

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Fabulous Ferndale Kicks Off Pride Month



Our Guide to the
Best Pride Events

PAGE 18

JUNE 1, 2017

VOL. 2522 | FREE

BTL photo: Andrew Potter

Courting Drag

Ferndale Collection Reveals Lifetime
Passion, Devotion to Imperial Court



JUNE 17, 2017

1pm - 11pm

PARADE: Steps off from Adado Park at Noon. Ends at the Capitol.

RALLY AT THE CAPITOL: Immediately following parade. Variety of speakers about Trans*, Equality, and Diversity issues that aim to unify our community

FESTIVAL (the main event): We're shutting down Turner Street in Old Town to show our Pride!

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Kid-friendly entertainment

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Pride swag

Beer Tent

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COVER

12 Courting Drag

NEWS

- 4 Survey Results Can Help Protect Trans Community, LGBT Rights Organizations Say
- 5 Democratic Legislators Say 'We Will Not Tolerate Discrimination' in Michigan
- 6 NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Comes to Royal Oak
- 11 DeVos: It's OK If States Discriminate Against LGBT Students

OPINION

- 12 Parting Glances
- 12 Mombian
- 13 Creep of the Week: Laurie Higgins

LIFE

- 16 John Waters Talks Enduring Camp Classic
- 36 'I'm From Driftwood' Added to LGBT Collection
- 38 Psychiatrist Writes About Coming Out Later in Life
- 40 Happenings
- 44 Classifieds
- 45 Deep Inside Hollywood
- 46 Puzzle and Comic

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- 42 Study: Bullying Persists in School, Reports of Sex Crime Up
- 42 UN, Microsoft Announce \$5M Partnership
- 42 Affirmations Appoints New President of the Board, Announces 2017 Board of Directors
- 43 13th Annual Home and Garden Tour of Historical Pleasant Ridge

PRIDE SEASON KICKS OFF



FERNDALE PRIDE

- 12 Ferndale Collection Reveals Lifetime Passion, Devotion to Imperial Court
- 18 Summer Pride Calendar
- 21 Ferndale Pride Uplifts LGBTQ Community at Local Level
- 21 Tunde Olaniran Talks Ferndale Pride Performance
- 31 Grosse Pointe Hosts Inaugural Pride March

THE INTERVIEW



See page 16

PRIDE CALENDAR



See BTL's extensive Summer of Pride Calendar starting on page 18

Visit Pridesource.com to locate hundreds of great events

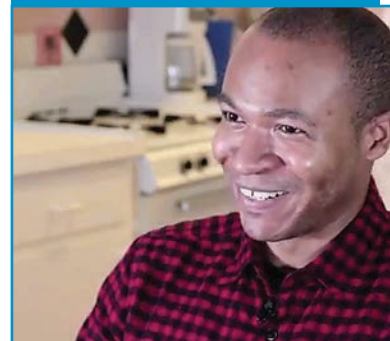
DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



Alia Shawkat gets the 'Across Town'

See page 45

DOCUMENTARY



Michiganders Featured in Xfinity Series of Documentary Shorts

See page 36

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Survey Results Can Help Protect Trans Community, LGBT Rights Organization Say

Data Released Shows the Need for State Lawmakers to Take Action to Ban Discrimination Based on Gender Identity

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The transgender community has support in the form of data to convince lawmakers in the state that discrimination based on gender identity exists. Michigan-specific results from the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey were revealed in various locations throughout the state Wednesday by representatives from LGBT rights organizations and members of the transgender community.

Equality Michigan, LGBT Detroit and the Trans Sistas of Color Project held a press conference May 25 at LGBT Detroit's office in northwest Detroit to discuss the survey conducted by the National Center for Transgender Equality.

The examination of the experiences of nearly 28,000 transgender individuals nationwide, including nearly 900 Michigan residents, showed that 19 percent of respondents were unemployed and 30 percent were living in poverty.

In addition, 79 percent of those who were out or perceived as transgender at some point between kindergarten and 12th grade experienced some form of mistreatment such as being verbally harassed, prohibited from dressing according to their gender identity, disciplined more harshly or physically or sexually assaulted.

"We need to make policymakers in Lansing and Washington, D.C. stop stoking anti-trans fears and start talking about the many real challenges faced by trans Michiganders," said Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit. "Every minute that we spend on scare tactics we are not talking about the problems in real people's lives."

Other startling statistics in the report reveal that 61 percent of respondents avoided using a public restroom in the past year because they were afraid of confrontations or other problems they might experience. Also, 36 percent of respondents limited the amount that they ate or drank to avoid using the restroom while eight percent reported that someone had denied them access to a restroom.

Housing accommodations was another area of concern with 20 percent of respondents indicating that they had experienced homelessness in the past year and 34 percent had experienced homelessness at some point in their lives. More than a quarter of respondents said they had experienced some form of housing discrimination in the past year. This included being evicted from their home or being denied a home or apartment because of



Equality Michigan Transgender Victims Advocate Jeynce Poindexter shares her experience with discrimination. Also pictured are Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit and Stephanie Williams, executive director of Equality Michigan. BTL Photo: Jason A. Michael

being transgender.

Bre Campbell, executive director of the Trans Sistas of Color Project, explained that she had been evicted because of her gender identity. She sought legal representation but was told she had no case.

"The lawyer stated to me that if I was discriminated against because I was black or even fat I would have a case," she said. "But there are no trans protections in Michigan. So I really commend National Center for

Transgender Equality for taking on the responsibility of putting together a survey that not only speaks to the violence that we experience as trans individuals but also counting us in a way that was meaningful and in a way that really speaks to our experiences."

Jeynce Poindexter, transgender victims advocate for Equality Michigan, said she faced discrimination recently when trying to fill a prescription. Poindexter was allegedly told by an employee of CVS that Blue Cross

would not pay for her prescription because she was "misgendered" and that they'd have to have her permission to go into their system and change her gender to male.

"It was humiliating," said Poindexter. "In that moment I wasn't this warrior. I wasn't this fighter. I was a victim."

Poindexter is not alone. A quarter of survey respondents indicated they had experienced a problem in the past year with their health insurance in relation to being transgender. Meanwhile 38 percent of those who saw a health care provider reported having at least one negative experience. This included being refused treatment, verbally harassed, physically or sexually assaulted or having to teach the provider about transgender people in order to get appropriate care.

As a result of this kind of discrimination, 25 percent of respondents chose not to see a doctor when they needed to because of fear of being mistreated as a transgender individual. Nearly half of respondents indicated they had experienced serious psychological distress in the month before completing the survey and 14 percent reported that a professional such as a psychologist, counselor or religious advisor tried to stop them from living as their authentic selves.

"We've heard some very powerful individual stories but these really aren't individual problems," said Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan. "When you see the results of the survey you understand this is a Michigan problem. This is a pervasive problem. This is a U.S. problem all over the country. Transgender individuals face these injustices in every walk of life."

Like Lipscomb, White holds lawmakers in the state responsible for taking action.

"Detroit has passed non-discrimination laws," White said. "Over 40 cities across our state have passed non-discrimination laws. But that's piecemeal. We need a statewide solution. And we know in places where we've passed non-discrimination laws everyone does better. This isn't really a debate. There are no states that have passed non-discrimination laws who have suffered as a consequence.

"Our state needs leaders to step up," White continued. "It's time - it's past time - to do something about this."

"We need to make policymakers in Lansing and Washington, D.C. stop stoking anti-trans fears and start talking about the many real challenges faced by trans Michiganders. Every minute that we spend on scare tactics we are not talking about the problems in real people's lives."

-- Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit.

Read the results from the complete survey online at www.ustranssurvey.org.

Democratic Legislators Say 'We Will Not Tolerate Discrimination' in Michigan

State Reps. Introduce Bill to Update Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to Protect LGBTQ Citizens

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

During a Tuesday morning press conference at the Michigan State Capitol Building in Lansing, State Reps. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) and Sen. Rebekah Warren (D-Ann Arbor) announced legislation to update and expand the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity. This would protect Michigan's LGBTQ community from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations.

"It's time for us to stop denying LGBTQ citizens housing, refuse them service or fire them from a job simply based on who they are or who they love," said Warren, who has sponsored or co-sponsored this effort for the sixth legislative session in a row.

In Michigan, legislation to amend ELCRA has been introduced in nearly every session since 1983 in an effort to make Michigan a fully-inclusive state. There have been significant milestones at the federal level in the fight to ensure equality for LGBTQ citizens, including the Supreme Court's landmark decision in favor of legalizing same-sex marriage in 2015.

"Yet Michigan continues to miss the mark," said Warren. "We have the pivotal opportunity to move the state forward and join 19 other states that have already acted to update their civil rights laws to include all people."

Warren stressed that we are risking the future of Michigan's economic well-being also.

"As the state continues to engage in global battles for talent, our business leaders have told us time and again that they look for states that have open and inclusive politics already in place. Not only because they create a stronger and more diverse talent pool, but because they provide a higher quality of life for employees and their families."

When asked if something will change in their legislative approach this time around, Warren said, "Every year we get more folks involved and more people paying attention. There are more Michigan-based businesses supporting this now than ever before and polling data shows increasingly that Michigan citizens are supportive of full inclusion."

Joining the fight are State Reps. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), Tim Sneller (D-Burton) among others.

"As a veteran staff member, and now a representative, I have been proud over the years to see the many ways Michigan has been at the forefront of social progress," said Sneller. "An extension of these protections for our LGBT friends is a small but critical way to keep that tradition alive."

Guest speakers included Ingham County Commissioner Ryan Sebolt and Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan.

See ELCRA Amendment, page 10



State Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo), says it's time for Michigan to step up and provide statewide protections to its LGBTQ citizens and encourages Republicans to join the effort to amend ELCRA. BTL photo: Kate Opalewski

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NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Comes to Royal Oak

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Staff members at Transcendence Behavioral Health in Royal Oak will host the “Always in Our Hearts” Celebration of Life Display to honor those lives lost to AIDS as well as those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Sections of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display at their office from 12-5 p.m. at 618 E. 11 Mile Road on June 3-4.

Dr. Stephanie Williams began her practice working with the positive community in 2001. The inspiration for this event came from the support group that she runs with another therapist, Dale Rogalski.

“We want to do something to remember clients we have had that have died as a result of HIV/AIDS. We also want to honor our clients and the other Michigan veterans of the HIV/AIDS epidemic that continue to live on despite profound loss. We feel like not enough is done in our community to honor and remember these veterans. We never want to forget them,” said Williams.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt is the largest ongoing community arts project in the world. Founded in 1987, each block of the quilt measures 12 square feet and usually consists of eight panels sewn together. Each of the 48,000 panels commemorates a person whose life was lost to AIDS. As more and more people are lost to the epidemic, the quilt is added to and often used in displays for AIDS walks and other educational contexts around the world. First displayed on Oct. 11, 1987 at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the quilt contains contributions from virtually every state and almost 30 countries. It stands in remembrance of the more than 90,000 people lost to HIV/AIDS.

In Memory Of

When Joan Harrison thinks about her brother John Michael Easley, she remembers how outgoing he was.

“He could make anybody laugh. He had a wicked sense of humor,” she said about the man who changed her life drastically. Easley wasn’t

just her brother while they were growing up in the city of Romulus. “He filled a role as my father. He was a best friend, someone I would go to for everything.”

Harrison was 12 years old when Easley came out.

“I had an idea that maybe he was gay, but didn’t know for sure,” she said. “It didn’t change our opinion of him. He didn’t hide from our family. He took me to shows and places like Cedar Point with his boyfriend. I was invited into his world.”

Harrison described Easley as an “extremely motivated” person who was the first one in their family to go to college at Eastern Michigan University where he studied nursing and would pay his own way to become a nurse anesthetist.

Easley was no more than 22 years old when he discovered he was HIV positive.



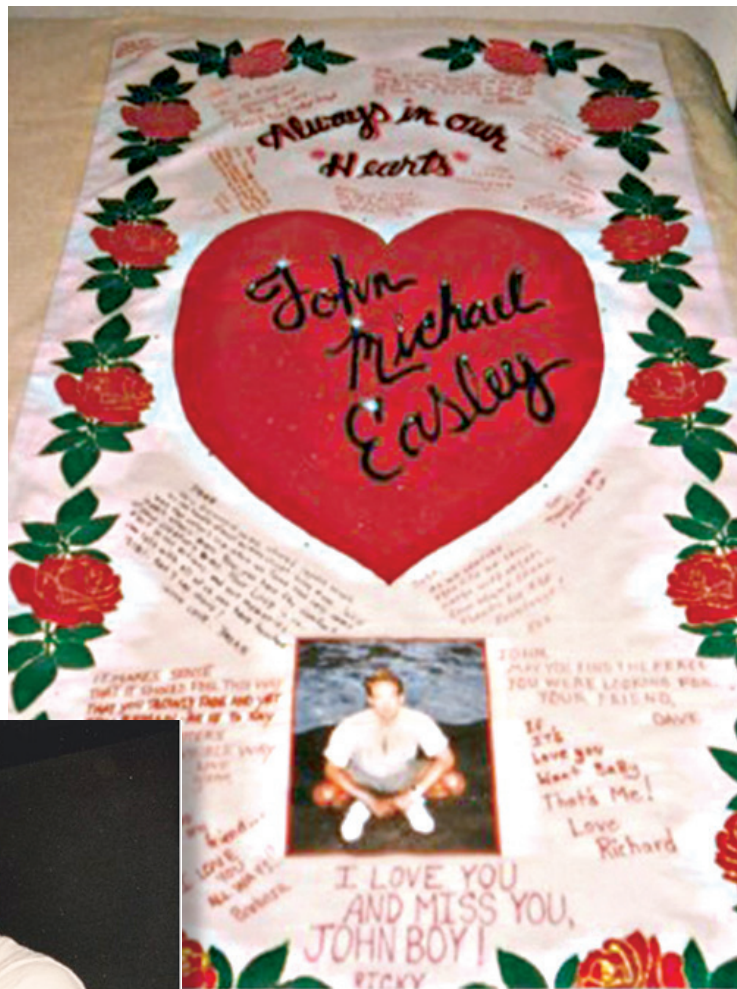
“I believe he contracted it from an individual he really trusted,” said Harrison. “He felt like he would lose everything. He really changed. He hid from us. He didn’t want us worrying. He didn’t talk about it. He downplayed the severity.”

At the age of 28, Easley died at home in July 1994.

“We were told his heart just stopped. I was the first one called. Being the baby, I felt just devastated that I had to break it to our brother, Paul, then go to our mother. It was a horrific time,” she said.

Later, a friend explained to their family how to make a panel in memoriam.

“This was something tangible. Our way to say to the world I need you to remember him,” said Harrison.



The late John Easley, who died in July 1994. His Names Project Quilt is shown above. Photos courtesy of Joan Harrison

About 15 years have passed since she has seen her brother’s panel.

“It will be nice for people to know how extremely devoted to others and to the community he was. He contributed so much. It is a huge loss.”

Finding the Right ‘Fit’

When reflecting upon her brother’s battle with depression towards the end of his life, Harrison said his therapist “unfortunately wasn’t very helpful.”

That’s why Rogalski said it is important when choosing a therapist to find one that is empathetic or sympathetic to the person’s life, sexual orientation or gender identity.

This is another reason for the

quilt display – to remind visitors that although HIV/AIDS has moved from a fatal to chronic disease with the creation of antiretroviral medications, it still leaves those infected with tremendous challenges to their physical, emotional and social well being.

“Persons living with HIV have an increased risk for developing mood, anxiety and cognitive disorders. Having a therapist that is educated about HIV/AIDS is important in helping the client maintain a healthy and productive life.”

Rogalski said the stigma attached to HIV/AIDS impacts those suffering.

“They often feel shame and guilt for carrying this disease. Taking daily medications may also remind them that they have the disease

Although HIV/AIDS has moved from a fatal to chronic disease with the creation of antiretroviral medications, it still leaves those infected with tremendous challenges to their physical, emotional and social well being.

and disclosure about the disease to family, friends and coworkers may cause the client additional anxiety.”

Although HIV/AIDS deaths have declined over the past few decades it is still one of societies leading causes of death for certain age groups. Rogalski reminds the community that HIV is not just a gay disease and that it does not discriminate based on one’s gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or race.

“Often, clients come in for therapy when they first receive the news that they are HIV positive. They are understandably scared and concerned about their future and are dealing with the profound loss of the life they thought they had. They may not have another person in their life to express their feelings about this diagnosis and may even be suicidal,” he said. “Again, it is critical for the therapist to be knowledgeable (about HIV/AIDS), non-judgmental and sensitive to the client in their delicate emotional state. Instilling trust and hope is important to this process as well as developing a treatment plan involving all those in the clients network of medical and psychological professionals.”

To connect with a HIV/AIDS experienced therapist, visit www.psychologistroyaloak.com. Volunteer during the two-day AIDS Memorial Quilt event in Royal Oak by contacting Rogalski at dale@drstephaniewilliams.net. Easley’s stories and many others are preserved through the AIDS Memorial Quilt Archive Project. Learn more about this mission and how to help support this effort by emailing archive@aidsquilt.org.

