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Motor City Pride • Hart Plaza • Detroit



JUNE 8, 2017
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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!

Featured Entertainment: StarFarm Band, a local Lansing 80s cover band.

Kid-friendly entertainment

Vendors booths and Non-profit exhibitors

Pride swag

Beer Tent

Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com



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PRIDE

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Olivia Newton John

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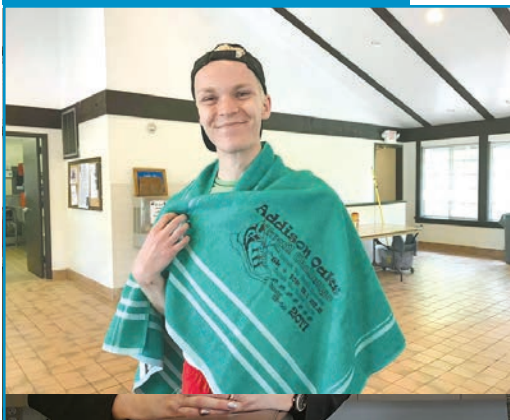
SPOTLIGHT



PRISM Chorus to Perform Sold Out Show

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Making a Difference, Running the Distance

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Historic Detroit Church will Marry First Gay Couple

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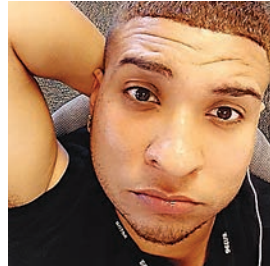
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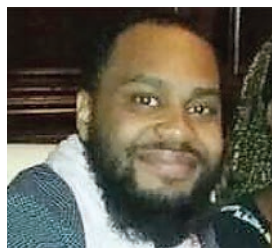
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REMEMBER



Stanley Almodovar III,
23 years old



Darryl Roman Burt II,
29 years old



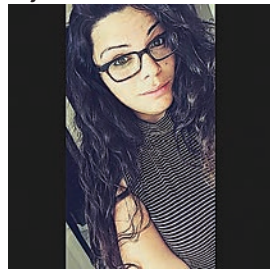
Tevin Eugene Crosby,
25 years old



Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz,
22 years old



Javier Jorge-Reyes,
40 years old



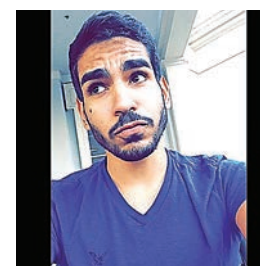
Amanda Alvear,
25 years old



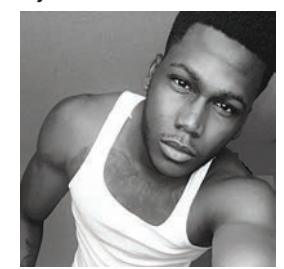
Angel L. Candelario-Padro,
28 years old



Deonka Deidra Drayton,
32 years old



Juan Ramon Guerrero,
22 years old



Jason Benjamin Josaphat,
19 years old



Oscar Aracena-Montero,
26 years old



Juan Chevez-Martinez,
24 years old



Simon Adrian Carrillo Fernandez,
31 years old



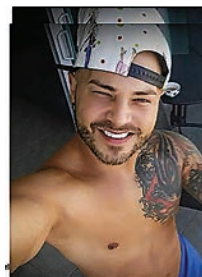
Paul Terrell Henry,
41 years old



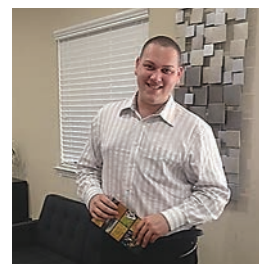
Eddie Jamoldroy Justice,
30 years old



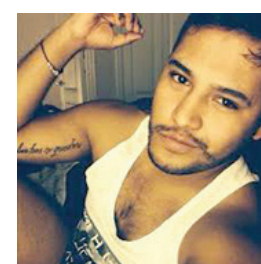
Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala,
33 years old



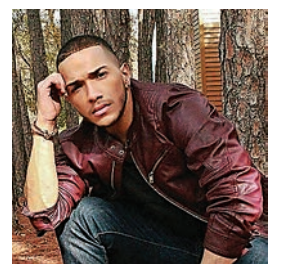
Luis Daniel Conde,
39 years old



Leroy Valentin Fernandez,
25 years old



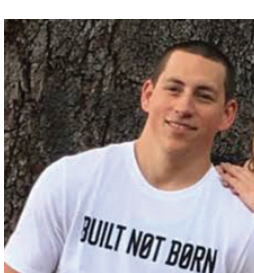
Frank Hernandez,
27 years old



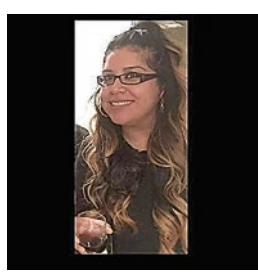
Anthony Luis Laureano Disla,
25 years old



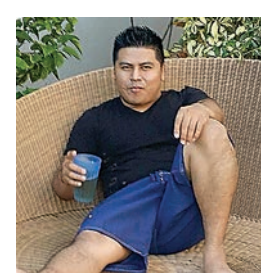
Antonio Davon Brown,
29 years old



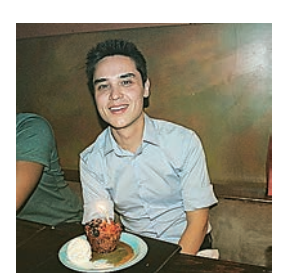
Cory James Connell,
21 years old



Mercedes Marisol Flores,
26 years old



Miguel Angel Honorato,
30 years old

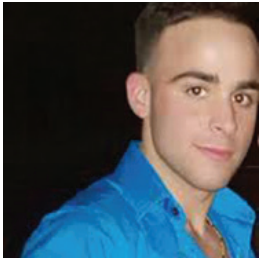


Christopher Andrew Leinonen,
32 years old

Find the bios of the 49 victims lost in the massacre at Pulse Nightclub on June 12, 2016 online at PrideSource.com. Fifty-three others were wounded on that terrible night. See page 10 for information on the permanent memorial being planned in Orlando.

Pulse Nightclub
June 12, 2016

ORLANDO



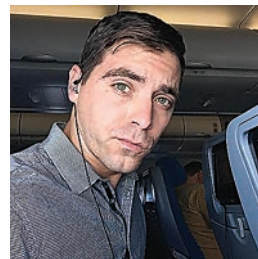
Alejandro Barrios Martinez,
21 years old



Luis Omar Ocasio-Capo,
20 years old



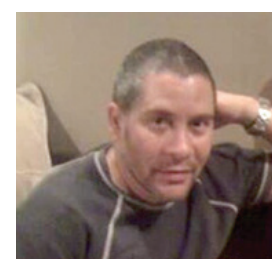
Enrique L. Rios, Jr.,
25 years old



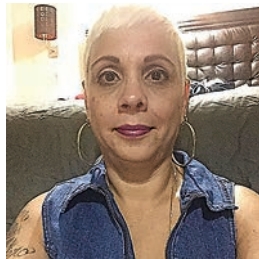
Edward Sotomayor Jr.,
34 years old



Jonathan Antonio Camuy Vega,
24 years old



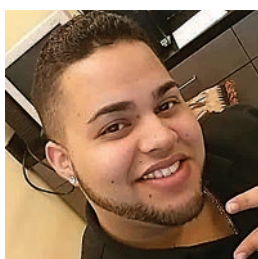
Franky Jimmy Dejesus Velazquez,
50 years old



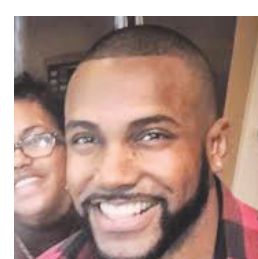
Brenda Lee Marquez McCool,
49 years old



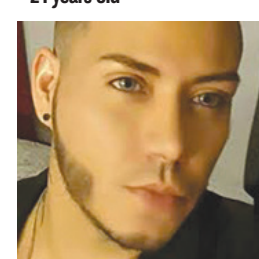
Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez,
25 years old



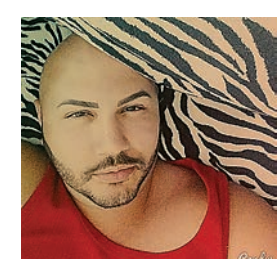
Jean C. Nives Rodriguez,
27 years old



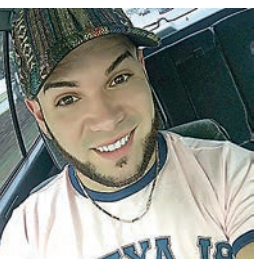
Shane Evan Tomlinson,
33 years old



Juan P. Rivera Velazquez,
37 years old



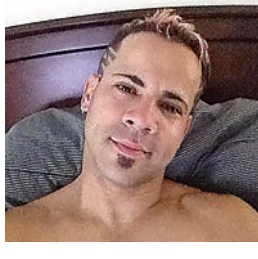
Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon,
37 years old



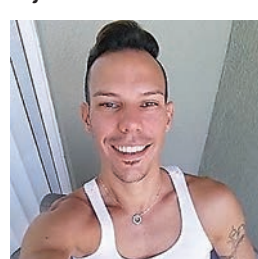
Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez,
25 years old



Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera,
36 years old



Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado,
35 years old



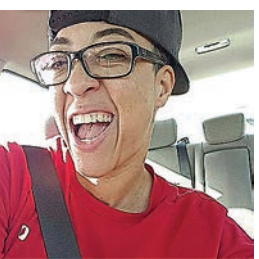
Martin Benitez Torres,
33 years old



Luis S. Vielma,
22 years old



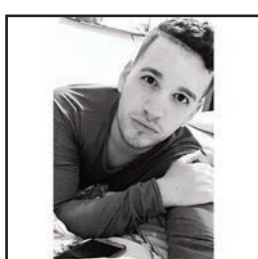
Jerald Arthur Wright,
31 years old



Kimberly Morris,
37 years old



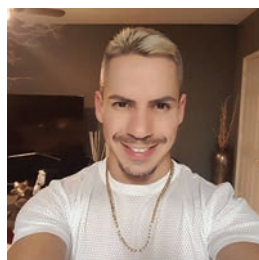
Joel Rayon Paniagua,
32 years old



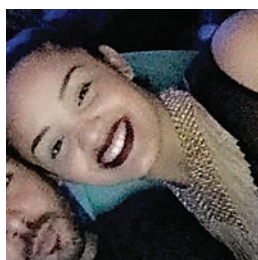
Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz,
24 years old



Akyra Monet Murray,
18 years old



Jean Carlos Mendez Perez,
35 years old



Ylmary Rodriguez Solivan,
24 years old



In Memoriam: Michigan Honors Pulse Nightclub Victims in Orlando

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

LGBTQ Pride celebrations worldwide will honor Pulse nightclub victims in Orlando with many vigils and gatherings. One year later, the community will never forget the tragedy that took the lives of 49 people and injured nearly 60 more when gunman Omar Mateen pledged allegiance to ISIS in a 911 call then opened fire before police rushed into the building and shot him dead.

In remembrance of this day Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow, senior pastor and teacher at the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit in Ferndale, will say a few words during a vigil at 8 p.m. on June 10 at the closing of Motor City Pride's festival for the evening in Hart Plaza.

The vigil is open to everyone in the community who seeks peace and tolerance and will be free of charge to attend. Illumination devices will be provided as supplies permit.

MCP organizers are committed to standing with all who are affected by violence and intolerance. Details regarding this event can be found online <http://motorcitypride.org/> or by emailing info@motorcitypride.org. Another local vigil will be held at 9 p.m. on June 12 during Grand Rapids Pride at The Apartment Lounge, 33 Sheldon Ave. NE in Grand Rapids. Call 616-458-3511, email info@grpride.org or visit www.grpride.org/fest/ for more information.

Orlando Love

On the anniversary of the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history, the city of Orlando will come together to remember the victims of the Pulse nightclub during the Orlando Love: Remembering Our Angels event on June 12.

"What happened at Pulse was the darkest day in our city's history, and we continue to grieve for the victims and fight for those who are still suffering," Orlando City Commissioner Patty Sheehan said in a Facebook statement. "This June 12, our entire LGBTQ community and our allies need to stand together and continue to show that we are a strong, united city that responds with love."

Additionally, Pulse owner Barbara Poma and Orlando mayor Buddy Dyer are among those who will speak at the Orlando Love event, which is being produced by volunteers and supported entirely by donations.

Poma announced plans in December 2016 to convert the nightclub into a memorial and museum to commemorate the tragic event. The plan is to open the "sanctuary of hope" in 2020, but Poma said it's not yet clear how much the site will cost, or what it will look like, though she emphasized that it is a "community-driven effort" and the museum will showcase "historic artifacts and stories from the event."

A non-profit fund, the onePULSE Foundation, has been set up to fund this effort, as well as community grants to care for the survivors and victims' families and endowed scholarships for each of the people killed. For more information, visit the onePULSE Foundation website .

Read more about the Orlando Love event online www.facebook.com/PulseAngels



Ferndale Pride volunteers and elected officials dedicate lots of hours to organize the annual festival. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

Great Weather, Highest Attendance Yet Lead to 'Best' Ferndale Pride

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter set the tone on June 3 as the city kicked off summer with its annual Pride festival.

"We're here to be supportive and say 'Welcome,' and by welcome I mean this - everyone is welcome in Ferndale - and I'm so proud that for seven years we've said to the LGBTQ community, which I am a member of, 'You are welcome here,' and this year, city council adopted an official welcoming ordinance that says to our immigrant friends and neighbors that you are also welcome here," said Coulter during the opening ceremony at Ferndale Pride. "We know that in Ferndale that our diversity isn't just something we celebrate, it's our strength. It's at the very core of our being. It's what makes us unique and we are going to be a beacon to the rest of the state and to the rest of the world that this is how you run a community where everyone is welcome, everyone is valued and everyone has input."

This kind of reputation is one of the reasons an estimated 20,000 people visited the city for Pride events throughout the weekend. That, and

people are coming to know Ferndale Pride as the festival that truly offers something for everyone.

Festivities began following the early morning Rainbow Run, presented by the Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce. Morgan Campagna, 18, of Sterling Heights and her girlfriend Katie Thomas, 16, of Warren started their day with the race before attending the festival.

"I love it. It's amazing to see the community coming together," said Thomas, who never had the opportunity to attend Ferndale Pride before this year. "You can feel all the love. I came out today to be a part of that."

Campagna said her mother, Melanie, brought her for the first time four years ago. She had no idea what this "day of fun" was all about before then and wanted to share it now with Thomas.

"It is the greatest thing I could find that was an accepting community," said Campagna.

Despite its reputation for being cursed by rain in years past, the weather was around 80 degrees and sunny.

On the MotorCity Casino Hotel main stage, organizers paid tribute



Detroit vocalist, producer and songwriter Sarah Hood performs an original song written for the Orlando Pulse nightclub victims. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

to the victims of the Pulse nightclub attack in Orlando.

"Today we have a lot to celebrate and we have a lot to remember," said Julia Music, event chair, before a special balloon launch that was dedicated to the 49 lives lost in

See Ferndale page 12



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New, young, LGBTQ people and allies in the community participate in the memorial balloon launch at Ferndale Pride. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

► Ferndale Pride

Continued from p. 10

the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando just six days after last year's Pride. Detroit vocalist, producer and songwriter Sarah Hood performed an original song written for the victims.

Brian Kramer, his girlfriend Kara Nickell and Beth Hussey of the Kramer Restaurant group were there to help release the black balloons. Kramer is friends with Pulse owner Barbara Poma and was personally devastated by the tragedy.

Rainbow colored balloons were also released by new, young, LGBTQ people and allies in the community to honor those who died recently including Peter Cooper, a longtime activist in the local LGBTQ and Jewish communities.

"We want to remember them with a little bit of happiness because they brought so much

happiness to so many people," said Music.

The streets of downtown Ferndale filled up for the 7th annual family-friendly street fair, which continues to grow each year. More than 115 inclusive vendors sold food, beverages and goods, and offered up resources and information for the LGBTQ community.

Making its debut at the festival this year

The day after the festival, event organizer Julia Music said, "I want to thank the community for supporting Ferndale Pride. We raised lots of money for charity in those buckets floating around during the event."



Katie Thomas of Warren attends her first Ferndale Pride this year with her girlfriend, Morgan Campagna of Sterling Heights. BTL Photo: Kate Opalewski

was a sober space designed for those who like to celebrate Pride without alcohol. The space, according to Music, was busy all day and festival-goers "really liked having that area. It was a fantastic addition and we plan on keeping it."

The crowds at the main stage and dance stage areas grew larger throughout the day as festival-goers enjoyed a variety of metro Detroit musical acts and performers. Music said vendors stayed open later as the evening drew to a close.

Based on the amount of positive messages Music has received via email, text and in conversation, she said this was "the best Ferndale Pride by far. People are very happy."

Which means a lot considering the festival is not just a party. There is a lot of history rooted in the celebration, which many young people in attendance didn't seem to be aware of. Music, who started organizing LGBTQ events at the age of 16, hopes moving forward that more youth will get involved and get to know some of the leaders and activists in their communities. "Young people have all the power in the world to do things that need to be done," she said.

Jace Paupert and his fiancé Emily Reger are young, but the Roseville couple has a good sense of why they attended Pride this year.

"We both enjoy the sense of comradere and acceptance that comes with being in the company of others in the LGBTQ community," said Paupert. "To me, Pride means to be proud of the relationship I've built with someone regardless of gender and to do so without reservation or fear of what others may think because at the end of the day the essence of

love is the same when you strip away the physicality of those who share it."

The day after the festival, Music said, "I want to thank the community for supporting Ferndale Pride. We raised lots of money for charity in those buckets floating around during the event."

Proceeds from Ferndale Pride go to Affirmations, Ferndale Community Foundation, Gender Identity Network, Matrix Human Services MAC Health and Transgender Michigan.

In response to people who are already asking about next year's Pride, Music said the date is set for June 2, 2018. As always, volunteers are needed. Planning starts in November.

Stay connected to all things Ferndale Pride related online at www.ferndalepride.org.

