to dose our meds.

When all is said and done, though, the future of HIV treatment looks bright, with more effective and more tolerable medications (no more "me-too" drugs); long-acting injectables being studied for

treatment and prevention; two-drug single-tablet regimens; and new co-formulations of existing medications, all on the near horizon. Drugs that attack HIV using different targets and new delivery methods could help those with resistance or who are struggling with adherence, but challenges remain. The availability of generics could alter the landscape even further, with new generic single-tablet regimens coming soon to a pharmacy near you, potentially reducing the costs of these expensive medications.

With recent reports that the overall rate of new infections are actually falling in the U.S., largely due to Treatment as Prevention (TasP, or undetectable equals uninfected) and the rising use of daily oral PrEP for those who are HIV-negative to remain negative, the future of HIV in this country looks hopeful. Efforts to increase awareness about the benefits of testing and treatment for HIV, with no stigma attached to being aware of your status—along with the movement to rescind laws in certain states that criminalize HIV transmission, coupled with advances in HIV cure research—will keep us on track to one day eliminate HIV once and for all.

*Jeff Berry is the editor in chief of Positively Aware magazine, and Director of Publications at Test Positive Aware Network in Chicago. Find him on Twitter @PAEditor. This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, The Body and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites – <http://hivplusmag.com>, <http://positivelyaware.com>, <http://poz.com> and <http://thebody.com> – for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.*

# Creep of the Week

## Randy Thomasson

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Remember when you got your driver's license and under "Gender" you had to choose Male, Female, or AIDS?

Of course you don't, because three gender options don't exist on a driver's license form. Yet.



But California might change that. A bill in the works since January would allow a third

non-binary gender option for official state documents.

According to the Los Angeles Times, "Lawmakers framed the measure as an expansion of rights for transgender, intersex and other people who do not identify as male or female."

And I know what you're thinking: "But AIDS isn't a gender. WTF?" Well, OF COURSE you think that because you've been brainwashed.

But Randy Thomasson knows what's up and he's crying foul.

Thomasson, the man behind Save California, a Christian website dedicated to alarmist anti-LGBTQ stories that claims to be "pro-family," had plenty to say about California's gender code when he was a guest on fellow right-wing screwball Gordon Klingenschmitt's "Pray In Jesus Name News" program.

"[This bill] would put in a third option on a driver's license, non-binary," says Thomasson. "And what that basically means is not male, not female, something else. But non-binary is a catch-all for any sexual anything."

Woah. Any sexual ANYTHING? That's, um, pretty broad. Care to clarify?

"University of California Berkley has on their own website a list of all the possible genders, and we're talking two, three dozens of these made up genders," Thomasson continues, "and they haven't even gotten into those who have relationships with, uh, computers or animals yet. It's just total anarchy."

Oh, okay. Thomasson clearly doesn't understand, and doesn't care to understand, the difference between gender identity and sexual orientation. Or the difference between a human being and a USB Flash drive, for that matter.

"I'm really broken in my heart about the confusion that it would be for children," Thomasson continues. "A 15 year old getting a learner's permit or a 16 year old

Thomasson clearly doesn't understand, and doesn't care to understand, the difference between gender identity and sexual orientation. Or the difference between a human being and a USB Flash drive, for that matter.

getting a driver's license, going into the DMV in California being asked, 'Well, do you put yourself down as male, female, or non-binary?' The basic question is telling children there's more than two genders and that we've got to forget about science and chromosomes."

Oh, NOW you care in science? How convenient. It also takes willful ignorance to think a 15 year old is going to discover non-binary identity for the first time at the DMV and declare that from now on preferred pronouns are "they/them."

Which leads us to the AIDS option.

"It's a very dangerous thing," Thomasson says, "because we have to remember even the Centers for Disease Control ... website declares that transexuality/cross-dressing is the highest transmitter of HIV/AIDS in our land, and it's even more dangerous than homosexuality."

Klingenschmitt jumps in to clarify that it's "not the clothes that you wear that are transmitting this disease, it's the behavior where you're swapping blood and other bodily fluids with people who have AIDS."

"Right," says Thomasson.

But is it right? Does the CDC really warn that "cross-dressers" have higher AIDS rates? No. But the CDC website does have info about increased risk for transgender men and women, which is not the same as cross-dressers. They present a complex series of obstacles trans people face that may lead to increased risk including "stigma, discrimination, social rejection, and exclusion" and "insensitivity to transgender issues by health care providers." It's not because they just can't help but swap bodily fluids because they're especially deviant or predatory.

But that doesn't fit the right-wing Christian narrative that AIDS is punishment for sin and that trans people are nothing but beacons of sexual depravity. In other words, trans people aren't human at all. Quite convenient when your aim is to deny them basic human rights.

## Michigan Non Profit Resource

### Have You Experienced Discrimination?

If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, intimidation, harassment or violence because of sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity,

contact Equality Michigan's Department of Victim Services at:

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

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

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

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

# 'Diverse' Co-chairs Named for LGBT March on Washington

BY LOU CHIBBARO JR., WASHINGTON BLADE

Organizers of a planned LGBT march on Washington scheduled for June 11, which has been named The Equality March for Unity and Pride, released on April 19 the names of 12 of 13 co-chairs of the event but provided few additional details such as how it will be financed or the route of the march.

"The Equality March for Unity and Pride is less than two months away and we are thrilled to host this historic march in our nation's capital," a statement released by organizers says.

"Permits are being worked on, sponsors are being engaged, the website is forthcoming, and just this week we selected 12 of 13 National Co-Chairs!" the statement says. "This national group of diverse leaders in the LGBTQIA+ liberation movements will help shape the mission and vision of the march by elevating voices of those most underserved," it says.

The statement adds that the diversity represented by the co-chairs would ensure "that in these trying times our communities can come together, march in solidarity, and demand equity, representation, protection of our most vulnerable, and safeguarding the many triumphs our communities have gained in the previous years while working towards championing many more."

Among those named as co-chairs are Anika Simpson, Ph.D, founding coordinator of the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Morgan State University, one of the nation's historic black colleges; Ashley Smith, an official with the Capital Pride Alliance and a Human Rights Campaign Foundation board member; Catalina Velasquez, a widely recognized LGBT immigrant rights advocate and Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships and Communications for D.C.'s Casa Ruby community services center; and Jose L. Plaza, president of the D.C.-based Latino GLBT History Project.

Also named as one of the co-chairs is David Bruinooge, the New York City LGBT rights advocate who initiated the June 11 march through a Facebook posting in January that quickly drew thousands of messages of support for the idea of an LGBT march on the nation's capital similar to the women's march held the day following President Trump's Inauguration.

The announcement of the names of the co-chairs and assurances that more details of the march would be disclosed soon came at a time when messages have surfaced on social media expressing concern that so few details of the event had been disclosed less than two



Jose Plaza of the Latino GLBT History Project is among the list of co-chairs for the Equality March. Washington Blade photo by Michael Key.

months before the march was to take place.

Some Facebook postings have asked whether the march would actually happen and whether people who have made airline reservations to come to Washington should cancel them. Others expressed concern that as of this week no money had been raised to help pay for an event of this scale.

"There's still plenty of time," said D.C. gay activist Peter Rosenstein, who has been serving as a volunteer on a march planning committee prior to the selection of the co-chairs. "It's all being worked out. The permits are in the works and the route will be decided on in a few weeks," he said.

An application for a permit for the march submitted on March 10 to the National Park Service of the National Capital Region by Bruinooge, which the Park Service released to the Washington Blade, calls for two possible routes for the march.

One calls for participants to assemble on the National Mall between 3rd and 7th Streets, N.W. and for participants to disperse at that same location but doesn't say whether or where the march would travel.

The second proposed route states, "Dupont Circle/assembly at 17th St. (March across Pennsylvania Avenue in front of White House. Disperse on 15th St., NW)."

Bruinooge told the Blade the march route is still under discussion among organizers and that he would be consulting with National Park Service officials and D.C. police to determine which areas of the National Mall and other locations will be available and best suited for the planned march.

The march is set to take place on the same day as D.C.'s annual Capital Pride Festival,

which takes place on Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. between 3rd St., near the U.S. Capitol, and 7th St. The June 11 march would also take place one day after D.C.'s annual Capital Pride Parade, which usually travels from the Dupont Circle area past the 17th Street, N.W. commercial area to 14th and R St., N.W.

Ryan Bos, executive director of the Capital Pride Alliance, which organizes the Capital Pride events, said the group is cooperating with organizers of the Equality March for Unity and Pride but would not serve as the fiscal agent for the march.

Bos said no one associated with the march has approached Capital Pride Alliance about using the large stage near the Capitol that Capital Pride sets up each year to be used for political speeches associated with the march. March organizers, meanwhile, have not disclosed whether they plan to set up their own stage and sound system for speeches associated with the march.

"We have been discussing how to best represent and acknowledge these unique times and the desire for members of our community to voice their feelings," Bos told the Blade in an email message. "We want to assist in getting individuals connected to organizations and activities that would allow them to take action," he said. "In addition, we are discussing how best to represent this narrative on the Concert Stage as well."

In recent years, Capital Pride has shunned political speeches at the annual festival and has used two separate stages largely for musical entertainment, including performances by nationally known singers.

In the statement released on Wednesday, march organizers point out that the Washington march will be accompanied by numerous "solidarity" marches and events throughout the country and internationally.

"Together we will continue to propel beyond a march but a movement for years to come, resisting and fighting for our communities' rights, dignity and safety," the statement says. "So please join us in D.C. or at solidarity events around the world. We welcome all!"

"And stay tuned for more information and details in the days/weeks ahead," it continues. "We thank all of our supporters for their patience as we put this movement together and look forward to another historic event in Washington, D.C."

The June 11 march would become the sixth national march on Washington for LGBT equality since the first national "gay" march was held in 1979. Subsequent LGBT marches on Washington took place in 1987, 1993, 2000, and 2009.