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Gone with the Winds of Rainbow Time

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Fifty years ago Detroit's Washington Boulevard was a busy setting for exclusive shops, upscale restaurants, elegant bistros, stretching sedately from Grand Circus Park's popular Statler Hotel to Michigan Avenue's prestigious Sheraton Cadillac.

Both hotel bars catered to a discrete, well-heeled, happy-hour gay clientele. Good manners were expected. No camping it up. No untoward touching. No two-shots-and-a-beer, buddy-buddying. No Mary this! No Mary That!

At the Statler, offenders of the unspoken rules of conduct for gay men (and on occasion, lesbians) were handed a terse note: "Your patronage is not wanted here! Do not return!"

For those engaging in the covert pastime of dalliance in sensual stalls of solicitation, the nearby Tuller Hotel was notorious, as were the Telenews theater balcony, Brass Rail Bar (where 50's pop star, crooner Johnny Ray was arrested, twice by the vice same cop!), several convenient park underground, tap-tap make-out loos.

As a teenager all this was terra incognita for me, but I learned the lay of the land from "experienced" trowelers who had navigated the watering spots first hand. I did venture briefly into the Greyhound Bus Depot on Washington Boulevard to check out noonday comings and goings. (So to speak.)

I was cautious. And warned. "Miss Tillie (vice cop) goes there all the time. Mind your business. If you have to pee, just pee. Don't look anybody straight in the eye!" Stories of arrests

for merely peeking at a vice officer were many. "It's your word against theirs. Case closed."

Behind the Greyhound was a gay teenagers hangout called Mama's, one diner star rating over the infamous gay/lesbian hangout, Hub Grill's none. Mama's was owned by the mom of thirty-something, Butch Jimmy ("BJ"), who had his share of impressionable teenagers. Myself included.

Mama – short, roly-poly faced – was of some slavic heritage. She wore her hair in a tight bun and dressed in basic black (no pearls). She got her sense of humor by osmosis, greeting gay regulars with a hearty hand flutter, loudly announcing, "Kud-de-vahs! Kud-de-vahs!" ("Whores! Whores!")

Mama employed Frank, a cadaverous looking cook, who, while abusing hamburgers and squinting menacingly at fries, would tell anyone who'd listen that he had made his funeral arrangements and knew exactly where, and in what pastel satin-lined casket, he'd be buried. (R.I.P.!)

During many visits to Mama's I became friends with my Hub Grill idol, Rich. A Polish blond. Rich Suess liked dark-haired, swarthy types. Italians. Spaniards. Mood Indigos. (I was just a tepid Anglo-Saxon, dishwasher, Brillo-pad brunet.)

For me it was important to act straight. I didn't like hanging around with flamers. I knew that my day-to-day survival in this fairy-fag-hating world depended upon passing, looking like your average Elvis Presley, duck-tailed, occasionally hip-gyrating, pegged pants, Zoot-suit groupie.

Rich looked straight as a 10-inch, no-nonsense nun's ruler (until decades later when returning here as a New York employed hair dresser, with a "FAB-you-luss!" ersatz Brooklyn accent).

Just weeks into our newly formed alliance, Rich suggested hitting Toledo Ohio's Scenic Bar. "Hey, Alexander! It's brand new turf. Fun and games. Drinking age 18. You'll love it."

So I did (except for gawdawful 50-cent Zing! 3.2 beer). It was a gas. Not to be passed up. (Or down.) A half century ago, as memory serves.



Mombian



BY DANA RUDOLPH

LGBTQ Parents: Resistance, Persistence, and Pride

This wasn't the Pride Month I was looking forward to. I hoped we would be celebrating gains built on marriage equality, not battling to stop religious-exemption laws that could exclude us from parenting and limit homes for children who need them. I hoped we would be celebrating a growing understanding of transgender people, not trying to stop the same kind of bathroom bills for which North Carolina has been widely criticized. I hoped we wouldn't still have to fight for the right of both same-sex parents to be on our children's birth certificates.

Given the anti-LGBTQ climate that has been nourished by the Trump administration and its supporters, though, this Pride is more necessary than ever, even if it isn't the one we may have wanted. Pride

has always been both protest and celebration, and that remains as true as ever.

As LGBTQ parents, we are not new to resistance. We have resisted when people tried to prevent us from becoming parents because we are queer. When they tried to take away our children because we are queer. When former partners and spouses tried to deny our parental rights. When our children have been bullied or harassed in school.

As these examples show, LGBTQ parents – and our children – are continuing to resist and persist. Take Massachusetts fifth-grader Marina Osit, who has two moms. She recently noticed her classmates using "gay"

See next page

Given the anti-LGBTQ climate that has been nourished by the Trump administration and its supporters, though, this Pride is more necessary than ever, even if it isn't the one we may have wanted. Pride has always been both protest and celebration, and that remains as true as ever.

► Rudolph: LGBTQ Parents

Continued from p. 8

as a slur, and decided to start a campaign to change this. She “has raised more than \$800 to purchase pins for her classmates that say, ‘Gay does not mean stupid,’” reports the Greenfield Recorder (5/19/17).

Some persist with lawsuits. Eight same-sex couples in Indiana are fighting to have both parents’ names on their children’s birth certificates. They filed their case in 2015, and a federal district court sided with them, but the state appealed the decision. In May, they had their case heard by a three-judge panel of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, where one judge, Diane Sykes, insisted, “You can’t overcome biology. If the state defines parenthood by virtue of biology, no argument under the Equal Protection Clause or the substantive due process clause can overcome that.” The couples’ lawyer, Karen Celestino-Horseman, disagreed, saying, “We maintain that parenthood is no longer defined by biology,” and arguing that if a child is born to a same-sex married couple, both should be presumed to be the parents, just as for different-sex couples.

And in April, three same-sex couples in Nebraska won a case they had brought way back in 2013 against the state’s ban on “homosexuals” becoming foster parents. With this ruling of the Nebraska Supreme Court, gay men and lesbians can now be treated equally in foster care placements in all 50 states.

Justice John Wright, who wrote the ruling, pulled no punches, saying that the “published statement on DHHS’ official website that ‘heterosexuals only’ need apply to be foster parents” was “legally indistinguishable from a sign reading ‘Whites Only’ on the hiring-office door.”

At the same time, so-called “religious freedom” laws in several states already allow child-placement agencies to discriminate against LGBTQ prospective parents and others if serving them conflicts with the agencies’ religious beliefs or moral convictions. Michigan, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Virginia already have such laws in place; Alabama and Oklahoma are considering them; and one in Texas is sitting on the governor’s

desk as of this writing.

Nevertheless, Family Equality Council and PFLAG are leading the charge in supporting a federal bill that provides a counter to this legislation. The Every Child Deserves a Family Act, sponsored by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), would restrict federal funding for states that discriminate in adoption and foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of prospective parents, or on the sexual orientation or gender identity of youth in care.

The bill has just been introduced in the House for the fifth Congress in a row. In a Republican-led Congress, its chances may be slim (despite Ros-Lehtinen’s support), but it offers the opportunity to raise awareness by talking up the issue on Capitol Hill.

Persistence can also mean wanting to make a difference in public office, and some LGBTQ parents are taking this route. Jenny Durkan, who was the first openly LGBTQ U.S. attorney, is running for mayor of Seattle. She has two children with her partner Dana Garvey.

In New York City, Mel Wymore, a transgender parent with grown children, is running for City Council after a failed attempt in 2013. If elected, he would be the first transgender elected official in a major U.S. city, according to his website.

Whether in the public sphere or our private lives, we’re here, we’re queer, and as parents, we know how to function on lack of sleep, survive toddler tantrums, and withstand teen angst, all while trying to deflect social stigma and legitimize our family ties. We are resilient and proud, despite (or perhaps because of) the milk stains on our shirts, mud on our floors, and laundry piled in the corner. We know how to multitask, handle setbacks, and believe in our families regardless of what those in power might say. We are raising children (or have raised them) as imperfect and wonderful as any.

May your pride still shine, this month and all year.

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.

Creep of the Week

Laurie Higgins

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

For my mom’s 63rd birthday my sisters and I took her to Drag Queen Bingo. She won a round and ended up on stage where she very proudly proclaimed



Laurie Higgins

that she had five children and three of them were gay. The drag queen, Detroit’s own Sabín, responded, “Bitch, what were you eating in the 60s?”

Everybody laughed, including my mom.

My 7-year-old son obviously didn’t go to the 18+ event. But we told him where we were going which prompted the question, “What’s a drag queen?” I explained that a person in “drag” is in costume, and that a drag queen was usually a man playing the role of a very glamorous woman, almost like a cartoon character.

“Oh, okay,” my son said, as if it was no big deal. Because it was no big deal.

Had a child posed the same question to Laurie Higgins, however, I suspect much pearl clutching would have ensued.

Higgins, who covers cultural affairs for the Illinois Family Institute, is not a fan of drag queens.

Writing for the IFI webpage on May 25, Higgins sounded the alarm that drag queens were targeting children! By reading to them at public libraries in New York and Chicago.

“Pray for our nation’s little ones,” Higgins writes, lest they “end up at their local library or bookstore for story time with drag queens.”

Forgive me if I expected “pray for our nation’s little ones” to be followed up with something about hunger or gun violence. But nope, it’s drag queens.

You know that saying, “If you’re not outraged, you’re not paying attention?” Well, in this case, it’s, “If you’re outraged by drag queens, you’re not paying attention to the right things.”

Higgins was especially incensed that a drag queen named Lil Miss Hot Mess (who Higgins insists on calling “Mr. Mess”) dared to read a book called Worm Loves Worm, a book where two worms fall in love and get married regardless of expected gender norms, to “children too young to think critically but old enough to

be indoctrinated with lies by deceitful and feckless adults.”

Higgins takes specific issue with Worm Loves Worm author J.J. Austrian, picking apart a 2016 interview he did on the Lu and Bean Read podcast.

In the interview Austrian says, “Boys can wear skirts. Girls can wear pants. I’m not a cowboy but sometimes I wear a cowboy hat.”

Higgins pounces on this bit. “Austrian is unwittingly treading on dangerous PC territory here. In referring to ‘boys’ and ‘girls,’ he affirms the dreaded – and to many trannies, mythical – sexual binary.”

First of all, transgender people (not “trannies” you jerk) and drag queens are not the same. Secondly the idea that

“Pray for our nation’s little ones,” Higgins writes, lest they “end up at their local library or bookstore for story time with drag queens.” Forgive me if I expected “pray for our nation’s little ones” to be followed up with something about hunger or gun violence. But nope, it’s drag queens.

those who are trans or gender fluid want to eradicate the very idea of “boys and girls” is silly. Higgins chooses to see any deviation from gender norms as some kind of perversion and a threat to the binary she holds so dear.

Higgins continues, “When [Austrian] said that he wears a cowboy hat despite not being a cowboy, he implies that boys who wear skirts are not actually girls. He inadvertently face-planted onto the concrete truth.”

Uh, no, that isn’t what he is saying. Wearing a cowboy hat doesn’t make you a cowboy, unless you identify as a cowboy. Putting on a skirt doesn’t turn anyone into a girl, regardless of what is between their legs. That’s not how gender identity works. That is how costumes work, though.

Which brings us back to drag queens.

It must be nice to live such a comfortable life that you see drag queens reading books to kids as threatening. In the words of Bianca Del Rio, “Not today, Satan.”

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“ June 1 marks Pride month. If you don't support full equality for LGBT folks, and really equal rights across the board, that could be a disqualifier for some of our largest statewide offices and elected officials in the state legislature.”

– State Rep. Jon Hoadley

► ELCRA Amendment

Continued from p. 5

Michigan, who points to the results of the 2015 Transgender Survey to support the need for this law in the state of Michigan.

Ypsilanti Mayor Amanda Edmonds spoke to her own political journey as a gay elected official.

“I understand more and more why this part of my identity is relevant and is something I need to bring front and center, even if it does not command a majority of my mayoring responsibilities,” she said.

In her own welcoming community, Edmonds said “it's easy to forget that we live in a state where basic human rights are denied.”

With no adequate state protection, Edmonds said 42 communities have implemented LGBTQ protections at the local level in the form of non-discrimination ordinances.

“And some, like Ypsilanti's, have been around for decades,” she said. “These communities like mine believe that in your everyday life, your sexuality or gender identity should not be a barrier to finding or keeping a job, a place to live or being served in a restaurant.”

Hoadley reiterates that now is the time to act when in 2017, more than 200 anti-LGBT bills have been introduced across the country, including right here in Michigan.

“June 1 marks Pride month,” he said, adding that more and more citizens will be asking this question of their elected officials.

“If you don't support full equality for LGBT folks, and really equal rights across the board, that could be a disqualifier for some of our largest statewide offices and elected officials in the state legislature.”

While no Republican has signed on to this legislation yet, Hoadley said the bill will start circulating today and he “welcomes any Republican wanting to stand on this. We've had a history of folks wanting to work across the aisle on many issues. This should be one of them because LGBTQ folks come from all parties. People from all parties know LGBTQ folks in their families. So they should be doing it because it's the right thing for Michigan. They should be doing it because someone they know and love is LGBTQ.”

Moss is confident that “if this were put up to a vote, it would pass in the House.” Members of the community, he said, can help support this effort by contacting their legislators. “The more urging we do, especially in Republican districts, the better of we'll be.”

DeVos: It's OK If States Discriminate Against LGBT Students

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Under a grilling during a congressional hearing May 24, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos refused to say she'll speak out against discrimination against LGBT students – or even students experiencing racial discrimination.

Rep. Katherine Clark (D-Mass.) pressed DeVos during a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Lighthouse Christian Academy, a private school in Indiana the lawmaker says is the recipient school voucher money, but may not admit students from families with “homosexual or bisexual activity” or “practicing alternate identity.”

Clark asked DeVos, who's advocating a budget that calls for a \$250 million increase in school voucher funds, if she'll “stand up that this school will be open to all students.”

DeVos first dodged the question, saying she'll like to defer to earlier comment from lawmaker, and still refused to denounce the policy when asked to draw a line on state flexibility and reject money for schools discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation, race or special needs.

“For states who have programs that allow for parents to make choices, they set up the rules around that,” DeVos said.

Pressed further by Clark on whether the Education Department would withhold school vouchers on any situation regarding discrimination, DeVos again refused to answer.

“The Office of Civil Rights and our Title IX protections are broadly applicable across the board,” DeVos said. “But when it comes to parents making choices on behalf of their students...”

Davis interrupting by saying “this isn't about parents making choices, this is about use of federal dollars,” and pressed DeVos who provided a non-answer about flexibility.

“So, if I understand your testimony,” Davis responded, “I want to make sure I get this right. There's no situation of discrimination or exclusion that if a state approved it for its voucher program, that you would step and say that's now how we're going to use our federal dollars? There's no situation, if the state approved it, that you would put the state flexibility over our students? Is that your testimony?”

DeVos began to say the situation was “hypothetical,” but Davis responded the situation was real and pointed to Lighthouse Christian Academy. At this point, the Republican chair of the committee informed Davis her time had expired.

“The bottom line is we believe that parents are the best equipped to make choices for their children's schooling and education decisions,

and too many children today are trapped in schools that don't work for them,” DeVos said. “We have to do something different, we have to do something different than continuing a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach, and that is the focus, and states and local communities are best equipped to make these decisions and framework on behalf of their students.”

Davis, seemingly exasperated, concluded, “I am shocked that you could not come up with one example of discrimination that you would stand up for students.”

David Stacy, government affairs director for the Human Rights Campaign, was among those denouncing DeVos for refusing to denounce anti-LGBT discrimination.

“Taxpayer funds should never be used to discriminate against LGBTQ students, and it is shocking and disappointing that Secretary DeVos won't make this basic commitment,” Stacy said. “Secretary DeVos has failed again to stand up for all students and ensure every child is able to receive an education free from harassment and discrimination.”

Federal law against discrimination in schools also prohibits charter and private schools from discriminating against students. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin for any school accepting federal funds, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex for any school accepting federal funds. There is an exemption in Title IX for religious schools, but not for charter or secular private schools.

DeVos, who was narrowly confirmed by the Senate, has been a controversial figure and despised by charter school opponents for her support for school vouchers.

Earlier this year, DeVos and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions revoked Obama-era guidance barring schools from discriminating against transgender students or denying them access to the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

Media reports indicated she resisted the change, but she ultimately agreed to it. Afterwards, DeVos met with transgender students and a trio of LGBT advocacy groups at the Education Department.

Sarah Kate Ellis, CEO of GLAAD, also denounced DeVos and said the education secretary was “turning a blind eye to LGBTQ students who experience discrimination in school.”

“DeVos once claimed she was an LGBTQ ally, but has now supported back to back policies that would erase LGBTQ students from classrooms,” Ellis said. “If she wants to be known as more than an anti-LGBTQ activist the time is now to reverse course.”