The "queer squad" descends on Pride and Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter welcomes Ferndale Pride attendees during the opening ceremony. BTL Photos: Andrew Potter





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Making a Difference Running the Distance

Planned Parenthood Receives Donation from Local Marathon Runner

BY ZOE MEGGERT

Sam Kremke knew that he wanted to run his first marathon this year, but he couldn't have anticipated the incredible results – both of his race and of the charitable donation campaign he launched alongside his training. On May 13, Kremke completed the Addison Oaks Challenge marathon. “Completed” is putting it lightly – Kremke came in first with a time of 3 hours and 32 minutes. He beat the second-place runner by a several minute gap, which is incredible in marathon race timing. Not bad for a 20-year-old who's still in college.

More importantly, however, Kremke managed to raise almost \$900 for Planned Parenthood through a charitable donation campaign he launched to coincide with his training. “I wanted to incorporate a charitable cause from the get-go,” says Kremke, “and Planned Parenthood is an amazing organization. They provide both basic and life-saving services in an arena where not a lot of other options exist, and while they currently receive federal funding it's not a guarantee in the future.”

Kremke came out as gay in 2013, during his sophomore year of high school. Through his high school career and onward, he has experienced negative interactions, homophobia, and other forms of adversity. Running has always been a source of peace and refuge for Kremke. He has been running since elementary school, and has continued to return to the sport over the years. He ran on Northville High School's cross country team, and has run several races over the course of his college career.

However, completing a marathon had always been on his bucket list. In a runner's world, the marathon is kind of an elusive distance. It's doable, but long enough to be intimidating, especially if you're training to get a qualifying race time for one of the “big marathons” in the following year. Originally, Kremke had planned to run the marathon to qualify for the 2018 Boston Marathon.

While that remained his goal, he saw this race as an opportunity to do something more for an organization he feels passionately about. “I wanted this to be about something more than my own personal betterment,” he says.

Racing for charity is a popular concept. For Kremke, it fit perfectly into his already-set routine and plans. This, he believes, is how volunteering and charitable work should be



On May 13, Sam Kremke completed the Addison Oaks Challenge marathon. “Completed” is putting it lightly – Kremke came in first with a time of 3 hours and 32 minutes. He beat the second-place runner by a several minute gap. Photo courtesy of Sam Kremke.

incorporated into your lifestyle.

“Whenever you're volunteering, pick something you genuinely care about – whatever that means to you,” says Kremke. Personally, he organizes his charitable work and volunteering around organizations whose primary purpose is to defend the rights of all people – specifically those whose rights are being infringed on. Kremke likes to lend his support to Planned Parenthood and the ACLU. However, Kremke also urges people to get involved in their local communities. Given the recently elected administration, he believes it's critical as individuals in this nation to find the cause you're passionate about and pour your energy into it.

“Now more than ever, marginalized groups are having their rights stepped on or taken away. With the new administration, it feels that this is more than just ongoing risk that these groups are facing. They're actually being targeted,” says Kremke. “A lot of people have a sense of hopelessness, and while that's understandable, a positive thing going forward is to get involved with charities and do volunteer work that means something to you.

Doing something locally that can be worked into your day-to-day life can make a positive impact not just once, but daily.”

Kremke advocates people getting involved in their local communities and finding something that feels natural to you as an individual. In the Ann Arbor and Detroit areas, where Kremke spends most of his time, he likes the idea of supporting the Ruth Ellis Center, an organization that provides short and long-term shelter and a safe space for LGBTQ at-risk or homeless youth. Since coming out in 2013, Kremke believes it's important to turn around and give back to individuals in the LGBTQ community that aren't necessarily receiving support that everyone needs during the coming out and coming of age process.

After attending the Ruth Ellis Center orientation, he's very excited to submit his volunteer application. Kremke also believes that Freedom House Detroit, a temporary home for refugees and those fleeing persecution from around the world who are seeking asylum in the United States, is an excellent local option where people can get involved.

“Do something through a channel you're

“A lot of people have a sense of hopelessness, and while that's understandable, a positive thing going forward is to get involved with charities and do volunteer work that means something to you.”

- Sam Kremke

comfortable with,” says Kremke. “There are small groups and larger organizations made available to us through school, our places of work, and our communities. Find what you're passionate about and pursue those opportunities.” Kremke encourages individuals in his generation to get involved, as well. Despite the sense of overwhelm or hopelessness they may feel, he insists that it's important to get active now. It may not feel like your small effort is having a worldwide impact, but that doesn't mean it isn't being noticed.

“These organizations run primarily on small, consistent donations and volunteers,” says Kremke. “So, if you're worried about raising a ton of money or taking a month off school or work to volunteer with an organization that inspires you, let that go.

Being there to volunteer with regularity or donating \$5-\$10 a month to a group you feel strongly about supporting is actually more effective and more achievable.”

It's true that in the Trump-era many individuals are feeling an all-consuming sense of panic and dread. This fear-based reaction is the psychological result of being in a constant state of shock. Psychologists across the U.S. have seen the results of the constant state of political upheaval in the current administration, and they are adamantly advocating for self-care. Kremke's methods of getting involved in your local community, especially with an organization, group, or cause you feel passionately about, is a method of self-care that encourages your own stability as well as the betterment of those around you.

By selecting local groups, such as Kremke's favorites Ruth Ellis Center or Freedom House

See next page

Polling Shows Strong Support for ELCRA Amendment

Michigan Voters Favor Protection Against Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

A statewide survey was conducted by EPIC-MRA among active and likely November 2018 general election voters. Legislation was introduced May 30 in Michigan that would do what the following question asked on the survey proposes:

“The Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act in Michigan provides civil rights protections against discrimination based on religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status or marital status. Would you favor or oppose legislation to amend this law to include protection against discrimination based on a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity?”

The results show 48 percent strongly favor it, 20 percent somewhat favor it, 68 percent totally favor it, 25 percent totally oppose it, 8 percent somewhat oppose it, 17 percent strongly oppose it and 7 percent are undecided or refused.

Nearly 7-in-10 Michigan voters solidly support the proposal.

Nearly 7-in-10 Michigan voters solidly support the proposal. The overall results are just about the same as the results of a question posed to Michigan voters in May of 2013, which was almost identical to the one included in the current survey. The one difference is that this question includes “sexual orientation or gender identity,” and the 2013 survey did not include “gender identity.”

“Epic-MRA offers opportunities to piggy back on statewide surveys they do and I decided I’d personally pay for this just to see where the public was,” said Jim Murray, president of AT&T Michigan and chair of Equality Michigan’s board of directors, who commissioned the survey.

Murray points to several significant findings. While an 86 to 11 percent majority of Democrats favor the proposal, a 67 to 21 percent majority of Independents also support it, as well as a 51 to 42 percent majority of Republican voters.

As with many issues over the years, while GOP men oppose the proposal by a narrow 48 to 44 percent plurality, GOP women support it by a solid 59 to 35 percent. Tea Party supporters also favor it by 50 to 43 percent with Tea Party opponents favoring it by 79 to 16 percent and voters who are unsure about the Tea Party favoring it by 71 to 20 percent.

“Now, keep in mind this is in a vacuum and there’s no negative campaigning around it,” said Murray. “This state went for Trump so I would expect these numbers to move in a campaign scenario. However, they are a good snap shot in time that really shows the public support.”

EPIC-MRA www.epicmra.com/ is a full-service survey research firm in Lansing. Read more about the polling results at www.pridesource.com

► Running

Continued from p. 14

Detroit, you’re making it easier on yourself to be more consistent with your time and funds. “If ongoing volunteer work or donations isn’t your thing, consider getting involved in a conference or event,” says Kremke. He recommends the Allied Media Conference hosted by Allied Media Projects in Detroit this June 15-18.

The conference is intended to be a diverse, inclusive group working towards holistic, creative solutions to

world problems. Making your voice heard and your support known can only happen through participation and involvement. Kremke has provided an inspiring example of ways we can all incorporate charitable support into routines that may already exist in our lives.

“For me it was about doing something bigger than my own self-interest,” says Kremke, “I’m extremely thankful to everyone who donated, and for all of those out there who supported my cause.”



Sam Kremke completes his first marathon.

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Holland Community Center Opens

BY JIM LARKIN

Nearly two years of work and planning came to fruition on May 30 when Out On The Lakeshore officially opened an LGBTQ Community Center at 451 Columbia Ave. in Holland. About 80 people attended the opening, including Holland Police Chief Matt Messer and two other police officers, and City Councilman Dave Hoekstra.

Opening a center where LGBTQ people can gather, find support and plan for the future has been a goal of OOTL since the it formed in 2015 by uniting Holland is Ready and Holland PRIDE. OOTL hopes to hire staff and establish regular hours for the community center, as well as develop programs to support and help LGBT people in the greater Holland area. That will depend largely on its ability to secure grants and contributions, which are the sole source of funding the nonprofit, the center and the Holland PRIDE Festival.

For more information, visit www.outonthelakeshore.org, www.facebook.com/outonthelakeshore or email outonthelakeshore@gmail.com.



Those attending the Out On The Lakeshore Community Center open house enjoy one another's company. Photo courtesy of Jim Larkin



Karen Prins, an Out On The Lakeshore board member, prepares an identification sticker for the community center open house. Photo courtesy of Jim Larkin



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LGBTQ Community Centers Promote Smoke-Free Prides

Editors note: This article was a collaborative effort between LGBT Detroit, Affirmations, OutFront Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids Pride Center, and Perceptions to advocate for smoke-free community events moving forward, including Pride celebrations.

LGBTQ community centers across Michigan are banding together to tackle the number one killer attacking the community...tobacco. For decades, Big Tobacco (the “big five” largest global tobacco industry companies) has systematically targeted the LGBTQ and other marginalized communities with a product they know is deadly. Stand up with LGBT Detroit, Affirmations, OutFront Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids Pride Center, and Perceptions to tell Big Tobacco, “We won’t take this anymore” by starting with a healthy smoke-free LGBTQ Pride season.

Research shows people in the LGBTQ community are more likely to be smokers than people who are not. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates nationwide that almost 20 percent of identified gay, lesbian, and bisexual adults smoke tobacco products, compared to 14 percent of the community’s straight counterparts.

LGBT Tobacco, a national non-profit health agency that focuses on smoking rates in the community, reports that homosexual people are 50-200 percent more likely to be addicted to tobacco than heterosexual people. All said, this takes a toll on smaller and smaller sub populations who for years were more focused on the social abuses, HIV/AIDS, and isolation from communities of origin. So it was thought that “smoking is the least of my worries.” The CDC also reports that youth in the LGBTQ community report higher rates of mental distress, anxiety, and depression. When combined with entering spaces where tobacco is normal and seen as “just another part of the community,” it can encourage them to pick up smoking and e-cigarettes to cope with stress.

These LGBTQ community centers take a stand against the normalizing of tobacco being a part of the LGBTQ experience. It has been the contention of health organizations that tobacco and its by-products are harmful not only to the users, but also to non-smokers

exposed to secondhand smoke. In December 2016, the CDC wrote that exposure to secondhand smoke from burning tobacco products causes disease and premature death even among non-smokers. Additionally, there is no risk-free level of secondhand smoke, and even brief exposure can cause immediate harm. This is not a statement from a self-righteous organization with a hidden agenda, but from our nation’s public health agency whose primary intent is to promote good health for all — irrespective of social status, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation.

The upcoming Pride celebrations around the world, statewide and locally is as much a tribute and celebration of LGBTQ people as well as the community’s survival. What better time to take a stance for the community and for the environment by celebrating a non-smoking festivity.

“The theme of the Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival is engagement, equality and respect for all,” said Chris Lauckner, board chair of Perceptions. “One goal in making the event smoke-free is to send the message that we are proud enough to respect the health of all people.”

The LGBTQ community is no stranger to fighting for a cause. For years, LGBTQ people have fought relentlessly for basic human rights and only in recent years has the community been able to gain notable wins. Even with difficulty, LGBTQ people are stronger, resilient and the community’s voice is now recognizable and bears weight in media support.

The upcoming Pride celebrations around the world, statewide and locally is as much a tribute and celebration of LGBTQ people as well as the community’s survival. What better time to take a stance for the community and for the environment by celebrating a non-smoking festivity.

LGBTQ community centers across

the state banded together to reduce and eliminate tobacco deaths and diseases in Michigan through leadership, collaboration and education with the leadership of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Affirmations, Grand Rapids Pride Center, Perceptions, LGBT Detroit, and OutFront Kalamazoo are pronouncing that this year, smoke-free Prides will increase the quality of life for LGBTQ residents.

In light of the recent executive order which negatively affects climate change policy and the deleterious effect that it would have on all life, the LGBTQ community can lend its voice to promote, protect and preserve our planet by promoting a smoke-free ordinance at Pride events throughout the summer months.

Ferndale Pride kicked off the smoke-free Pride season last weekend. Following suit is Hotter Than July, Motor City Pride, Kalamazoo Pride, Great Lakes Bay Pride and other community Prides that will include zones that encourage smoke-free living and LGBTQ health.

“We have made enormous strides in attaining recognition and we have the notoriety that our voice is strong and reverberates worldwide,” states Curtis Lipscomb, project manager of Hotter Than July. “It is incumbent that we arbitrate for a cleaner, safer environment and to start a major movement at Pride events.”

The legacy left for those poised to follow as leaders should be one that encourages young people, and society at large to stand firm on behalf of the environment and healthy communities.

The voices of youth in the community pack a gut-wrenching punch and play a pivotal role in challenging global issues by using innovative ideas as tools for the betterment of all the inhabitants of the earth. A smoke-free Pride can make an impact across all spectrums, which is why these LGBTQ community centers encourage everyone to do their part.

Connect online with LGBT Detroit www.lgbtdetroit.org, Grand Rapids Pride Center www.grpride.org, Perceptions www.perceptionsmi.org, Affirmations www.goaffirmations.org and OutFront Kalamazoo www.outfrontkzoo.org or visit with them at Michigan’s Pride events this summer.

OU to Take Part in Upcoming LGBTQIA-friendly Events

BY SEAN DELANEY

As part of its Out on Campus Initiative, representatives from Oakland University will be participating in two of Michigan's largest LGBTQIA festivals - Ferndale Pride and Motor City Pride - during the month of June.

"By participating in Ferndale and Motor City Pride events, Oakland University is further reinforcing its commitment to diversity and inclusion," said Grace Wojcik, coordinator of the university's Gender and Sexuality Center (GSC).

Representatives from the GSC, Undergraduate Admissions, and University Communications and Marketing will have an informational booth set up at Ferndale Pride on June 3, and at Motor City Pride on June 10 and 11. It will mark the first time that OU has participated in either event.

"We will be tabling on behalf of the university and sharing information with festival attendees on what a great place OU is to study and work," Wojcik said. "Our goal is to reach prospective students, staff and faculty, as well as reconnect with alumni."

According to Wojcik, the university's participation in this year's events is a continuation of the Out on Campus Initiative, which was developed during the 2015-2016 academic year with the intent of communicating a sense of affirmation to OU's



Photo courtesy of OU

current, future and potential LGBTQIA population, as well as creating awareness for the GSC.

"The Out on Campus Initiative demonstrates Oakland University's commitment to providing an inclusive and accepting atmosphere to the LGBTQIA community," she said. "No matter your sexual orientation or gender identity, or if you are simply an ally to the community," Oakland University can be considered a safe place for you to call home."

In 2016, Oakland University was ranked as one of the top LGBTQ-friendly campuses in the state of Michigan by the Campus Pride Index, which rates both colleges and universities using a five-star rating system.

Based on a variety of factors, including LGBTQ policy inclusion, academic life, student life, campus safety, housing and residence life, and other relevant practices, OU received a ranking of four out of five stars, which was the second-highest rating in Michigan.

"To me, our participation in Ferndale Pride and Motor City Pride solidifies our position as one of the top LGBTQ-inclusive campuses in the state of Michigan, and I am excited for us to take this step forward in the community," Wojcik said.

For more information on LGBTQIA issues and the Out on Campus Initiative, visit the Gender and Sexuality Center, or contact GSC@oakland.edu.



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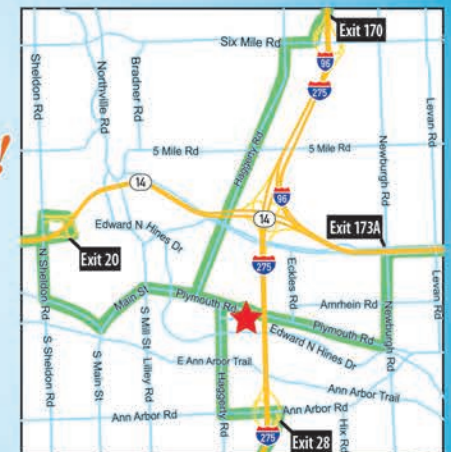
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HRC Launches Summer of Action

BY BTL STAFF

The Human Rights Campaign launched a nationwide summer of action anchored by more than 250 grassroots events from coast to coast. The theme of these events - "Unite. Resist. Enlist." - reflects the goal of HRC's summer of action: to empower and mobilize millions of equality voters to fight back against attacks that undermine the LGBTQ community.

As part of the summer of action, HRC staff and thousands of volunteers will be fanning out to lead more than 250 local events in more than 46 states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. They will register thousands of new voters, host grassroots advocacy trainings, and step up visibility and outreach at LGBTQ Pride parades, equality marches, festivals and other events.

"Through his hateful rhetoric and dangerous policies, Donald Trump has awakened a sleeping giant. Never before have Americans been more eager to participate, to advocate and to fight back. Instead of dividing us, he has unified us. And it is our responsibility as advocates to keep that momentum alive, and keep the pressure on," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "During this historic Summer of Action, HRC's grassroots army will help harness the full power of our democracy to unite, enlist and resist."

During the weekend of June 10 - 11, which coincides with the June 11 National Equality March in Washington and the #ResistMarch in Los Angeles, HRC will hold a Weekend of Action at events coast to coast. HRC is supporting both marches and will host an Action Center at Washington, D.C., headquarters, where volunteers and visitors will be able to engage in direct action, from grassroots advocacy training and writing letters to elected officials, to unique social media opportunities. For supporters outside Washington, D.C., HRC will create online training and other opportunities to participate in the weekend's events.

"When any American's rights are under threat, all our rights are threatened. We are LGBTQ, and we are also people of color and of different faiths. We are immigrants and dreamers, parents, allies and people with disabilities. But most of all, we are American," said Brian Pendleton, Founder of #ResistMarch. "On June 11, we will be marching in unity with those who believe that America's strength is its diversity, and that together we can and will #Resist forces - including in our own government - seeking to deny us our hard-won human rights."