Following is the list of national march co-chairs as released in the April 19 statement:

1. Anika Simpson, Ph.D., Founder, Beyond Policy LLC | Founding Coordinator, Women's and Gender Studies Program at Morgan State University | Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy | Co-Chair, MSU's Presidential LGBTQA Advisory Council | Co-Chair, National Black Justice Coalition's HBCU LGBTQA-Equality Initiative Advisory Council | Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

2. Ashley Smith, The Capital Pride Alliance | Human Rights Campaign Foundation, Board Member | Pronouns: He, Him, His

3. Catalina Velasquez, Consult Catalina President | Casa Ruby Senior Director of Strategic Partnerships and Communications | Washington DC Mayor's Office of Latino Affairs Commissioner | Our Revolution Board Vice Chair | GetEqual Board Co-Chair | Megaphone Strategies Board Member | Inclusv Board Member | Trans United Fund Board Member | United We DREAM's Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project (QUIP) Advisory Council | Pronouns: She, Her, Hers, Trans Goddess.

4. David Bruinooge, Founder: The Equality March for Unity & Pride | Pronouns: He, Him, His

5. Elle Hearn, Executive Director of The Marsha P Johnson Institute | Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

6. Jose L. Plaza, President, Latino GLBT History Project | Chair, DC Latino Pride | Executive Board Member, DC New Leaders Council | Pronouns: He, Him, His

7. Lydia X. Z. Brown, Chairperson of the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council | At-large board member of the Autism Women's Network | Pronouns: They, Them, Theirs

8. Lynnette McFadzen, President, BiNet USA | Producer, The BiCast | Core Organizer | The Bi Brigade | Pronouns: They/Them She/Hers

9. Nicole Murray Ramirez, International Court System, U.S.A., Canada and Mexico | Harvey Milk Foundation | Pronouns: He, Him, His

10. Sean Coleman, Executive Director, Destination Tomorrow | Board Member, Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund (TLDEF) | Pronouns: He, Him, His

11. Sue Doster, Co-President, InterPride | CTO, amfAR | Strategic Planning Director, NYC Pride | Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

12. Thomas Tonatiuh Lopez The International Indigenous Youth Council | Standing Rock Activist | Two-Spirit & Indigenous Activist | Pronouns: He, Him, His

# Clinton Blasts Trump for Actions Against LGBT Rights

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

Hillary Clinton lambasted President Trump on April 20 evening for actions his administration has taken against LGBT rights as the 100-day mark of his time in office approaches, saying gains made by the LGBT community “may not be as a secure as we once expected.”

Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee who has recently emerged from shadows after her loss, made the remarks at The Center for the LGBT community in New York City, which honored her with “The Trailblazer Award” for her work to advance LGBT rights.

During her remarks, Clinton said the LGBT community may have to face the fact that Trump may never lead on LGBT issues given the actions seen this far from his administration.

“We’ve learned something important, that the progress that we fought for, that many of you were on the front lines of, and that we’ve celebrated, and maybe even taken for granted may not be as a secure as we once expected,” Clinton said.

Clinton criticized Trump for his rollback of guidance ensuring protections in schools for transgender students, saying her “heart broke” when she learned of it. She also assailed Trump’s proposed rollback of HIV and AIDS research funds in his budget.

“Some of the changes that we’re seeing may seem small, but they matter a great deal if you’re the person affected,” Clinton said. “For example, whether or not you’re counted in the Census. Others carry historic significance, like the future of the Supreme Court.”

With LGBT groups opposing the confirmation of Trump’s nominee Mark Green as Army secretary based on his anti-trans views, Clinton criticized him for being an “outspoken opponent” of LGBT rights.

Amid reports of gay “concentration camps in the Russian semi-autonomous Republic of Chechnya,” Clinton called on the Trump administration to seek more forcefully an end to the alleged human rights abuses.

“And it is not just here in our country that we’re seeing clouds gathering on the horizon,” Clinton said. “In recent weeks, we’ve heard terrifying accounts from Chechnya of gay and bisexual men being taken from their homes and families, tortured and even killed. And when government authorities were confronted with these reports, their response was chilling: They said you cannot arrest and repress people who do not exist. The United States government,



Hillary Clinton denounced President Trump for actions against LGBT rights. Screenshot via CNN.

“We’ve learned something important, that the progress that we fought for, that many of you were on the front lines of, and that we’ve celebrated, and maybe even taken for granted may not be as a secure as we once expected.”

- Hillary Clinton

yes, this government, should demand an end to persecution of innocent people across the world.”

With audience members applauding her criticism of Trump, Clinton urged them to remember their anger during the mid-term elections in 2018.

“I know the election hit a lot of us hard,” Clinton said with a wry smile. “But I can tell you this: Even when it feels tempting to pull the covers over your heads, please keep going. When you feel a little down, a good friend or a loved one says, ‘Quit yelling at the television set,’ just remember, we need to resist, insist, persist and enlist, and make sure our voices and our votes count.”

As secretary of state, Clinton took the lead on making international LGBT rights part of U.S. foreign policy, declaring in a 2011 speech in Geneva “gay rights are human rights.” Clinton has faced criticism for not declaring support for same-sex marriage until 2013, months after she left the Obama administration.

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

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## NYC Activists Protest Gay Arrests in Chechnya

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS, WASHINGTON BLADE

Roughly 60 LGBT rights activists gathered outside the Russian consulate in New York on April 22 to protest the arrest of more than 100 gay men in Chechnya.

RUSA LGBT, a group of LGBT Russian speakers and their supporters, organized the protest that included a memorial. Members of ACT UP New York, Human Rights First, Rise and Resist, the Caribbean Equality Project and Congregation Beit Simchat Torah also took part.

“We are here to support our compatriots, our Russian-speaking LGBT community in Chechnya,” said Lyosha Gorshkov of RUSA LGBT in a press release. “Also we are here to demand human rights for everybody.”

Milk from “RuPaul’s Drag Race” also participated in the protest.

“We can’t just care about what’s happening in our own country, in our own LGBT community,” said Milk in a video that ACT UP New York uploaded to YouTube. “We have to care about the world so this type of brutality doesn’t happen to everybody.”

Novaya Gazeta, an independent Russian newspaper, earlier this month reported Chechen authorities have arrested more than 100 gay men in the semi-autonomous Russian republic in the North Caucasus. The Washington Blade has confirmed additional reports that indicate these men have been sent to secret prisons.

Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov and the Kremlin have repeatedly sought to dismiss the arrests and Novaya Gazeta’s reporting on them.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley and the State Department have both urged the Russian government to investigate the arrests. President Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson have not spoken publicly about them or the secret prisons.

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



The city of Grozny in the Russian republic of Chechnya. Authorities have sent gay men in the semi-autonomous Russian republic to secret prisons that have been described as “concentration camps.” Photo by Alexxx1979; courtesy Wikimedia Commons



“At every turn, we are being ignored, erased and marginalized. On top of this, the Trump Administration continues to fill its ranks with the most virulent anti-LGBT people this country has ever known. It is going to be a very long four years.”

- Sharon McGowan, Director of Strategy, Lambda Legal’s Washington D.C. office

## Trump’s First 100 Days

BY LISA KEEN

The idea of reflecting upon a president’s “first 100 days in office” started with President Franklin Roosevelt. According to The Washington Post, Roosevelt touted his own accomplishments in trying to pull the country out of the economic Great Depression.

Today’s Great Depression is more of a political one. It erupted out of a presidential election that was won by a candidate who had neither the majority of votes from the general electorate or the full support of his adopted political party. And his legitimate victory through the Electoral College is still shrouded by the widely accepted belief that his campaign was aided and abetted by the nation’s long-standing nemesis, Russia.

Nonetheless, April 30 marks President Trump’s 100th day in office. Perhaps in anticipation that the intense media scrutiny at this first mile-marker won’t flatter him, President Trump posted a Twitter message April 21, saying it’s a “ridiculous standard” by which to judge him. And given that 100 days represents less than six percent of his elected 1,461-day term of office, he may be entitled to some sympathy.

But it does seem reasonable to compare what Trump has done concerning LGBT people to what his predecessors did in any period of time, whether it be their first 100 days or their last year.

Like his Republican predecessors, Trump came into the White House showing at least some semblance of personal respect for gays and lesbians. Ronald Reagan had put his name on an op-ed piece opposing an anti-gay initiative in California that would have barred gay teachers. George W. Bush held a meeting with gays, said it made him a “better person,” and welcomed their support in his campaign. And Trump, on

several occasions during his campaign, urged the nation to “stand together in solidarity with” the LGBT community.

But like Reagan, Trump’s public comments in support of LGBT people have virtually disappeared since entering the White House. (The one exception was suggesting that his proposed ban on immigrants from some Muslim countries was, in part, to protect LGBT Americans -a suggestion that LGBT Americans did not embrace.)

Like George W. Bush, Trump chose a U.S. Attorney General who is hostile to the rights of LGBT people. And like Reagan and George W. Bush, Trump’s choices for U.S. Supreme Court and other high positions have completely altered the political landscape nationally. Where once that landscape was vibrant with the reality and potential for LGBT civil rights gains, it is now more like an inhospitable faraway moon.

Trump’s newly installed Supreme Court Justice, Neil Gorsuch, has voiced reasoning that appears ready to map a path for overturning landmark LGBT Supreme Court victories for same-sex marriage and against hate-based laws.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has withdrawn the federal government’s efforts to defeat an anti-LGBT law in North Carolina and retracted the Obama administration’s advice urging protection of transgender students under Title IX.

The Department of Health and Human Services has removed from at least two federal health surveys questions that would identify data specific to LGBT people.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development has canceled a survey to understand the prevalence of homelessness among LGBT people.