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BTL photo: Andrew Potter

Courting Drag

Ferndale Collection Reveals Lifetime Passion, Devotion to Imperial Court

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Garry Taylor of Ferndale is beyond the time at age 57 that he will present himself as Riva Lucian, but she is still a significant part of him.

“We are one in the same. I do not suppress her,” said Taylor about the woman he was born to be.

While sneaking into Toronto bars dressed in his mother’s clothes, Taylor found Riva’s voice (his hadn’t cracked yet) at 15 years old. He passed for a woman in his tall, slender body with long, shoulder-length hair.

“I never felt the need to have gender reassignment surgery though. I never felt like a woman trapped in a man’s body. I have always just been comfortable melding my masculinity and my femininity,” said Taylor, who was raised in Oshawa, Ontario and later moved to Vancouver, British Columbia where he met Jeff, his future husband. They moved to Seattle, Washington together in 1988 where Taylor carried himself so gracefully into his adult life as a showgirl, a fundraising activist and female impersonator.

He was destined to become a member of the Imperial Sovereign Court of Seattle where he earned the titles of Imperial Sovereign Highness and Imperial Princess XXII in the Olympic and Rainier Empires.

As Taylor reflects upon his life as Riva, his ultra-feminine mannerisms happen so naturally.

“That is part of the drag community that I was born into and came from,” he said about his Hollywood Glamour style of drag.

Presenting himself as a “real lady” meant shaving his mustache regularly, tweezing his eyebrows, maintaining a French manicure, painting and contouring himself to create the illusion of breasts, and applying makeup and false eyelashes.

“I acted like, talked like and moved like a lady. When I used to smoke, I would hold a cigarette and smoke like a lady,” said Taylor, who smelled like a lady, too, wearing Riva’s favorite perfume, White Diamonds by Elizabeth Taylor.

He points to a few of his favorite fashion pieces that denote important times in his drag history. One in particular, a black

cocktail dress, was presented to Riva by iconic designer Bob Mackie. When asked to put the size of Riva’s wardrobe in perspective, Taylor said, “I have a 21-foot living room. I couldn’t line up all of my dresses from wall to wall without doubling them up.”

A display case in Taylor’s home shows and protects some of Riva’s crowns. He has keepsake albums full of Riva’s photos dressed as Bette Davis, Jean Harlow, Joan Rivers and Rita Moreno, to name a few. Riva has performed at all of the casinos on the West Coast and made lifelong friends with some of her “cohorts in crime” – Madison Lane, Ashley O’Day and her best friend, Shirley Todae.

Tubs of custom-made gowns for a 17-inch waist, costume jewelry (some cost \$700 a set), wigs, feather boas and Stiletto heels have been tucked away in the basement since Riva retired in 2007. When Jeff accepted a job offer, Taylor moved with him to Michigan.

“At the time it wasn’t hard. She was okay being packed up while I was so busy relocating and furnishing our new home,” he said. The self-described “old soul” prefers antique decor in their Ferndale home, which is a cross between Federal and Victorian periods. Some heirloom pieces from the ‘40s have been added.

Taylor pined over Riva for a moment after the house was in order, but he occupies his time now as the president and museum director with the Ferndale Historical Society.

Royal Treatment

The International Imperial Court System is one of the oldest and largest LGBT organizations in the world. The non-profit networking and fundraising organization was founded in San Francisco, California, in 1965 by José Sarria. The IICS works to build community relationships for equality and raise monies for charitable causes through the production of annual Gala Coronation Balls that invite an unlimited audience of attendees to be presented at Royal Court in their fanciest attire throughout North

See *Courting Drag*, page 14





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► Courting Drag

Continued from p. 12

America along with numerous other fundraisers each year, all for the benefit of their communities.

During the ceremony, new monarch or monarchs are crowned. The method by which monarchs are selected varies from chapter to chapter, ranging from election by vote among the active membership in closed session to election by open vote of the community region in which individuals are residents.

Drag shows, ranging in size from performances at local bars to events in hotel ballrooms and other large venues, are the main way in which revenue is raised for charity.

While composed primarily of LGBT people, membership is open to all. LGBT and cisgender people have all served as monarchs and court members in the system's history. Over the past fifty years, the IICS has grown to represent communities in 86 different locations across the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Drag for a Cause

Taylor said Riva didn't limit herself to Imperial Balls and fancy hotel performances though.

"I played some of the dingiest, smokiest dive bars around," he said. "I was willing and had the courage and confidence to walk into those places, stand on tiny little stages in the corner to share a part of the world people see in their community, but aren't a part of, and let people know we need their support.

Taylor remembers the Lenny Larsen "Jars in Bars" campaign in Seattle during the AIDS crisis when they raised \$28,000 in three years all in one and five dollar bills.

"We were really busy during the Reagan years when so many people were lost to AIDS – when it was called the gay plague," he said. "We had our activists and our political leaders that were fighting and lobbying to get things done, but after we did our shows on stage, we would change out of drag and go into the hospitals to feed and bathe and lotion and do things for these dying, deserted members of our community. We stood with them and held their hands and let them die with some dignity because not even the nurses would touch them back in the day because they were so frightened. It was up to us."

Memories like these are worth the thousands of dollars Taylor said he spent out-of-pocket to bring Riva to life.

"My career was always to be comfortable and to spend the money where I could walk out looking like I did and have enough people drawn to me that they wanted to know what my message was," he said. "Then I could give my message and I could get the money and give the money to where it was needed."

Mama Riva

Taylor chose the name Riva Lucian (like Revolution) when he came out because he was adamant that this was going to make a difference.

Taylor said Riva is, was and always will be a beautiful catalyst.

"You can give me all the awards and accolades, but that's not why I did it," he said about the 172 events he participated in from the time Riva was crowned in 1997 until stepping down in 1998.

"Sure, the accolades are nice, but I would always say the real success is the people that congregated and reached into their pockets and contributed, both straight and gay, to the need. Those are the people that made me a success."

Taylor said there is no Imperial Court in Michigan because there is no safe place to do it and not many people are familiar



Garry Taylor relaxing outside his Ferndale home. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

with or understand this particular art form.

"I have yet to find glamour queens in a gathered capacity," he said. "We're prideful on the East and West Coasts, but I think we need a leader in the Midwest."

Having knocked on so many doors to break down barriers, Taylor said he is happy to mentor the younger generation that might be interested in doing this, emphasizing the investment of time and money required.

"It's possible to pull this off with fabulous fakes," he said, noting that anyone can do this with costumes off of Goodwill racks.

"If you're really into it, there are people who are willing to get behind you and lend you jewelry until you can afford your own. They will sew for you and make you gowns so you can have your own wardrobe. If I can find a size 10, six-foot drag queen, I have 20 beaded gowns in every color of the rainbow I can give to them right now because I could never get into them again and not that I would want to," said Taylor, whose activism has changed over the years. But he is "very proud" of his career and would be more than willing to introduce a sector of the female illusionary community that people don't see in this state.

When asked what he misses the most about Riva, Taylor said, "The ability to say we need this in our community. Let me make a few phone calls and organize the girls for a fundraiser and bring the damn disconnected people together into a hub where they feel camaraderie, security and safety. Where they feel like they're contributing and that they're benefiting from the fundraising we're doing."

Learn more about the Imperial Court online at www.impcourt.org.
Connect with Garry Taylor on Facebook www.facebook.com/garry.andrewstaylor.

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John Waters Talks Enduring Camp Classic, Its Fan-Fave Scenes and Boy George's Surprising Ode to the Film

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Has there ever been a better prank call than the one in “Serial Mom”?

The wicked bit features Kathleen Turner as Beverly Sutphin harassing her parking-spot-stealing neighbor, Dottie Hinkle (Mink Stole): “Is this the Cocksucker residence? Isn’t this 4215 Pussy Way?”

In 1994, if you came looking for a raunchy, hard-R John Waters romp that challenged the mainstream paradigm while concurrently *being* mainstream (and while also taking the piss out of those who wear white after Labor Day), you came to the right place. Starring Turner, as well as Waters’ usual suspects (Stole and Ricki Lake), “Serial Mom” was the subversive auteur’s biggest budgeted, most Hollywood-oriented film. Even at his most mainstream, Waters left his deliciously screwy smirk all over the film’s obscene plot, which centered on a seemingly everyday mom with a filthy mouth and a fondness for killing the morally inept. Get in the way of her birdwatching? Scissor attack! Cheating on her daughter? Fireplace poker through the back!

But the legendary mischief of that prank-call scene wasn’t merely Waters’ bawdy imagination at work – it was shaped by actual calls he’d made years before, says the director during a conversation timed to the release of Shout! Factory’s new “Serial Mom: Collector’s Edition,” the film’s Blu-ray debut.

As shit-stirrers of the early ’70s, Waters and Mary Vivian Pearce, his friend and a star in many of his wild capers, including 1972’s “Pink Flamingos” and “Serial Mom,” grew up babysitting together. “We would call and torture people!” Waters says, in stitches. “We’d make prank calls, then the operator would call and cut the phone off. We used to call movie theaters all the time and say, ‘What’s playing?’ And they’d say, ‘What’s the Matter with Helen?’ And we’d say, ‘I don’t know – she sick?!’ And for ‘You Never Promised Me a Rose Garden,’ we’d say, ‘Yes, you did! You said I could have one last week!’ We would just torture people! So that’s where that came from. A little bit of truth.”

Fortunately, not all of “Serial Mom” was baked in truth – for instance, the killings, though some especially gullible watchers still believe Beverly Sutphin and her absurd murders actually happened (“They still say to me, ‘Where is she today?’”). Waters *did*, however, study the subject of homicide in gory, real-life depth, sitting in on famous trials and obsessing over true-crime stories that would help build the basis for the black comedy and its murderous-mom debauchery. Elements of his own upbringing had an influence here, as well. Take that brilliantly twisted “Serial Mom” sequence during which an elderly lady bops along to “Annie” and then gets bludgeoned to death by Beverly’s weapon

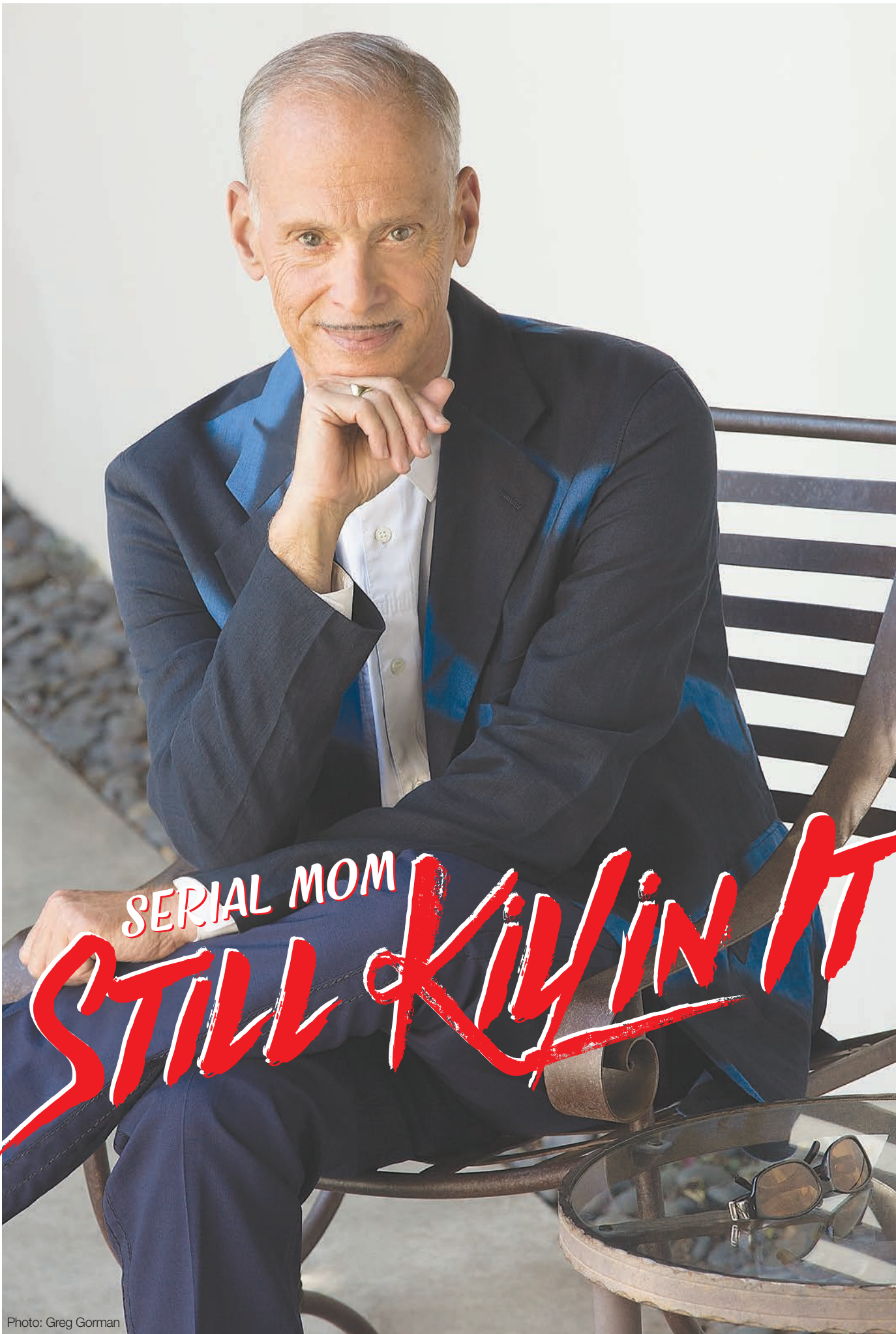


Photo: Greg Gorman

of choice: a leg of lamb.

“That my mom always made a really good leg of lamb,” he says, was his direct muse, but subconsciously he was also channeling Roald Dahl’s short story “Lamb to the Slaughter,” adapted in 1953 for “Alfred Hitchcock Presents.” In the episode, a housewife kills her husband with a frozen lamb leg.

“I watched that show all the time, and I remember that show later when people tell me,” he says, “but I didn’t consciously remember that when I was writing it. I wrote it because my mom always made a great leg of lamb. It had the right kind of bone.”

So right, in fact, that, “I still have the rubber prop leg of lamb that she killed with sitting on my desk in Baltimore.”

When the filmmaker leads live commentaries of the film around the country, he says new generations of Waters enthusiasts are just as tickled by the lamb and prank-call scenes as they were upon the film’s initial premiere, nearly two decades ago. “I’m really proud that all my movies still seem to play fine with

show, and Beverly would kill for politically correct purposes on a monthly basis. Imagine Beverly alive and kickin’ and killin’ in Trump’s America. “There are so many reasons that she would have to kill,” he says, based on the current sociopolitical climate.

“I still talk about it in interviews. Who knows – maybe this will make it happen. You never know. Did I ever think ‘Multiple Maniacs’ would come out and get the best reviews? No! Did I ever think I would give a commencement speech that’s now a book that just came out called ‘Make Trouble’? No!

“Things you think are gonna work, don’t. Things you don’t ever think are gonna be big, are. You just never know. You keep telling stories and some strike a nerve and some don’t, and some don’t until way later.”

If you were a curious-about-everything gay boy coming into his own in the ’90s, odds are “Serial Mom” hit the pre-pubescent spot. I tell Waters the film was my introduction to his filmography. “I’m glad that you saw ‘Serial Mom’ first and it sucked you in!” he says,



audiences, even young audiences that weren’t even born when I made these movies!” he says. “That’s the ultimate test to me. People still laugh and they don’t feel like it’s old hat or ‘I’ve seen this before,’ so I’m always encouraged when I have a young audience. That’s the only thing you can’t buy, the one thing you can’t fake.”

Though it was distributed in wide release, “Serial Mom” grossed a disappointing \$7.82 million domestically, “but still, I was used to that,” says the director about its box-office performance. Its earnings, though modest, don’t seem to reflect the fanbase the film has amassed in the years following its lackluster big-screen rollout, as fans have pressed Waters to deliver more mommy murders. Though he’s written a book sequel to his Divine-starring “Pink Flamingos,” in addition to three developed but untouched sequels to “Hairspray,” it would be “kind of ballsy to be talking about a sequel to a movie that didn’t do well. I like that idea, but it’s hard to get meetings,” Waters explains.

He has the pitch in his back pocket: It’s a TV

laughing mischievously.

Though Waters’ early career followers were almost exclusively the queerest of queers – you’d have to be broad-minded to watch Divine partake in buttplay with a rosary, a scene from “Multiple Maniacs” – films such as “Hairspray” and “Crybaby,” and then “Serial Mom,” courted a new wave of shameless rebels. Waters’ mom thought “Serial Mom” was his best movie, and Waters agrees. Even Boy George got such a kick out of the comedy that he recited “cocksucker residence” on his own voicemail, which “really did make me laugh,” says Waters, upon discovering the message after calling the pop icon.