This historic effort comes as HRC is ramping up efforts to resist the Trump Administration's rollback of LGBTQ equality and the annual onslaught of anti-LGBTQ state legislatures across the nation. So far this year, HRC and major state partners have battled more than 130 anti-LGBTQ bills introduced in 30 states; to date, seven of those bills have been signed into law. The summer of action will also help lay groundwork for HRC's efforts to go on offense in key states ahead of the 2018 midterm elections.

HRC has also joined a broad coalition of progressive organizations in Equality Florida's #HonorThemWithAction campaign to pay tribute to the 49 people - most of them LGBTQ and Latinx - whose lives were taken at the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, and is supporting related community events.

"On June 12, 2016, our community was rocked with shock, disbelief and anger by the Pulse nightclub massacre that claimed the lives of 49 Latinx and LGBTQ people. In the year since, a deep resilience has emerged from the survivors, the victims' loved ones, Orlando residents and leaders, and LGBTQ people and our allies all across the country and around

the world," said Equality Florida Executive Director Nadine Smith. "Our #HonorThemWithAction nationwide campaign is a call to action for our society to address and combat hate violence and pledge to uproot hate and bigotry of all kinds as we commemorate the 49 lives taken from us one year ago. We welcome HRC's continued partnership in this effort."

Miss Gay America Presents Documentaries About Art of Female Impersonation

Established in Nashville, Tennessee in 1972-37 years before "RuPaul's Drag Race" - The Miss Gay America Pageant is the world's first, longest running and most prestigious female impersonator competition. The 45th Miss Gay America Pageant season kicked off in March with the Miss Gay Heart of America pageant in Columbus, Ohio. It was the first of nearly two-dozen preliminaries happening across the country, each of which will send a winner and alternate to the Miss Gay America nationals in New Orleans this October.

In celebration of its 45th year, the Miss Gay America Pageant invites you to get your Drag History 101 on with five of the best documentary films ever made on female impersonation pageants. Many of the films are now available on gay-centric streaming service Dekkoo.com.

"The Queen," featuring the legendary Flawless Sabrina, is about a New York City pageant in 1968 and is beloved by fans for its fiercely quotable moments. "Paris Is Burning" should need no introduction. "The Damn Deal" and "Pageant" are

about the Miss Gay America competition (the first of which, interestingly, was made by a former Miss America). The forthcoming "The Queens," not only goes inside the Miss Continental pageant - the other major drag pageant - but also delves into the history one of the worlds' most famous female impersonation nightclubs, Chicago's Baton.

The bonus, sixth film, "The Unforgettable Danny La Rue," is not about drag pageantry per se, but about what these pageants celebrate - and reward: the ability to get up on a stage, reliably entertain a live audience, and build a successful, sustainable career as a star entertainer. La Rue, arguably the most successful female impersonator of the mid-20th century, did this in spectacular fashion.



Suzy Wong, Miss Gay America 2017

For more about the Miss Gay America pageant and upcoming preliminaries, please visit www.missgayamerica.com

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Trump Scraps Tradition, Declines to Issue Pride Proclamation

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

President Trump has declined to issue at the start of June a proclamation designating the month as a time for celebration of Pride, breaking with a tradition started under the Obama administration.

By the end of the last weekday in May, President Obama each year during his time at the White House issued a proclamation recognizing Pride. Trump, on the other hand, had thus far issued no such proclamation - or even recognized June as Pride from his often-used Twitter account.

Trump on the last day of May issued five separate proclamations recognizing June as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month, African-American Music Appreciation Month, National Homeownership Month, Great Outdoors Month and National Ocean Month. Absent from the list was anything related to Pride.

The White House last month hadn't ruled out the possibility that Trump would recognize Pride, telling the Washington Blade the decision would be announced at the time of the June proclamations. But after the White House omitted any Pride proclamations from its series of proclamations on Wednesday, the White House didn't respond to a request on whether a recognition of Pride would be forthcoming.

The tradition of presidential Pride proclamations started under President Clinton, although President George W. Bush discontinued that practice during his time in office. Obama renewed that tradition for each of his eight years at the White House, recognizing not only Pride in his proclamations but also achievements in LGBT rights, such as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal and the U.S. Supreme Court ruling for same-sex marriage nationwide.

Obama also started a tradition of hosting annual receptions at the White House recognizing June as Pride month. It seems unlikely Trump would continue that practice and hold a similar reception after declining to issue a Pride proclamation, not to mention his unpopularity with LGBT community after policies such as revoking Obama-era guidance assuring transgender kids have access to school bathrooms consistent with their gender identity.

Instead, a group of former LGBT Obama administration officials, led by former White House LGBT liaison Gautam Raghavan and Aditi Hardikar, are planning a "NOT the White House Pride Party," taking would cue from Samantha Bee's "Not the White House Correspondents Dinner" event.

The event is scheduled to take place June 10 to coincide with Capital Pride and the 2017 Equality March. Set to attend are Valerie Jarrett, former senior

advisor to President Obama, and former Army Secretary Eric Fanning. Proceeds will go to Casa Ruby, a D.C. based shelter and center for trans women of color and immigrants.

Meanwhile, LGBT affinity groups for federal agencies are continuing their traditions of holding events to observe Pride. Agencies known to the Blade that are hosting events are the Pentagon, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Housing & Urban Development and the Justice Department.

A representative of HUD GLOVE told the Blade HUD Secretary Carson was invited to speak at the HUD event. It remains to be seen whether he'll take that opportunity given an anti-LGBT record that includes comparing homosexuality to bestiality and calling transgender people.

For the Pentagon event on June 12, DOD Pride invited Defense Secretary James Mattis to speak. A DOD spokesperson said the department's leadership instead will send a lower level official, Tony Kurta, acting under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

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

Trump to Address Anti-LGBT Leaders Days Before Equality March

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

Days before the LGBT community intends to demonstrate at the Equality March, President Trump is set to speak Thursday at a conference hosted by the Faith & Freedom Coalition, an organization consisting of anti-LGBT leaders.

Ralph Reed, chair of Faith & Freedom Coalition, announced Tuesday in a statement Trump would headline the organization's annual "Road To Majority"

conference at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in D.C.

"President Trump won an overwhelming plurality of voters of faith last year and in the opening months of his administration faith based voters remain his most loyal supporters and we are extremely excited that President Trump will once again address thousands of conservative activists from across the country at Road To Majority," Reed said.

Reed, who has compared court rulings in favor same-sex marriage to the

U.S. Supreme Court decision in favor of slavery in Dred Scott case, added Trump has already demonstrated his commitment to social conservatives over the course of his administration.

"His administration has delivered on his campaign promises with the confirmation of Justice Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court, his appointment of the most socially conservative Cabinet in our nations history, and a number of executive and

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State Dept. Allows Embassies, Consulates to Acknowledge Pride Month

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS, WASHINGTON BLADE

A State Department spokesperson on Friday said embassies and consulates have received guidance that allows them to recognize Pride month.

"Advancing the human rights of vulnerable groups including LGBTI persons is a core component of U.S. foreign policy," the spokesperson told the Washington Blade. "All people should be protected from discrimination and violence, and must be allowed to exercise their human rights, including their rights to the freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly, and religion or belief."

"LGBTI Pride celebrations are an expression of these rights," added the spokesperson. "As such, the department has issued guidance to embassies and consulates allowing them to, as appropriate to their local context, recognize LGBTI Pride Month."

The rainbow flag was raised over the U.S. Embassy in the Dominican Republic on Friday.

"So incredibly proud of U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo for raising the Pride flag today," wrote former U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic James "Wally" Brewster on his Facebook page.

The U.S. Embassies in Chile and Mexico in recent days have also publicly acknowledged Pride month.

The rainbow flag flew over the U.S. Embassy in Cuba on May 17 in commemoration of the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.

Ivanka Trump Acknowledges Pride Month in Tweets

The promotion of LGBT and intersex rights abroad were a cornerstone of the Obama administration's foreign policy.

Then-Secretary of State John Kerry was among those who spoke at last year's GLIFAA Pride event at the State Department. It took place less than two weeks after a gunman killed 49 people and injured 53 others inside the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Fla.

Neither Secretary of State Rex Tillerson nor President Trump have yet to issue proclamations that officially recognize Pride month. They have also not publicly commented on the ongoing crackdown against gay men in Chechnya.

It remains unclear whether GLIFAA will hold an annual Pride event at the State Department as it has done in previous years.

Ivanka Trump on June 1 in a tweet wished "everyone a joyful #Pride2017."

She also wrote she is "proud to support my LGBTQ friends and the LGBTQ Americans who have made immense contributions to our society and economy."

Activists and others on social media who oppose her father's policies quickly criticized her.

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

► Anti-LGBT Leaders

Continued from p. 24

legislative accomplishments that confirm his commitment to be a pro-life President," Reed said.

It won't be the first time Trump has addressed the Faith & Freedom Coalition. Last year during his presidential campaign, Trump addressed the confab, calling his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton "as crooked as they come." Without saying anything explicitly anti-LGBT, Trump made references to certain issues in ways that could be considered code for support for undermining LGBT rights.

In addition to Trump, speakers with anti-LGBT reputations scheduled to attend are Vice President Mike Pence, Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-Ohio) and James Dobson. In the past, the coalition has honored the late Phyllis Schlafly, a social conservative activist who

despite having a gay son took anti-LGBT positions.

On the Faith & Freedom Coalition's website, the organization doesn't explicitly articulate any anti-LGBT goals, but makes clear one of its principles is "respect for the sanctity and dignity of life, family, and marriage as the foundations of a free society." Those words could be considered code for undermining LGBT rights.

The Faith & Freedom Coalition announces Trump will speak before attendees at its conference in days before Equality March and Pride celebrations throughout the country. Trump is set to make an appearance at the event after scrapping a tradition under the Obama administration of issuing a proclamation to recognize June as Pride month.

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



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Macron Discusses Gay Chechnya Crackdown with Putin

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS, WASHINGTON BLADE

French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday said he discussed the crackdown against gay Chechens with his Russian counterpart.

"We discussed the situation of LGBT people in Chechnya," wrote Macron on his Twitter page after he met with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Palace of Versailles outside Paris. "I very specifically told President Putin what France's expectations are."

Macron also noted the crackdown against gay Chechens as he spoke at a press conference with Putin.

Chechnya is a predominantly Muslim semi-autonomous Russian republic in the North Caucasus.

Novaya Gazeta, an independent Russian newspaper, reported last month that Chechen authorities have arrested more than 100 gay men since February.

Novaya Gazeta has said some of the men who have been arrested have been beaten, tortured or even killed. Reports also indicate Chechen authorities have sent them to secret prisons that have been described as "concentration camps."

Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov, who is a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, and the Kremlin have downplayed or even dismissed the reports that gay men have been arrested. Novaya Gazeta reported last week that the Russian government has launched an investigation into the crackdown.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel earlier this month raised Chechnya with Putin during their meeting that took place in Russia. British Prime Minister Theresa May and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau are among the other world leaders who have condemned the crackdown.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley in an April 17 statement said the U.S. remains "disturbed" by the arrests of the gay Chechen men.

The State Department last month urged the Russian government to investigate them. President Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson have neither publicly commented on the arrests nor urged the Russian government to pressure Chechen authorities to stop their crackdown.

Macron on May 7 defeated Marine Le Pen of the far-right National Front in the second round of France's presidential election.

Macron accused Russian hackers of targeting his campaign in the days leading up to the election. The Russian government has repeatedly denied it sought to influence the outcome of the French election, even though Putin met with Le Pen at the Kremlin on March 24.

The first round of the French presidential election took place on April 23.

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

7th Circuit Affirms Bathroom Access for Trans Student

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

In another legal decision affirming federal law ensures bathroom access for transgender students, a federal appeals court has determined a transgender student in Wisconsin must be allowed access to restrooms at his high school consistent with his gender identity.

In a 35-page decision, a three-judge panel of the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled unanimously in favor of Ashton Whitaker, a 17-year-old who sued Kenosha Unified School District for requiring him to use a restroom separate from one used by all other students.

Writing for the court, U.S. Circuit Judge Ann Claire Williams, an Obama appointee, determined Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, which bans discrimination in schools on the basis of sex, applies to Ash's situation.

"A policy that requires an individual to use a bathroom that does not conform with his or her gender identity punishes that individual for his or her gender non-conformance, which in turn violates Title IX," Williams writes.

Joining Williams in the decision was U.S. Circuit Judge Ilana Rovner, an appointee of George W. Bush, and U.S. Circuit Judge Diane Wood, a Clinton appointee.

The decision upholds a preliminary injunction U.S. District Judge Pamela Pepper, an Obama appointee, issued in September requiring Kenosha Unified School District to change its policy.

Ash said in a statement he's "thrilled" the Seventh Circuit determined that Pepper's decision should stand as the litigation and his studies continue.

"After facing daily humiliation at school last year from being threatened with discipline and being constantly monitored by school staff just to use the bathroom, the district court's injunction in September allowed me to be a typical senior in high school and to focus on my classes, after-school activities, applying to college, and building lasting friendships," Ash said.

According to the court decision, Ash's school informed him after he transitioned he couldn't use the boys' restroom, only the girl's restroom or a gender-neutral facility some distance from his classes. Fearful of missing class and being punished for being late, Ash limited his water intake in school so he wouldn't have to use the restroom, but suffered health consequences as a result. Ash several times contemplated suicide, the

decision says.

Williams cites as a precedent for interpreting Title IX to apply to Ash the U.S. Supreme Court rulings in *Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins* in 1989 and *Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services* in 1998, which instructs to construe sex stereotyping as sex discrimination. Also cited is the 7th Circuit's recent decision in *Hively v. Ivy Tech Community College*, which determined anti-gay bias is sex discrimination under the law.

"The School District argues that even under a sex-stereotyping theory, Ash cannot demonstrate a likelihood of success on his Title IX claim because its policy is not based on whether the student behaves, walks, talks, or dresses in a manner that is inconsistent with any preconceived notions of sex stereotypes," Williams writes. "Instead, it contends that as a matter of law, requiring a biological female to use the women's bathroom is not sex-stereotyping. However, this view is too narrow. By definition, a transgender individual does not conform to the sex-based stereotypes of the sex that he or she was assigned at birth."

The 7th Circuit ruling is the latest in a series of court decisions that have determined Title IX ensures bathroom access for transgender students, even though the law makes no explicit mention of transgender students.

Representing Ash in his litigation is the San Francisco-based Transgender Law Center, the D.C.-based law firm Relman, Dane & Colfax PLLC; and Milwaukee-based attorney Robert Theine Pledl of McNally Peterson, S.C.

Kris Hayashi, executive director for the Transgender Law Center, said in a statement the decision is "a great victory for transgender students."

"The battleground may be bathrooms, but the real issue is fairness and transgender people's ability to go to school, to work, and simply to exist in public spaces," Hayashi said. "This win makes that

more possible for more people."

The 7th Circuit reached the conclusion transgender students are protected under Title IX even though the Trump administration has revoked Obama-era guidance that determined barring transgender kids from the bathroom matching their gender identity violates that law.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, also hailed the decision as a victory for transgender people.

"This powerful decision -- another in a growing list of rulings affirming the Constitutional rights of transgender people -- helps Ash and tens of thousands of students like him get the same opportunity to learn as any other student," Keisling said. "It recognizes that fully respecting and including transgender students like Ash Whitaker is legally and morally the right thing to do, and that discrimination against these young people because of who they are is cruel, wrong and illegal."

Ann Arbor Woman Takes Fight for Trans Equality to D.C.

Ann Arbor resident, Emme Zanotti, will join transgender activists and allies from nearly 40 states and territories as they converge on Washington, D.C. for Trans Lobby Day June 8-9. Hosted by the National Center for Transgender Equality, Zanotti (a transwoman) will hear from speakers, experts and political officials in preparing to battle anti-trans bills at the state and federal levels, before meeting with their elected representatives.

An alarming 2015 survey conducted by NCTE found that of the roughly 33,000 transgender residents in Michigan, 19 percent currently face unemployment and 30 percent are living in poverty. Those numbers compare to only five percent of the general population being unemployed and 14% living in poverty.

Asked why she was attending Transgender Lobby Day, Zanotti said, "It's beyond critical that the people we've elected to represent us know how dire the circumstances can be for their transgender constituents and that any suggested legislation should be to further protect the rights of trans people instead of destroying them. There has been a full on legislative assault of trans people's rights in recent years, and the basis of it is fear created and perpetuated by misinformation. I'm just trying to do everything in my power to change that."

More information is available at www.transequality.org/TransLobbyDay.

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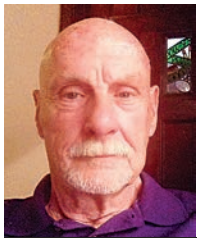
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Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

To diddle an old saying: You can't judge a gay author – or his book – by the cover.

Case in point: Groundbreaking 1951 sociological expose, “The Homosexual in America.” Gay nom de plume: Donald Webster Cory. Real name: Edward Sagarin. Outed dramatically 24 closeted years later. (A gay Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hide. er, Hyde.)

Cory’s “Homosexual” followed three years after Alfred Kinsey’s shelf-shocker, “Sexual Response in the Human Male.” Both books provided in-your-face facts, focus, insights on a previously little discussed, statistically undocumented subject: homosexuality.

Kinsey, a biologist and authority on Gall Wasps, turned his scientific cataloging to humans. His research institute colleagues interviewed 5,940 men about their sex lives. The result: 804 pages of tables, charts, statistics. Dull; but, for the American public, titillating best-seller reading.

Data showed 37 percent of the male population had at least some overt gay experience to ejaculation; 4 percent of white males were exclusively homosexual after the onset of adolescence. Findings were startling, staggering and, from our perspective today, ultimately liberating.

It’s safe to say of the time frame 69 years ago that the average Joe believed he had never met a homosexual; that fags, fairies, fruits were

few, but even so: they were perverts, mentally unbalanced, to be incarcerated, punished if caught with their collective pants down, justifiably shunned by church, family, employers, military, government; to be dealt with by psychiatrists and/or police. (Sound just vaguely familiar?)

Those Americans living in large cities – Chicago, New York, San Francisco and Detroit – were likely to be aware of thriving gay subcultures gathered

secretly in gay bars. (Detroit’s bar community dates to Prohibition, with earlier house parties in the ‘20s. Gay bars thrived during World War II.)