The Census Bureau has removed from a report appendix on the upcoming 2020 Census any mention that it has been

in discussion about the possibility of someday asking a question to determine how many LGBT people there are in the United States.

And in March, President Trump himself revoked an executive order issued by President Obama that had required federal contractors to demonstrate they were in compliance with 14 federal laws, some of which prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

“Make no mistake about it: The Trump Administration is systematically dismantling the progress that we made over the last eight years,” said Sharon McGowan, Director of Strategy in Lambda Legal’s Washington D.C. office. “Some of these actions have been more direct and obvious, such as the withdrawal of Department of Education’s guidance regarding transgender students. But there have been a series of other actions that may not have made as big of a splash, but which, taken as a whole, will cause lasting harm to our community. At every turn, we are being ignored, erased and marginalized. On top of this, the Trump Administration continues to fill its ranks with the most virulent anti-LGBT people this country has ever known. It is going to be a very long four years.”

### A Glass Half-full or Just Empty?

Even Log Cabin Republicans President Gregory Angelo assesses Trump’s record thus far on LGBT matters as “mixed.”

“Trump’s first 100 days in office have been something of a mixed bag in regard to LGBT issues,” said Angelo, “but that was to be expected considering his concurrent outreach to evangelicals and the LGBT voters during his campaign.”

See Jim Toy, page 16

## ► Jim Toy

Continued from p. 9

said we better have something like that in Ann Arbor so we organized. We called ourselves Wellness Networks Washtenaw.

Then Patrick Yankee, according to Toy, who was a leader within the group, said “let’s get real and call ourselves who we are” about what became the HIV/AIDS Resource Center.

“Some of us were apprehensive that people would not write checks to an organization that mentioned AIDS,” Toy continued.

“I understood the hesitation,” said Yankee, the chief development officer at the Corktown

Ypsilanti Human Rights PAC, Ypsilanti Rainbow Neighbors and the Out Loud Chorus.

In the early 90s, Toy co-founded the Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project, the premier resource center in the Washtenaw County area that exists to provide information, education, social events, and advocacy by and for the LGBT and allied community. And in 2010, WRAP was renamed The Jim Toy Community Center in his honor.

“That came up for a vote and I opposed the motion,” said Toy. “I said if we’re going to name our center after somebody let it be named, for example, for Harvey Milk or Audre Lorde. Don’t name it after me. But I was outvoted. It was a humbling experience.”

Sandi Smith, associate broker and president of Trillium Real Estate in Ann Arbor, served on the WRAP board with Toy, 15 years after they met while Smith was a student at the UM.

“He was the co-founder of the Lesbian and Gay Program office, and I was curious,” she said. “Jim has always quietly and persistently challenged the artificial boundaries of language and gender.”

Today, Toy remains as active as ever. His archives are housed in the James Toy Collection at the U of M’s Bentley Historical Library. The HSO that Toy helped found, now named the Spectrum Center, named its library in Toy’s honor. The Jim Toy Library currently hosts a collection of over 1500 titles and supports LGBT student development.

So how does Toy do it? How does he maintain his enthusiasm and continue to work so hard?

“My secret is I’m stubborn,” he said. “If things were changeable I’d have softened my tone over the decades. I used to run my mouth in an acerbic way. Through the years I’ve realized you get more with honey than vinegar. If things

were changeable I would have spoken more benignly than I did way back when. But we are who we are. I’m glad I learned over the years to tone it down.”

And when Toy does slow down and retire, how would he like to be remembered?

“As worker for justice,” said Toy. “As a worker for the human and civil rights for all who did what he could with the support of hundreds of thousands of others.

“I am so grateful to everybody who has helped in this struggle,” said Toy, who was invited to speak at the UM’s annual Lavender Graduation ceremony this week to honor LGBTQ and ally students and to acknowledge their achievements and contributions to the university.

“In my speech I’ll say, ‘We’re climbing the mountain of justice hand in hand’ and we’re going to keep on doing that.”



Jim Toy on June 26, 2015 in Braun Court, as people gathered to celebrate marriage equality becoming the law of the land. BTL photo: Susan Horowitz

Health Center in Detroit.

“Yet I believed our name had to be an honest reflection of our mission. In my view, the original name was fine to begin with, but it seemed to emphasize this sense of secrecy so common at that time. If we did not come out about HIV, who was going to?”

Yankee notes that Toy was involved in every important decision about community-based HIV care and treatment back then.

“I can’t imagine that time without the benefit of Jim’s great knowledge, boundless compassion, and dedication,” he said.

Toy is a founding member of the Washtenaw County LGBT Retirement Center Task Force, PFLAG/Ann Arbor, GLSEN/Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti Area, Transgender Advocacy Project, American Friends Service Committee Inclusive Justice Program, Washtenaw Faith Action Network,

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## ► Trump's First 100 Days

Continued from p. 14

Angelo says there has been too much attention paid to “non-troversies” during these first 100 days. For instance, Angelo said the claim by some LGBT activists that the Census Bureau edit was an attempt to “erase” gays from the Census amounted to “fake news.” To him, these reports “were nothing more than fundraising ploys to rile up dejected LGBT liberals still reeling from Hillary Clinton’s loss.”

And former Log Cabin national President Rich Tafel said the community and media have overlooked some positive LGBT developments in the Trump administration. Example? Trump’s notoriously anti-gay Vice President, Mike Pence, told ABC News February 5 that, with Trump, “there’s no room for prejudice.”

“I think throughout the campaign, President Trump made it clear that discrimination would have no place in our administration,” said Pence. “He was the very first Republican nominee to mention the LGBTQ community at our Republican National Convention and was applauded for it. And I was there applauding with him.”

Tafel said these “gay supportive comments by Vice President Mike Pence were historic and pretty amazing.”

“I realize it doesn’t fit the narrative, but it marked a remarkable milestone for the gay community,” said Tafel.

Pence was responding to a question about how unhappy evangelical supporters were with President Trump’s announcement January 31 that he would not revoke an executive order by President Obama that prohibited discrimination by federal contractors against LGBT employees. Many LGBT activists were uneasy with that announcement, too. They expressed concern that Trump’s reassuring “words” weren’t matching up with his troubling “actions” of nominating people who are hostile to LGBT people to key federal positions in health care, civil rights, and education. And most continued to fear President Trump would act on his campaign promise that religious liberty will be “cherished, protected, defended, like you have never seen before.”

Two months later, Trump signed another executive order that said federal contractors were no longer required to demonstrate that they comply with 14 federal laws, several of which prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender stereotyping, or gender identity.

Trump did not revoke Obama’s executive order; he gutted it.

## Count the Things He Hasn’t Done?

There are other ways to assess President Trump’s first 100 days with regards to LGBT concerns.

One could look at the list of actions anti-gay organizations had hoped Trump would take as president but hasn’t, at least not yet.

The Family Research Council had a list of 20 things it wanted Trump to accomplish in his first 100 days. He’s done three: withdrawing the Obama advice letter concerning transgender students and Title IX, taking down a Department of Education webpage that included a list of schools seeking waivers to Title IX, and issuing an executive order making it easier for federal contractors to discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Here are the FRC agenda items Trump did not act on in his first 100 days:

- \* that the Trump administration begin enforcing a law that would enable federally funded entities to deny services to others based on religious beliefs and “conscience;”

- \* that he rescind a regulation that requires federally funded health institutions not discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity;

- \* that he rescind regulations at all agencies which interpret non-discrimination policies based on sex to include sexual orientation and gender identity;”

- \* that he undo military regulations drafted in preparation for allowing transgender persons to serve openly; and

- \* that he “pressure the [military] service chiefs” to issue “messages” reaffirming the robust religious freedom and free speech rights of chaplains.

The fact that some of these agenda items have not materialized “is a good thing,” said Tafel.

Trump has also taken some actions that right-wing religious conservatives don’t like. He has retained a State Department Senior Foreign Service Officer (Randy Berry) to serve as the department’s Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Persons. He nominated an openly lesbian Air Force colonel (Kristin Goodwin) to be among 36 officers promoted to rank of brigadier general. And Trump appointee Nikki Haley, as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, spoke out in April against reports of abuse and murder of gay men in the Russian Republic of Chechnya.

Haley issued a statement April 17, saying that the reports “cannot be ignored” and that “Chechen authorities must immediately investigate these allegations, hold anyone involved accountable, and take steps to prevent future abuses.”

“We are against all forms of discrimination, including against people based on sexual orientation,” she added.

## The Start is Only the Beginning

History will judge President Trump’s LGBT-related actions based on another measure: How he stacks up to his Democratic predecessors.

In his first 100 days in office, President Jimmy Carter’s staff held a meeting with LGBT national leaders in the White House to discuss their needs and concerns. Some downplay the significance of the meeting because it’s not entirely clear how much President Carter supported the meeting, but he didn’t stop it and it was an historic first for any presidential administration.

President Clinton, who eventually ushered in some gains for LGBT people during his two terms, notoriously caved in during those first days of his first term. He relinquished on a campaign promise to end the military’s policy of banning gays. He said he believed that gays should be allowed to serve but said he would work with leaders in Congress to come up with a policy. Congress then proceeded to codify a ban, though its name, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” implied gays could serve as long as no one found out they were gay.

Even President Obama, the most pro-LGBT president in U.S. history, had a rough start on LGBT issues. There was considerable grousing within the community about his performance on LGBT matters during his first year in office. According to many, he didn’t move fast enough to take actions that would end long-standing discrimination against LGBT citizens.

But despite that early worry, President Obama was able to boast that he was “the first President to appoint candidates to Senate-confirmed positions in the first 100 days of an Administration.” In March 2009, he nominated John Berry to head the Office of Personnel Management. And in April 2009, he nominated Fred Hochberg to serve as president of the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

President Obama’s administration signed onto a United Nations statement calling for the decriminalization of homosexuality in his first 100 days.

And all three Democratic predecessors had openly gay people advising the administration on LGBT-related matters.