“All movies, to be a success, have to appeal to a wider audience than just a gay audience,” Waters says. “I’m not a separatist. I believe everybody should hang around together. My audiences – I always want the people who have a good sense of humor. I don’t care what they do with their vaginas or their noses or their assholes or their mouths. I don’t care as long as they can do one thing with their mouth – laugh!”

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JUNE 11

Dykes on Bikes Motor City Pride Ride

Lineup starts at 10 a.m.
www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org

Motor City Pride Parade

11 a.m.
www.motorcitypride.org
 This year's parade is themed "Stronger Together" as the state of Michigan comes together as a community.

Motor City Pride Festival

12-7 p.m.
 Hart Plaza, Detroit
www.motorcitypride.org
 Cover: \$5
 Tony-winning actress Jennifer Holliday will close out the festival.

Photo Courtesy of Tih Penfil

SUMMER PRIDE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY KATE OPALEWSKI

JUNE 1

Pre-Pride Mixer

6-9 p.m.
 HopCat, 300 E. Water St., Kalamazoo
www.pride.outfrontkzoo.org
 Hosted by OutFront Kalamazoo to coincide with the community center's First Thursdays LGBTQ Networking Group.

Up North Pride Month Kickoff

7 p.m.
 The Filling Station,
 642 Railroad Pl, Traverse City
www.upnorthpride.com
 The establishment will donate 25 percent of proceeds from five featured pizzas and is matching all Pour for More donations.

Three Sisters

8 p.m.
 Slipstream Theatre, 460 Hilton, Ferndale
www.slipstreamti.com
 Tickets: \$12

JUNE 1 - JULY 28

Summer of Pride Exhibit

Opening reception, June 1, 7-9 p.m.
 Pittman-Puckett Gallery Hours:
 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Affirmations,
 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
www.goaffirmations.org
 Honors the struggles of the LGBTQ+ community through activism during Ferndale Pride, Motor City Pride, Hotter Than July and Transgender Pride.

JUNE 2

In Between

1 p.m.
 The Michigan Theater Screening Room,
 603 East Liberty, Ann Arbor
 Layla, Salma (a lesbian DJ and bartender) and Nour are three Palestinian roommates trying to find a balance between traditional and modern culture in Tel Aviv.
www.cinetopiafestival.org
 Tickets: \$9-12

Love Who You Art

5-8 p.m.
 OutFront Kalamazoo,
 340 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo
www.pride.outfrontkzoo.org
 View the showcase of LGBTQ artists at the community center. To promote Art Hop, a program of the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo.

1st Annual Ypsi Pride

6-10 p.m.
 Block Party on N. Washington Street between Michigan Avenue and Pearl Street, Downtown Ypsilanti
www.facebook.com/YpsiPride/
 Hosted by Eastern Michigan University's LGBT Resource Center featuring Duane the Jet Black Eel, Kate Peterson, Wraiths and DJ Stacks Culture. Also performing are Mango, Justin Covington, Devin Leatherman and the Ypsilanti Community Drill Team. Fashion showcase by Rebel Heart Salon and Friends Closet. Various resource and artist tables will be available. Community mural painting by Mary Jane Thomason and Jesse Peter Thomason.

Silence! The Musical

8 p.m.
 The Ringwald Theatre,
 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale
www.theringwald.com
 Tickets: \$25

Three Sisters

8 p.m.
 Slipstream Theatre, 460 Hilton, Ferndale
www.slipstreamti.com
 Tickets: \$12

The Wound

9 p.m.
 University of Michigan Lorch Hall,
 611 Tappan St., Ann Arbor
 A harsh exploration of black masculinity, homosexuality and tradition in modern South Africa.
www.cinetopiafestival.org
 Tickets: \$9-12

CONTINUED PAGE 20



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JUNE 3

**Ferndale 5K/2K Rainbow Run/Walk
and 2K Canine Color Walk**

BTL File Photo:
Andrew Potter



CONTINUED FROM 18

Check It

9:30 p.m.
The Michigan Theater Annex Cinema,
603 East Liberty, Ann Arbor
In this real, relatable and truly
unforgettable documentary, a
Washington, D.C.-area negotiator
urges and LGBTQIA gang to fight for
their voices and identities instead of
fighting back against their rivals.
www.cinetopiafestival.org
Tickets: \$9-12

JUNE 3

**5K/2K Rainbow Run/Walk
and 2K Canine Color Walk**

Presented by the Ferndale Chamber
of Commerce
Registration, 8:30 a.m.
http://ferndaleareachamber.com

**Always in Our Hearts
Celebration of Life Display**

9 a.m.
Transcendence Behavioral Health,
618 E. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak
www.psychologistroyaloak.com
Panels from the NAMES Project
Foundation AIDS Memorial Quilt will
be on display to honor the lives lost
to AIDS as well as those infected and
affected by HIV/AIDS.

Do-Dah Parade

10:15 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Bronson Parking Lot on Lovell Street

in Kalamazoo
www.pride.outfrontkzoo.org
Crazy outfits are required for this fun,
innovative and parody-filled parade.

**Summer Arts and Crafts
Bazaar**

12-4 p.m.
Affirmations,
290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
www.goaffirmations.org
Sponsored by the XTL Youth
Workforce Program

**Dykes on Bikes Ferndale
Pride Booth**

www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org

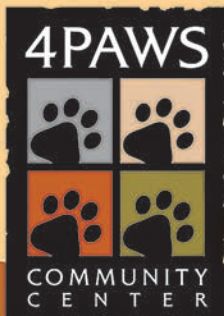
**Tobacco Cessation
with LGBT Detroit**

1-3 p.m.
Affirmations,
290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
www.goaffirmations.org
For anyone thinking about or wanting
to quit using tobacco.

Ferndale Pride

1-10 p.m.
Downtown Ferndale
www.ferndalepride.com
Featuring more than 100 vendors,
expanded children's area, a sober
space, tarot card reading, games of
corn hole, giant Jenga and coloring
activities. Two stages will be turning
out metro Detroit musical acts
including DJ Dav, Dangerous Curves,
DJ Jace, Octavia and Players Club.
Main stage will feature Sarah Hood,
Liquid Monk, Acoustic Ash, Nwoye,
Liz & The Luckouts, Lipstick Jodi,
Mae James and this year's headliner,
Tunde Olaniran. Free. Proceeds from
Ferndale Pride benefit Affirmations,
Ferndale Community Foundation,
Gender Identity Network, Matrix
Human Services MAC Health and
Transgender Michigan.

CONTINUED PAGE 22



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Ferndale Pride Uplifts LGBTQ Community at Local Level

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

In 2017, LGBTQ America is looking to find a balance between being political and celebratory during the month of June. As LGBTQ people and their allies defy the hatred and violence that targets them, they are determined to celebrate. Ferndale Pride organizers are offering up the opportunity this year for LGBTQ people and their allies to do just that - celebrate being a part of a welcoming community and to support one another.

On June 3, the streets of downtown Ferndale will fill up for the 7th annual family-friendly street fair which draws thousands of LGBTQ people and their allies to celebrate diversity and unity.

Fair admission is free for the festival from 1-10 p.m. on W. Nine Mile Road between Woodward Avenue and Planavon Street, as well as portions of Allen Street and West Troy Street. A special opening ceremony is planned on the MotorCity Casino Hotel Main Stage.

"This year at the opening ceremony we will pay tribute to the victims of the Pulse attack with a special balloon launch and Sarah Hood will perform an original song written for the victims," said Julia Music, event chair for Ferndale Pride. "Sadly, we remember that Pulse happened one week after Ferndale Pride last year as Ferndale Pride hosted the first memorial service on the lawn of Ferndale City Hall in response to the shootings."

The lives of Gilbert Baker - American artist and gay rights activist who designed the rainbow flag in 1978 - and Peter Cooper, a longtime activist in the LGBT and Jewish communities, will also be remembered at the ceremony.

"Losing Peter was a hard one for me," said Music. "He used to take

me to the bars when I was 18 to pass out condoms. We had a longstanding friendship and his death was a great loss to the community."

Proud to Be Sober

Making its debut at the festival this year will be a sober space designed for those who like to celebrate Pride without alcohol.

"Our LGBT community is disproportionately affected by substance abuse," said Music. "Many sober members of the community asked Pride if we would be willing to add some space to the event for adults that want to participate in activities without alcohol. We thought this was a great idea and sober space became a new part of the event."

The sober space will feature a custom built corn hole and Jenga as activities. The space will also feature tarot card readings by Candle Wick Shoppe, grounding activities like adult coloring and free non-alcoholic beverages furnished by Western Market.

"I am extremely happy that the community presented this need to us," said Music. "Knowing how many LGBT people are impacted by substance abuse, it's important to present fun and

engaging options for the day that don't involve alcohol."

Music said Ferndale Pride is offering an expanded children's area also located on Troy Street, which features a retro games trailer. The first 500 kids to arrive will be able to make their very own wands.

Calling It Off

One event that will not return to Pride this year is the Married with Pride Ceremony. Three couples were married last year during a group ceremony officiated by Ferndale

Mayor Dave Coulter and Deacon Angela Lippard of Christ the Good Shepherd Independent Catholic Community. Organizers say it was a first of its kind for a Michigan Pride festival, but this year, Music said nobody will make it to the altar.

"Although we had inquires, none came to fruition and we had to cancel the weddings," she said.

But that does not take away from all there is to see and do. There are a variety of events scheduled before and after the festival to coincide with the Pride celebration. (See *Pride calendar beginning on page 18 for schedule of events.*)

More than 115 vendors will line the streets selling food, beverages and goods, as well as provide resources and information for the LGBTQ community. Numerous downtown restaurants and merchants will provide promotions and specials.

Both ends of the festival streets feature stages turning out metro Detroit musical acts. The dance stage's lineup will include DJ Dav, Dangerous Curves, DJ Jace, Octavia and Players Club. The main stage will be a mix of genres, including Sarah Hood, Liquid Monk, Acoustic Ash, Nwoye, Liz & The Luckouts, Lipstick Jodi, Mae James and this year's headliner - Tunde Olaniran.

"After being voted one of the five 'Small Cities Prides that are Worth the Trip' by AfterEllen.com, the pressure to deliver on a great event is very real," said Music. "We have the power to uplift people on a local level and that is what our event is about."

Proceeds from Ferndale Pride benefit Affirmations, Ferndale Community Foundation, Gender

Identity Network, Matrix Human Services MAC Health and Transgender Michigan.

For more information, visit www.ferndalepride.org.



Tunde Olaniran Talks Ferndale Pride Performance

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Tunde Olaniran built his audience in Michigan through great shows at places like Loving Touch and the DIY Street Fair in Ferndale. The majority of "Yung Archetype" and "Transgressor" (his first full-length album released in August 2015 on Quite Scientific Records) were recorded in Ferndale, in the basement of his engineer Jon Zott.

"Ferndale has always been such a great city to play," said Olaniran, who has become one of the most beloved fixtures of an ever evolving Detroit music scene, as well as a driving force within the growing artistic community in Flint where he currently resides.

The genderqueer musician, author, choreographer, and community organizer will be back in Ferndale again on June 3 to perform at Pride.

"Ferndale is a place that feels familiar and always brings back happy memories. Playing and attending Pride in Ferndale will also be new, and it's fun to see how a city brings its own flavor to Pride," he said.

Olaniran said he is always busy writing new music and while there is nothing to announce yet, he will perform an array of experimental pop tracks on Saturday, showcasing his hip hop, R&B and punk style that makes him legendary.

What does Pride mean to you in this moment?

Having a Pride festival is important for the LGBTQ+ community. It's a political act as well as an act of self-love. How much a city and its institutions champion Pride is important. It's one thing for queer people to come together and bravely celebrate themselves, but it's another thing for the local government, businesses, clergy and others to say "yes we support our ENTIRE community." That's very powerful, and I would love to see that happening across Michigan.

It used to be illegal in the U.S. for queer people to gather and demonstrate, and Pride marches and festivals are a way to remind folks of that too, to say "never again." Our current administration is openly hostile to LGBTQ+ citizens and it's important to know that rights and protections need to be actively gained and maintained.

Plus, being (or seen as being) queer in public can be dangerous and scary. We have to make spaces where people can, even temporarily, feel safe, celebrated, joyful, embraced by family and community. The media can make it seem that it's super easy to be LGBTQ+ in the U.S., and while we do enjoy many freedoms and privileges, I still get messages from young fans in Michigan and other places in the midwest who are dealing with bullying, fear, who cut themselves or

See Ferndale Pride: Tunde, page 28



CONTINUED FROM 20

Gender Creative Reading Hour

2-3 p.m.
Affirmations,
290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
www.goaffirmations.org
Sponsored by the XTL Youth Empowerment Program. A gender creative, inclusive, storytelling time. Explore gender and expression through books and coloring.

Pride Prom: Galaxy Affirmations

6-8 p.m.
Affirmations,
290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
www.goaffirmations.org
Open to people ages 13-20. Come in costume or come as you are for an evening of intergalactic enjoyment with DJ Tone, free snacks and prizes.

In Between

7 p.m.
The Michigan Theater Annex Cinema,
603 East Liberty, Ann Arbor
Layla, Salma (a lesbian DJ and bartender) and Nour are three Palestinian roommates trying to find a balance between traditional and modern culture in Tel Aviv.
www.cinetopiafestival.org
Tickets: \$9-12

Silence! The Musical

8 p.m.
The Ringwald Theatre,
22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale
www.theringwald.com
Tickets: \$25

Three Sisters

8 p.m.
Slipstream Theatre, 460 Hilton, Ferndale
www.slipstreamti.com
Tickets: \$12

Motor City Bears Ferndale Pride Social

9 p.m.
Woodward Avenue Brewery, 22646
Woodward Ave., Ferndale
www.meetup.com/Motor-City-Bears
Hang out with and get to know your local furry, friendly and proud Bears.

JUNE 4

Always in Our Hearts Celebration of Life Display

9 a.m.
Transcendence Behavioral Health, 618 E.
11 Mile Road, Royal Oak
www.psychologistroyaloak.com
Panels from the NAMES Project Foundation AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display to honor the lives lost to AIDS as well as those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

Artist's Works Celebrate 'Summer Pride'

The struggles of the LGBTQ community through activism will be honored during Ferndale Pride, Motor City Pride, Hotter Than July and Transgender Pride through the "Summer of Pride" exhibit June 1-July 28 at Affirmations' Pittman-Puckett Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale.

"Our annual Pride Showcase is our most important exhibition for it represents the triumph of our community, our diverse but collective voice while also remembering our tragedies," said Heather Aymer, community resource coordinator at the community center.

"The Pittman-Puckett Gallery is a memorial for two women murdered in an apparent hate crime. We honor their memory and their legacy of advocacy and the arts during Pride Season. We honor ourselves, our advances, our setbacks, but ultimately, we honor the we of us. Being us, everyone can connect to every piece in this show, for we delight in the many stories told, the many ways people speak. It's special for its normalizing us, a symbol of what we are capable."

For more information, call 248-398-7105 or visit www.goaffirmations.org.

Kenny Dorgan

Dorgan has been an abstract painter for almost 50 years using acrylics and watercolors. In the past year, his work has been on display in the Pittman-Puckett Gallery. "My creativity comes from my heart and soul it's a reflection of my authenticity and what comes from within," said Dorgan. "I love to hear people talk about what I have painted. For me when others talk about what they see I have been successful."



Maddie Adams

Adams is an emerging abstract artist working primarily with acrylics and oils. She is mainly self-taught and paints in an Expressionistic style. Some of her main influences are De Kooning, Pollock, and Frankenthaler.

"My artwork is deeply personal," said Adams. "I create art because I feel the need to express my existence. Rather than creating an illusion, I try to create a mirror for myself and the people who view my work."



Pride Brunch

10:30 a.m.
The Union Cabaret & Grille, 125 S.
Kalamazoo Mall, Kalamazoo
www.pride.outfrontkzoo.org
Featuring Retro Pop Shuffle

Drag Queen and King Brunch

Shows at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
Rosie O'Grady's,
279 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
www.rosieogradysirishpub.com

Silence! The Musical

3 p.m.
The Ringwald Theatre,
22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale
www.theringwald.com
Tickets: \$20

Three Sisters

7 p.m.
Slipstream Theatre, 460 Hilton, Ferndale
www.slipstreamti.com
Tickets: \$12

JUNE 5

Txeers! Txacoli Hospitality Party

6-11 p.m.
Pop's for Italian, 280 W. Nine Mile Road

Silence! The Musical

8 p.m.
The Ringwald Theatre,
22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale
www.theringwald.com
Tickets: \$10

The Wound

9:45 p.m.
The Michigan Theater Screening Room,
603 East Liberty, Ann Arbor
A harsh exploration of black masculinity, homosexuality and tradition in modern South Africa.
www.cinetopiafestival.org
Tickets: \$9-12

JUNE 6

Pride Month Proclaimed

7-9 p.m.
Kalamazoo County Administration Building, 201 W. Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo



www.pride.outfrontkzoo.org
The Kalamazoo County Government (Commission) will vote to proclaim June 2017 to be LGBT Pride Month across the county.