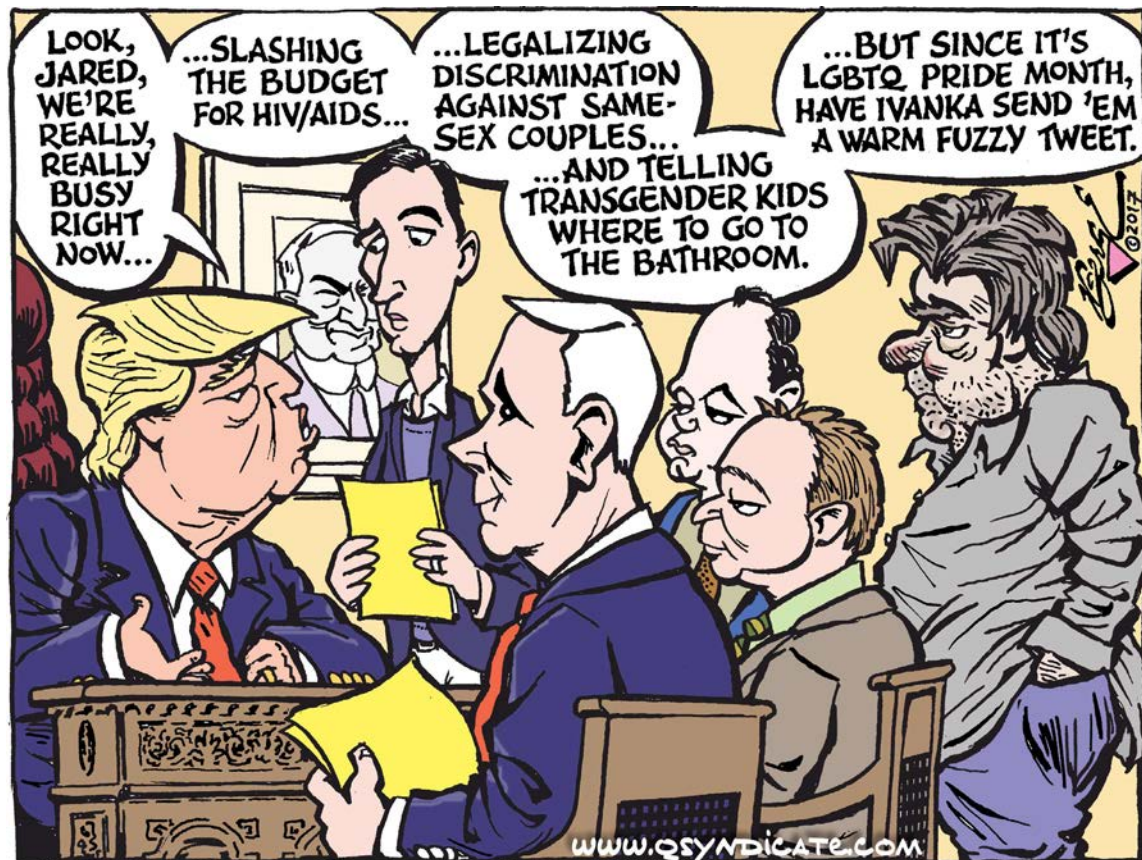
Sagarin, a married bisexual, sociologist, trained criminologist (and curiously, perfume authority), documented gay life as a social phenomenon and as a participant observer in his “The Homosexual in America.” He provided a fair-minded understanding of gay persons, their subculture, slang, sexual acts, their basic proximity to the so-called heterosexual “norm.”

“As a minority homosexuals are caught in a particularly vicious circle,” said Sagarin, writing as Donald Webster Cory, a pen name name gleaned from Andre Gide’s 1924 gay novel “Corydon,” later published in America in 1950.

“On the one hand, the shame of belonging and the social punishment of acknowledge are so great that pretense is almost universal. On the other

It’s safe to say of the time frame 69 years ago that the average Joe believed he had never met a homosexual; that fags, fairies, fruits were few, but even so: they were perverts, mentally unbalanced, to be incarcerated, punished if caught with their collective pants down, justifiably shunned by church, family, employers, military, government; to be dealt with by psychiatrists and/or police. (Sound just vaguely familiar?)

See next page



BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Viewpoint

Wearing My Pride Like Some Rainbow Rompers!!!

Bet that got your attention! ROMPERS!! They’ve been around forever. No, I don’t have one. No, I don’t care if you wear one. No, I don’t care if men wear them! No, I don’t want to see pictures of anyone in them! No, I don’t understand what all the buzz is about. And no, I’m not talking about them!!

Now that we’ve gotten that out of the way let’s talk about celebrating PRIDE this year. June is here and PRIDE is literally busting out all over. Although National Coming Out Day has always been celebrated in October, it wasn’t until 2000 that then President Bill Clinton declared June “Gay & Lesbian Pride” Month. It was expanded by President Barack Obama to include the Bisexual and Transgender communities in 2009. We got accustomed to being invited to the White House in June during the Obama Administration. Many of our community leaders and friends had been to the White House and photos with the President were all over Facebook feeds. Even me, a little girl from the eastside of Detroit, now living out and proud had been to the White House and received Holidays cards each year for from the Obama’s. Sadly, my parents weren’t

alive to see not only the first African American President but their daughter visit the White House but my “Little Nanny,” in her 90’s at the time, did!!

After the Supreme Court’s ruling to legalize same-sex marriage we saw the White House lit up in rainbow colors. We raised our rainbow flags a little, higher while marching in PRIDE celebrations across the country during these years in the belief that, although we still knew we had a way to go, we felt we were headed in the right direction.

Unfortunately, considering the current administration, I think it will be a long time before we again experience that level of access or support from the White House. When White House spokesperson Kelly Love was asked by the Washington Blade if Trump would issue a Pride proclamation or host a White House Pride reception, her response was “We will let you know as soon as we announce our June proclamations.” I’m not holding my breath!

Considering the anti-LGBT positions and actions Trump and his administration have taken, would we even attend? Our concerns would probably fall on deaf ears and those who did attend would need to adhere to

See next page

► Brown

Continued from p. 28

More than a White House photo, in coming together each June – and beyond – in cities across the state and country our PRIDE celebrations have helped pull back the curtain of fear and ignorance and move hearts in minds where it matters, beyond the beltway, in our communities and neighborhoods where the real victories must be won.

a strict “buddy” policy lest any lone activists mysteriously get spirited away to some “Gay conversion” camp in Indiana!

But its June and PRIDE is busting out all over so let’s let our Rainbow flags fly! PRIDE celebrations are often the first place where LGBTQ people of all ages can come out and be themselves. It is that brave, safe space where the questioning, the closeted, the isolated can find their tribe and know they aren’t the only one. It’s a place where we can showcase our organizations and their services. It’s the place where we can celebrate, laugh out loud, dance with reckless abandon, reconnect with old friends, make new friends and in recent years, even get married. Our PRIDE celebrations are OUR family reunions. Each year they get bigger.

We welcome not just our LGBTQ family but our allies – family, friends, coworkers and businesses. More than a White House photo, in coming together each June – and beyond – in

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 28

hand, only a leadership that would acknowledge (being homosexual) would be able to break down the barriers of shame and a resultant discrimination.

“Until we are willing to speak out openly and frankly in defense of our activities, and to identify ourselves with the millions pursuing these activities, we are unlikely to find the attitudes of the world undergoing any significant change.”

Nonetheless, for all his advocacy on the behalf of America’s gay population, Sagarin very cautiously, quietly, and only in 1962, joined the homophile Mattachine Society. His participation was supportive but “don’t rock the boat”: no militant advocacy for civil rights.

As a sociologist, himself in psychotherapy, Sagarin believed that homosexuality was a

cities across the state and country our PRIDE celebrations have helped pull back the curtain of fear and ignorance and move hearts in minds where it matters, beyond the beltway, in our communities and neighborhoods where the real victories must be won.

These are perilous times when many of the gains we have made are again under attack. We can still get married on Saturday and fired on Monday simply because we are LGBTQ. So far, this year the Human Rights Campaign reports that with major state partners they have battled more than 130 anti-LGBTQ bills introduced in 30 states; to date, seven of those bills have been signed into law.

It’s June and PRIDE is busting out all over!! On June 11 the National Equality March will be held in Washington, DC and on the west coast, the #ResistMarch will take place in Los Angeles. Just about every weekend there’s a LGBTQ PRIDE coming to a city near you. Sites like www.gaypridecalendar.com and www.centerforblackequity.org list events nationwide. You could even plan your vacation around PRIDE celebrations in different cities.

Rainbow tie-dye a ROMPER to wear if you must but attend the PRIDE celebration in your community. Be visible, be proud! In these crazy times, it’s more important than ever to say in one loud and resounding voice that “We are here! We are Queer” and all of us are better when we stand together regardless of race, gender, class, ethnicity, religion, ages, sexual orientation and gender identity as one community.

It’s June and PRIDE is busting out all over!! I’m heading to PRIDE and letting my Rainbow Flag fly!! See you there!

Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. Her weekly podcast “Collections by Michelle Brown” airs every Thursday at 7 p.m. and can be heard on Blog Talk Radio, iTunes, Stitcher and SoundCloud. Follow her on Facebook at “Collections by Michelle Brown.”

pathology; that homosexuals should seek psychotherapy. Few of his gay friends or colleagues knew that he was the famous (at least in gay circles) Donald Webster Cory. His second gay book, is “21 Variations on a Theme.”

His real identity remained secret until a 1974 American Sociological Society convention held in Montreal. He appeared on a panel, “Theoretical Perspectives on Homosexuality,” speaking strongly against liberationist scholarship. A colleague, Laud Humphreys, took umbrage – and perhaps some polymorphous perverse delight – in exposing Sagarin by repeatedly calling him Mr. Cory.

Sagarin broke down in tears; withdrawing thereafter from all issues concerning homosexual discussion. He died in 1986, age 73. Dr. Jekyll Hyde or not, he was a pioneer for humane understanding of gay people. (R.I.P.: Rest In Pride.)

Creep of the Week

Scott Lively

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



In a June 2 column on World Nut Daily, Lively is very upset at the U.S. Navy for daring to post a rainbow flag on their Facebook page celebrating ALL who serve.

Happy Pride Month, everybody! June is the month when the sale of rainbow merchandise skyrockets and anti-gay right wingers decry the very right of LGBTQ people to exist, let alone celebrate that existence.

Case in point, Scott Lively, a man who literally wrote a book about how Nazis were all gay and that’s why they were such vicious killers, is having a very unhappy Pride Month.

But wait a minute, back to the gay Nazi thing. Since Nazis are making a resurgence under the Trump regime, are these Richard Spencer brand Nazis also supposedly gay, too? Or was that only the old Nazis? IT’S ALL SO CONFUSING!

Anyway, Lively, who views LGBTQ people through a horror movie lens (see: Gay Nazi book), thinks that we should remember REAL gay history, which, when retold by him, could easily provide enough material for one of those church haunted houses that are supposed to scare you away from sin but really just make you wish you’d spent your money on drugs instead.

In a June 2 column on World Nut Daily, Lively is very upset at the U.S. Navy for daring to post a rainbow flag on their Facebook page celebrating ALL who serve.

Lively cites a 1957 publication in which the Navy said homosexuality was bad, which is proof, in his mind, that a Pride post in 2017 shows “how far our moral standards have fallen.”

Lively contends that “we reached the height of our civility as a nation” in the 1950s because we apparently properly hated the gays back then. This is a very convenient revision of history. Perhaps anticipating push back, Lively does admit that “improvements in race relations were slow.” Uh, you think? Jim Crow laws were enforced until

1965 and it’s not like America started over with a clean non-racist slate after that. I know that white people think that Obama brought racism back but the truth is it never really left. So, yeah, I think “height of our civility” is a real stretch.

The rest of Lively’s column is a greatest hits compendium of right-wing “facts” about LGBT history. According to Lively, “Behind the facade of ubiquitous pro-LGBT propaganda in the media and academia is a community of deeply troubled people, rife with drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, self-destructive behaviors, ‘hate crime’ hoaxes, Machiavellian political manipulations at every level, pathological self-centeredness and seething hatred for anyone who dares oppose the ‘gay’ agenda.”

“Political manipulations at every level,” huh? Pretty good for a bunch of drug addicted losers riddled with self-hatred. Especially since Lively also claims that LGBT people are also responsible for the “exploitation and degradation of our military.” No wonder the military wants us now. We have no life worth yet also have super human abilities. Although, wait, is Lively talking about “gay Nazis” again? Again, SO CONFUSING.

The fact is, LGBT people have been serving in the military for as long as the military has existed. For the vast majority of that time, LGBT service members were forced to hide and many were booted out regardless of their professionalism, expertise, or training. Lively might think that returning to those times of “civility” is a good idea, but the military is actually stronger when it isn’t attacking its own members. I’m proud of the U.S. Navy, even if Lively isn’t.

What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

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

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

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems**, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems**, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

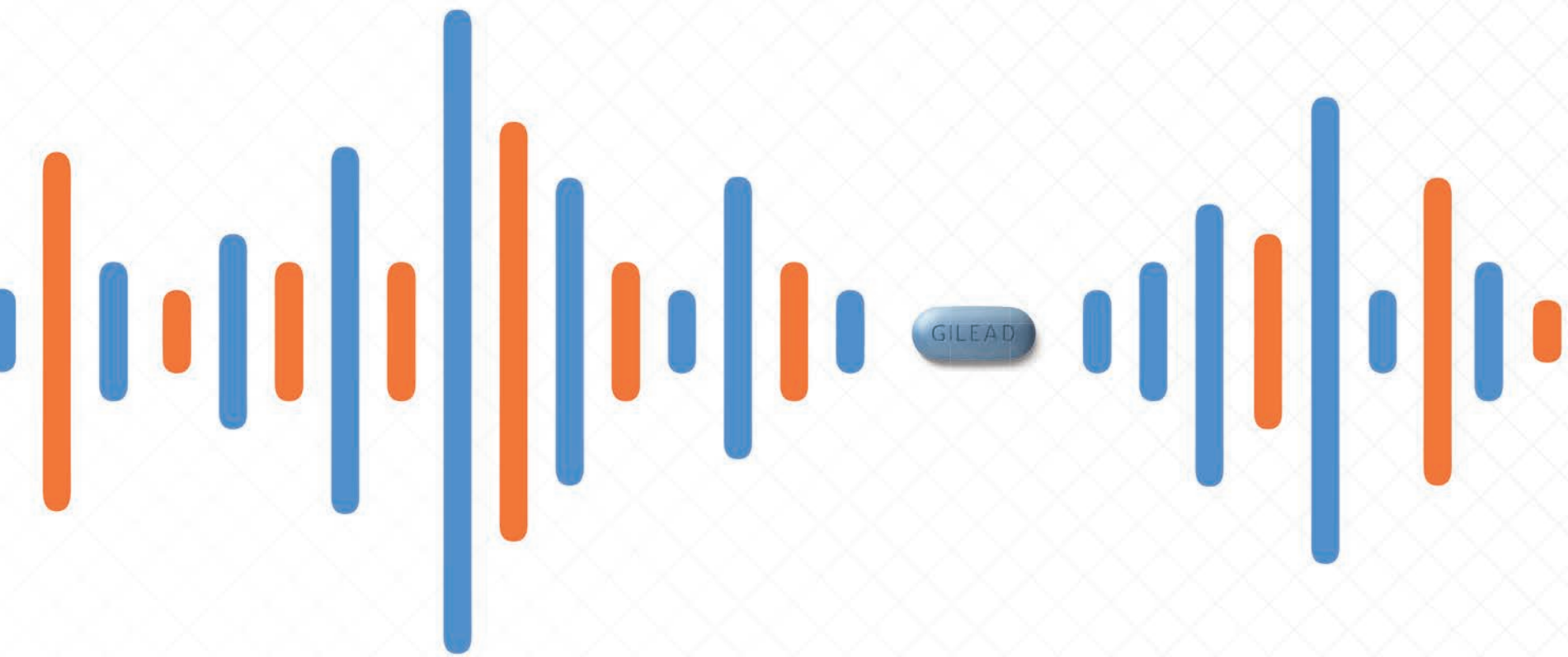
Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

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

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

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



Have you heard about
TRUVADA for PrEP™?

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

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

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

visit start.truvada.com

 **Truvada**[®]
emtricitabine 200 mg / tenofovir
disoproxil fumarate 300 mg tablets
for **PrEP** pre-exposure prophylaxis



(tru-VAH-dah)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the “How To Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

IMPORTANT FACTS

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP” section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

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

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

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

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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Version date: April 2017

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Motor City Pride is 'Stronger Together' This Year

Detroit Festival Joins in Solidarity with Equality March for Unity and Pride in D.C.

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Motor City Pride is Michigan's largest Pride celebration with more than 40,000 participants in its Pride events. Dave Wait, event chair, said he is feeling "really good" about the festival this year June 10-11 at Hart Plaza in Detroit.

"A month or two ago there was a lot of uncertainty, but we have received calls from new companies and individuals who want to participate," he said. "It really sends a message that we're doing the right thing in bringing everyone together to celebrate and that people support the LGBTQ community."

Wait has been a driving force and the primary organizer of the volunteer-run organization for eight years. This year, Equality Michigan assisted MCP in founding its own non-profit status so the planning committee could concentrate on growing the festival, and to allow EQMI to concentrate on its core mission of victim services, education and policy work.

"In this transition year, Equality Michigan will continue to act as our fiduciary agent until we finalize our non-profit status with the IRS," said Wait about working closely with EQMI for the festival as this process takes time.

The celebration starts June 8 with a MCP kickoff party at 9 p.m. at HopCat on 4265 Woodward Ave. in Detroit.

There will be five stages of entertainment throughout the weekend featuring headliner Jennifer Holliday, presented by Delta Air Lines, and BenDeLaCreme, an American burlesque and drag performer known for her role on Season 6 of RuPaul's Drag Race. Wait said the organization invited several local musicians to join the lineup this year, like Sing OUT Detroit and Killer Flamingos, among others.

MCP will gather and pay respect to those lives lost to violence both within the Michigan LGBTQ community and globally including the 49 lives that were tragically lost at Pulse nightclub in Orlando on June 12 one year ago.

"It's a time of reflection," said Wait, adding that Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow from the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit in Ferndale will say a few words during a candlelit vigil at 8 p.m. on June 10. "We don't want it to be a service, but more of an opportunity for calming thoughts to remember

those we've lost both in Orlando and locally, including the many trans women of color."