“If there are LGBTQ people providing guidance [to the Trump administration], there is little evidence of positive results so far,” said David Stacy, government affairs director for the Human Rights Campaign.

“Unfortunately, President Trump has not surprised us at all,” said Stacy. “We never believed his disingenuous, self-serving claims of being on the side of the LGBTQ community. For an administration that can’t get its act together on the most important challenges



45th Presidential Inauguration, Donald Trump: Reference to Harvey Milk and Respect Our Existence Or Expect Our Resistance on protestors signs near the security checkpoint, Washington, DC January 21, 2017.

facing our country, they’ve managed to steadily roll back LGBTQ protections. From appointing an anti-LGBTQ cabinet (with the most anti-LGBTQ Secretaries at the agencies most critical to protecting LGBTQ people) to withdrawing the guidance protecting transgender students, from cutting research into the needs of LGBTQ people to proposing huge health care cuts that would severely impact people living with HIV, this Administration has made clear that LGBTQ protections are on the chopping block.”

Jimmy LaSalvia, a cofounder of the now defunct GOProud group of LGBT Republicans, said he doesn’t believe President Trump is “driven to implement anti-LGBT policy,” even if “many in his administration and political coalition are.” And LaSalvia said he expected “any anti-LGBT actions by this president would be done as a political payback for support” from the “anti-LGBT segment of his coalition.”

“So far, they haven’t been able to accomplish anything that would require a big payback!” said LaSalvia. “It’s only been 100 days. We have a long time before we can really assess this administration.”



# Michigan Opera Theatre Pays Tribute to David DiChiera

## Opera Industry Leader Has Fallen Ill, Plans to Retire

It is with heavy hearts that the Michigan Opera Theatre shared the news that their beloved founder and artistic director David DiChiera has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. The theater website reads: "David is and has been a driving force in the opera community and the city of Detroit, pushing the art form forward and using it to add culture to the city. David continues to be vitally engaged with our company and we look forward to celebrating his legacy with our season-ending production of David's opera 'Cyrano' and the Grand Salute, a long-planned and uplifting celebration of David's life work."

The theater shares a personal letter from DiChiera with the community.

*Dear Friends,*

*Over the past two years I've been planning for my formal departure from*

*the opera company and the opera house that I've built along with the love and help of so many of you and your fellow opera and dance devotees. For me it has been a true labor of love, one in which I've been given back so much more than I've given. Saying "so long" is bittersweet to say the least, but the time is right for me to move on.*

*In recent months I've had the pleasure and excitement of watching as plans take shape for the incredible Gala weekend being planned in my honor in May. The weekend will be a wonderful capstone to my career as well as a fitting kickoff for the exciting future of Michigan Opera Theatre. I hope you will be able to share it with me.*

*Life, of course, is never predictable. As someone once said, we don't lead our own lives; they lead us. And often they surprise us, as mine has recently done.*

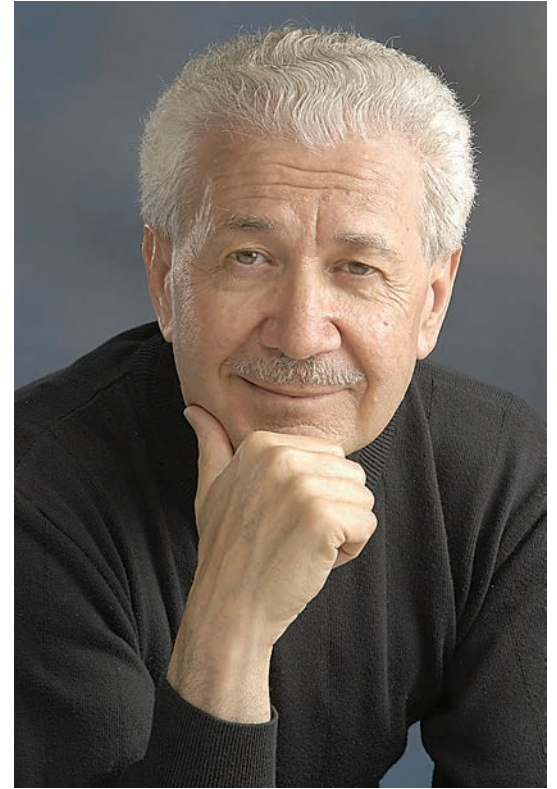
*I have been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. But I fully intend to be at the May celebration. I don't want that Gala to be turned into a memorial. I want to be*

*there, to see all my friends and family, to personally thank you for your love and support, and to truly celebrate the future of Michigan Opera Theatre and the City of Detroit with you. The opera house and the opera company will stand for many years as my legacy to Detroit and to opera and, with the exception of my family, they will always be my proudest achievement.*

*At 82 years I have lived an unbelievably rich and rewarding life and when the time comes I'll leave it with few regrets. Your friendship is among my greatest treasures. You will always be in my heart and I hope some part of me will always be in yours. I look forward to seeing you at the Gala and to sharing a great evening together.*

*Sincerely,  
David DiChiera*

For more about DiChiera, his legacy and the Grand Salute on May 19, visit the Michigan Opera Theatre website [www.michiganopera.org/leadership/david-dichiera](http://www.michiganopera.org/leadership/david-dichiera).



Michigan Opera Theatre founder and artistic director David DiChiera.

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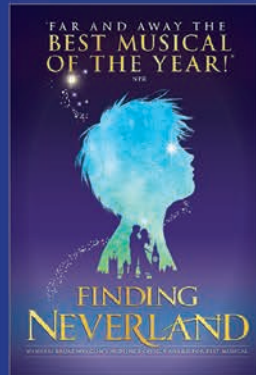
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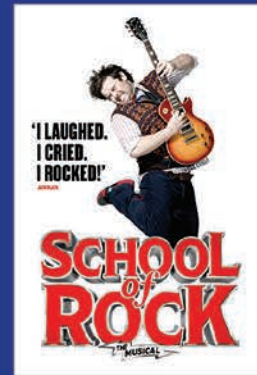
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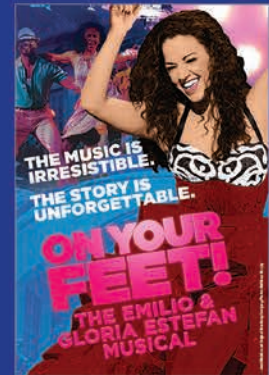
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# Osbourne Rebel on Being Open to Dating Women, Celebs Who Fake Gay and Mom Sharon Sneaking Her Into a Drag Bar

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Hollywood spitfire and staunch LGBT ally Kelly Osbourne is feeling tense about her first book, “There Is No F\*cking Secret: Letters from a Badass Bitch.” After all, “What if I change my opinion by the time it comes out?!” she says, laughing because it’s true.

Then there’s our revealing interview, where the opinionated 32-year-old actress, singer and now author – and daughter of Ozzy and Sharon – let her candid thoughts loose on topics ranging from her sexuality (“everybody’s gay”) to her openness about dating women and her issues with celebrities who feign lesbianism for publicity. And that recent controversy over her statement regarding President Donald Trump? She admits it really got to her. Turns out, even badasses cry sometimes.

**Kelly, your book, which covers your personal journey to self-acceptance, could have a positive influence on so many young people trying to find themselves.**

Oh, thank you so much! It’s the most vulnerable thing I’ve done in a while, I can’t lie. I’m kind of like, oh my god, I’ve actually done this, because for the first time in my life I wanted to take my power back, and instead of people telling me who I am, I wanted to tell them.



**KELLY  
CHAMELEON**

Photo: Darren Tieste

### Who are some of your favorite badass bitches?

I mean, Elton goes without sayin'. Just people who've made a difference in my life, like Liza Minnelli. I think Lil' Kim. It's anyone who just learned to be themselves and take responsibility for who they are.

### When were you first aware you had an LGBT following?

I don't remember a time in my life when I haven't been submerged in the LGBT community. It's the only community that, even though I shouldn't have belonged (laughs), accepted me. It was the only world I ever really felt comfortable in, because, and I say it in my book, I don't know what it feels like to fit in.

### What do you attribute that bond to?

I think my relationship, especially with the drag community and the drag world, became so prevalent at such a young age because of Boy George, of course, and Blitz Kids and that huge movement in the U.K. I think drag queens choose how they want you to see them and they do that knowing that they're probably going to get a lot of shit for it, and that's what magic is. That's like, "Fuck you, this is who I am," and you can wake up every day and be whoever you want to be. I love that.

### When did drag first come into your life?

It's never *not* been in my life. I mean, my mom was calling up (a drag club) in San Francisco; I was, like, 11 or 12 and being snuck into a drag bar. It was amazing. And there was a time I went to go see Cyndi Lauper on tour when she was playing in the U.K., and she used to have, like, 20 drag queens on tour with her. I was probably about 9 or 10.

You have to understand, my favorite childhood pastime was putting my mom's lacy underwear and bustier on over my clothes – because I wasn't allowed to wear them any other way – and going to see "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." "Rocky Horror Picture Show" is still, to this day, one of my favorite movies of all time. I loved the makeup. If you look really closely at the "Time Warp," you'll see where I get all my hair colors from. But yeah, everyone else was watching "Annie," and I was watching "Rocky Horror Picture Show" and singing about sweet transvestites. (Laughs)

### How much of your gay submergence do you credit to your mother?

It's equally my mom *and* my dad. In rock 'n' roll, you were the outcasts back then and outcasts tend to find each other, especially in London.

### How about Boy George – what was his influence

### on you?

I remember staring at my TV, thinking, "Is it a beautiful woman or a beautiful man? It doesn't matter." He was the first person to break down barriers. He single-handedly changed people's perspective so much. And he's such a smart man! If you ever sit down and have a conversation with him about his political views and his opinion of the gay community, he says things that are so spot on and so important because he's lived long enough through good times and bad times to see what things really are. I love talking to him. And he has the most beautiful eyes you've ever looked into!