JUNE 8

A Gay Soiree

7-10 p.m.
MKT the market,
1444 Michigan Ave., Detroit
www.facebook.com/mktthemarket/ or
www.fairmichigan.org
Officially kickoff Detroit Pride weekend. The evening will feature shopping, cocktails, light bites, music and an opportunity to learn about the empowering work Fair Michigan does throughout the community.

Lipstick & Lipsync

8:30 p.m.
Bell's Eccentric Cafe - Back Room, 355 E.
Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo
www.pride.outfrontkzoo.org
Tickets: \$10 for the 21+ event hosted by Savannah Hawthorne and Betty Davis featuring Bentley James, Una Legend, Mimi Versace and Jasmine Legend.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



MOTOR CITY

**JUNE 10-11, 2017
DETROIT**

PRIDE

FESTIVAL AND PARADE

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MOTOR CITY JUNE 10-11, 2017
DETROIT

PRIDE

FESTIVAL AND PARADE

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PRIDE STAGE

Saturday, June 10

- 12:30 p.m. DJ Kevin Bailey DJ
- 1:00 p.m. Heather Mac
- 2:00 p.m. Out Loud Chorus
- 3:00 p.m. Daniel LeClaire
- 4:00 p.m. Sabin Drag Revue
- 5:00 p.m. JLine
- 6:00 p.m. BenDeLaCreme
Presented by Netco
- 7:00 p.m. DJ Kevin Bailey
- 8:00 p.m. Stage Closes

Sunday, June 11

- Noon DJ Kevin Bailey TBD
- 12:30 p.m. Sing OUT Detroit
- 1:00 p.m. Equality Rally
- 2:00 p.m. Ms/Mr MCP Winners
- 3:00 p.m. Daphne Willis
- 4:00 p.m. Killer Flamingos
- 5:00 p.m. Jennifer Holiday
Presented by Delta Air Lines
- 6:00 p.m. DJ Jaydean
- 7:00 p.m. Stage Closes



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 10

- 2:00 p.m. Arianna Bell & Barry Chambliss
- 3:00 p.m. Telephon9
- 4:00 p.m. Alise King
- 5:00 p.m. Ann Arbor Drag F
- 6:00 p.m. Aliex
- 7:00 p.m. Stage Closes

Sunday, June 11

- 1:30 p.m. Ricky Poetry
- 2:00 p.m. Jenn McMillan
- 3:00 p.m. Sam Tolson
- 4:00 p.m. TBD
- 5:00 p.m. Melophobix
- 6:00 p.m. Jason Maek & Za
- 6:30 p.m. Stage Closes

THE UNDERGROUND

Saturday

- 1:00 p.m. Tom T
- 2:00 p.m. Jason Ricker
- 3:00 p.m. DJ DigiMark
- 4:00 p.m. DVJ Mark
- 5:00 p.m. Kevin Bailey
- 6:00 p.m. DJ Jace
- 7:00 p.m. Juicy James
- 8:00 p.m. Stage Close

Sunday

- 1:00 p.m. Nikolai
- 2:00 p.m. DVJ Mark
- 3:00 p.m. DJ Marquis
- 4:00 p.m. Jaydean
- 5:00 p.m. Tyler Yglesias
- 6:00 p.m. J'sett Comp
- 7:00 p.m. Stage Close

Schedules are subject to change. Check the website.

STAGE



www.motorcitypride.org for any last minute updates.

PYRAMID STAGE

Saturday, June 10

1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Miss & Mr
Motor City Pride Pageant

5:00-7:00 p.m. Kitty Bouree

7:00 p.m. Stage Closes

Sunday, June 11

Noon- 2:00 p.m. Motor City Drag Kings - Drag Reviw

2:00 p.m. Ramsey Valentyn

3:00 p.m. TBA

3:30 p.m. Motor City Drag Kings- Drag Reviw

5:00 p.m. Jonny McGovern

6:00 p.m. Stage Closes



Motor City Pride Parade

Sunday, June 11, 2017, 11am

A highlight of the festival will be the annual Motor City Pride Parade, where members of our community come together to share our vision of equality. The theme for the parade is **Stronger Together** by supporting each other we will be a larger force in our quest for equality. After viewing the parade, we invite all spectators to join is and march to Hart Plaza for the Equality Rally. A map of the route can be found on the reverse side of this page.

Equality Rally

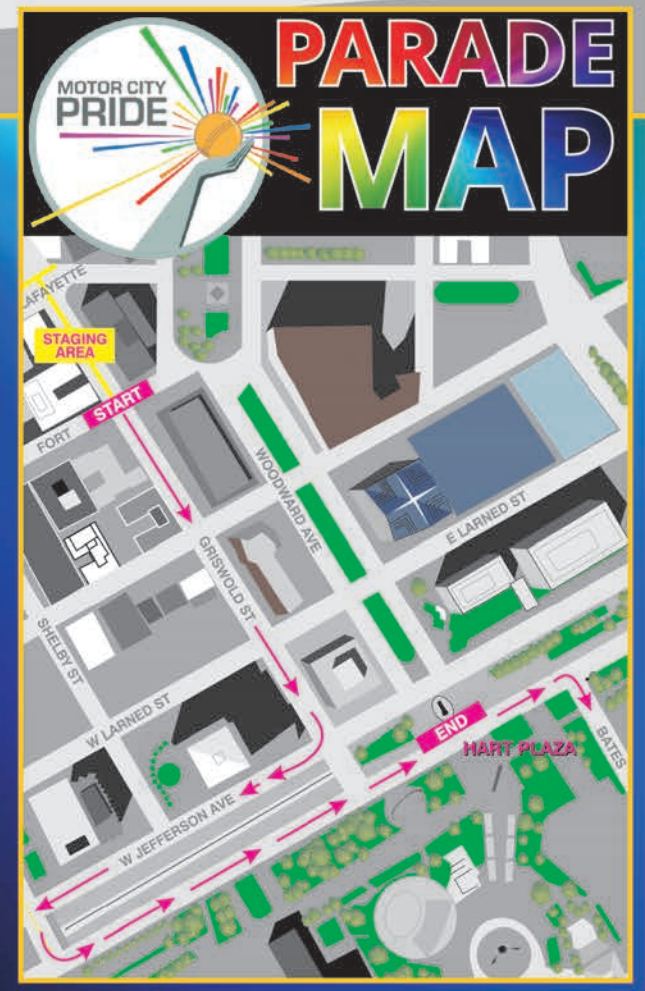
Sunday, June 11, 2017 12:30pm
at the Pride Stage inside Motor City Pride

After the Parade, we invite you to rally along with us in solidarity with The Equality March for Unity and Pride in Washington DC. Just as pride celebrations were born out of pickets in the mid-1960's, in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., as well as protest in the late 1960's, from the Compton Cafeteria and Stonewall riots, the Michigan Equality Rally will bring together activists from across our community as we rally together to show that we will not be silent.



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Saturday
June 10, 2017
2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Sunday
June 11, 2017
Noon to 5:00 p.m.

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Join other families as they participate in face painting, arts & crafts, visits by Dr. Dinosaur and much more.

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MOTORCITYPRIDE.ORG



UNIFIED HIV Health & Beyond Brings the Fight to the Ball

UNIFIED HIV Health & Beyond began over a decade ago engaging individuals with the otherwise closed ballroom communities. For generations, ball culture has been a place of escape and defiance for young black and Latino gay, bi, and transgender women who were disenfranchised in their communities and kicked out of their homes. It's with this underground LGBT subculture in mind that UNIFIED HIV Health & Beyond will host its 10th Annual Pride Ball - The Sitcom Edition at 6 p.m. on June 10 at The Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. The organization is well known for answering calls of the community, and Detroit is long overdue for a nationally recognized ball. This event was originally designed to target high-risk persons within the LGBT community that depend on the family-oriented culture of the ball scene for social support and to assist those in need of medical and non-medical assistance. UNIFIED's vision is to bring greater visibility and strengthen the relationships with ball scene members to help guide them to obtain optimal health. For more information, visit www.miunified.org.

CONTINUED FROM 22

JUNE 9

Motor City Pride Kickoff Party

Necto Nightclub, 516 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor
www.necto.com
Featuring Laila McQueen and Porcelain.
Free before 10 p.m., free with college ID before 11 p.m., \$5 for 21+, \$10 for 18-20.

JUNE 10

BTL's Portofino Pride Cruise

Board 10 a.m., Depart 11 a.m.,
Return 1 p.m.
The Portofino Luxury Yacht
The Detroit Port Authority, 130 Atwater St.,
Detroit
A leisurely brunch cruise with BTL and
guests. Ad Pop Awards will be presented
for excellence in LGBT advertising.
<http://gaybe.am/qz>

Bears in Speedos Car Wash

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Level One Bank parking lot, 22635
Woodward Ave., Ferndale
Get your car washed by Detroit's Motor City
Bears dressed in their Speedos. Proceeds
benefit Affirmations and the Ruth Ellis
Center.
www.meetup.com/Motor-City-Bears

Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival

12-5 p.m.
Waterfront Lawn, DoubleTree by Hilton
Hotel, 1 Wenonah Park Pl, Bay City
www.glbp.org
This year's event is family-friendly and
will consist of many vendors, locally-
recognized entertainment, community
speakers, a beer garden and a children's
area. Food vendors will be available in the
streets of the Riverside Art Festival.

Motor City Pride Festival

1-8 p.m.
Hart Plaza, Detroit
www.motorcitypride.org
Cover: \$5
Headling Motor City Pride is
BenDeLaCreme

The 10th Annual Pride Ball - The Sitcom Edition

6 p.m.
The Magic Stick
4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit
www.miunified.org
Hosted by Unified - HIV Health & Beyond to
bring greater visibility and strengthen the
relationships with Ball Scene members to
help guide them to obtain optimal health.

CONTINUED PAGE 30

10th Annual Pride Ball

The Sitcom Edition

\$1,000 Grand Prize!



Skin Wars - OTA Sex Siren



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June 10th 2017

The Magic Stick

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SUNDAY
JUNE 11
11AM-5PM



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[facebook.com/royaloakchamber](https://www.facebook.com/royaloakchamber)



► Ferndale Pride: Tunde

Continued from p. 21

are terrified of coming out to their parents. It takes a toll on them, mentally and physically.

What can we look forward to during your Pride performance?

Lots of dancing, bass, vocals, twirling, and quick changes? Haha.

As a social activist, you're reaching people through your music. What is your message today?

I don't know that I have a singular message. I am just trying to be good at what I do and make sure that every show makes me feel good and full of joy. If it doesn't feel that way I try to stop or change something.

Who inspires you? How do you feel about being an inspiration for others?

People I get to work with at Assemble Sound and Allied Media Projects inspire me. My friends inspire me. Other artists inspire me constantly. It's always touching to hear from fans who say they were inspired to be themselves, to be creative, to finish a workout, to get through their workday. Who wouldn't be touched by that? Even knowing someone, with all of the choices out there, decided to play a song I created? That's still mind-blowing to me.

Who are you collaborating with locally right now?

This has been a year of very diverse collaborations for me. I co-wrote/produced, and directed the video for a song called "Hijabi," with Flint native Mona Haydar. She's amazing, the video went viral, and it's

I don't know that I have a singular message. I am just trying to be good at what I do and make sure that every show makes me feel good and full of joy. If it doesn't feel that way I try to stop or change something.

pretty intense. Michigan folk legend Chris Bathgate just released his new album "Dizzy Seas," and I had the pleasure of co-writing and featuring on his current single, "Low Hey." Detroit-based pop singer Flint Eastwood just released her *Broke Royalty* EP, and I was lucky enough to co-write and feature on her last single, "Push." Getting to work with other people on their projects always re-energizes me. I get to take that energy back to my own music and other creative outlets.

What does your fantasy world look like today?

Everyone working together to eliminate poverty and protect the most vulnerable. Great parties and free wifi.

Tunde Olaniran will throw a great party at 8 p.m. on June 3 on the MotorCity Casino Hotel main stage at Ferndale Pride www.ferndalepride.org. Transgress with Tunde online at <http://tundeolaniran.com>.



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All-male Cast to Perform 'Lysistrata'

Slipstream Theatre Initiative proudly presents an all-male version of Aristophanes' classic "Lysistrata" June 17-July 9 at 460 Hilton Road in Ferndale.

In this fresh version of the raunchy comedy, "Lysistrata" is a washed up drag queen performance artist who has decided to take on the politicians. He needs to cross the divide between the separated forces of the gay community: the old bitter queens and the young twinkies. He has come up with a brilliant idea and will stop at nothing to get the others to join him. He is determined to bring the community together and might be able to learn some things along the way. He is surrounded by hysterical friends and super-needy lovers. And a seedy politician. The laughs don't stop in the romp around the political hay and over the rainbow. Talk about a tale as old as time, this story is as fresh and relevant today as it was over two thousand years ago. Aristophanes may have been writing for a very different era, but the idea of sex being used as currency has not changed with the times. No matter how much we have evolved or not.

The production, intended for mature audiences, runs at 8 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and at 7 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$12 in advance only and are available online www.slipstreamti.com or by emailing InsideTheSlipstream@gmail.com. Call 313-986-9156 for more information.

CONTINUED FROM 27

Motor City Pride Vigil

8 p.m.
Hart Plaza, Detroit
www.motorcitypride.org
Following the close of the festival, Motor City Pride will gather and pay respect to those we lost to violence both within the Michigan LGBTQ community and globally including the 49 lives that were tragically lost at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. The vigil is open to everyone in the community who seeks peace and tolerance. Illumination devices will be provided as supplies permit. Free.

GLBP After-Party Drag Show

9 p.m.
Westown Club, 611 E. Midland St., Bay City
www.glbp.org
Featuring queens Nikki Chaunte, Mary Magelicious, JonBenet, DeeDee Chaunte, Psyren Aviance and ZuZu Bella.

Check It

9:45 p.m.
College for Creative Studies, 201 East Kirby, Detroit
In this real, relatable and truly unforgettable documentary, a Washington, D.C.-area negotiator urges and LGBTQIA gang to fight for their voices and identities instead of fighting back against their rivals.
www.cinetopiafestival.org
Tickets: \$9-12

JUNE 11

Dykes on Bikes Motor City Pride Ride

Lineup starts at 10 a.m.
www.dykesonbikesdetroit.org

Grosse Pointe Pride March

10 a.m.
GP South High School, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe
www.facebook.com/wegrossepointe/
The family-friendly march will conclude with a rally in the parking lot of Maire Elementary School.

Motor City Pride Parade

11 a.m.
www.motorcitypride.org
This year's parade is themed "Stronger Together" as the state of Michigan comes together as a community.

Motor City Pride Festival

12-7 p.m.
Hart Plaza, Detroit
www.motorcitypride.org
Cover: \$5
Tony-winning actress Jennifer Holliday will close out the festival.

JUNE 12

Pulse Nightclub Candlelight Vigil

9-9:30 p.m.
The Apartment Lounge, 33 Sheldon Ave.

NE, Grand Rapids
www.grpride.org

JUNE 13

Family and Children Story Time

6-7 p.m.
Books & Mortar Bookstore, 955 Cherry St. SE, Grand Rapids
www.grpride.org
Attendees will receive a coupon for a free scoop of ice cream at Furniture City Creamery.

Bingo's a Drag

Doors at 6:30 p.m.
GoComedy!, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale
Tickets: \$35 (must be purchased in advance) for the 18+ event featuring drag queen hostess Lauren Jacobs, cash bar available, prizes and appetizers. A benefit

for Affirmations and the Ruth Ellis Center.
<http://gaybe.am/bj>

JUNE 16

Lake Effect Pride

7-11 p.m.
Pebblewood Country Club, 9794 Jericho Road, Bridgmann
www.outcenter.org
Tickets: \$35

Michigan Pride White Party

7 p.m.
Old Town, Lansing
www.michiganpride.org
\$10 wristbands provide access to all Old Town bars. Party-goers encouraged to wear white. Sir Pizza featured performer is Alise King with DJ Fudgie.

CONTINUED

Grosse Pointe Hosts Inaugural Pride March

BY BTL STAFF

There's a new community-based organization committed to resisting any erosion of civil and human rights, and to promoting local, state and national policy and legislation that are in line with the group's guiding principles. Known as We GP – Welcoming Everyone Grosse Pointe – the organization believes in affordable health care, racial equality, women's rights, LGBTQA rights, immigrant rights, religious tolerance and caring for the environment.

It's with those beliefs in mind that We GP will host the inaugural Grosse Pointe Pride March at 10 a.m. on June 11 in conjunction with local and national Pride events across the country.

"This has been a grass roots effort from the beginning, involving a diverse cross section of our community, in an effort to make sure that everyone in our community feels accepted, no matter their sexual orientation," said Andrea Joy, We GP LGTBQA Task Force leader.