The vigil is open to everyone in the community who seeks peace and tolerance, and is free of charge to attend. Illumination devices will be provided as supplies permit.

As far as safety is concerned, Wait said, "We have a good plan," pointing to a recent press conference when Chief James Craig announced that the Detroit Police Department has geared up for the summer and is partnering with a network of security providers to offer extra protections for events happening in and around the city including MCP.

"It really makes me feel good that so many people are looking out for things happening in Detroit," he said.

As members of InterPride - the international organization that ties Pride together globally - MCP will host an Equality Rally at 12:30 p.m. on June 11 on the Pride Stage. Guest speakers from EQMI, Affirmations, the ACLU of

Michigan, LGBT Detroit and the local chapter of GLSEN will attend.

"We are doing that in conjunction with the Equality March for Unity and Pride in D.C.," said Wait about the rally that coincides with more than 80

different events happening worldwide that day.

"We are also using this as a way to get people to think beyond the festival once a year, be aware of what's happening at higher levels more throughout the year - not everyone will become an activist - and to celebrate the progress we've made, but motivate folks to take action because there are still things we need to work towards for full protections for everybody."

This rally follows the MCP Parade at 11 a.m. on June 11. The theme for this year's parade is "Stronger Together."

Wait notes there will be two entrances open on Jefferson and Woodward this year, and another by the UAW-Ford National Programs Center. The riverfront gate will not be open.

MCP is committed to being greener and more sustainable also. The organization has partnered with Metropolis Cycles in Corktown to offer bicycle parking valet for people who want to ride their bikes to the festival.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for this event, visit the MCP website for details. Volunteers receive free admission, food vouchers and T-shirts, according to Wait.

View <http://motorcitypride.org> for more information regarding happenings at the festival.



ANN ARBOR'S PRIDE FESTIVAL



AUG 4 - 6 2017

KERRYTOWN, ANN ARBOR | BRAUN COURT
FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

MOVIE NIGHT	9 PM - 12 AM	
NECTO PRIDE w/ KATYA	9 PM - 2 AM	

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

FESTIVAL BOOTHS	10 AM - 8 PM	
KID ZONE	10 AM - 6 PM	
ENTERTAINMENT	11 AM - 11 PM	
BEER & WINE GARDEN	12 PM - 11 PM	
DRAG REVUE	3 PM & 7 PM	

OUTFEST 2017 HEADLINER
TODRICK HALL
8 PM



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

PRIDE PICNIC	12 PM - 4 PM	
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AT WHEELER PARK

PRESENTING OUTFEST SPONSOR:






Photo courtesy: Tih Penfil

Sunday June 11

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.

SUMMER PRIDE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY KATE OPALEWSKI

JUNE 8

A Gay Soiree

7-10 p.m.
MKT the market,
1444 Michigan Ave., Detroit
www.facebook.com/mkcthemarket/
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.

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. Reservations required.
<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

Eddie Rosenstein's The Freedom to Marry

2 p.m.
Chelsea Library Mckune Room, 221 South Main, Chelsea
Free film screening, but registration is required. Call 734-475-8732.

Great Lakes Bay Pride Festival

12-5 p.m.
Waterfront Lawn, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 1 Wenonah Park Pl, Bay City
www.glbpr.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 39



MOTOR CITY

**JUNE 10-11, 2017
DETROIT**

PRIDE

FESTIVAL AND PARADE

  **#motorcitypride**

PRESENTED BY



www.motorcitypride.org

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MOTOR CITY JUNE 10-11, 2017
DETROIT

PRIDE

FESTIVAL AND PARADE

#motorcitypride



PRIDE STAGE

Presented by Quicken Loans

Saturday, June 10

- 12:30 p.m. DJ Kevin Bailey
- 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

- 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



BenDeLaCreme



Jennifer Holiday

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 Parade
- 6:00 p.m. Shadina
- 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
- 5:00 p.m. Melophobix
- 6:00 p.m. Jason Maek & Zay
- 6:30 p.m. Stage Closes

THE UNDERGROUND

Saturday

- 1:00 p.m. Tom T
- 2:00 p.m. Jason Ricketts
- 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 Closes

Sunday

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

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. KittyDelicious: Queer Burlesque

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

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

5:00 p.m. Jonny McGovern

6:00 p.m. Stage Closes



Motor City Pride Parade

Presented by Fiat

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.

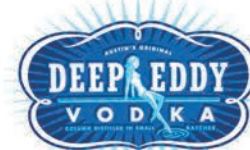
Equality Rally

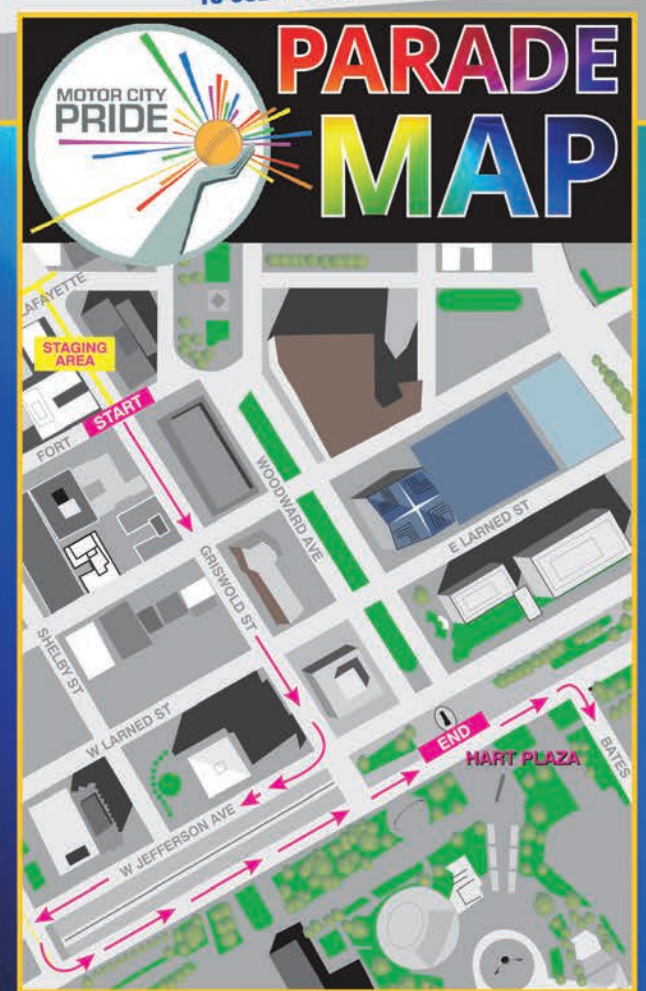
Sunday, June 11, 2017 12:30pm
at the Pride Stage inside Motor City Pride

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.



Thank you
to our
sponsors:





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

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

Let's show the world together...

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

FOR FESTIVAL INFORMATION VISIT:

MOTORCITYPRIDE.ORG



Leather and Lesbians

BTL file photo: Jan Stevenson

The LGBTQ women's motorcycle club, Dykes on Bikes Detroit, began in 2008 with Heather O'Brian as president, Marianne Waugh as vice president, Tracy Brown as treasurer and Ronda Wright as secretary. Since then, the organization has been committed to creating a local community of women motorcyclists and friends of women motorcyclists. On June 11, Dykes on Bikes Detroit will ride in the Motor City Pride Parade. Lineup starts at 10 a.m. Beyond that, the club meets on the first Wednesday of the month now through November from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Rd. in Ferndale.

Dykes on Bikes is open to all age groups, and all are open to ride motorcycles with them provided one is endorsed and insured. Though the law in Michigan has changed to allow bikers to ride without helmets, Dykes on Bikes considers it a must when riding with them. An emphasis on no drinking, drugs or "horsing around" is also critical to riding with the women. Membership requirements include voting for the board and riding in at least one Pride festival with the Dykes on Bikes patch displayed on a black vest. Visit www.dykesonbikesdetroit.com for more information.

CONTINUED FROM 34

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

CONTINUED PAGE 40

GENISYS CREDIT UNION PRESENTS THE ROYAL OAK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CLAY, GLASS & METAL SHOW

ON MAIN STREET BETWEEN 11 MILE & 6TH STREET

SATURDAY
JUNE 10
10AM-8PM

SUNDAY
JUNE 11
11AM-5PM



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Sing Out Detroit Takes Motor City Pride Stage

Sing out Detroit, established in 2008, performed at Motor City Pride for the first time in 2009 and have performed there each year ever since. The mixed soprano, alto, tenor and bass chorus for LGBTQ people and allies is dedicated to making music in a happy, healthy and fun environment. The non-profit organization is a member of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses, the world's only association committed to serving the LGBT choral movement. Support Sing Out Detroit, under the direction of Jeremy St. Martin, at 1:30 p.m. on June 11 on the the Pride Stage during the Motor City Pride festival. For more information about Sing Out Detroit, visit <http://singoutdetroit.org>.

CONTINUED FROM 39

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

CONTINUED PAGE 42



Benj. Allen

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CONTINUED FROM 40

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.

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,



Moving Forward, Letting Go

The seventh annual LGBT Older Adult Summit will be held from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on June 24 at MSU Detroit Campus located at 3408 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. The event,

organized by SAGE Metro Detroit, offers LGBT older adults a chance to build stronger social connections and learn about resources to strengthen their financial, social and

activist lives. Plan to attend an array of workshops and enjoy a morning filled with informational talks such as Life Writing, a presentation by AARP, a special Lifetime Achievement Award presentation and a keynote address from Sue Ann Sweeney, Faculty and Chair of Aging Studies Department at Madonna University. Her talk, titled "Getting from Here to There," focuses later in life transitions, why they are challenging and what you can do to navigate them more resiliently. The LGBT Older Adult Summit is free and open to the public. Please complete the registration form online at www.sagemetrodetroit.org so organizers can appropriately plan for refreshments. Call 734-681-0854 or email SAGE Metro Detroit at info@SAGEMetroDetroit.org for more information.

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.

CONTINUED PAGE 44

★ AMERICA'S ★
ORIGINAL CRAFT VODKA

Hi. I'm TITO BEVERIDGE. My Handcrafted American Vodka beats the giant imports EVERY DAY!

Tito's
Handmade VODKA
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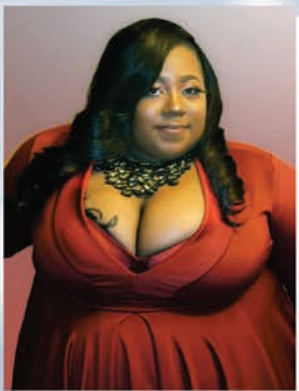
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UNIFIED HIV Health & Beyond Brings the Fight to the Ball

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 42

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 PAGE 46

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CONTINUED FROM 44

JUNE 24

Motown Invitational Classic Boat Cruise

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Return 4-5 p.m.

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www.mictournament.org
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LGBT Older Adult Summit

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

MSU Detroit Center, 3408 Woodward Ave.,
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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

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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MIDTOWN
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Matrix MAC Health
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9AM-7:30PM
Walk-in

FRIDAY

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-5PM
Walk-in
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MIDTOWN
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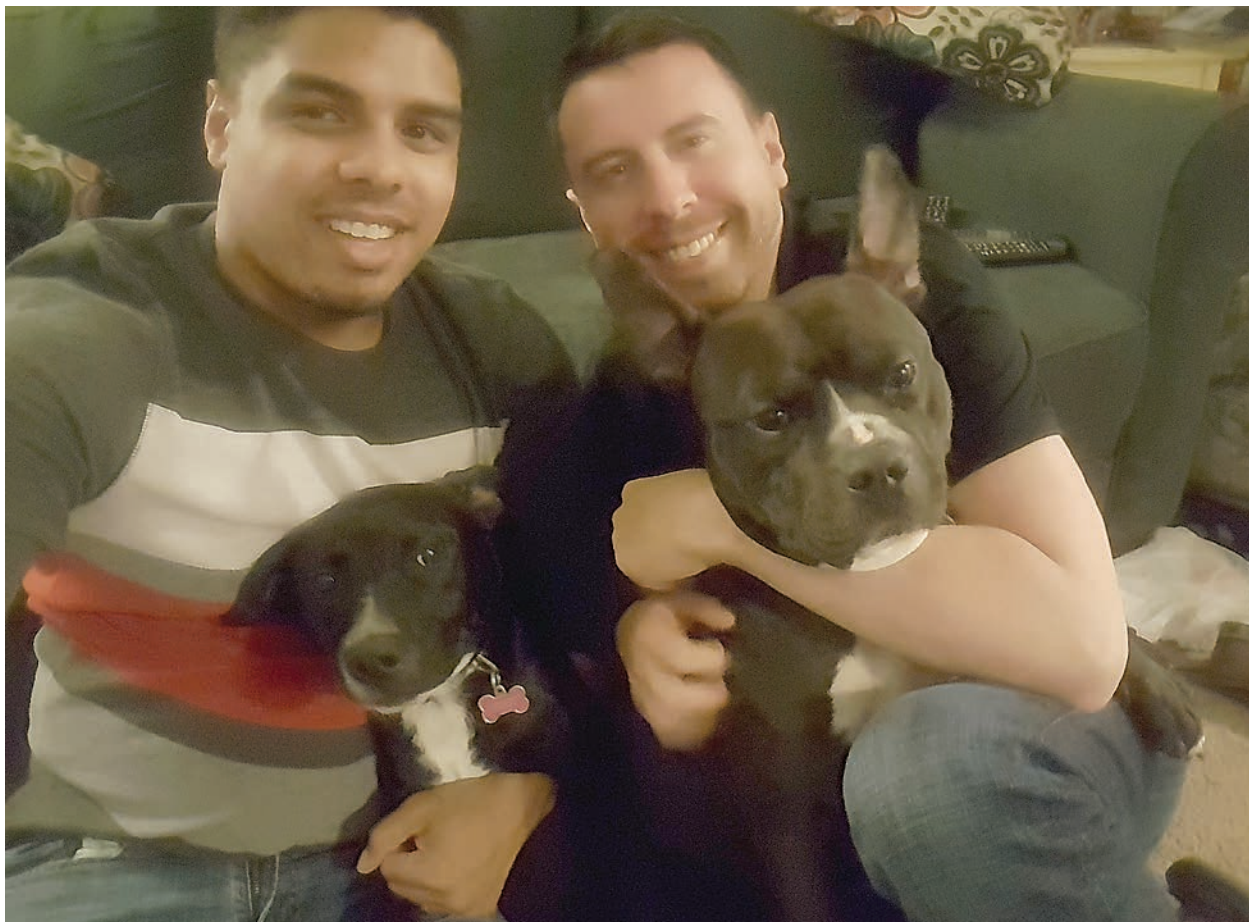

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Latress London and Andrew Nichols, pictured with Molly and Blues, will be the first same-sex couple married in the historic Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit. Photo courtesy of Andrew Nichols

MiLGBTWedding.com

Historic Detroit Church Will Marry First Gay Couple

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Score one for online dating. Andrew Nichols and Latress London met two years ago on Match.com. Now they're planning a wedding. It will be the first same-sex ceremony to take place in the historic Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit. But that's skipping ahead.

Nichols and London started dating about two years ago. Their first date wasn't really one. "He helped me move out of where I was living and into a new house," recalled Nichols. "So our first date was eating a Little Caesar's Hot 'n' Ready with a bottle of wine at my coffee table sitting on the floor."

"It was super classy," added London with a laugh.

Soon enough, the two went on their first real date to visit the Detroit Zoo's Wild Lights. From there the relationship moved quickly.

"I was so impressed and taken back because I'd never met somebody who was so different from me yet at the

“It means the world to us to be married in the church. We both feel that being able to be married as a same sex couple is amazing in itself. But to have a church accept you...there are so many religious conflicts that come with it. It's almost like a warm hug. Like they're saying 'God loves you no matter what.'**”**

— Andrew Nichols

same time so alike," said London. "He was a gentlemen. I remember one time I went out for a friend's birthday and he met up with us after. I'd had a few drinks and he walked in. My friend said 'who is that?' and I said 'this is the man I'm going to marry.' And this was like a couple weeks in."

London knew it was serious when Nichols presented him with a key to his house.

"It was a Detroit Tigers key because

that's my favorite sports team," London said. "He was like 'I want you to have this' and I think that was the moment that I realized it was a serious relationship. I was like he really wants to do this with me."

As for Nichols, he said he knew London was the one after coming down with meningitis.

"I was hospitalized for over a month and we had only been together six

See Historic First, page 50



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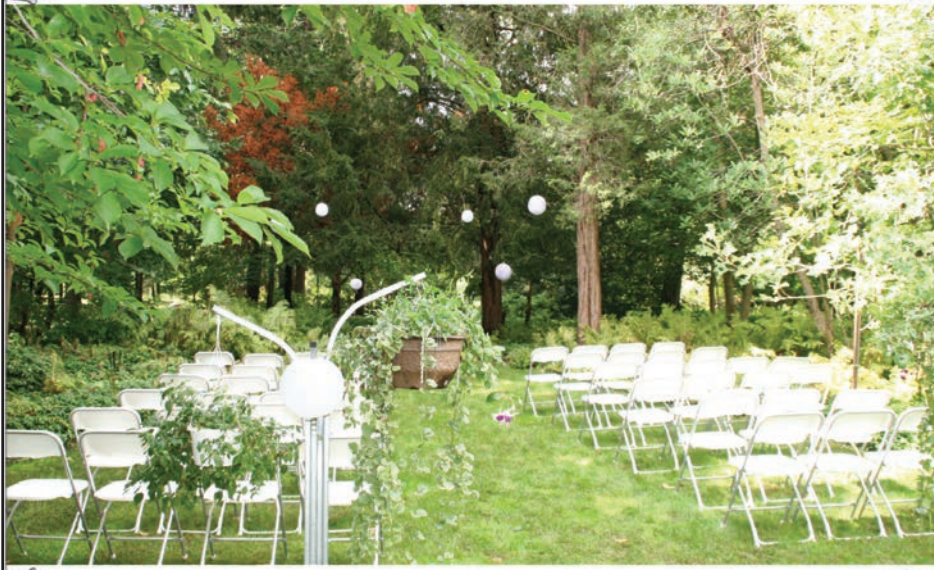
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Continued from p. 48

months,” Nichols said. “He stuck around. He never left my side. Most people would have felt that too much to handle. But he helped me through everything and I knew I had found someone I would love for the rest of my life.”