### You recently wore a hat emblazoned with the words "I Am Gay." Were you being literal?

You know my honest opinion? Everybody's gay. It is a strictly human thing. You can't put a gender on love.

### But I know a guy – several of them, in fact – who insists he's only into women.

Except he's letting a guy suck his dick! If you ain't tried it, you don't get to tell me what you are.

### Are you open to loving a woman?

I'm open to loving anybody. It's about the person. I don't think it's about sexuality at all.

### Your mother came out as bisexual last year.

### What have you learned about yourself from her regarding sexuality?

I told her, "Would you be the butch one? Come on, tell me, which one would you be?" Because whether it's man and man, woman and woman, there's always a masculine and feminine role. So I'm always like, "Mom, which one would you be?" And she's like, "Oh, shut up, Kelly!"

But it's not like I'm trying to be forward-thinking or progressive – it's just that sexuality is a word I try not to even define the way the world defines it. It's the *person* who you are sexually attracted to.

### Do you not label your sexuality, then?

My whole rule is, never say never. I've never been in a relationship with a woman, but I don't know that it's not a possibility. But I also don't like it when people claim to be gay and then not. There's this whole generation of young Hollywood girls who can't find love where they think it's supposed to be, and then they come out being gay and two weeks later they have a boyfriend. It drives me nuts! I think it takes all the proactive work the LGBT community has done and sets them back. Oh, so now you're gay? Then two weeks later: "Oh no, that was just a phase." You don't get to do that.

Continued on page 21

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## ► Kelly

Continued from p. 19

I'll tell you who's the worst with it: young female celebrities. And I'm like, I know you. I've known you pretty much since before you used to shit outside of a diaper. You are not gay! But I think outing somebody in that way is just as bad as outing somebody who has not come out of the closet. It's one of those things I have to keep to myself... and it drives me fucking crazy! I've marched till my feet bled for the right of equal love in the gay community, and you're just gonna step in because it looks cool for you and now tell everybody that you're a lesbian when you've never even seen another puss that's not yours so you can get attention?

### Where are we at with you having a baby with your gay best friend?

Oh, it's inevitable. (Laughs) That's just gonna happen. You know, I was so disappointed that I didn't have a gay sibling. I was disappointed that I wasn't gay even! Though I do still think that everybody's gay, but still.

### You've been to a lot of LGBT events: Pride with your mom, where you shut down protesters; Elton John's wedding. What's the most memorable gay event you've been a part of?

Oh my god, that's so hard to pick! I can't really think of an event that's not a gay event. When you really think about it, what major party have you ever been to that was put on by a straight person? Because I can't think of one.

### You tell me. I'm not the one going to Elton John's birthday party.

It was really fun, actually. (Laughs)

### Rub it in.

So, my favorite gay Christmas event is anything with Mariah. She just brings out the best in everyone. Everyone's crying, being emotional.

### I love that you consider a Mariah Carey Christmas concert a "gay event."

It's totally a gay event – I mean, have you gone?! It's so much fun. And I love her. I went to Disneyland with Mariah and we had the best time. It was everything you'd imagine going to Disneyland with Mariah would be. A dream come true.

Late last year, while receiving the Trevor Hero Honoree Award at the Trevor Project's TrevorLIVE Los Angeles 2016 fundraiser on Dec. 4, during part of your speech you said, "We have to give (Trump) a chance. And we do it by spreading

### love, not hate." Do you believe we should still give him a chance?

I think we should give... you have to think about it. If we're being told the truth, which we never really are, people voted for him, and at that time when I said that he hadn't been inaugurated yet. I've had to stop watching TV when it comes to politics. I only watch – I think you can hear it in the back; I watch BBC News so I can get a different perspective, because in different countries they show you different things that you don't see here. It's a really scary time that we're living in, and I'm not gonna pretend that it isn't.

### What scares you most?

The way that people feel totally lost, don't feel safe. When people don't feel safe, it manifests and comes out in evil ways. There's a lot of evil going around right now when we were finally at a place where people were ready to love. Now people are just ready to point fingers, judge and blame.

I don't get to vote. I'm still going through the process of citizenship in this country – if it goes through, because I don't know how things are going to change. I do encourage people to vote, but when we went down to downtown L.A. to check out the marches after the election, I asked people, "Who did you vote for?" Nine times out of 10, people said they didn't vote. I was so confused! Like, why are you here?

But I have to keep to myself right now because I don't want to enter into this political cannibalism that's going on where people say stuff and then everyone just eats you alive for your opinion. Every attempt I have made in defending the (LGBT) community I somehow manage to fuck it up and piss everyone off. I cried over the backlash of the Donald Trump thing with my speech, because if you read my whole speech, you'd get what I was saying, but they put that one sentence in there and I was like, "You dicks."

### How are you feeling about where we are headed regarding LGBT rights?

I don't know – and that's what's scary. I mean, I'm sorry, you cannot give somebody the right to marry and then take it away from them. You can't do that. You just cannot do that. But what I've learned right now, because everything is so confusing and every single day threats are made and until you fully understand what's going on, it's like, keep your opinion to yourself.

I'm aware that there's gonna be a lot more to fight for in our present time. Until I know exactly what it is that I'm fighting for – everything keeps changing and one day this, one day that, and no one can figure out whose side to be on. People can only figure out how to hate, and I refuse to do that.



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## Mouths of Babes

With more than a dozen albums and over a thousand shows between them, Ty Greenstein and Ingrid Elizabeth of Mouths of Babes are no strangers to the modern folk music scene. For years, their respective bands Girlyman and Coyote Grace captivated thousands of loyal fans as they crisscrossed the country, rocked festival main stages, and toured with the likes of the Indigo Girls and Dar Williams. Now, as Mouths of Babes, Ty and Ingrid have distilled the very best of the songwriting, humor and musicianship of their previous groups into a new power duo whose key is contrast. Rarely is a sound or a show as balanced as it is with these two, and the differences in both their songwriting styles and personal presentation makes for an unusually satisfying yin and yang. The

Chicago Tribune writes: "They offer unique counterpoints to one another ... the laidback Ty, nattily dressed in a tie and crisp suit jacket, has a rich, lovely alto. Ingrid, clad in a sultry pink satin mini-dress, is a sassy chanteuse with a lilting soprano. Trading jokes and sharing elegant harmonies, the two women display an intuitive professional bond." They easily switch off lead vocals and play a wide array of instruments, with Ty on acoustic and electric guitars, banjo and foot percussion, and Ingrid playing upright bass, ukulele and cajón.

Mouths of Babes perform at 8 p.m. on May 11 at the The Ark, 316 S. Main St in Ann Arbor with a new release, "Brighter in the Dark." Tickets are \$15. Call 734-761-1451 or visit www.theark.org for more information.

## Calling All Musicians, Artists, Poets and Entertainers

Ann Arbor's OUTFest 2017 is searching for local artists for this year's festival. OUTFest will be held August 4-5 this year with the annual Pride Picnic on Aug. 6. OUTFest boasts two stages for entertainment this year. Interested performers are encouraged to contact OUTFest at entertainment.a2outfest@gmail.com with their artist submissions. Include the following in the email: Name, a short bio, links to a portfolio, soundcloud, mixcloud or video, links to social media, contact information and promo pics. Submissions are due on June 2. Entertainers selected will be notified by June 9.

Visit the OUTFest website at www.jimtoycenter.org/outfest for more information about the celebration.



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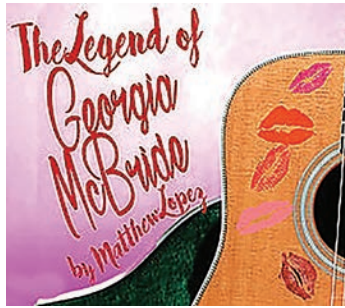
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It's a smashing success from The Ringwald Theatre in Ferndale – he's young, he's broke, his landlord's knocking at the door, and he's just found out his wife is going to have a baby. To make matters even more desperate, Casey is fired from his gig as an Elvis impersonator in a run-down, small-town Florida bar. When the bar owner brings in a B-level drag show to replace his act, Casey finds that he has a whole lot to learn about show business, walking in heels, and himself.

Nick Yocum, Vince Kelley, Richard Payton, Meredith Deighton, and Joe Bailey. This performance, directed by Brandy Joe Plambeck runs June 9 - July 2 at Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron St. in Ann Arbor. Showtimes are Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Call 734-635-8450 or email a2theatrenova@gmail.com with questions.

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## DiChiera Grand Salute

Some of the great artists from opera and dance will perform on one stage in salute to the legacy of David DiChiera, an American composer and founding general director of Michigan Opera Theatre. The evening, on May 19, begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by a 6:30 p.m. performance and ends with the Bravo Salute After Party at 9:30 p.m. Tickets range in price from \$59-150 for the star-studded tribute to DiChiera at the historic Detroit Opera House on 1526 Broadway St. For more information, visit [www.michiganopera.org/opera/grand-salute](http://www.michiganopera.org/opera/grand-salute).