"When you consider that almost half of all LGBT youth say that they do not feel welcome in their communities and that LGBT youth are twice as likely to be physically assaulted in



We GP – Welcoming Everyone Grosse Pointe – the organization believes in affordable health care, racial equality, women's rights, LGBTQA rights, immigrant rights, religious tolerance and caring for the environment. Photo: Facebook WeGP page of the Peace March in January in Grosse Pointe.

school, it is our duty as friends and neighbors to extend a hand to those who might not feel safe or supported. It is our hope that the Pride March is just the first step to creating a more open, loving and welcoming Grosse Pointe."

A committee of community based volunteers, including students from local schools, have been working on organizing the event. The objective is to raise awareness and

show support for LGTBQA people within the Grosse Pointe community as well as those who are considering the area for shopping, dining, recreation and living.

As a further show of support, residents who live along the march route will be given tree ribbons in the iconic rainbow print. Others who are interested in displaying the tree ribbons can pick up their free ribbons at the following

Grosse Pointe locations: Breckel's Massage Therapy, Flowers by Gabrielle or O'Flaherty's Irish Bar.

The family-friendly march will begin in the Grosse Pointe South High School "J" parking lot along Fisher Road and will proceed along Kercheval Avenue to Maire Elementary School. The event will conclude with a brief rally at 11 a.m.

Attendees are encouraged to continue their Pride celebration at Detroit's Motor City Pride in Hart Plaza.

"We timed our Grosse Pointe Pride March so that our event is ending just as Motor City Pride is kicking off that day," said Joy. "As a new event and young organization, we have looked to established groups like Ferndale Pride and Motor City Pride for guidance and inspiration. This is really a global movement and we all want to work together and support each other."

Moving forward, We GP will provide opportunities for social engagement and community building, as well as opportunities for political engagement and activism.

Connect with We GP online at www.We-GP.com or at www.facebook.com/wegrossepointe/.

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www.lordoflight.org

King of Kings Lutheran Church
2685 Packard Rd.
www.kingofkingslutheran.org

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

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

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

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

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

• **Grand Rapids**
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
250 Commerce Ave. SW
www.bethlehemchurchgr.org

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

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

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

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

• **Okemos**
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www.faithlutheranokemos.org

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

• **Rochester Hills**
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1550 Walton Rd.
www.AbidingPresence.org

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

• **Trenton**
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1790 Fort St.
www.stphilipelca.com

• **Toledo, Ohio**
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745 Walbridge Ave.
www.stlucastoledo.org



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The Recess Cafe will also be open during that time selling snacks and beverages.

Dance the night away at the **YOUTH PROM** (ages 13-20) from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Free snacks, cake, raffles and crowd voted PROM COURT (King, Queen & Ace).

Come in costume or come as you are.



For information, contact
Ian Unger, Youth Program Coordinator.
iunger@goaffirmations.org



290 W. Nine Mile | Ferndale | MI 48220 | 248-398-7105 | www.goaffirmations.org

CONTINUED FROM 30

Pride Prom: Mean Girls Edition

Necto Nightclub, 516 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor
www.necto.com

Hosted by Ivy Winters, Chanel Hunter and Jadein Black. Free before 10 p.m., free with college ID before 11 p.m., \$5 for 21+, \$10 for 18-20. Get in free with prom attire.

3rd Annual White Party

10 p.m.
Rumors Night Club, 69 Division Ave. S, Grand Rapids
www.grpride.org
Come dressed in your favorite white attire.
Tickets: \$10 for 21+, \$20 for 18-20.

JUNE 17

3rd Annual Pre-Pride Rally: Hand-in-Hand

11:30 a.m.
Ah-Nab-Awen Park, 220 Front Ave. NW, Grand Rapids
www.grpride.org
Hosted by Dave Watt of Mr. Friendly and special guests.

29th Annual Grand Rapids Pride Festival

12 p.m.
Calder Plaza, 300 Ottawa Ave. NW, Grand Rapids
www.grpride.org
Featuring Billy Gilman, Bonnie McKee, Lipstick Jodi, DJ Keller Shaw, Dymond Denae and the Rumors House Divas.

Michigan Pride Parade and Rally

11:30 a.m.
Adado Riverfront Park, 300 N. Grand Ave., Lansing
www.michiganpride.org
Parade will end on the Capitol steps for the rally featuring guest speaker Shane Shananaquet, a transgender 14-year-old sophomore at Adrian High School.

Michigan Pride Festival

1-10 p.m.
Old Town, Lansing
www.michiganpride.org
Featuring Starfarm Band, Ty Teon and Miss Amateur PowerDiva 2017 Emma Sapphire

JUNE 21

Up North Pride Ride with Norte

5:45 p.m.
F and M Park, 716 E. State St., Traverse City
www.upnorthpride.com
In partnership with Norte and TC Rides, riders will cruise down Front Street to the Bay then through several TC neighborhoods before ending at Rare Bird Brew Pub. Pride-themed bike decorations and costumes encouraged.

Up North Pride Sign Making Party

7-9 p.m.
Rare Bird Brew Pub, 229 Lake Ave., Traverse City
www.upnorthpride.com
Supplies provided. Make a sign for Pride March on June 25. DJ Sheree will provide entertainment.

JUNE 22

Community Giving Days

Shop at Whole Foods Market in Rochester Hills, Troy and West Bloomfield. Five percent of that day's net sales will be donated to Affirmations in Ferndale
www.goaffirmations.org

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

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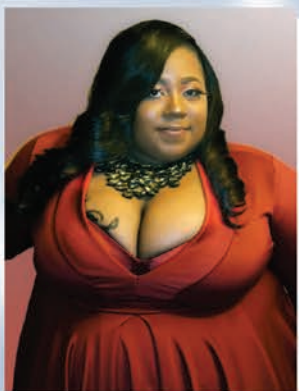
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Transgender Pride in the Park

In August 1966, a group of transgender women fought back against a police raid at Compton's Cafeteria in San Francisco. The riot that ensued marks what many believe was the beginning of the transgender equality movement. Although the specific date and many of the details surrounding the riot at Compton's Cafeteria have been essentially erased from history, Transgender Michigan is seeking to let the bravery of these transwomen live on by educating others about this momentous event and about transgender identity with the organization's annual celebration of Transgender Pride in the Park from 12-6 p.m. at Donald Red Geary Park at Earle Boulevard and Pinecrest in Ferndale.

This year's event will be held on Aug. 12 in honor of the 51st anniversary of the riot at Compton's Cafeteria. Transgender Michigan encourages organizations from all corners of the globe to celebrate Transgender Pride in the Park through educational events and efforts. For more information, visit www.transgendermichigan.org.

CONTINUED FROM 32

JUNE 24

Motown Invitational Classic Boat Cruise

Board 12:45 p.m., Depart 1 p.m.,
 Return 4-5 p.m.
 Atwater St. and Jos Campau, Detroit
 Tickets: \$30
www.mictournament.org
 Riverboat cruise to raise funds for Michigan's oldest and largest LGBT bowling tournament. 21+.

LGBT Older Adult Summit

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 MSU Detroit Center, 3408 Woodward Ave.,
 Detroit
www.sagemetrodetroit.org
 RSVP online. Free.

Flint Pride in the Park

2-8 p.m.
 Riverbank Park, Downtown Flint
www.facebook.com/flintgaypride
 Suggested donation: \$5

JUNE 25

4th Annual Up North Pride Rally and Visibility March

1-3 p.m.
 The Little Fleet,
 448 E. Front St., Traverse City

www.upnorthpride.com

Marching down to Clinch Park Beach for a community picnic. Bring posters, rainbow flags and Pride spirit.

JUNE 27

National HIV Testing Day

Visit www.pridesource.com/directory.html,
www.pridesource.com/calendar.html to find testing events in your area.

JULY 26

Hotter Than July Opening Party

5-9 p.m.
 Woodward Bar & Grill,
 6426 Woodward Ave., Detroit
www.hotterthanjuly.org
 This year's theme, "I Am Because We Are" will promote a conversation around identity politics.

JULY 28

Hotter Than July Annual Gathering

9 a.m.
 Center for Disparity Solutions and Equity,
 University of Michigan-Dearborn, College of Education, Health and Human Services,
 19000 Hubbard Drive, Fairlane Center South, Dearborn
www.hotterthanjuly.org

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JULY 29-30

Hotter Than July Palmer Park Picnic

11 a.m.

Palmer Park, 910 Merrill Plaisance St., Detroit
www.hotterthanjuly.org

JULY 30

Hotter Than July Sunday Worship Service

11 a.m.

Whosoever Ministry United Church of Christ,
2930 Woodward Ave., Detroit
www.hotterthanjuly.org

AUGUST 4-6

OUTFest & Pride Picnic

www.a2outfest.com/

This annual pride celebration, hosted by Jim Toy Community Center, returns to Ann Arbor's Kerrytown District with an array of activities for the LGBTQ and allied communities of Washtenaw County area. Weekend events including movie night, a morning yoga session, game night and the Pride picnic in Wheeler Park, are open to all attendees.

AUGUST 12

Transgender Pride in the Park

12-6 p.m.

Donald Red Geary Park, Earle Boulevard at Pinecrest, Ferndale, www.transgendermichigan.org
Celebrate the 51st anniversary of the Compton's Cafeteria Riot

SEPTEMBER 17


AIDS Walk Detroit

Registration at 8:30 a.m.

Royal Oak Farmers Market,
316 E. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak
www.aidswalkdetroit.org

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A GOOD HEALTHY LIFESTYLE BEGINS WITH HEALTHY NIGHTS SLEEP

'I'm From Driftwood' Added to LGBT Film & TV Collection

Michiganders Featured in Xfinity Series of Documentary Shorts

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

For those who have the Xfinity X1 Platform and haven't checked it out yet, the month of June is the perfect time to browse through the LGBT Film & TV Collection – a prideful library of over 800 shows and movies featuring LGBT characters and storylines.

Recently added to the collection are 20 new episodes of the "I'm From Driftwood" series of short documentaries, several of which feature stories from LGBT people across the state of Michigan.

Since March 2009, the non-profit "I'm From Driftwood" project, funded in part by the Palette Fund and the Arcus Foundation, has collected and shared over 1,000 stories from across the country. The stories are developed for the purpose of creating a sense of community, increasing empathy, driving social change and preserving LGBT history, according to the website. These first-person accounts provide an honest and genuine look at what it's like to be LGBT throughout the country and world.



James Felton Keith

Five of the 20 new stories added to the collection this month come from Michigan residents, including the story of James Felton Keith who was fired from Detroit Mayor Michael Duggan's office for what he alleges



Michael Coulter

was discrimination based on his sexual orientation. Also, the story of Michael Coulter, a Flint resident who told his first boyfriend he loved him only to find out his boyfriend didn't feel the same way.

These stories provide authentic glimpses into the lives and issues of LGBT people today.

"The process of finding storytellers is very organic," said Nathan Manske, founder and director of the series. "Sometimes people reach out to us directly, sometimes we do a call-for-entries on social media, sometimes I'll meet someone at an event, sometimes it's a friend of a friend. In the case of Xfinity, they introduced us to some of their LGBT employees who then shared their stories with us."

Taking its name from the city Manske hails from – Driftwood, Texas – he said the stories have the potential to make a great impact.

"The stories on 'I'm From Driftwood' have saved young lives, helped people come out of the closet at all ages, helped pass laws, and ultimately increased empathy, understanding and acceptance," he said. "That's why we're so excited about having the stories on Xfinity, to make them accessible to an additional 21 million viewers around the country."

The partnership with Xfinity is one that Manske said he hopes will be longstanding.

"Xfinity wanted to provide meaningful LGBT content to their subscribers," he explained.

"We talked about the best way to partner and came up with a plan that involved sharing some of the best stories from 'I'm From Driftwood,' but also about working on a new program together."

The new program, called "What Was It Like?," documents stories specifically from LGBT elders and will premiere exclusively on Xfinity for two weeks before being published

on the I'm From Driftwood site.

"Far too many LGBT stories have been lost to the closet, to the AIDS epidemic, and to time itself," said Manske. "What Was It Like?" gives LGBT elders a way to pass their legacy on to future generations and allow LGBT youth to gain a valuable, first-hand perspective on the LGBT experience and history."

But the new series will definitely not mean the end of Driftwood.

"I plan for I'm From Driftwood to not just continue indefinitely, but to expand into different forms of media," said Manske. "We want to ensure first-person LGBT stories are available in books, podcasts, graphic novels, and on the stage. We hope to continue expanding around the U.S. but also in countries around the world. What's so great about the partnership with Xfinity is that they're helping ensure the stories are seen by more people in more places around the country. We hope our partnership with Xfinity will continue every step of the way."

Jean-Claire Fitschen, executive director of Comcast Multicultural Services and Xfinity LGBT Film & TV lead, said in development of the collection, their customers "expressed a strong desire to see stories representing the rich diversity of experiences throughout the community, inclusive of different ages, races and genders. The 'I'm From Driftwood' video series provides an open, honest and genuine look at what it's like to be LGBT throughout the country and the world, including Michigan. These videos remind people they are part of a larger community and are never truly alone."

To subscribe to the Xfinity X1 Platform, call 800-Xfinity. For more information about the "I'm From Driftwood" series, visit www.imfromdriftwood.com.

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 6:45 PM – 10:00 PM EDT

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Psychiatrist Writes About Coming Out Later in Life

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

In a day and age when people are coming out younger than ever before – some even identifying as gay or trans pre-adolescence – it’s become harder to imagine someone waiting until middle age to come out. Yet for various reasons, many still do. Such was the case for Loren A. Olson, M.D., who came out when he was 40.

“You could call me naïve,” said Olson, whose book, “Finally Out: Letting Go of Living Straight,” was released as a second edition this month. “You could call me stupid. You could say I missed a lot of clues. I think what happened to me is I was married to my wife. I was married for 18 years and had two kids and was living what a lot of people think is the perfect life. Then I met a man, fell in love and discovered a different dimension of loving someone that I hadn’t known before. And I just couldn’t put it away again.” Yet even after discovering a new dimension of love, Olson was hesitant to let go of everything he had built – his marriage, family and career.

“I had always been a very committed and invested father,” Olson said. “I had made all of my marriage vows in good faith. I had expected that my wife and I would be married forever. So I felt as if I was abandoning my children and kind of ruining my wife’s life. ... So all I could think about was the losses that I might experience and not about what life might be like afterwards.

“Still, even with that I could not stop myself from moving toward a place where I felt a sense of moral integrity and whole heartedness and I was at peace with who I was and who I presented myself to be.”

After successfully coming out, Olson felt inspired to help others take the same unsure steps he had taken. To that end, he wrote “Finally Out.” The first edition of the book came out in 2010.

“The book is written for not only men who are considering coming out but also women,” said Olson. “It’s also written for family members who love someone who’s made that decision. It’s written for therapists and clergy who are counselling these people. I think it has some interest for people who may wonder

what gay life was like in the early and mid-last century. I think a lot of young gay people really can’t imagine the life that many of us lived at that time, during the McCarthy era when there were witch hunts for people who were gay. I think in many ways that makes things a little frightening now when you see what is going on in our current political environment.”

Yes, for all the progress the LGBT rights movement has made since Finally Out was first released, Olson said it’s possible now that the pendulum might start to swing the other way.

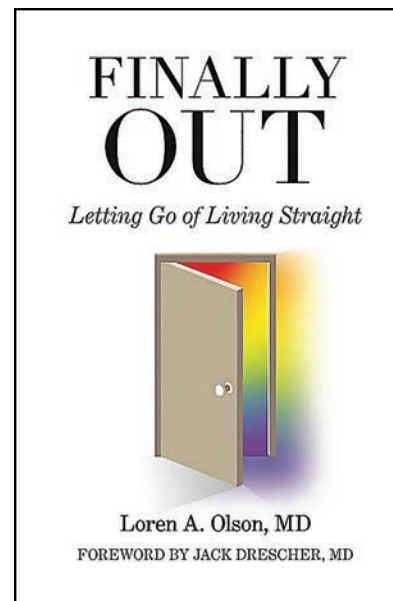
“There have been really dramatic changes in so much of what’s happened within the LGBT community, not the least of which is marriage equality. That was something that was not even imaginable when the first book came out. Then, I suppose more recently, the pushback with the bathroom laws that are being proposed and

some concern about what’s going to happen under the current administration. I think in many ways a lot of us were very complacent when marriage equality was passed thinking at last we’ve got all of our rights and it’s done. I think now things will swing back the other way to the point that it looks a little frightening that we’re going to lose some of the ground we’ve gained in the past several years.”

Still, it’s as good a time as ever for folks to make the leap and come out. Unlike many who see sexuality as a spectrum, Olson said he sees it more as a matrix.

“One of the things that I talk about is we have sexual desire, sexual fantasy, sexual behavior and sexual identity,” Olson explained. “And all the those things are not always consistent in the same individual. If I look at my own life again, I was labeling myself as heterosexual but my fantasies were homosexual. All of those things did not come together and I think when I became comfortable is when all of those four things came into alignment. That’s when I really felt at peace with my sexuality. Other people, I think, may see things in a different way but that was my own experience. It all aligned finally in my life when I was comfortable with it.”