Last December, Nichols took London and a group of about 15 friends back to the Detroit Zoo’s Wild Lights, a display of more than five million LED lights that illuminate the trees, buildings and more than 200 animal sculptures throughout the front half of the Zoo. When they reached the boardwalk, London found a message waiting for him in lights. It said simply “Marry me?”

Suddenly, Nichols’ mother stepped forward and took off her ring.

“My father passed last year in March after a very long medical battle,” said Nichols. “My parents met and married in like four or five months and they were married for 38 years. So I figured if I used my mom’s ring I’d have some luck with it.”

When London realized what was happening his knees buckled beneath him.

“I was so nervous and my mind was kind of blown,” London said. “It was such a great feeling. I just remember sobbing. Just crying so hard. Like really ugly crying. ... It definitely rocked my world.”

London said yes, and soon the couple started attending wedding expos to get ideas for their big day. It was at one of these that they met Loretta Stanton, the wedding coordinator for Fort Street Presbyterian. They were so impressed they visited the church and soon started the process of joining. Nichols had always been a Presbyterian but London, raised Catholic, was at first hesitant.

“I’m going to stay a confirmed Catholic,” London explained. “I’ve been in the Catholic church since preschool. My religion is a very big part of me. ... It was kind of weird at first because I wasn’t sure if I wanted to become a member of the church because I kind of felt it was like converting and turning my back on my own religion. But I talked to my mom and she said Presbyterian is sort of like Catholic-like. There are a lot of similarities.

“They are great people to us both,” London continued. “They are so welcoming and I think once I looked at that that’s what sold me on it.”

A fine example of Gothic Revival architecture, Nichols and London will wed in the 162-year old church that is both a state and national historic site next September.

“It means the world to us to be married in the church,” said Nichols. “We both feel that being able to be married as a same sex couple is amazing in itself. But to have a church accept you... there are so many religious conflicts that come with it. It’s almost like a warm hug. Like they’re saying ‘God loves you no matter what.’”

London agreed.

“The theme for our wedding is Love Is,” he said. “Yes, the day is going to be about Andrew and I making our vows and spending our

lives together. But we see the day as a celebration. Everyone we’re inviting is not only people we love but people who love us unconditionally. It’s like a big, humungous celebration of people loving.”

For their part, the Fort Street Presbyterian Church is just as excited about the wedding. The Presbyterian Church (USA) voted in favor of allowing churches to perform same-sex weddings at their General Assembly, which took place at Detroit’s Cobo Hall in 2014. And now with marriage equality being the law of the land there is nothing to hold them back.

“This is something the church has been wanting to do for quite a few years, even before it came up for a vote,” said Stanton. “We allow gay and lesbian people to be on the board of directors, we allow them to be deacons, we allow them to be as involved in the church as possible. We don’t have any separation. We want to be known as a very accepting church.

“Andrew and I bonded immediately,” Stanton continued. “Whatever I can do to make his wonderful venture awesome is what I want to do. I feel honored to be a part of Andrew and Latress’s wedding.”

Fort Street Presbyterian Church is located at 631 W. Fort Street in Detroit. Call 313-961-4533 or visit <http://fortstreet.org/>



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Marriage Strengthens Couple's Love During Flint's Water Crisis

BY JIQUANDA JOHNSON

It's fall 2016 and C'aira "KB" Ivory realizes she is with the love of her life.

"I woke up one morning and I was like I'm ready to get married," said Ivory who goes by KB. She went to the 67th District Court in Flint to get a marriage license without her partner of eight years knowing.

"I wanted to surprise her," Ivory said of her soon to be wife. She went home and showed then Tia Simpson the marriage license and decisions had to be made.

"I guess she decided enough was enough," said Tia. "I had 30 days to decide after she got the license."

It had been nearly three years since KB first proposed to the Tia. In 2013 she surprised her with a ring while they celebrated their five-year anniversary at the Atheneum Hotel in Detroit.

On Sept. 23, 2016, they were married at the 67th District Courthouse in Flint by Judge Herman Marable, Jr.

The Ivory's love affair started with long summer days, swimming, eating popsicles and watching cartoons together as children in Detroit.

"We would spend most of the summer together," said Tia. "At least three to four weeks. That's what I remember." Tia's mother would drive her from Flint to Detroit so they could hangout with KB and her mother.

Tia reflects on a picture of the two of them when they were about ages five and six sporting ponytails and hair barrettes.


"We spent summers together like damn near every summer from the time I was at least eight until I was at least 13," Tia, 32, added. "Every summer until I was in high school. Didn't nobody parents really want me around their kids."

She struggled with poor choices throughout her middle school and high school years but by March 2008 she and KB reconnected and started a semi-monogamous relationship.

During the time they dated they had their ups and downs. Both were in their early 20s. They cheated, fought and



Tia and KB Ivory were married on Sept. 23, 2016, they were married at the 67th District Courthouse in Flint by Judge Herman Marable, Jr.



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would make up over and over again.

"We have been through so many obstacles," Tia said. "Infidelity, we've both been there. But now we are stronger. We have some much more hope and so much more faith in our relationship. We were young we spent our entire twenties together. I was 23 when we got together and she was 22."

Tia will turn 33 years old at the end of June while KB will be 32 in November.

"We had to mature," KB said. "We weren't ready."

In addition to their self-inflicted struggles they also faced scrutiny from family members for being gay.

"My mother did not accept it at all," said KB. "She struggles with it even now. It wasn't until we got married that it seemed like she would be okay with our relationship."

Their mothers met in 1975 as students at Western University.

Tia remembers a picture of she and KB when they were ages five and six.

"I always wanted something with (her) but I never knew what it could be because her mom didn't really approve of her being gay."

It took nearly a decade for the women to mature, learn to love each other unselfishly and get over family issues, Tia said. When the U.S. Supreme Court made a June 26, 2015 decision that banning same-sex marriage was unconstitutional the two still didn't move to tie the knot.

"The commitment was a big part," Tia said. "At the same time the law didn't make my relationship or change it. When I felt that this is my everything, this is the rest of my life that's when I was ready."

I had already dealt with issues having my daughter with a

See next page

“ You feel more whole, more complete finally. I was sure of myself before I got married but I’m actually more confident of myself now. It feels good. ”

– KB Ivory

man. I couldn’t imagine going through a divorce. For me that’s not an option. I had to now that the struggles were worth it. I had to decide that life wasn’t the same without her.”

Fast forward to June 2016 they are married living in Flint and fighting a water crisis with their three-year-old dachshund, Mishka. Tia’s 13-year-old daughter lives with her father in Livonia.

“We had very high lead levels,” said Tia, who has been impacted the most by the crisis. She has letters from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Drinking Water Laboratory saying their lead levels once were 27 parts per billion (ppb) for one faucet and 376 for another.

In January 2016 their bathroom faucet had lead levels of 376 ppb (parts per billion) and copper testing resulted in 1,150 ppb. The faucet in their kitchen yielded copper results of 170 ppb and a lead result of 27. The federal threshold for lead in water is 15 ppb.

Their lead levels gained the attention of U.S. Surgeon General Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy that February prompting him to visit their home on the south side of Flint.

Tia struggles with eczema, a medical condition that causes skin to become inflamed, itchy and rough, most of her life. She said her skin issues worsened after the Flint’s water crisis.

“It’s stressful to see her in pain and it’s like almost nothing that I can do,” said KB. “It’s stressful and very irritating but I do help grease her hands up and clean the house. I have to step up and do everything that she did do that she can’t do now expect cook. I can’t do that. Her food is too good.”

Her skin became irritated, her feet were numb and she was sure it was something with her water. She still is struggling with skin issues as they continue to push for clean and safe water in Flint and scaring on her hands and legs from severe breakouts that have left her sometimes unable to work or perform simple tasks around the house.

“We just have been dealing with it,” said KB. I don’t care about her physical. That’s nothing. What your heart do, your soul do, that’s what I’m about. She’s beautiful. I don’t look at her no different. She’s still ole Tia.”

As the two approach nine months into their marriage they say they feel good about their relationship and it’s future.

“It’s awesome actually,” said KB. “You feel more whole, more complete finally. I was sure of myself before I got married but I’m actually more confident of myself now. It feels good.”

KB recently launched Mercy Ent., a stud dance review company, while Tia said she is working to finish her CAD engineering degree.

In the decade that they have been together the two agree patience and honesty is key.

“Be patient, be patient, be patient and just be honest,” said KB. “I learned that...Learn sometimes how to shut up instead of arguing back. So what if your wife gets on your nerves. If you care she should get on your nerves and this one right here stays on my nerves.”



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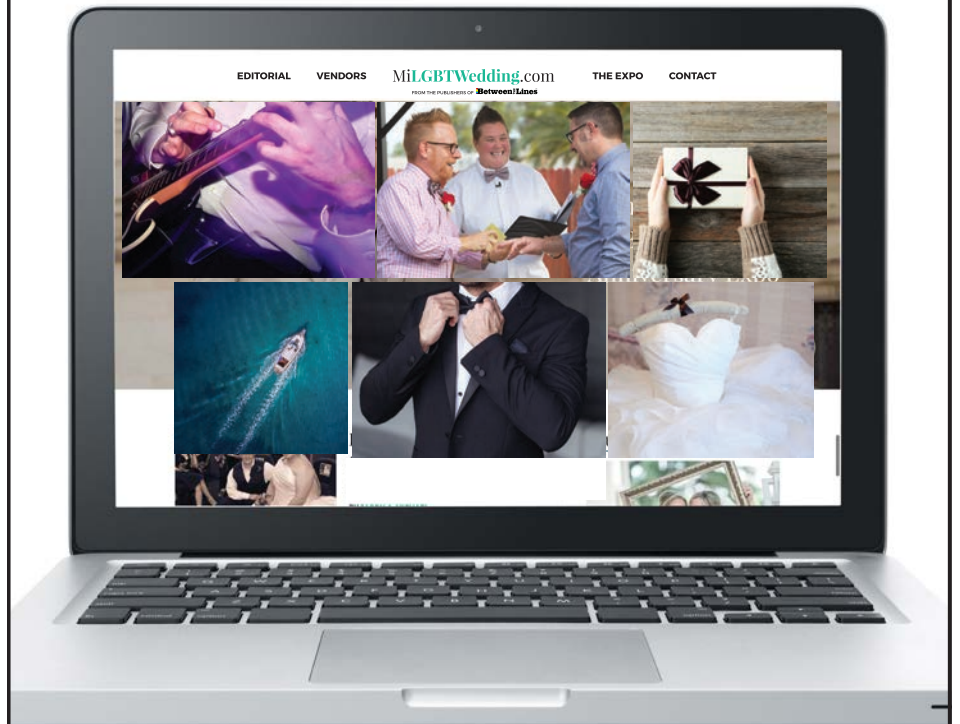
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Whosoever Ministry Joins United Church of Christ

Small But Mighty Independent Church in Detroit Links Up with International Denomination

Worship Guide

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Rev. Dr. Selma Massey's journey to ministry was not an easy one.

"I was reared as a Christian Scientist, which is not very popular with a lot of people," said Massey, who grew up on the west side of Detroit. "Our main theme was mind over matter so I think it taught me a great deal of just a mindset to think of God first."

But there were other thoughts swirling around in Massey's young mind.

"I always knew that I was gay," Massey explained. "As a young child at four or five years old I knew there was something different about me."

When her mother caught her fooling around with an older woman at the age of 12, Massey said her mother told her, "I was lower than the scum at the bottom of the ocean. She said,

'Well, if you want to be a man I'll just get you the surgery.' And it just ripped me to my core being rejected by my mom."

Massey spent her teenage years in turmoil.

"For a number of years I hated myself," she said. "When I turned 17, I married a friend of mine who used to come to the house all the time. He was a wonderful young man. I just did that to make a point. I knew I was gay but I said at least I'll be able to say I tried. Of course that did not work."

Massey graduated from Mackenzie High School and received a full scholarship to attend the University of Detroit Mercy.

"I wound up getting my bachelor's and master's degrees in two and a half years because I didn't know it couldn't be done," said Massey. "I was taking seven and eight classes at a time. I was scared to mess up. I

was this black kid at a university with all these people who were strangers to me in so many ways. So I just went in and gave it all I had. I graduated Summa cum laude and I didn't even know what that meant. I was getting all A's but I didn't know that it could lead to something."

After finishing at UDM, Massey went on to earn a doctorate degree in education from Western Michigan University. She then began to work in the mental health and corrections fields.

"I was highly involved in community corrections," Massey said. "I wrote, developed and implemented the first day reporting center in a large urban setting in Wayne County, which was designed to reduce the prison population and kind of bring in community corrections so that our own people could take care of our own people who had been incarcerated."

While the work had its rewards, it eventually



Rev. Dr. Selma Massey

See Whosoever page 58

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► Whosoever

Continued from p. 56

lost its appeal to Massey.

"I got bored with it," she said. "So in 1996 it just came over me to let it go. It was not fulfilling to me. I wanted to do something to help my community. The main thing for me was I wanted to know about God. I wanted to research him for myself because I was tired of the hate talk."

Massey studied with Rev. Karl Jackson who at that time was pastoring a church called New Covenant.

"Every day he would just teach me about the Lord," Massey remembered "He poured into me and by the time he finished I said I have got to go share this with my people."

Massey said Jackson wanted her to help lead his church but she did not feel called to do that at that time. She served as assistant pastor of Full Truth Fellowship of Christ Church for a while. But Massey could not seem to find the place that felt like a spiritual home to her.

"I was just kind of waiting in the wings," said Massey. "Then a lady came to me and said 'Doc, you should do something. You should start your own church.' And it just put it in my head and I started looking around."

Massey began to envision having her own ministry, and she would call it Whosoever.

"One day I was in my basement cleaning out the house," Massey said. "I was down there and I saw my grandmother's Bible and I tell you the Bible fell from the shelf and it's as if it opened to John 3:16. And the light from the basement window shined on it. It was like it lit up on the page. And I saw 'Whosoever.' I said 'It ain't saying nothing else. Like you got a dress a

certain way or be straight or you can't be a woman.' It said 'whosoever believes on him shall not perish.' It pierced me and I said that's it."

Whosoever Ministry had its first service in July 2003 at the YWCA building on Jefferson Avenue. The church met there for a few years until the Y closed. Then Massey struggled for years to find her congregation a



Rev. Dr. Selma Massey

permanent home. She even held services in Birmingham for a while.

"I had no idea it would be so difficult to find a church home," said Massey. "Nobody wanted to host a church for gay people. Nobody would let me in."

Eventually Massey brokered a deal with the Detroit Ecumenical Theological Seminary on Woodward Avenue. Whosoever has been meeting there for the past seven years now. Two years ago, Massey was attending a clergy meeting on marriage equality when she was approached by someone.

"When I got there a guy named Campbell Lovett from the United Church of Christ said, 'Selma Massey, I've been looking for you. We want you to be a part of the UCC,'" said Massey. "For somebody to finally say they wanted us after all those years of rejection...it meant a lot. The UCC was the first one to license and ordain a gay pastor. So they had quite a track record."

Though she had never attended seminary, the UCC gave Massey credit for her years in ministry. They required her to attend only a few classes before officially licensing and ordaining her.

"They have been so wonderful and so loving and so well receiving," Massey said. "They are happy to have us as a part of them."

Today, Massey said the church averages about 70-75 people on a Sunday. She said her

preaching style "uses a lot of humor so people can relax and not be so stuffy. I show them how to use the word of God to get through next week. I make it real practical so we can all get it and walk in it."

The hardest part of serving her congregation, she said, is undoing the years of self-hatred, family rejection and mistreatment her congregants have experienced.

"A lot of what I do is really telling people that God loves them and letting them know that He's not mad at them," she said. "So I try to repair the breach and feed them and send them back out there so they can let others know."

Whosoever Ministry United Church of Christ has services on Sunday mornings at 11 a.m. They meet at the Detroit Ecumenical Theological Seminary located at 2930 Woodward Ave. For more information about the church visit www.whosoeverministry.org.




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PRISM Chorus to Perform Sold Out Show

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Randall Wrisinger has always loved playing the piano. “My grandmother bought me a cord organ when I was four and I really took to it,” Wrisinger recalled. “So when I was five my mom and dad bought me a Spinnet piano for our home. I took to it to the point that by the time I was in the fifth grade my dad said ‘it goes in his bedroom’ because I wouldn’t stay off of it. It was a passion and a love from day one and continues to be to this day.”

Born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri, Wrisinger was a minister of music for many years. He also played for various choruses and theater productions. He moved to Michigan 10 years ago with his husband, who works in finance at Ford Motor Company’s World Headquarters in Dearborn.

He had always wanted to create a chorus in Michigan but the timing wasn’t right. Until last year, that is, when PRISM, the gay men and allies chorus of Metro Detroit was formed.

“I had a group of friends who had been involved in other choruses,” said Wrisinger. “They came and chatted with me and said ‘if you had an opportunity to do it would you do it?’ I said I would ‘but you realize when you start a not-for-profit you’re starting with zero.’”

But Wrisinger knew what he was doing and he had things up and running in no time.

“I’ve done this all my life,” Wrisinger said. “So I know what it takes to purchase music and buy licenses and have this and have that to produce a quality program. You have to have a venue. You have to have a place to rehearse. It’s expensive. So I started with my credit card with zero and I ordered the music. I did it right. I was not going to copy music. I was not going to cheat the system. That’s not the way you do it. I wanted to do it right.”

After putting out the initial call last summer, Wrisinger started the fall semester last year with 40 members. Members pay dues of \$75 per semester. There is no real audition, just a vocal placement.

Potential members need “to come and spend some time with me,” said Wrisinger. “It doesn’t take long. I just need to hear their vocal skills, whether they’re a baritone, bass or tenor 1 or 2.

Highs and lows. Can they hear pitch? Can they match pitch? Can they match rhythm? You don’t have to be a sight reader. It’s easy to learn because we have people of various levels. We have people who don’t read and we have people who are trained with music degrees. So there’s the gamut. You would have to be literally tone death to not be accepted.”

Members of the chorus appear to enjoy not just the music but the fellowship and making of new friends within the group.

“We were babies in the fall,” said Don Gerstrel of Birmingham, who had worked with Wrisinger



Pictured are PRISM members rehearsing and on Dec. 17, 2016 they performed their first concert, Holiday Bells and Beaus, at the Baldwin Theater in Royal Oak Photos courtesy of Facebook.

“My goal with PRISM was to create an environment where guys who really love to sing have a safe space to come and sing.”