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, April 27

**22nd Annual Lavender Graduation** 4:30 p.m. A celebration of LGBTQIA+ graduates. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/UMLavGrad17>. University of Michigan Spectrum Center, 525 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. 7347634186. [www.facebook.com/events/1918955791724650/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1918955791724650/)

**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)

### Friday, April 28

**6th Annual Jim Toy Birthday Bash** 6:30 p.m. Suggestion donation: \$10 Jim Toy Community Center, 200 W. Michigan Ave., **Ypsilanti**. [www.jimtoycenter.org/](http://www.jimtoycenter.org/)

### Saturday, April 29

**64th Annual Youth Justice Leadership Conference** 10 a.m. "From One Generation to the Next: Bridging the Gap." Featuring Youth Voice Art Project. Pre-registration is required. Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, 8425 W. McNichols, **Detroit**. 313-870-1500 Ext 107. [yshakur@miroundtable.org](mailto:yshakur@miroundtable.org) [www.miroundtable.org](http://www.miroundtable.org)

**Free Skincare & Cosmetics Class** 10 a.m. Geared toward LGBTQ youth and teens (13+). Products are all Mary Kay. Products will be available to order after the class, but there is no obligation. 25 percent of profits benefit the Jackson Pride Center. Karysa Trombley of Mary Kay, 801 S. Mechanic St., **Jackson**. 517-392-2233. [www.facebook.com/events/612007882335074/](http://www.facebook.com/events/612007882335074/)

**Share Your Semicolon** 2 p.m. A discussion, hosted by Megh Hollowell and Nkenge Jazz Burkhead, about hope and love for those who struggle with mental illness. Project Semicolon, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.facebook.com/events/1012782715533232/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1012782715533232/)

**Queer Prom** 7 p.m. Tickets: \$5. Restrictions apply. Register online. For LGBT+ high school students in Northwest Lower Michigan. Polestar LGBT+ Community Center, 263 West Grandview Parkway, **Traverse City**. [www.tcpolestar.org/prom](http://www.tcpolestar.org/prom)

### Sunday, April 30

**VegFest, Michigan's biggest vegan event** 10:30 a.m. Tickets: \$12-15. VegMichigan members admitted free. VegMichigan, 46100 Grand River Ave., **Novi**. 877-778-3464. [www.vegmichigan.org](http://www.vegmichigan.org)

**Books & Authors Event** 11 a.m. Check out Charlotte Fisher's new book, "Take a Lesbian to Lunch." Juried book fair featuring mostly Michigan writers. Leon & Lulu, 96 W. 14 Mile Road, **Clawson**. 248-288-3600. [shop@leonandlulu.com](mailto:shop@leonandlulu.com)

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

**A Taste of Italy** 1 p.m. Enjoy a delicious pasta meal and dessert. All proceeds to benefit the Ozone House. LGBT Outreach Ministry, 331 Thompson St., **Ann Arbor**. (734) 663-0557. [rleone@umich.edu](mailto:rleone@umich.edu) [www.stmarystudentparish.org/](http://www.stmarystudentparish.org/)

**Potluck** 6 p.m. "Pasta-luck" - Bring your favorite pasta dish. Winner of the best dish, following a vote, wins ten raffle tickets for FtM Detroit's next Gender Blender event. FtM Detroit, 313 W. Webster, **Ferndale**. [ftmdetroit@gmail.com](mailto:ftmdetroit@gmail.com) [www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/](http://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/)

### Monday, May 1

**UNPLUGGED Social and Support Group** 7 p.m. First Monday of every month. For those shunned, disfellowshipped or excommunicated from their religion, family or friends for being LGBTQ. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. [haymer@goaffirmations.org](mailto:haymer@goaffirmations.org) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

### Tuesday, May 2

**LGBTQ in Uniform Support Group** 7 p.m. Meets the first Tuesday of every month. Open to current and former police, fire, emergency medical personnel and military. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Q3 in Toldedo** 7 p.m. Starring Jen Kober, Poppy Champlin and Brooke

Cartus. Tickets: \$25. Queer Queens of Comedy, 6140 Levis Commons Blvd., **Perrysburg**. [pophaha1@gmail.com](mailto:pophaha1@gmail.com) [www.facebook.com/events/1842584029341548/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1842584029341548/)

### Wednesday, May 3

**Building Michigan Communities Conference** Speakers include Tahirih Ziegler, Jim Edelman and Tom Daldin. Tickets: \$50-65. Early bird pricing until April 10. Michigan State Housing Development Authority, 333 E. Michigan Ave., **Lansing**. 517-483-7400. <http://buildingmicommunities.org>

**Tin Can Raffle** 7 p.m. Last first Wednesday fundraiser before Pride. Ferndale Pride, 279 W. Nine Mile Rd., **Ferndale**. <http://ferndalepride.com/>

### Thursday, May 4

**Relationship Skills Class** 7 p.m. Build stronger connections with co-workers, family, friends and romantic partners. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-677-7226. [bbudde@goaffirmations.org](mailto:bbudde@goaffirmations.org) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

### Friday, May 5

**Health and Hygiene Drive** Also accepting donations at REC, 77 Victor St., Highland Park, 48203 Ruth Ellis Center and Michigan Coalition Against Homelessness, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., **Lansing**. [www.ruthelliscenter.org](http://www.ruthelliscenter.org)

**Young Women for Change Benefit Concert** 6 p.m. Tickets: \$5, students. \$10, adults. Event supports the Ozone House. Girls Group Ann Arbor, 1830 Washtenaw Ave., **Ann Arbor**. [www.facebook.com/events/447063925635047/](http://www.facebook.com/events/447063925635047/)

## Editor's Pick

### Michigan's Biggest Vegan Event

Explore a plant-based lifestyle at Michigan's Biggest Vegan Event, VegFest, from 10:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on April 30 at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave. in Novi. The family-friendly vegan taste fest and expo, presented by VegMichigan, features more than 150 restaurants, vendors and exhibitors offering the latest foods, free samples, products and services that are vegan. The full schedule of events can be found at [www.vegmichigan.org/activities/vegfest](http://www.vegmichigan.org/activities/vegfest). Admission is \$12-15. VegMichigan members are admitted free. Call 877-778-3464. Visit [www.vegmichigan.org](http://www.vegmichigan.org) for more information.

**VegFest**  
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# Editor's Pick

## Queer Prom 2017

The Polestar LGBT+ Community Center and the students of Traverse City area high school gay-straight alliances present the inaugural Queer Prom. LGBT+ youth from the Northwest Lower Peninsula of Michigan are invited to come together for a chaperoned night of music, dancing and refreshments from 7-11 p.m. April 29 at Hotel Indigo Ballroom, 263 West Grandview Parkway. Tickets are \$5. Registration is required online at [www.tcpolestar.org/prom-registration](http://www.tcpolestar.org/prom-registration).



### Saturday, May 6

**North Central US Network Gathering** Registration required: \$20, includes Saturday meals and events. MCC North Central US Network, 2441 Pinecrest Ave., Ferndale. 2483997741. [www.facebook.com/events/1869353343287886/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1869353343287886/)

### Sunday, May 7

**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)

**Love is Love: Detroit Solidarity: LGBTQAI** 3 p.m. The rally is sponsored by MDPAN, Stonewall for Revolution, Taking Back Orange, Putting the People First, Planned Parenthood, No Space for Hate and Studio 416. Metro Detroit Political Action Network, Ferndale. [www.facebook.com/events/1912684852294479/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1912684852294479/)

### Monday, May 8

**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)

## MUSIC & MORE

### Gay Stuff

**Queer Queens of Comedy** "Q3 in Toldedo" Starring Jen Kober, Poppy Champlin and Brooke Cartus. Tickets: \$25. Toledo Funny Bone, 6140 Levis Commons Blvd., Perrysburg. 7 p.m. May 2. [www.facebook.com/events/1842584029341548/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1842584029341548/)

### Benefits/Social Events

**Freedom House of Detroit** "A Benefit Concert". Sainte Anne De Detroit Church, 1000 St. Anne St., Detroit. 5 p.m. April 30. [www.freedomhousedetroit.org](http://www.freedomhousedetroit.org)

**Project Beautiful - Inside and Out** "Rainbow Cabaret" Benefit for the Ruth Ellis Center. President and CEO of GLAAD will speak. Tickets: \$100. SCL (Newly renovated club above Bistro 82), 401 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. 6 p.m. April 28. [www.eventbrite.com/e/rainbow-cabaret-benefiting-ruth-ellis-center-tickets-32782110174](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/rainbow-cabaret-benefiting-ruth-ellis-center-tickets-32782110174)

### Film & Video

**Kalamazoo Pride with the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo and A24 Films** "Film: Moonlight" Tickets: \$5 online or at

OutFront office at 340 S. Rose St. The Epic Center, Jolliffe Theatre, 2nd Floor, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Suite 203, Kalamazoo. 7 p.m. May 3. <https://pridemoonlight.eventbrite.com/>

## THEATER

### Civic/Community Theater

**Marketplace Stories: Folktales from the Arab World** Tickets: \$8-10. Wild Swan Theater and AANM, Wild Swan Theater, 6175 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. May 4 - May 6. 734-995-0530. [www.wildswantheater.org](http://www.wildswantheater.org)

### Professional

**Silence! The Musical** Tickets: \$10-25. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. May 5 - June 5. 2485455545. [www.theringwald.com](http://www.theringwald.com)

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Affirmations** "Visibility & Artivism: A Showcase of Transgender Activism" Exhibit highlights the activism, courage and artistry of the transgender community. Pittman-Puckett Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. April 1 - May 27. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**FIA** "Reaction: The Art of Social

Commentary" Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. March 9 - May 7. 810-234-1695. [www.flintarts.org](http://www.flintarts.org)

**Integrity Shows** "Detroit's Palmer Park Art Fair" Free admission, free parking. Palmer Park, Merrill Plaisance off Woodward between McNichols and Seven Mile, Detroit. May 6 - May 7. [www.palmerparkartfair.com](http://www.palmerparkartfair.com)

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "Rotten with Anecdote: A Mini Retrospective" Works by Jud Coveyou. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 12 p.m. May 3. 2485440394. [www.lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://www.lawrencestreetgallery.com)

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "Exposures: Photography '17" Opening reception April 7, 6-9 p.m. Mid-month reception April 21, 6-9 p.m. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. April 1 - April 30. 2485440394. [www.lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://www.lawrencestreetgallery.com)

**Scarab Club** "Under the Surface" Works by photographer Myles Gallagher. Opening reception, April 7, 5-8 p.m. Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. April 5 - May 20. 3138311250. [www.scarabclub.org](http://www.scarabclub.org)

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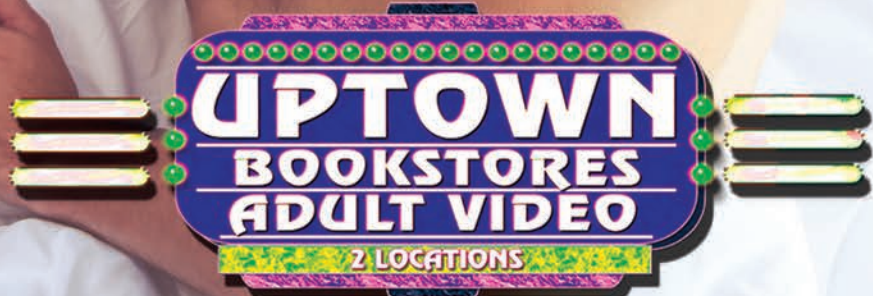
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## The Frivolist

# 6 Steps to Effectively Confronting a Cheating Partner

BY MIKEY ROX

About 21 percent of American men and 19 percent of American women admit to cheating on their partners, according to polling company YouGov. Not a massive number, but still big enough to raise our brows. So what can we do when we suspect our partner is stepping out with a sidepiece? Before you take that Louisville slugger to both headlights, consider these effective ways to confront the cheater in your life.