“Finally Out: Letting Go of Living Straight was released April 1. It retails for \$15.95.





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'Ernie' Returns to City Theatre with a Doubleheader

Detroit Tigers fans will have the opportunity to watch the play, "Ernie," and catch a baseball game in the same day. To participate, patrons must present their "Ernie" show ticket stub at the Comerica Park Box Office. Fans receive a \$5 savings on select seating at the regular season home games. The play, which runs June 8-25, welcomes back local favorite TJ Corbett in his role as "The Boy" along with veteran stage actor Peter Carey in the lead role of "Ernie." Tickets are \$25-40 for the show at City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. For show days and times, call 313-471-3200 or visit www.olympiaentertainment.com/events/venue/city-theatre.



Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, June 1

The League of Extraordinary Genders 7 p.m. Transgender support group OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. info@outcenter.org www.outcenter.org

Taste of Her Speed Dating 8 p.m. "The evolution of connecting women to other women," hosted by Detroit's own Red with sensual poetry by Natasha T. Miller. Tickets: \$35 in advance. PiecesofLighthouse and Moore Culture Media, **Ferndale**. 2488356002. <https://tasteofher.eventbrite.com>

Friday, June 2

Book Signing and Discussion on Black LGBT Health in the U.S. 6 p.m. Featuring editors Dr. Lourdes Dolores Follins and Dr. Jonathan Mathias Lassiter with special guest Dr. Amorlie Robinson (Kofi Adoma), a licensed clinical psychologist serving Wayne County Third Circuit Court adjudicated youth at the Clinic for Child Study in Detroit. Pride Source, LGBT Detroit, REC, SAGE, Metro Detroit Association of Black Psychologists, 77 Victor St., **Highland Park**. www.ruthelliscenter.org

First Annual Ypsi Pride Block Party 6 p.m. Music, poetry, art, fashion, local support and love. Ypsi Pride, **Ypsilanti**. ypsipride@gmail.com www.facebook.com/YpsiPride/

Saturday, June 3

Ferndale Pride Ferndale Pride, **Ferndale**. 2483987105. www.ferndalepride.com

Rainbow Run and Canine Color Walk 8:30 a.m. The Rainbow Run is a 5K and 2K family-friendly run and walk for acceptance and diversity. Also a 2K Canine Color Walk. Each participant receives a Rainbow Run T-shirt. Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce, Nine Mile and Woodward, **Ferndale**. 248-542-2160. info@ferndalechamber.com <http://>

ferndaleareachamber.com

"Run As You Are" In-Person Training Session 9:30 a.m. For women who want to learn how to run for political office. Seminar led by VoteRunLead.org's co-founder and board chair Shannon Garrett. VoteRunLead.org, 1409 Buchanan Ave. SW, **Grand Rapids**. www.voterunlead.org

Health Tune Up 10 a.m. Free health screens, mini-health assessments, foot screens, hearing, vision, dental, cholesterol and blood pressure checks plus health and wellness physician lectures. Saginaw Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, 800 S. Washington St., **Saginaw**. 989-754-9761. www.kapsi-np.org/

Do Dah Parade 10:15 a.m. Crazy outfits are required. OutFront is hosting a crazy outfit crafting night on 5/31 at 5 p.m. at 320 S. Rose St. Bring supplies. Kalamazoo Pride and OutFront Kalamazoo, E. Lovell St., **Kalamazoo**. www.facebook.com/dodahkzoo/

Caregiving Resource Workshop 1 p.m. Please register by phone. Free event. Discuss nutrition, finances, veterans resources, exercise and fitness, and community resources. AARP and DMC, 6071 Outer Drive, **Detroit**. 877-926-8300.

TGMI Table 1 p.m. Transgender Michigan, Downtown Ferndale, **Ferndale**. www.transgendermichigan.org

Tobacco Cessation Discussion 1 p.m. LGBT Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit/

Gender Creative Reading Hour 2 p.m. Explore gender and expression through books and coloring. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

It's Time to Dance 2 p.m. DJ Dav, Dangerous Curves, DJ Jace, Octavia and Players Club featuring fire spinner Alexa Rae. Scheduled from 2-10 p.m. See schedule online. Arcadia Marketplace, Ferndale Pride, **Ferndale**. www.ferndalepride.com

ferndalepride.com

Youth Prom: Travel to Galaxy 6 p.m. Free and open to youth ages 13-20. Out of this world dance party with DJ Tone. Free snacks, raffle prizes for "crowd-voted" Prom Court King, Queen and Ace. Come in costume or as you are. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. ijunger@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Sunday, June 4

"Always in Our Hearts" Celebration of Life Display Panels from the NAMES Project Foundation AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display to honor the lives lost to AIDS as well as those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. Transcendence Behavioral Health, 618 E. 11 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**.

Kalamazoo Pride Brunch 10:30 a.m. Email for tickets. \$35 includes breakfast, live entertainment and a two-day pass to Kalamazoo Pride. Featuring Retro Pop Shuffle OutFront Kalamazoo, **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. jay@outfrontkzoo.org www.outfrontkzoo.org

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

After-Pride Drag King and Queen Brunch 3 p.m. Ferndale Pride, 279 W. Nine Mile Rd., **Ferndale**. www.ferndalepride.com

Monday, June 5

Txeers! Txacoli Hospitality Party 6 p.m. Tickets: \$25. Txacoli tasting, live music, Spanish food, circus performers. Ferndale Pride, 280 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. www.popsforitalian.com

Transition 2.0 7 p.m. Facilitated by Hannah Hartley, this group is focused on the art of transition. Integrate safely and positively into society. Open to all. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

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

Whole Lives, Healthy Lives Adult Support Group 7 p.m. This one-of-a-kind program in Berrien County helps attendees support each other in healthy ways through active listening and caring feedback. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. www.outcenter.org

Factory Monday 9 p.m. Goth-industrial night. Main room: DJ Void6 hosted by MC

Yoda. Red Room: DJ Madisi. Tickets: \$1-3. Necto, 516 E. Liberty, **Ann Arbor**. www.necto.com

Tuesday, June 6

Transgender Inclusion in Parks & Recreation 2 p.m. mParks members: \$10. Non-members: \$20. Session will provide guidance on creating an accepting environment for all with a focus on people who are transgender. Nathan Triplett of Equality Michigan, 26000 Evergreen Road, **Southfield**. www.mparks.org/inclusion

Sexual Assault Survivors Groups 4 p.m. Youth group, ages 13-17, meets at 4 p.m. Adult group, ages 18 and over, meets at 5:15 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. www.outfrontkzoo.org

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

Thursday, June 8

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

Red Umbrella Support Group 7:30 p.m. For individuals involved in the erotic

Editor's Pick

Sing this Summer

Members of the community are invited to take part in the 24th season of Summer Sings hosted by the University Musical Society Choral Union with conductor Kimberly Dunn Adams. All singers are welcome to these popular choral reading sessions on Monday nights - June 19, July 10 and July 31 - from 7-9:30 p.m. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for the no-audition, no-performance evenings of memorable music-making at the Stamps Auditorium, Walgreen Drama Center, 1226 Murfin Ave. in Ann Arbor. For more information, visit www.ums.org.



labor industry. Sex Workers Outreach Project Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Friday, June 9

Kalamazoo Pride Kalamazoo Pride, 145 E. Water St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. http://kglr.org/pride

Saturday, June 10

Motor City Pride "Stronger Together" Candlelight vigil on June 10 at 8 p.m. to pay respect to those we lost to violence both within the Michigan LGBTQ+ community and globally including the 49 lives that were tragically lost at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. Motor City Pride, **Detroit**. http://motorcitypride.org/

Bears in Speedos Carwash 11 a.m. Proceeds benefit Affirmations and Ruth Ellis Center. Motor City Bears, 22635 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. www.facebook.com/events/361412437586093/

BTL's 2017 Portofino Pride Cruise 11 a.m. RSVP. Space is limited. Pride Source Media Group and the Detroit Port Authority, 130 Atwater St., **Detroit**. https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ee1gm5ynf68795d9&oseq=&c=279d5770-dc31-11e6-8fca-d4ae5292c973&ch=27acc0c0-dc31-11e6-8fca-d4ae5292c973

Great Lakes Bay Pride Perceptions, Lawn, **Downtown Bay City**. www.greatlakesbaypride.org/

Pride Ball - Sitcom Edition 6 p.m. To bring greater visibility and strengthen the relationships with Ball Scene members to help guide them to obtain optimal health. This year we celebrates ten years of hosting the most anticipated summer community ball. UNIFIED HIV Health & Beyond, 4120 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 313-833-9700. www.miunified.org/Events/Special-Events

After Party Drag Show 10 p.m. Doors at 9 p.m. Great Lakes Bay Pride, 611 E. Midland St., **Bay City**. www.greatlakesbaypride.org/

MUSIC & MORE

Benefits/Social Events

Ethan & Gretchen Davidson "30 By Jim Luckey" An evening of art, fashion and philanthropy featuring an auction of 30 bespoke pairs of pants to benefit the Ruth Ellis Center. Tickets: \$75 (donation). David Klein Gallery, 1520 Washington Blvd., **Detroit**. 5:30 p.m. June 6. http://gaybe.am/4J

Food Gatherers "Grillin' for Food Gatherers: A Picnic with a Purpose" To raise awareness and support for local food rescue and food bank programs. Tickets: \$75 in advance. \$10 for kids ages 3-13. Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055

Saline Road, Ann Arbor. 3 p.m. June 11. 734-761-2796. www.foodgatherers.org/

Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission "13th Annual Home and Garden Tour of Historical Pleasant Ridge" Tickets: \$15-20. Pleasant Ridge Community Center, 4 Ridge Road, Pleasant Ridge. 10 a.m. June 10. www.cityofpleasantridge.org

Concerts

Ferndale Pride "Performance by Nwoye". MotorCity Casino Hotel, Main Stage, Ferndale. 4 p.m. June 3. www.ferndalepride.com

Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival "Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival" A celebration of choral works from the past 130 years. Tickets: \$10-40. Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd, Grosse Pointe Farms. 4:30 p.m. June 11. 248-559-2097. www.greatlakeschambermusic.org

Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival "Opening Night of the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival" Former Shouse artists Calidore String Quartet and Artistic Director Emeritus James Tocco return to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Shouse Institute. Seligman Performing Arts Center, Address, Beverly Hills. 6 p.m. June 10. 248-559-2097. www.greatlakeschambermusic.org

Music Hall "Detroit Music Weekend" Aretha Franklin headlines this free outdoor concert sponsored by Ford, Lear Corporation and Fifth Third Bank. Detroit Entertainment District, Madison East of Grand Circus Park, **Detroit**. June 8 - June 11. www.detroitmusicweekend.org

THEATER

Civic/Community Theater

Countdown to the Happy Day Tickets: \$17-20. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, **Detroit**. Through June 25. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

Three Sisters Tickets: \$12. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, Slipstream Theatre, 460 Hilton Road, **Ferndale**. Through June 4. 313-986-9156. www.slipstreamti.com

Professional

Fun Home Enter PFLAG when purchasing tickets. PFLAG of Greater Lansing, Wharton Center, 750 E Shaw Ln 825, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. June 8. 517-353-1982. www.whartoncenter.com

Silence! The Musical Tickets: \$10-25. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Through June 5. 2485455545. www.theringwald.com

Taking Shakespeare Tickets: \$25-30. Students: \$10 with valid ID. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through June 18. 517-655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org

ART 'N' AROUND

Downtown Development Authority "Art & About" Every second Friday from June through October Downtown Berkley, 3338 Coolidge Hwy, Berkley. June 9 - Oct. 13. http://gaybe.am/DG

Farmington DDA and Cultural Arts Division "ART on the Grand" Admission is free. Downtown Farmington, 33316 Grand River Ave., Farmington. June 3 - June 4. 248-473-1870. www.artontheGrand.com

Ferndale Pride "Summer of Pride Art Show" Exhibit honors the struggles of the LGBTQ community through activism during Ferndale Pride, Motor City Pride, Hotter Than July and Transgender Pride. Pittman-Puckett Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. June 1 - July 28. www.goaffirmations.org

Integrity Shows "Royal Oak Clay, Glass & Metal Show" Integrity Shows, Washington Avenue between Fourth Street and Lincoln, Royal Oak. June 10 - June 11. http://clayglassandmetal.com/

Kalamazoo Pride and the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo "Love Who You Art 2017" Join Art Hop and view the showcase of LGBTQ artists at OutFront. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 5 p.m. June 2. www.facebook.com/events/250899982035143/

Kristi Faulkner Dance "ASSEMBLE Exhibit" ASSEMBLE features the work of 26 artists from around the country who are taking a stand on social, political, environmental or economic issues that are meaningful to them. What do you think is worth fighting for? Proceeds from tickets sales will benefit Not My House - a collaboration between KFD and the Ruth Ellis Center. Tickets: \$15-25. Marlene Boll Theater, 1401 Broadway, **Detroit**. 8 p.m. June 3. 4195094375. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2938942

Kristi Faulkner Dance "ASSEMBLE Exhibit" ASSEMBLE exhibit 26 artists from around the country who are taking a stand on social, political, environmental or economic issues that are meaningful to them. What do you think is worth fighting for? Proceeds from tickets sales will benefit Not My House - a collaboration between KFD and the Ruth Ellis Center. Tickets: \$15-25. Marlene Boll Theater, 1401 Broadway, **Detroit**. 8 p.m. June 2. 4195094375. www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2938942

Youth Workforce Development Programs "Summer Arts and Crafts Bazaar" Contact Lilianna Reyes via email for more information. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 12 p.m. June 4. 248-398-7105. www.facebook.com/events/1780283438859181/

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Study: Bullying Persists in School, Reports of Sex Crime Up

WASHINGTON (AP) - A new study shows that 1 out of every 5 of middle and high school students has complained of being bullied at school. And the number of reports of sexual assault on college campuses has more than tripled over the past decade.

The study by the National Center for Education Statistics and the Justice Department released May 16 says that overall instances of bullying have been declining in American schools over the past decade. But 21 percent of students aged 12-18 still reported being bullied in 2015. That's slightly below the international average.

The picture was bleaker for gay, lesbian and bisexual students. The study said 34 percent of students who identified as LGBT complained of bullying, compared to 19 percent who identified as heterosexual.

UN, Microsoft Announce \$5M Partnership on Human Rights

GENEVA (AP) - Microsoft announced May 16 that it intends to contribute \$5 million over five years to the United Nations human rights office, assistance the Geneva-based agency called a "landmark partnership" that could prod other big private-sector donors to follow suit.

The Redmond, Washington-based company plans to develop and use technology to help the U.N. rights office "predict, analyze and respond to critical human rights situations" at a time of arbitrary killings, rapes, detentions without trial and other abuses around the world.

"As a global company that sees the problems of the world, we believe that we have a responsibility to help solve them," Microsoft President Brad Smith said.

The partnership was launched quietly last year. U.N. human rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani said it reflects a commitment to using technology to promote human rights and recognition of the role the private sector can play in advancing that cause.

An example of the technology being developed is an information dashboard, Rights View, to aggregate data on human rights violations by country and type in real time.

Microsoft also pledged to support the U.N.'s human rights advocacy and outreach campaigns, including the development of corporate principles for tackling LGBT discrimination in the workplace.

The announcement comes amid uncertainty about the rights office's main funding source: countries and governments. The United States, traditionally a major donor, is considering cuts to its funding for U.N. institutions as part of Trump administration plans to trim the U.S. State Department budget.

Affirmations Appoints New President of the Board, Announces 2017 Board of Directors

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Affirmations in Ferndale announced the election of new officers and members to the LGBTQ community center's board of directors on May 24 including new president, Brad Bell.



Brad Bell

Bell, who joined Affirmations' board of directors in 2012, said he is "very excited to lead the board as we update our strategic plan this year and figure out, with community input, the direction of the center over the next few years. With marriage equality now the rule of law across the country, many in the general public might wonder why we still need a community center or other LGBTQ organizations.

For so many people in our community marriage equality has no impact on their daily lives."

Affirmations continues to serve thousands of individuals from Southeast Michigan in areas of support, social activities, counseling, leadership development, and health needs that are particular to the LGBTQ community. Especially for older adults who created the movement, youth who are coming out today and do not live in supportive families and communities, and transgender men and women.

"Affirmations serves as a safe space where they can express their authentic selves. I witness that each time I walk in the building and I am instantly reminded of the importance of the work we do here," said Bell.



Mike Flores

In spite of some significant staff changes in prior years, Affirmations has continued to deliver high quality services 12 hours a day, six days a week, 52 weeks of the year.

"That speaks so well to the strength of the organization and the volunteers and donors that support our work," said Bell. "We have an amazing

programming and administrative staff in place that has the ability to enhance the services of the center even further. That direction will be mapped out in our new strategic plan."



Eric Martin

The new vice president, Mike Flores, was first appointed as a board member with Eric Martin in January. An additional four board members were appointed last month.