— Randall Wrisinger

before on various theatrical productions and currently serves as PRISM’s board chair. “It was a very pleasant experience. It’s been very drama free. It’s blended very quickly into a tight knit group, more like a family. And the rehearsals are structured in such a way where it’s social but we come to work hard because we only have two hours a week to work together. So it’s a good mix.”

James King of Hazel Park agreed.

“It’s been so much better and different than I thought it was going to be,” King said. “I expected it to be kind of just people coming together to sing but it’s so much more than that. It’s such a great group and everyone seems to get along.”

For Michael Champagne of Roseville, it’s the closeness he feels with his fellow chorus members that keeps him coming back.

“Everyone’s gotten super close,” said Champagne. “Everyone gets to know one another. It’s very emotional. I mean people cry during rehearsals. It’s very moving and uplifting and creates a sense of family. Plus Randy’s a great director so we’re very organizationally structured. We kind of hit every challenge that we need to.”

For his part, Wrisinger is proud of what he’s accomplished so far.

“My goal with PRISM was to create an environment where guys who really love to sing have a safe space to come and sing,” he said. “We have both gay guys and allies in our group.”

PRISM’s sophomore production, “A Salute To America,” is scheduled for the Baldwin Theater in Royal Oak on June 24. The production sold out in a mere 72 hours.

“What I’m doing is telling the story of America,” Wrisinger explained. “The first half of our concert goes through the Civil War. It starts at the Gettysburg address. Then it goes moves into World War 1 and 2. Arlington. We have salute to our armed forces for anyone current or retired or deceased that has served in all five branches. Then we have our intermission. Then we move to civil rights and from that we move into lgbt rights, where it started with Harvey Milk time

and when the gay movement really started in the U.S. Then we take it through the AIDS crisis in the 80s through gay marriage up to where we currently are.”

Today, PRISM has 55 members, though Wrisinger says he’d love to see it grow to 150 someday.

“I hope that what we did at Christmas and what we’re going to do in the spring that it will just entice more men, both gay and straight, that would want to come to a welcoming environment for a very motivated group of people that all seek to do the same goal of presenting great music,” said Wrisinger. “It’s social time weekly. It’s fun time weekly. But we work hard. We work hard when we’re here and when we play we play harder.”

Learn more online at <http://prism-chorus.org/>.



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Olivia Newton-John Talks Dream to Cure Cancer, Loving Her Gay Fans and How She's 'Here and Still Going'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

“My dream is to see an end to cancer in my lifetime,” Olivia Newton-John told me at the end of April, just weeks before announcing that she’d been diagnosed with a recurrence of breast cancer that has spread to the sacrum bone in her back. The entertainer and “Grease” star first battled breast cancer in 1992, and lost her sister to brain cancer in 2013. She turned her personal loss into a universal catharsis on her October 2016 release, “LIV ON,” a collaborative album featuring singer-songwriters Beth Nielsen Chapman and Amy Sky.

Scheduled as a preview for her summer tour, which has since been postponed due to her health, Newton-John was in good spirits during our recent interview. Expectedly, the 68-year-old Aussie singer-actress exuded warmth and humility – and, as she reflected on queer-aligned moments in her career, the kind of charming laughter that’s made her one of the most approachable icons of our time.

“I love you guys,” Newton-John said, doting on her vast gay following. “You’re so loyal and lovely to me, and I appreciate you.”

I told her we honestly loved her back, and we talked about her professional highs and personal passions – and how cancer, which she is now suddenly battling, is what she’s determined to help cure.

How would you compare yourself as an artist now versus when the world first met you in “Grease” and “Xanadu”?

I think I’ve been through so many different eras. With “Grace and Gratitude” (2006) and my “Gaia” (1994) albums, both were kind of mellow, so I have done this before. (It’s usually on albums that have a theme to them, or when I’ve gone through some kind of crisis, which are those two albums and this one. This album was born out of me losing my sister. It was kind of inspired by that, and it was just important to me to make this record to help heal ourselves and help other people, because I think grief is not something that is talked about enough. It can lead to depression and anxiety, and people don’t even realize that they’re sad, and so they use other means to cover it up and they don’t talk about it because people make them feel they should be over

HONESTLY LOVED

Photo: Denise Truscello

it. There's no time when there's a loss. Loss is different for everybody. The people you've lost, they'll always be in your life; they'll always be there, in your heart.

What was your first introduction to the gay community? Did you know gay people growing up in the U.K.?

I probably did, but I probably didn't decipher between them and anybody else. They were all just people. I had very loving parents who were very open, so I don't think I ever thought about it that much. In the '70s, I was very close to my hairdresser/makeup person who sadly died of AIDS and that was a terrible, terrible shock. In show business, there's a very high percentage of gay people, so I've just always been around them.

If a gay fan stops you on the street, what project of yours are they most likely to gush over?

"Sordid Lives." (Laughs) But it depends! It's hard! Because there are many, many gay men and women, and they all love something different – they're just people, so they all have different taste. But a lot of them have been touched by the message in "Sordid Lives" if they had or have a problem coming out to their family.

Where does playing a tattooed lesbian ex-con in that movie rank on your list of accomplishments?

(Laughs) It was fun! I did it for fun! Because I love (writer and director) Del Shores, who is my friend. He was actually my sister's best friend – that's how that came about, because of their friendship. If my sister hadn't known Del, I wouldn't have gone to the play and then I wouldn't have said, "If you ever make this into a movie, think of me." It was all kind of in fun, and then it happened.

Like many gay men of my generation, my introduction to you was the "Physical" video. I remember being surprised seeing two gay men walking out of the gym together, holding hands. Considering being gay was more taboo during that time, how do you reflect on that groundbreaking moment when it comes to gay inclusivity?

You know what, I don't think I even realized it at the time. I just thought it was extremely funny. Whenever someone tells me that "Physical" is sexy, it makes me laugh because, to me, it's just funny, you know? And the director really should take credit: Brian Grant, an Englishman who was great fun and did nearly all my videos at that time. Of course, the choreographer (Kenny Ortega) is gay, and all the boys were our friends. And it was hilarious! We just had a blast, and until you said that I hadn't really thought of it as being groundbreaking. It seemed quite natural at the time. But I thought it was a very funny twist at the end.

The video came out in 1981, when there was still a lot of resistance regarding gay issues. Gay marriage wasn't, obviously, legal.

That is true. I don't even know if it was being talked about then. It was just part of my life.

As kitschy as it is, it still put gay people in many living rooms across the world.

Looking back now, I realize that. But I was so busy doing what I was doing – working. I didn't reflect on things as much then. I was too busy doing them!

What's it like when you perform "Physical" these days? Are you surrounded by shirtless, sweaty gay men?

Only in the audience if they choose to do that! (Laughs) But no, just my singers on stage come and jump around, and my guitarist comes forward and we do the guitar solo. We just have fun. I try to get the audience to have fun.

Do you strip it down? Do you do a cabaret version of the song?

No, no; we do it like the record. They want to hear it like it was. I always remember going to see a famous artist when I was a young girl, and when she did sing her songs, she changed them. I remember making a note: If I'm ever lucky enough to be that successful, I'm going to do them the way they were done. That's what people wanna hear.

Which artist are you referring to?

Oh, it's an artist and I don't want to mention her name. Her whole show was not – it was just, I was anticipating all the hits and they didn't come, and then when she did them she changed them up. That was just an important lesson for me.

It's Pride season. As someone who's been a mainstay on the Pride circuit, can you reflect on some of your most memorable experiences at Pride?

I have been a part of many Mardi Gras celebrations in Sydney, and I can never remember places, so you have to forgive me, but it was off New York and that was the night gay marriage was passed. It was incredibly exciting. Everybody was celebrating. So those are the two that stick out for me. And I've done other ones too with incredible crowds. A lot of fun. My gay fans are a lot of fun.

What was going through your mind when marriage equality became a reality that day?

I was just very happy for them and happy for the gay community that they have equality. I've always said this and I'll say it again: Love is love. That's all it is.

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“ I feel very grateful for all that I have achieved. The wonderful thing about these achievements is that it's giving back to people – it's not just about me. It's helping other people move forward in their lives, for their future, which is much more important. ”



► **Olivia**

Continued from p. 61

You were one of the first stars to speak out on marriage equality in Australia. How are you feeling about the fact that it's still not a reality there?

It's ridiculous. I hope a change is made. And it is really silly and it needs to change, and I hope it does. I don't get involved politically, really, but I just think this issue is obvious – it's ridiculous. If people love each other, they should be able to form a partnership and that's that.

It seems so simple when you put it like that.

It is simple.

I came across a video of you acknowledging lesbian rumors that were circulating about you in the '80s. I had no idea people ever thought you were a lesbian.

Yeah, I remember that. It was very odd. I couldn't figure out why, but it didn't do me any harm, obviously. (Laughs)

Actually, I think it might've benefited you.

I think it was probably a good rumor! It was a nice rumor, not a mean rumor.

Do mean rumors about Olivia Newton-John actually exist?

I'm sure there have been some! I try not to tune in to negativity. I tune that stuff out, so I don't know.

What is left for you to accomplish?

Everything now is icing on the cake. I thought I was gonna retire in 2000, and here I am. I'm still going. And doing the Sydney Olympics (in 2000) was like, "Wow, nothing can be better than this." Then I built my hospital (Olivia Newton-John Cancer Wellness & Research Centre in Melbourne, Australia, where she will receive treatments for her new cancer diagnosis) and I think that was probably the greatest achievement in my life, to have helped raise the money to build this amazing cancer center that's helping so many people. And to have Gaia, my wellness retreat – that is also helping to heal people.

So, I feel very grateful for all that I have achieved. The wonderful thing about these achievements is that it's giving back to people – it's not just about me. It's helping other people move forward in their lives, for their future, which is much more important.

More important than...?

Than fame. It's a different kind of fame; it's something that's gonna help people's lives and quality of life. The cancer center and wellness program are my babies, and I really care deeply for cancer patients, having gone through it myself. Now, we have an amazing research center at my cancer center and we just did some groundbreaking research that was published in Australia, so we're doing amazing things there. My dream is to see an end to cancer in my lifetime and that the hospital becomes a wellness center, just focusing on wellness – that's my dream.



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The OutField

BY DAN WOOG

Growing up in central California an hour and a half west of Yosemite, Jen Ramos was not exactly a sports fan. But one day 10 years ago, Ramos “randomly” watched a post-season Major League Baseball game and was hooked.

Ramos was intrigued by the strategy needed, and the analytical perspective that went into every decision. Ramos studied the game, figuring out details and reading books like “Moneyball.”

At Mills College, Ramos majored in creative writing and minored in journalism. The all-women’s college in Oakland is known for many things – including its transgender admission policy. “Anyone who identifies as female, was assigned that gender at birth or is transitioning to female is welcome,” Ramos explains.

The more Ramos learned about the gender spectrum and gender fluidity, the more Ramos realized “I was on that spectrum. I don’t necessarily identify as female.” After “a lifelong journey to figure out why I don’t feel I fit in as a woman” – and many conversations with classmates and professors at Mills – Ramos identified as genderqueer. At the beginning of each semester, instructors ask students which pronouns they prefer. Jen answered “they.”

During their time at Mills, Ramos continued to study baseball. The front office side of baseball operations seemed interesting. After graduation, they wrote about the San Francisco Giants for Aerys, the first online sports network founded and operated entirely by women. But minor league baseball was even more fascinating. Ramos went to Fresno Grizzlies and Modesto Nuts games. They learned to scout



Jen Ramos

opposing teams, and found mentors.

Ramos also found a career.

Last year, they got their master’s degree at the University of Southern California. They worked on their capstone with Sam Miller, a baseball statistical analyst with the Sonoma Stompers. He recommended Ramos for a position with the independent team, which plays in the Pacific Association of Professional Baseball Club league.

Which is how the Stompers’ new assistant general manager is - quite possibly - the first non-binary executive in professional sports.

OK, it’s not the New York Yankees, but change has to start somewhere. In this case, it begins with a team that, Ramos notes, is “very progressive.”

In 2015 the Stompers signed Sean Conroy. Miller – the sabermetrician – picked him sight unseen based on his numbers. Miller had no idea he had selected the first openly gay player in all of pro baseball.

Last year, the Stompers became the first coed team in professional baseball since the 1950s, when they added three women to their roster. Two returned this spring.

The Stompers did not set out to break barriers, Ramos says. “They just liked Sean as a player. And they just wanted to sign good players, male or female.”

It was the same when they offered Ramos a job. They were the best person for the job, and gender identity had nothing to do with anything.

Ramos realizes, though, the significance of their position. “There’s a lot of machismo and masculinity in the sports world - especially in the major leagues,” they say. “They’re not really gender-integrated. A lot of front offices are almost all male.”

As a result, Ramos says, “people think twice before being open about their sexuality (if it’s not straight). In that environment, there’s a lot of worry about what people

might say.”

While Ramos believes the stereotype of “toxic masculinity” might be outdated, they know it does exist in some places. “Each team culture and every locker room is different,” they say. “But still, there’s always that underlying layer about safety.”

In Sonoma, Ramos’ experience has been “fantastic.” The front office has been supportive, as expected. But so has the team, the fans and the entire community.

The only negativity Ramos has felt has been online. Those comments could have come from anyone, far away from enlightened Northern California. “I recognize I’m privileged,” Ramos says.

But they’ve been buoyed by emails and tweets, many of which also came from beyond Sonoma. Many come from non-binary baseball fans. “They thank me for helping them exist in the baseball space they love,” Ramos says.

Ramos hopes to stay with the Stompers “as long as they want me.” But, like everyone working in professional sports, Ramos also would like to move to bigger leagues.

Meanwhile, they will try to help anyone identifying as LGBTQ, particularly people of color, find their way in the sports world.

The first genderqueer front office executive in professional baseball enjoys being with the same club as the first openly gay professional baseball player. Who knows? Perhaps together they will blaze the path for the first non-binary athlete to play professional sports too.

Either in Sonoma, California, or somewhere far, far away.

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



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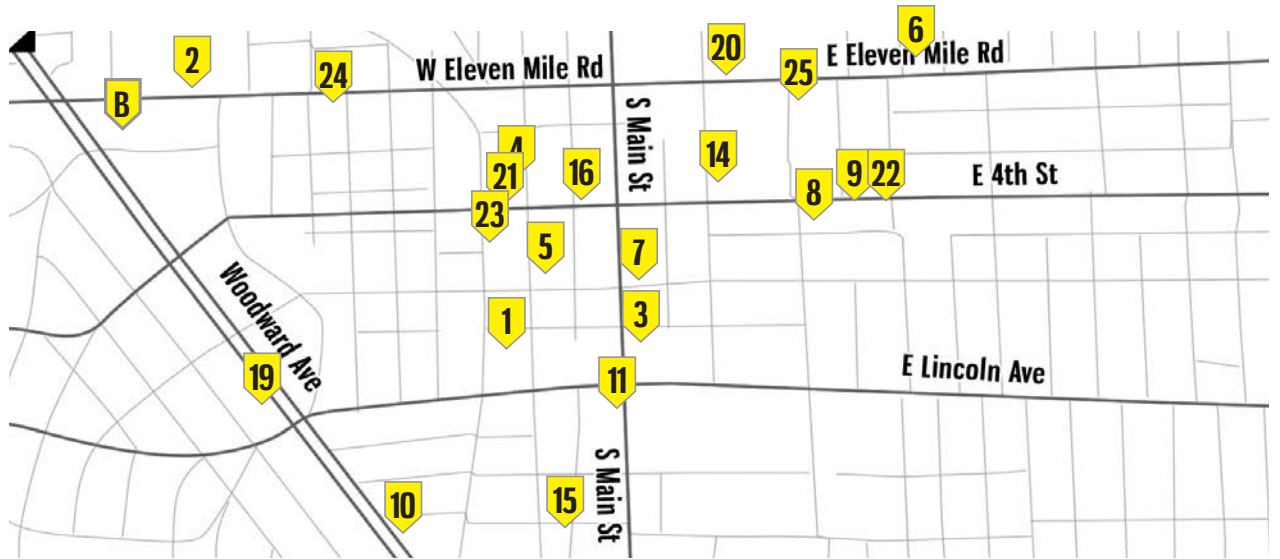
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First Live Touring Production of 'MST3K' Comes to Royal Oak

For the first time ever, join Joel Hodgson, creator of the critically acclaimed "Mystery Science Theater 3000" TV show and its new host Jonah Heston (Jonah Ray) as they bring the first live touring production of "MST3K" to Royal Oak on the "Watch Out for Snakes!" Tour.

Appearing with Joel and Jonah live on stage July 14 at the Royal Oak Music Theatre will be robot companions Crow (Hampton Yount), Tom Servo and Gypsy, along with Synthia (Rebecca Hanson) and her Bonehead henchmen. Of course, it wouldn't be "MST3K" without the ever-present surveillance of the Mads, Kinga Forrester (Felicia Day) and TV's Son of TV's Frank (Patton Oswalt), checking up on their unwilling test subjects via a video screen.

The tour consists of two separate, completely unique shows, each with its own admission. Fans wanting the complete tour experience should purchase two tickets, one for each show. Each event will include all the things expected from an "MST3K" experience: a cheesy B-movie, hilarious riffing, wisecracking robots, silly sketches, plus – for the first time – audience participation. Show #1 at 6 p.m. is the "MST3K" favorite "Eegah," featuring all-new riffs and sketches. Show #2 at 9:30 p.m. is a "Secret Surprise Film!" It's a fun, sci-fi thriller never before featured on "MST3K" and it will be performed only in select cities.

Tickets start at \$39.50 for the "MST3K" "Watch Out for Snakes!" tour and are available at www.royaloakmusictheatre.com/. Please note each

Grills Fire Up for Michigan Rib Fest

The Michigan Rib Fest kicks off the summer season in downtown Royal Oak June 30-July 2. The event once again welcomes thousands of guests for a weekend of BBQ, bands, and family fun. In celebration of Independence Day, Michigan Rib Fest will showcase an unparalleled selection of unique cuisine, food trucks, and BBQ – along with a selection of adult beverages. More than a dozen food vendors will be offering up mouthwatering fare that's sure to please even the most discerning palate. With a list of bands as long as the food vendors, Michigan Rib Fest presents a carefully crafted entertainment lineup that's fit for all ages including monster

truck rides, hot dog pig racing, and lawn games. The event will feature some of the state and region's most impressive local talent with a range of musical genres and styles performing all day that will please any crowd. Michigan Rib Fest is family-friendly, featuring loads of fun for all ages at the Kids Zone – including bounce houses and face painting. Hours are June 30, 1-11 p.m.; July 1, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; and July 2, 12-9:30 p.m. Entry is free.