## 1 Prepare Yourself For Immediate Denial

If you've ever been cheated on and confronted your partner about it, you already know what the immediate response is: "I'm not cheating on you." It's human nature to lie in the face of confrontation, especially if we know we're wrong and that whatever we did could have serious consequences. So prepare for it. If you know for a fact that your partner hasn't been faithful, present solid facts. Your partner will change their tune quickly when they know they've undeniably been caught in the act – and that'll give you the upper hand straight out the gate.

## 2 State Your Case With Evidence

There's an abundance of life advice floating around out there that warns you against snooping on your partner. Fuck. That. A cheating partner is absolutely your business, and you owe it to yourself to get to the bottom of it so you don't end up in an emotionally and mentally damaging relationship, or worse, with an STD. Considering the slim-to-none likelihood that your partner will readily admit to cheating, gather your evidence. If that means going through boo's email and phone, get to it – because all bets are off when your health and future are put at risk. If they're not respecting your well-being, you shouldn't feel guilty about not respecting their privacy.

## 3 Stay Focused and Calm

When you've presented your case on your partner's philandering ways, expect an eruption of emotion. You both may be simultaneously sad and angry – among a host of other emotions – but this problem will not be solved with a screaming match. That'll be hard to avoid, depending on your personalities, but try to stay in control. If you fly off the handle, you run the risk of hurting yourself even more; your partner

may use your emotions against you by calling you unstable or saying hurtful things like, "This is the reason I cheated on you in the first place." Remember, their feelings will be hurt too – they may even be remorseful – but nobody likes to be cornered; they'll attack back if you push too hard.

## 4 Resist the Wounded Puppy Routine

When your partner realizes the mistake they made, there will be an avalanche of I'm sorrys and I love yous. Don't let that distract you. Brushing this situation under the rug won't solve anything either. Ask why, where, when, and with whom – if these questions and answers are important to you. This may help you move on – one way or the other.

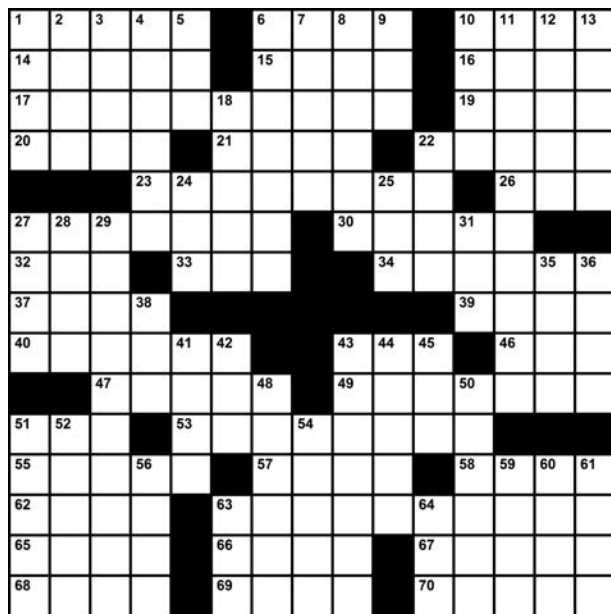
## 5 Don't Allow Yourself to Be Guilted Into Forgiveness

Whether your partner's cheating was a one-time mistake or a chronic problem, it doesn't necessarily mean they're ready to end the relationship. Your relationship offers stability for both of you, and when faced with the reality that it might be over – and he or she could be looking for a new place to live by the end of the day – a guilt trip might ensue. Don't let that cloud your judgment. You love this person (or did, at least), and they'll play that emotion for all it's worth to protect themselves. Stay strong and clear-headed to avoid being steamrolled into submission.

## 6 Make the Decision That's Best For You

When the dust has settled, you have a decision to make – do you want to work this out or move on? The relationship doesn't have to end if your partner cheated, but you also shouldn't stay in a relationship where you've become a doormat. Personally, I have a zero-tolerance policy now – because I've stayed in relationships with serious infidelity issues and I can't get over them no matter how hard I try – but that's my choice, not yours. Only you know what's best for you. If that means giving your partner another chance, reconcile that within yourself. If you need to kick the bum to the curb, however, hold your head high and never look back. Your heart will heal, you'll love again, and you'll wake up every morning knowing that you don't have to worry about whose bed your partner may be in today. That's liberating, to say the least.

# Q Puzzle



## Rainbow Flag

### Across

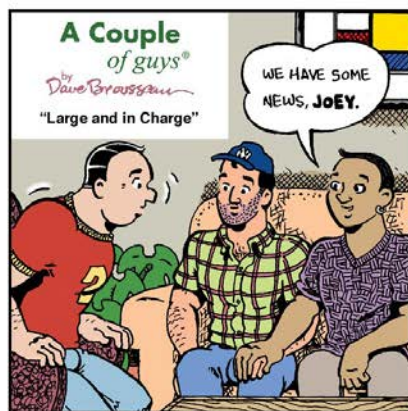
- 1 The Oscars, and others
- 6 "Woe \_\_\_\_!" (Hamlet)
- 10 Greek war deity
- 14 City of Lorca's homeland
- 15 "The Boys in the Band," in 1968
- 16 Ward of *Once and Again*
- 17 Official dessert of the rainbow flag?
- 19 Ginsberg's "Gotcha"
- 20 One-named designer
- 21 Pennsylvania city
- 22 Lake site of a gay and lesbian ski week
- 23 Official band of the rainbow flag?
- 26 Heteros, on PlanetOut?
- 27 Brand for covering your bottom
- 30 List-maker Schindler
- 32 Home of the Buckeyes
- 33 "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's \_\_\_\_"
- 34 "Six Feet Under" auto

- 37 Queen, to a dealer
- 39 San Francisco's Nob \_\_\_\_
- 40 Building managers
- 43 Sixth notes in "Do-Re-Mi"
- 46 Fourth book of the OT
- 47 What some are doing in bed
- 49 "Fast," to Leonard Bernstein
- 51 Follower of James Buchanan, familiarly
- 53 Official song of the rainbow flag?
- 55 Fruit desserts
- 57 Emma Donoghue's country
- 58 Colors hair
- 62 "I've had better..."
- 63 Official beverage of the rainbow flag?
- 65 "No" to someone who is "lesbisch"
- 66 Bear overhead
- 67 Treats meat
- 68 Marine flyer
- 69 Rosie Jones supporters
- 70 Begins, as a Broadway play
- rainbow flag?
- 12 She's George
- 13 Wise guys
- 18 TV show with Isabelle
- 22 Little biker in a gay pride march
- 24 Cell stuff, for short
- 25 It hangs from your butt
- 27 George O'Malley, et al.
- 28 Birthright seller of the Bible
- 29 The other official song of the rainbow flag?
- 31 Mouth-open-wide sound
- 35 Sling mud at
- 36 Muppet pal of Rosie
- 38 Laurie Partridge portrayer Susan
- 41 Ridges on condoms
- 42 Trump-mocking comedy
- 43 Thin plates
- 44 "\_\_\_\_ Comes Mary" (The Association, 1966)
- 45 "Reduce Speed", on a sign
- 48 Bonheur's war
- 50 With butts in the air?
- 51 Make up (for)
- 52 Rainbow flag designer Gilbert
- 54 Use a rubber
- 56 Timothy Daly's sister
- 59 Time of "Camelot"
- 60 Genie portrayer Barbara
- 61 Abuse orally
- 63 Glossy gay magazine
- 64 Logical beginning

### Down

- 1 Ironically straight singer Marvin
- 2 State with certainty
- 3 Gay tune
- 4 Claim
- 5 Saint, in Rio
- 6 Len Deighton's "The \_\_\_\_ File"
- 7 Like Harvey Milk in 1978
- 8 Get by barely
- 9 Queer body part on TV
- 10 Continent of Margaret Cho's parents
- 11 Official seafood entree of the

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



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# HFHS Launches Collaborative to Enhance Research on Healthcare Needs of SGM Youth

BY BTL STAFF

**DETROIT** – Henry Ford Health System recently launched a collaborative with the Ruth Ellis Center ([www.ruthelliscenter.org](http://www.ruthelliscenter.org)) in Highland Park, Affirmations ([www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)) in Ferndale, and the Trans Sistas of Color Project (<https://equalitymi.org/equality-michigan-partners-with-trans-sistas-of-color-project-detroit/>) in Detroit to enhance research aimed at addressing the specific healthcare needs of sexual and gender minority youth.