Paula Kirsch

Paula Kirsch is a Psychotherapist between her private practice at Authentic Living Psychotherapy, LLC in Detroit, and Eastwood Clinic in Southfield. Kirsch's involvement with the center started when she volunteered on the Event Committee, then going on to become a counseling intern and a Center Partner.

Phil Nardone works as an account executive at Commonwealth McCann, where he specializes in account and client management. His work with Affirmations began in 2014, when he volunteered at the Welcome and Resource desk before being trained as an adult ally for the youth drop-in center.



Phil Nardone

John Stanaszek has been a resident of Ferndale for 25 years. He currently serves as Senior Vice President and Regional Manager for Citizens Bank. John has been honored with numerous awards for both sales and community project leadership,



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John Stanaszke

the most recent being the Chairman's Credo award for community involvement for 2016.

Danielle Woods is a 15-year veteran of the Detroit Police Department. As the department's LGBTQ Liaison, she will continue to serve as a bridge between the LGBTQ community

and members of law enforcement.

"These individuals bring an array of skills, diverse perspectives and new energy that will compliment the existing board," said Susan Erspamer, executive director at Affirmations. "I'm extremely pleased that I'll get to work with such a wonderful group of individuals."

They will join treasurer Jon Beasley, secretary Syeda Davidson, member-at-large and former board president Frank Ailleo, Jodi Allen, Rev. Steven Archer and Karl de Nazareth to shape the direction of Affirmations



Danielle Woods

“These six individuals help better represent our community as a whole on the board and bring an amazing level of energy and passion around the work of Affirmations.”

– Brad Bell, newly elected Board President of Affirmations

moving forward.

"These six individuals help better represent our community as a whole on the board and bring an amazing level of energy and passion around the work of Affirmations," said Bell. "The board members who joined several months ago have already helped us secure new leads on grant funding and organized an upcoming fundraiser with the PNC Bank ERG group. That sort of effort and energy is infectious and I'm excited for where it will lead the organization over the next couple of years."

For more information, call the community center located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road at 248-398-7105 or visit the Affirmations www.goaffirmations.org.

13th Annual Home and Garden Tour of Historical Pleasant Ridge

Six beautiful homes and amazing gardens will be showcased from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on June 10 during the 13th Annual Home and Garden Tour of historical Pleasant Ridge. The tour, organized by the Pleasant Ridge Historical Commission, allows the public a special inside look at the different and characteristically historic properties of the city.

It is a chance for residents and non-residents to meet new people, and obtain ideas on decorating, designing and gardening.

"Pleasant Ridge is a unique community, comprised of a diverse, well-maintained and historic housing stock that ranges from small bungalows to very large colonials, with everything in between. The annual Home and Garden Tour provides visitors with a flavor of that diversity as proud residents invite them in to explore and learn of their history," says Kurt Metzger, Mayor of Pleasant Ridge. "I want to express my appreciation to the residents who open their homes to the public, and the many volunteers and members of the Historical Commission who work so hard to make this event a continued success. It is this community spirit that is the true essence of Pleasant Ridge."

Jim Breuckman, manager of the city of Pleasant Ridge says, "The Home and Garden tour is a great opportunity for visitors to experience many of Pleasant Ridge's well-loved homes. It also provides our Historical Commission with funding to support relevant beautification projects in the community."

Last year, ticket sales reached an all-time high and the plan is to continue to grow that number with the proceeds from this year's event being used to perform ongoing maintenance of the Pleasant Ridge Historical Museum, also known as the "Police Booth," as well as some exciting, new improvements to the surrounding City of Pleasant Ridge Municipal Parks and gardens.

Advance-day tickets can be purchased for \$15 online at www.cityofpleasantry.org or in person at the Pleasant Ridge City Hall on Woodward Avenue, or the Recreation Center located at 4 Ridge Road during normal operating hours. Tickets can also be purchased the day of the tour for \$20 directly behind City Hall from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

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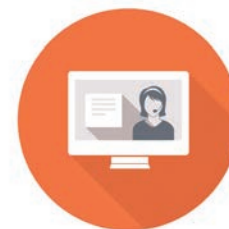
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Alia Shawkat gets the ‘_____ Across Town’

Alia Shawkat came out as bisexual, did you hear? No? Well, it’s probably because it happened about 20 minutes ago, and because she was so casual about it that you could almost call it an un-coming-out. But we think she’s fantastic, so she can come out any damn way she wants. Meanwhile, we’re all about her career choices, including her turn as Ilana Glazer’s nearly identical one-night-lover on “Broad City”; the film “Paint It Black,” in theaters now, where she has a strange relationship with her dead mother’s boyfriend; and the upcoming “Izzy Gets The F*** Across Town,” from writer-director Christian Papierniak. The title alone means we want to see it, obviously, but it’s about a young female musician (Mackenzie Davis, “Halt and Catch Fire”) who is rapidly hitting bottom, so her plan is make her way across Los Angeles in time to crash her ex-boyfriend’s engagement party. We like this as a comedy plot because it



Alia Shawkat. Photo: KathClick

comes with the promise of chaos, and we also like the cast that includes “Get Out”’s Lakeith Stanfield, Haley Joel Osment, Annie Potts and gravel-voice comedian Kyle Kinane. Keep an eye out for it later this year.

‘Rent,’ ‘Christmas Story,’ ‘Jesus Christ Superstar’ coming to TV

Live musicals are busting out all over TV, thanks to the success of adaptations of “The Wiz,” “Grease” and “Hairspray” (we’ve all forgotten about the way we dragged that stiff “Peter Pan” on Twitter and have forgiven it for being weird and sleep-inducing, just FYI). And since Broadway has a deep history to poach from, this trend shows no signs of slowing down. NBC has announced an Easter 2018 telecast of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice’s 1971 classic “Jesus Christ Superstar,” while Fox is gearing up for two new ones, “A Christmas Story: The

Musical” – to air this December, with music from “La La Land” composers Benj Pasek and Justin Paul – and Jonathan Larson’s 1996 Tony Award-winning “Rent.” No casting news just yet – hey, can there be a not-white Jesus this time? – but we can already hear every underappreciated Broadway performer text-storming their agents. It’s deafening.

Dee Rees wants to bring lesbian horror to the multiplex

Her most recent film, “Mudbound,” was praised at Sundance and earned a nice payday from Netflix, where it will drop soon, so director Dee Rees (“Pariah”) was already looking forward to her next project. At the same time that was happening, “Get Out” was busy turning indie horror on its head, with its freaky “Stepford Wives” vibe and blistering commentary on white supremacy that scored huge at the box office and with critics. Then Jason Blum of Blumhouse (“Get Out”’s production company) sat down with Rees for a horror movie pitch, and he liked what he heard. No title, no stars, no script, no anything just yet, but Rees’s film will involve a lesbian couple moving to a rural area. And something doesn’t want them there. Is the new house haunted? Is there a ghost? Something else? Something worse? Whatever it is, we’re hoping for a fast track and a lesbian horror trend to revive the endless parade of paranormal activities and “Halloween”

reboots. Make it so, Blumhouse. We’re all counting on you.

Amandla Stenberg stars in ‘The Darkest Minds’

The kids, they are our future, and some of them want you to know that their pronoun is “they.” Example: young star Amandla Stenberg (“The Hunger Games”), who has been awesomely unconcerned about who doesn’t like the fact that their sexual orientation is fluid and their genderqueerness demands the singular plural. Stenberg’s career choices are garnering attention, too, as they’re starring in what could be the next big dystopian-teen franchise: “The Darkest Minds.” Written by Alexandra Bracken (based on her own novel) and co-screenwriter Chad Moore, and directed by Jennifer Yuh Nelson (“Kung Fu Panda 2” and “3”), it’s the story of a 16-year-old (Stenberg) who is among the survivors of a disease that has killed 98 percent of America’s children. Those survivors also turn out to have superpowers, which make them a threat to the crumbling status quo, which puts them on the run, which causes a war and, well, you know, all that YA end of the world stuff everybody loves so much. Listen, we’re just excited for Stenberg. More power to them.

Romeo San Vicente still uses “he” and “him” but feels appropriately boring about it.

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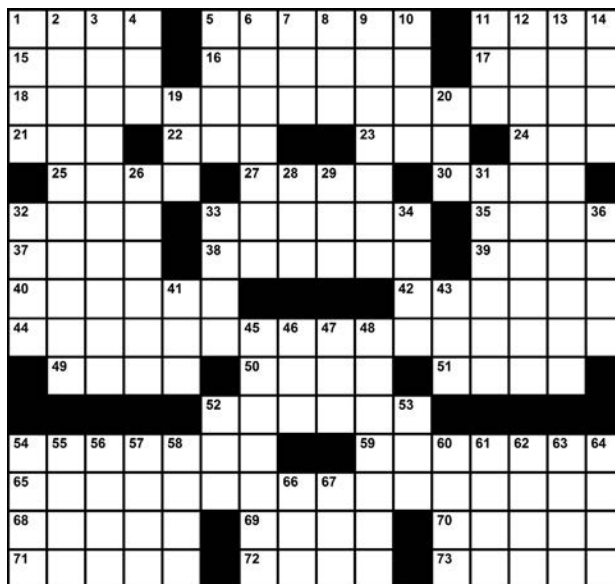

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Q Puzzle



Jenny and Michelle

Across

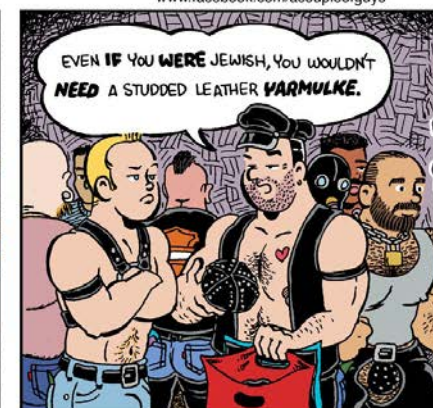
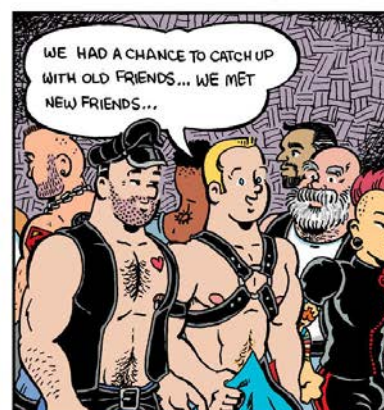
- 1 Brief moments of lovemaking?
- 5 Enjoy in an erotic way, with "on"
- 11 Say whether or not you're coming
- 15 Tie it to become wife and wife
- 16 Where LGBT people are accepted
- 17 Early role for "A Beautiful Mind" director
- 18 Start of Jenny Shimizu's comment about marrying Michelle Harper
- 21 Mo. of Mardi Gras, often
- 22 "___ live and breathe!"
- 23 Org. that likes to shoot off
- 24 WWII area
- 25 Pricks
- 27 Normandy city
- 30 Melville product
- 32 Huge opening?
- 33 More of the comment
- 35 Just so

- 37 "Da Doo Ron Ron" beginning
- 38 "My Name Is Earl" girl
- 39 "Out of ___" (Paula Martinac novel)
- 40 L-word bleeper, perhaps
- 42 Safari escorts
- 44 More of the comment
- 49 Diggs of "Rent"
- 50 It meant nothing to Navratilova
- 51 Hearty partner
- 52 Big exams
- 54 Broadway understudy, e.g.
- 59 Joel Cairo of "The Maltese Falcon," e.g.
- 65 End of the comment
- 68 From days of yore
- 69 Poet St. Vincent Millay
- 70 Target before shooting off
- 71 Discharge on one's face
- 72 Nice zip
- 73 Sample some buns, e.g.
- 14 Piece of Kahlo's cash
- 19 "Till There ___ You"
- 20 Nureyev's nyet
- 26 Fitzgerald character
- 28 Hayworth's Khan
- 29 Some commuter trains
- 31 Hun head
- 32 Rock that's easily split
- 33 Starch source
- 34 Foam at the mouth
- 36 Dick Tracy's girlfriend Trueheart
- 41 Vein contents
- 43 "Gag me with a spoon!"
- 45 "M*A*S*H" cross-dresser
- 46 Many, many moons
- 47 New Deal org.
- 48 "The Children's Hour" playwright
- 52 Flipper of Nemo or Dory
- 53 It's used in fake meat
- 54 Dundee denizen
- 55 Distant prefix
- 56 John work
- 57 NY Met, for one
- 58 Big rackets
- 60 "Oh, ___ a Beautiful Mornin'"
- 61 Luke Skywalker's sister
- 62 Pet food brand
- 63 Greek group, for short
- 64 Cock attachment
- 66 "The Last King of Scotland" character
- 67 SSW's opposite

Down

- 1 Kind of milk
- 2 Booking for t.a.T.u., e.g.
- 3 List of fixed mistakes
- 4 Jeanne d'Arc, for one (abbr.)
- 5 Balls
- 6 Morally "straight"
- 7 Rocky crag
- 8 Eliza Doolittle's aspiration?
- 9 "Shakespeare in Love" star
- 10 Exhibition event
- 11 Legendary big bird
- 12 Like balls
- 13 Lily's ethnicity on "Modern Family"

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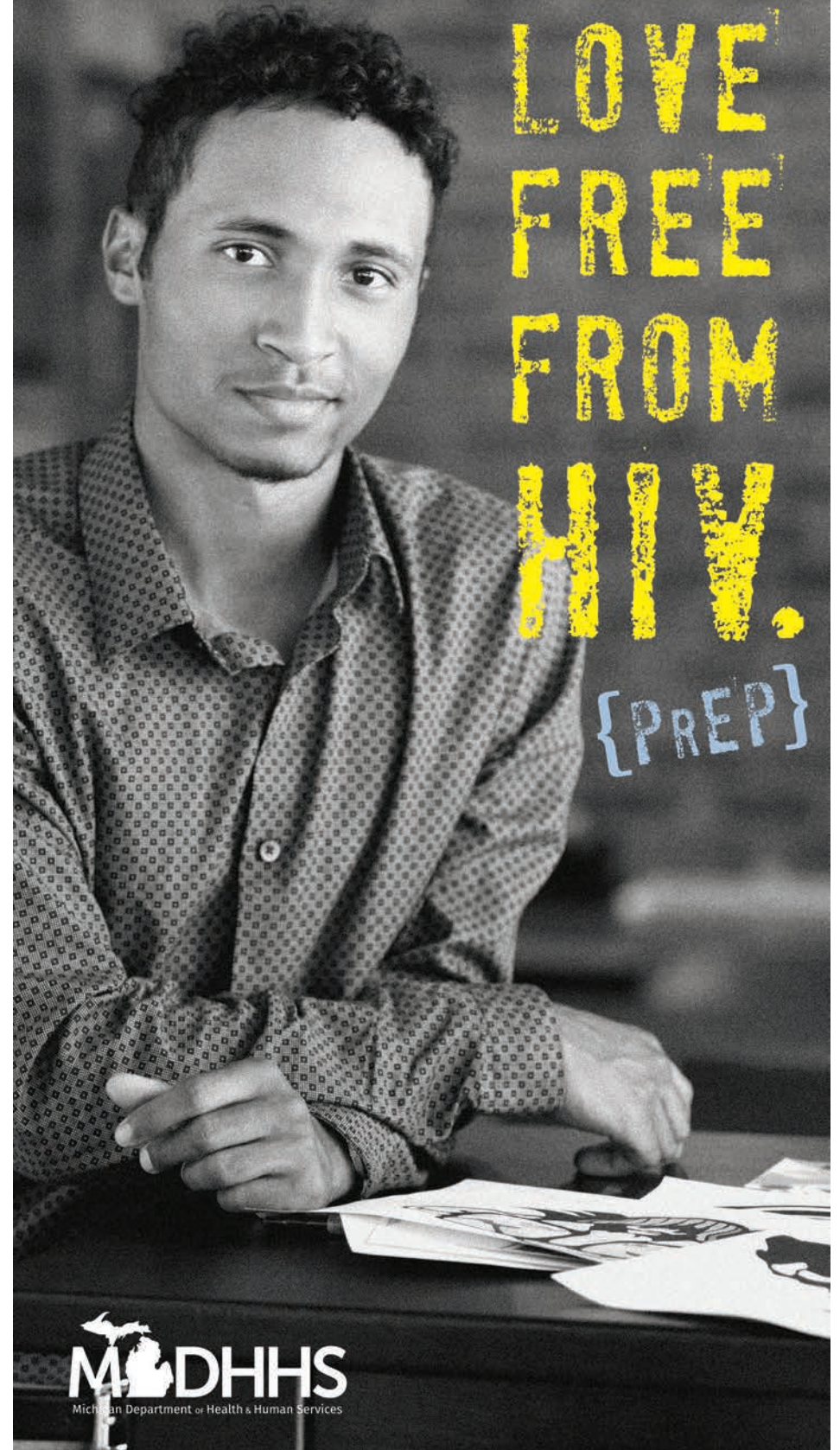
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