Visit www.michiganribfest.com for more information or www.facebook.com/michiganribfest/.

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Cinetopia Film Festival Presents 'Black Women in Medicine'

The film "Black Women in Medicine" will show at 2 p.m. on June 11 at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, 315 E. Warren Ave. in Detroit. It honors contemporary black women around the country who work diligently in all facets of medicine through first-hand accounts from a cross-section of black female pioneers in healthcare including Dr. Claudia Thomas, the first black female orthopaedic surgeon, and Dr. Jocelyn Elders, the first black woman to hold the position of U.S. Surgeon General. Tickets for the film are \$12. Call 313-494-5800 or visit www.cinetopiafestival.org for more information.

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OUTINGS

Wednesday, June 7

The Pastor is In 3:30 p.m. Pastor Dani Veenstra, local United Church of Christ faith leader and ally to the LGBTQ community hosts this free service every Wednesday. OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. thepastorisin@outcenter.org www.outcenter.org

LGBTQ Support Group 7 p.m. Connect on Facebook at @LGBTQSupportDownriver Beaumont Taylor Teen Health Center, 26650 Eureka Road, Suite B, **Taylor**. 734-942-2273 Ext. 23.

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

Gay Soiree 7 p.m. Join us for a gay soiree to officially kick off 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. Donations are encouraged. Fair Michigan & MKT the market, 1444 Michigan Ave, **Detroit**. corktown@mktthemarket.com www.fairmichigan.org

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

Sunday, June 11

"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, 17100 W. 12 Mile Road, **Southfield**. www.voterunlead.org

Inaugural Grosse Pointe Pride March 10 a.m. The family-friendly march will conclude with a rally in the parking lot of Maire Elementary School at 11 a.m. Welcoming Everyone Grosse Pointe (We GP), 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., **Grosse Pointe**. contact.we.gp@gmail.com www.facebook.com/wegrossepointe/

Tuesday, June 13

Drag Queen Bingo featuring Lauren Jacobs 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$35 to support Affirmations and Ruth Ellis Center PNC Bank, 261 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 2483270575. kkoch@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Friday, June 16

Lake Effect Pride 7 p.m. OutCenter, 9794 Jericho Road, **Bridgman**. www.outcenter.org

Lake Effect Pride 2017 7 p.m. OutCenter, 9794 Jericho Road, **Bridgman**. 269-925-8330. info@outcenter.org www.outcenter.org/lake-effect-pride-event

White Party 7 p.m. \$10 wristbands for all access to Old Town bars. Sir Pizza featured performer is Alise King with DJ

Fudgie. Michigan Pride, **Lansing**. www.michiganpride.org/

Saturday, June 17

Grand Rapids Pride Grand Rapids Pride Center, **Grand Rapids**. www.grpride.org/fest/

Michigan Pride Parade Michigan Pride, Adado Riverfront Park, **Lansing**. www.michiganpride.org/

Michigan Pride Rally 1 p.m. Youth Ambassador for the Women's March on Washington's Youth Initiative, Shane, a trans teen, speaks about the importance of amplifying youth voices. Michigan Pride, Adado Riverfront Park, **Lansing**. www.michiganpride.org/

Teen GSA Meeting 2 p.m. B Free B Yourself OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. www.outcenter.org

Sunday, June 18

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

Monday, June 19

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

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

Continued on page 74



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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Ruth Ellis Center to Award Lily Tomlin at Annual VOICES Gala

Lily Tomlin, the award-winning actor and comedienne, has been selected by the Ruth Ellis Center to receive its inaugural Ruth Ellis Legacy Award at its annual VOICES gala on Sept. 14, at the Sound Board, located in the MotorCity Casino Hotel. The award honors individuals who embody the spirit, grace and generosity of the organization's namesake, an African-American lesbian who opened her home and heart to members of the LGBTQ community in Detroit as early as the 1930s. Ruth openly identified as lesbian in 1915, was the first woman to own her own printing company in the City of Detroit, and lived to the age of 101, seeing the Center come to being before her passing in 2000.

The VOICES Gala is Ruth Ellis' signature event, which provides critical funding to the organization's operations while also recognizing its many dedicated supporters. Incorporated in 1999, the Ruth Ellis Center works to build positive futures with LGBTQ young people experiencing barriers to housing, health, and wellness. Lear Corporation will



Lily Tomlin

said Tomlin. "I've always believed, collectively, women have the power to change the world, and Ruth Ellis was and continues to be, one of our greatest examples of that power. Ruth Ellis Center's commitment to LGBTQ youth is inspiring, and I know Ruth would be proud."

Born and raised in Detroit, Tomlin has cultivated an impressive television, film and standup resume that has won her numerous awards including seven Emmys, two Tonys, a Grammy and the Screen Actors Guild Lifetime Achievement Award. She is also well known for her philanthropy, supporting causes such as civil rights, health care, women's issues, AIDS awareness, combating homelessness and supporting the LGBTQ community in all aspects. She founded the LGBT Center's Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center in Los Angeles and the Goosebump Garden at the Fenway Health Center in Boston, where she continues to be involved. Tomlin has been with her partner, Jane Wagner, for more than 40 years, marrying in 2013.

serve as presenting sponsor of VOICES for the fifth year in a row, allowing the nonprofit to host 400 guests including community members, volunteers, staff, youth and sponsors.

"It is truly an honor to receive this extraordinary award, named after an even more extraordinary woman,"

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Innovative Collaboration Fills Health Care Gap for LGBTQ Community

Health Emergency Lifeline Programs announced an agreement with Wayne State University and University Physician Group to collaborate with Corktown Health Center.

This new affiliation will bring increased capacity, scale and resources to CHC's operations.

As Michigan's first nonprofit medical home dedicated to serving LGBTQ patients and their families, CHC and its affiliates will come together to:



-Design and deliver medical services that address the health needs of LGBTQ persons

-Develop and implement programming designed to mitigate health disparities in the LGBTQ community

-Establish education and clinical training for medical students, residents and other health providers to deliver equitable, effective and patient-centered care for LGBTQ patients

"This important association will leverage the unique strengths of each organization," said Teresa Roscoe, Chief Operating Officer at HELP/CHC. "It is an opportunity to harness these critical resources to serve the LGBTQ community in a way that's never been done before."

Opening in July 2017 in a newly renovated 24,000 square foot facility in Detroit's historic Corktown neighborhood, CHC will initially provide primary care, integrated behavior health services, comprehensive HIV care and treatment, health insurance navigation and enrollment, and pharmacy services. In close collaboration with community members, CHC will consistently evolve and expand its programs and services.

"Corktown Health Center is important because we need a space where we can talk openly and honestly about sexual health and be affirmed. Providing LGBTQ people with a medical space where they can be themselves will feel like Utopia," said social worker and community member LaMar Thompson-Hightower.

HELP/Corktown Health Center is located at 1726 Howard St. in Detroit. For more information, call 313-832-3300, email info@corktownhealth.org or visit www.corktownhealth.org.

Affirmations Accepts Five New Grant Awards

Affirmations was the recipient of five grant awards during the month of May. Grants were awarded from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, the Metro Health Foundation, Phillip & Elizabeth Filmer Memorial Charitable Trust and The Jewish Fund.

The community center at 290 W. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale will receive a total of \$222,036 from the grants. Not only will these awards allow Affirmations to continue the work that they are doing with their existing Youth Workforce Development program, but the funds will also allow the center to expand their reach deeper into healthcare provider trainings.

Currently, Affirmations offers a leadership and workforce program, aimed to empower LGBTQ youth throughout metro Detroit. Designed for LGBTQ teens and their allies, the programs teach essential skills that are necessary to succeed in a professional work environment, while also providing them with tools that will enable them to become a leader in their community.

Additionally, the center offers healthcare provider trainings that provide education regarding LGBTQ health disparities and how to create a welcoming environment that is for everyone.

Learn more about Affirmations programs and services online at www.goaffirmations.org.

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▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 70

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 20

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.outfrontkalamazoo.org

Wednesday, June 21

Up North Pride Loud and Proud, **Traverse City**. https://upnorthpride.com/

MUSIC & MORE

Benefits/Social Events

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/

Michigan Opera Theatre Volunteer Association "Thank You Party for David DiChiera" Tickets: \$20. Detroit Opera House Grand Lobby, 1526 Broadway St., **Detroit**. 5:30 p.m. June 14. 313-237-

SING. www.michiganopera.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.cityofpleasantry.org

Concerts

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 "Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival presents "Music in the Round"" Artists place themselves in the center of the audience for this musical take on "theatre in the round." Tickets: \$10-40. Kirk in the Hills, 1340 W Long Lake Rd., Bloomfield Hills. 10:45 a.m. June 16. 248-559-2097. www.greatlakeschambermusic.org

Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival "Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival presents "Audio/Visual"" Dmitri Shostakovich's "String Quartet No. 11" is filtered through the creative imaginations of several local poets in one of Detroit's most unique creative spaces. Tickets: \$10-15. Prop Art Studio, 112 E Grand Blvd., Bloomfield Hills. 8 p.m. June 16. 2485592097. 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

Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival "Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival" Featuring the Calidore String Quartet. St. Hugo of the Hills Church, 2215 Opdyke Rd., Bloomfield Hills. 7:30 p.m. June 13. 2485592097. 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

The Blue Room "Sam Hunt" Special guests Maren Morris, Chris Janson and Ryan Follese. DTE Energy Music Theatre, 7774 Sashabaw Road, **Clarkston**. 7 p.m. June 16. 248-377-0100. www.palacenet.com

Festivals

Michigan Pride "Michigan Pride Festival Entertainment" 2 p.m. Emma Sapphire, 3 p.m. Motor City Drag Kings, 5 p.m. Lansing City Drag Queens, 7 p.m. Starfarm - Lansing's '80s Cover Band. Old Town, **Lansing**. 1 p.m. June 17. www.michiganpride.org/

Film & Video

Chelsea Library "Eddie Rosenstein's "The Freedom to Marry"" Free film screening, but registration is required. Mckune Room, 221 South Main, **Chelsea**. 2 p.m. June 10.

Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival "Beyond the Notes Secret Song World Premiere" Join us for the film and conversation with special guests Eugene Drucker of the Emerson String Quartet and

Editor's Pick

Scared Scriptless Tour

Two giants of improv comedy - Colin Mochrie and Brad Sherwood - will bring their hilarious hire-wire act to the Ann Arbor Summer Festival at 8 p.m. on June 24 at the Power Center, 121 Fletcher St. The duo from "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" will create hilarious and original scenes from audience suggestions and participation, even inviting members up on stage to add an extra element of the unexpected. Tickets start at \$45 and are available at <https://a2sf.org/buy-tickets/> or call the box office at 734-764-2538. Learn more about Mochrie and Sherwood at www.colinandbradshow.com. Visit the festival website at <https://a2sf.org> for more information.



filmmaker Hilan Warshaw. Tickets: \$10. Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. 1 p.m. June 14. 2485592097. www.greatlakeschambermusic.org

Maple Theater "The Freedom to Marry" One night only screening of the inside story of the same-sex marriage movement through the eyes of those who led the fight. Maple Theater, 4135 W. Maple Rd., Bloomfield Township. 7:30 p.m. June 12. <http://womenoutandabout.net/4281-2/>

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

detroitreptheatre.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

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

The Roles I'll Never Play Cabaret Tickets: \$15. Barefoot Productions Theatre, 240 N. Main St., Plymouth. June 2 - June 10. 734-404-6889. www.justgobarefoot.com

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>

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/>

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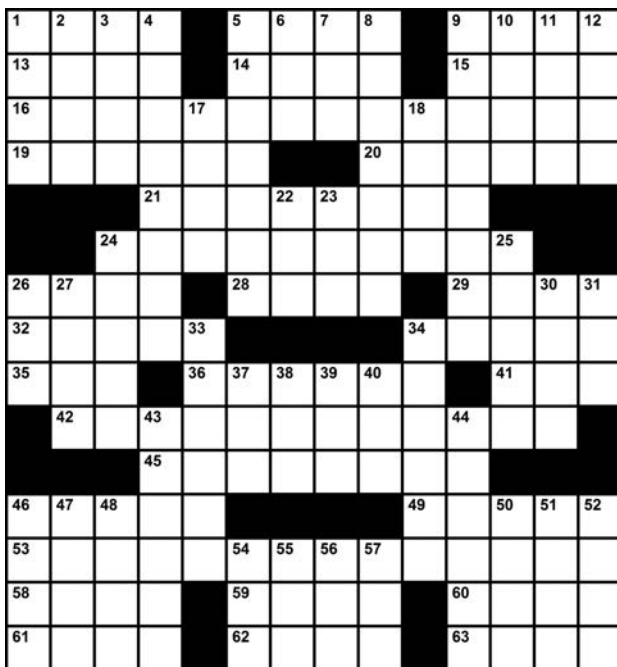
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Q Puzzle



Kama Fault

Across

- 1 Fairy tales and such
5 Alpert of "Mame" fame
9 Larry Kramer's alma mater
13 Liberace's style, for example
14 Skin softener
15 Estimating words
16 They call it the ____
19 "The Iceman Cometh" writer Eugene

20 They may lie on the bed
together

- 21 On bended knees perhaps
24 ...because it asserts
positions ____ (with 42-Across)
26 BenGay target
28 Eye problem
29 "You've Got Mail" female
32 It's human
34 King in "Jesus Christ

- Superstar"
35 Marilyn Monroe's two big
ones
36 Pack up
41 Little bit
42 See 24-Across
45 Gallo portrayer in _And the
Band Played On_
46 Emulate Bonheur
49 "Good grief!"
53 ...and when I look at it, my
face ____
58 "Lawrence of Arabia"
director David
59 Material for a drag queen
60 Coloratura Gluck
61 Giant table
62 Oral votes
63 Dated, with "out"

Down

- 1 Linking toy
2 Buck heroine
3 Martha, who was married to
Mark Harris
4 Translate into code
5 Small towns, to
Shakespeare?
6 It spreads its limbs
7 Rimbaud's king
8 Direct path to a queen
9 Kid
10 Opening amount
11 Sad ending for love
12 Stats from "A League of
Their Own"
17 Heterogeneous mixture

- 18 ____ Fein
22 Thespians do it
23 Frequent Rock Hudson co-
star Doris
24 Not that, and more
25 Rich cake with nuts
26 Went down on
27 Honey holder
30 Yellow-brick way
31 Write further
33 George Babbitt's field
34 Olympic skater Eric
37 Vardalos of "Connie & Carla"
38 Anderson Cooper's network
39 Two-time link
40 Mineo of movies
43 Tomorrow, to Frida
44 Pesters
46 Miami branch location
47 Position at sea
48 Queen's "____ Born to Love
You"
50 Folk singer Guthrie
51 Tammy Baldwin, in brief
52 Neighbor of Neb.
54 Like a cunning linguist
55 Word before kwon do
56 Thurman of "Kill Bill"
57 Second pitches for Copland

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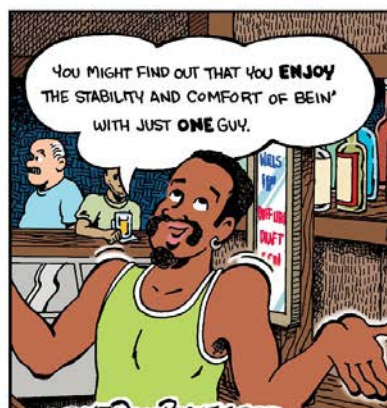
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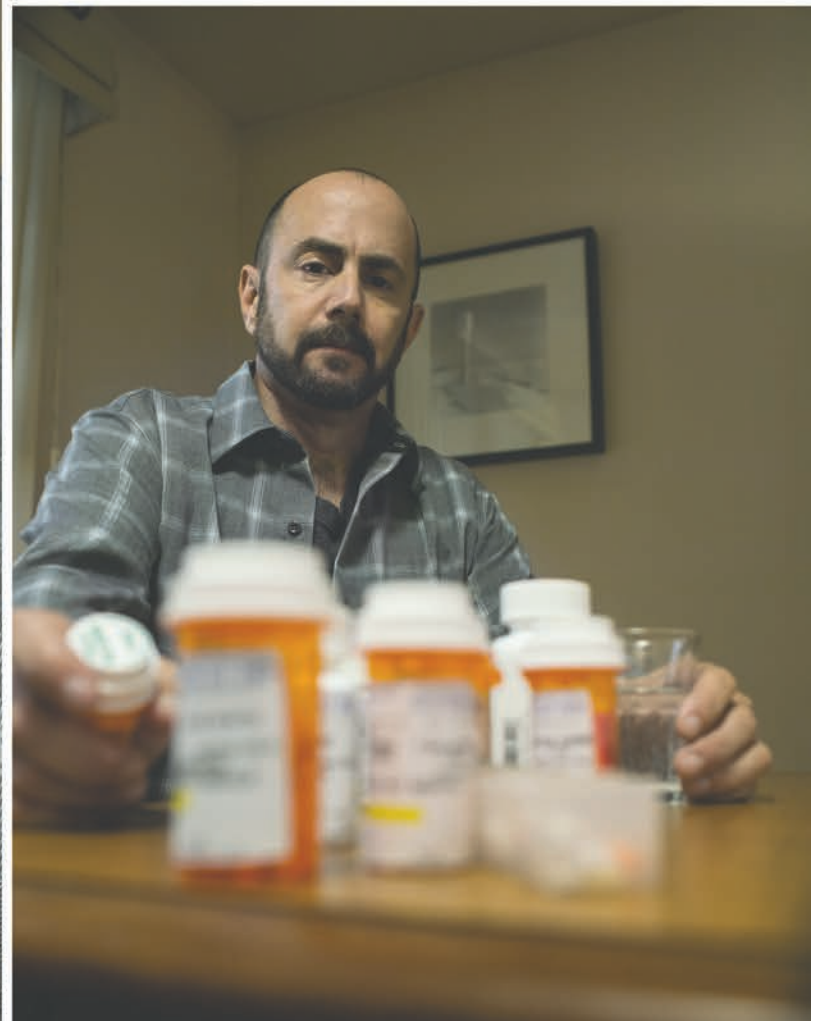
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