Supported by a funding award from the Eugene Washington Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute Engagement Awards program, the Rainbow Collaborative comprises SGM youth patients, families, community stakeholders and researchers in Detroit. The REC, Affirmations and the TSOCP will support the Rainbow Collaborative by recruiting participants.

“Sexual and gender minority youth have specific needs that the healthcare community is only beginning to understand. Research has shown correlations between sexual and gender minority status and depression, suicide attempts, bullying, illicit drug use, and increased rates of HIV,” said HFHS pediatrician and Rainbow Collaborative lead Maureen Connolly, M.D.

“Any effort to develop and study interventions aimed at addressing the health needs of sexual and gender minority youth must be grounded in the lived experiences of these young people, and relevant to their health concerns.”

The Rainbow Collaborative provides a forum, which meets on a bi-monthly basis and prioritizes the input of SGM youth. Development of a research agenda will take place in stages, and will be facilitated by SGM youth community leaders to maximize patient and stakeholder input.

The Rainbow Collaborative is part of a portfolio of projects that PCORI has funded to help develop a community of patients and other healthcare stakeholders who have the knowledge, skills and partnerships to participate in and advance patient-centered outcomes research and patient-centered comparative effectiveness research.

“This project was selected for PCORI Engagement Award funding for its commitment to improving the capacity for patients and other stakeholders to engage in patient-centered research and its potential to increase the usefulness and trustworthiness of the research PCORI funds,” said PCORI Chief Engagement and Dissemination Officer Jean Slutsky.

“We look forward to following the project’s progress and working with Henry Ford Health System to share the results.”

Upon completion of the project, a community symposium will be held to share results of the developed research agenda. The Rainbow Collaborative will create a strategic plan to disseminate the information further and execute future comparative effectiveness research to benefit the SGM youth population.

*To learn more about the Rainbow Collaborative, please contact Dr. Connolly at [mconnol1@hfhs.org](mailto:mconnol1@hfhs.org). For more information about PCORI’s funding to support engagement efforts, visit [www.pcori.org/content/eugene-washington-pcori-engagement-awards](http://www.pcori.org/content/eugene-washington-pcori-engagement-awards).*

# CDC Awards Community Health Awareness Group \$1.94 Million

## CHAG’s TAP2 Project Targets Young Transgender Women of Color, Provides HIV Prevention Services

BY BTL STAFF

**Y**oung transgender women of color between the ages of 18-29 will have better access to HIV prevention services through the Community Health Awareness Group’s TAP2 (Transwomen are People Too) Project.

The new project, which kicked off April 17 to coincide with National Transgender HIV Testing Day, is funded by the Center for Disease Control Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention. CHAG was awarded as part of a cooperative agreement by the CDC to implement a comprehensive high-impact HIV prevention project for community-based organizations. The total amount of \$1.94 million will help both high-risk negative and HIV-positive individuals with a focus on members at greatest risk of acquiring and transmitting HIV infection over a five-year period.

“This will be a great way for CHAG to expand its TAP2 program. It strengthens CHAG’s commitment

to partnering with Detroit’s young transgender women of color to deliver life-saving testing, coordination of care and high-impact prevention services,” said CHAG CEO Cindy Bolden Calhoun.

This aligns, she said, directly with the CDC’s core strategies to “implement comprehensive HIV prevention programs aimed at reducing morbidity, mortality, and related health disparities among those at highest-risk by providing unfettered access to high quality, life-extending care, free from stigma and discrimination.”

It is built around: formalized collaborations with HIV primary care clinics and community-based organizations providing substance abuse treatment, mental health services, housing, and other essential support services necessary to stabilize and maintain HIV-positive individuals in HIV medical care; program promotion, outreach and recruitment utilizing social network strategies, targeted outreach and enhanced social media; targeted HIV testing using rapid testing technologies, along with personalized cognitive counseling for high-risk negatives; comprehensive HIV prevention with HIV-positive persons and high-risk negatives using CDC-approved prevention interventions along with peer navigation and early

intervention services and supportive services; and condom distribution for both HIV-positive and high-risk negative persons. These services are provided under the leadership of CHAG’s TAP2 Youth Advisory Board.

TAP2 identifies HIV-positive people earlier, gets them into care sooner, and keeps them in care to help them live healthier lives, which reduces the further spread of the disease. The program results in more HIV, syphilis and hepatitis testing, with more infected individuals becoming aware of their status. More HIV-positive individuals will receive HIV medical care, medication assistance, behavioral interventions and prevention and essential support services. HIV-negative persons will become more aware of their HIV risk, and more HIV-negative persons will obtain prevention and essential support services, and if they are high-risk negatives, they will be referred for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).

*Founded in 1985, Community Health Awareness Group offers a wide range of services designed to improve the quality of life of Detroit’s African-American community. For more information, visit [www.chagdetroit.org/home.html](http://www.chagdetroit.org/home.html).*

## Come Out from Behind the Badge

LGBTQ people in law enforcement face pervasive discrimination, according to a Williams Institute study. The November 2013 report updates a 2009 report on discrimination in public employment, which found that over 40 percent of the reported cases of discrimination occurred against law enforcement and corrections department personnel.

Many LGBT police, fire, emergency medical and military personnel are

afraid to come out at work. Not only are they working in a conservative field, but it is still legal to be fired for being LGBTQ. It’s with that in mind a support and discussion group was created at Affirmations in Ferndale for LGBTQ people in uniform to socialize with like-minded individuals, share stories and seek support without being judged. LGBTQ in Uniform aims to address the unique challenges LGBTQ people in this community encounter

in the workplace and in their personal lives.

The group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 1900 hours at 290 W. Nine Mile Road. LGBTQ in Uniform is committed to maintaining the confidentiality of its members. For more information, visit [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org).



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- You must be HIV negative

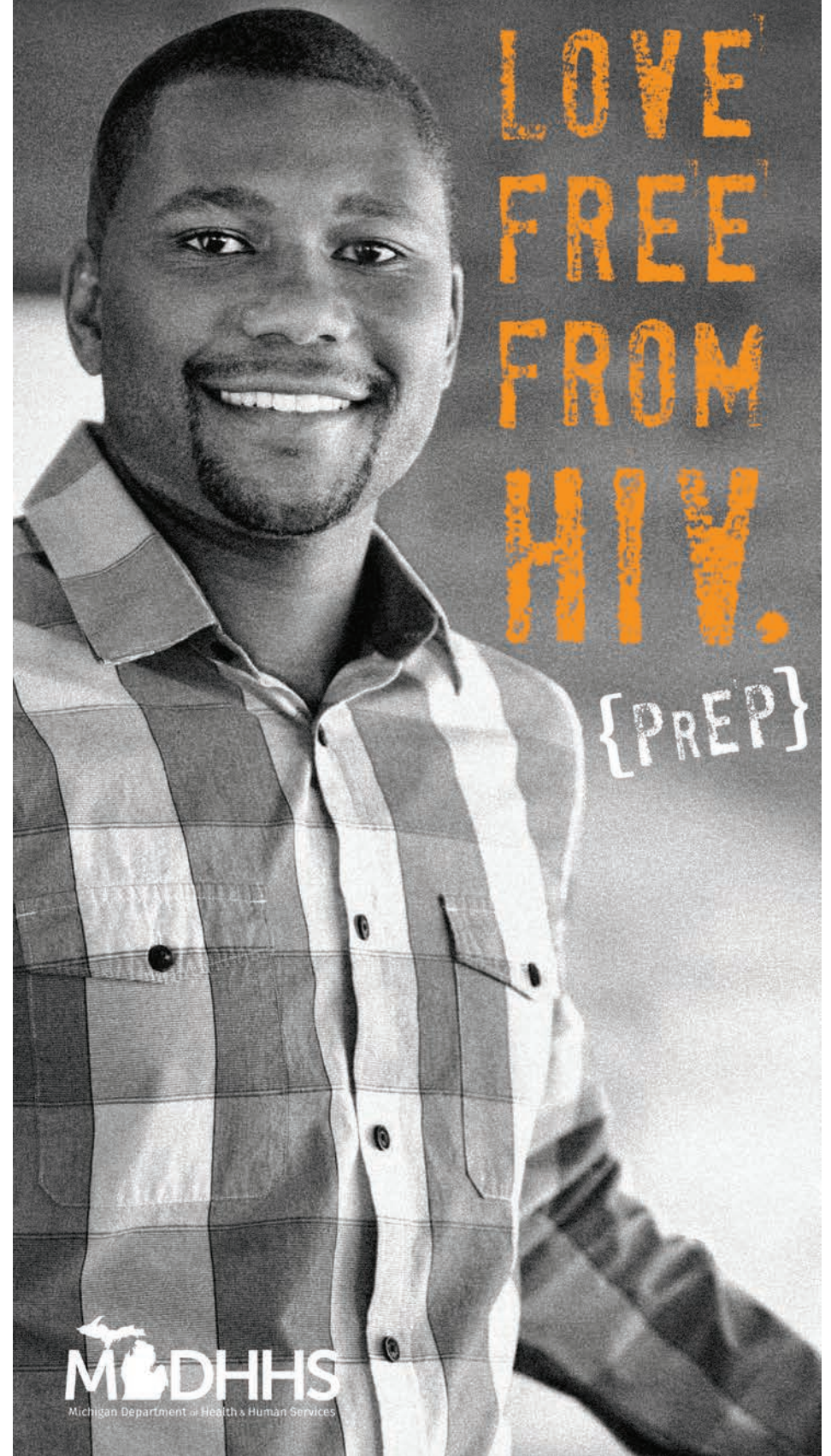
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If you are HIV negative, a medicine called PrEP can help keep you that way. When you add PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) to your daily routine and combine it with other preventative measures like using protection and regular HIV testing, it could help you reduce your risk of getting HIV by over 90%. Ask your healthcare provider about PrEP. Learn more at [michigan.gov/hivstd](http://michigan.gov/hivstd).



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