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### WHAT IS DESCOVY<sup>®</sup>?

DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older. DESCOVY is not for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. DESCOVY combines 2 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day. Because DESCOVY by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1, it must be used together with other HIV-1 medicines.

### DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking DESCOVY. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

#### What is the most important information I should know about DESCOVY?

##### DESCOVY may cause serious side effects:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking DESCOVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

#### What are the other possible side effects of DESCOVY?

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

- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking DESCOVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCOVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **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,** such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

**The most common side effect** of DESCOVY is nausea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

#### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking DESCOVY?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how DESCOVY works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take DESCOVY with all of your other medicines.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if DESCOVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking DESCOVY.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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

**Please see Important Facts about DESCOVY, including important warnings, on the following page.**

**Ask your healthcare provider if an HIV-1 treatment that contains DESCOVY<sup>®</sup> is right for you.**



# LOVE

WHAT'S  
INSIDE



(des-KOH-vee)

## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY

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

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking DESCOVY. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

## ABOUT DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older. DESCOVY is **not** for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

## BEFORE TAKING DESCOVY

**Tell your healthcare provider if you:**

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

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

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

## HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine that is taken with other HIV-1 medicines.
- Take DESCOVY with or without food.

## IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY

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

- Those in the “Most Important Information About DESCOVY” section.
- Changes in your immune system.
- 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.

**The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea.**

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

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

## GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to [DESCOVY.com](http://DESCOVY.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [DESCOVY.com](http://DESCOVY.com) for program information.



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# White Nationalists Sue MSU

## MI Republican Party's 'Rising Star' Embraces White Nationalists, Anti-LGBT

BY TODD HEYWOOD

A white nationalist, represented by Kyle Bristow, has filed a federal lawsuit against Michigan State University over its denial of a rental request for a speech by Richard Spencer.

The university rejected the request out of concerns protesters could become violent. The decision was made in the wake of the deadly Charlottesville, Virginia rally. That event, called "Unite the Right" featured neo-Nazis and other white nationalists violently clashing with protesters, including those identified as part of the anarchist antifa movement. A woman was killed when a man who has been identified in videos from the event standing with white nationalists plowed into a crowd.

The lawsuit, filed Sunday in federal court, alleges MSU violated the First Amendment rights of Cameron Pudgett, 23-year-old resident of Georgia. Pudgett, Spencer's booking agent, earlier this year sued Auburn University for cancelling an appearance by Spencer. A federal judge ordered the university to allow the speech to go forward and directed it to provide enough law enforcement protection to prevent violence. The order also required university law enforcement to use an Alabama anti-mask law. The judge ultimately awarded Pudgett a \$29,000 settlement.

The case against MSU is asking the Federal District Court in the Western District of Michigan to require the state university to allow the rental. It also seeks \$75,000 or more in damages and seeks to have law enforcement "unmask" any protesters.

MSU spokesman Kent Cassella said Monday the university is aware of the lawsuit, but declined to enter into a rental agreement for the Kellogg Center and Conference Center on a busy thoroughfare on the campus in East Lansing saying "our first obligation is to the safety and security of our students and our community."

### Michigan Republicans Long Dance With Hate Groups

Three days after violent demonstrations in Charlottesville, Virginia, shocked the nation last month, Ron Weiser, chairman of the Michigan Republican Party, sent out a

statement strongly rejecting the white supremacy movement.

"There is no place in our Party, our state, or our country for the vile and hateful words and actions of white supremacist groups," he said in a press release. "We know, through experience, what events like those that occurred in Charlottesville can lead to, and I know it personally. My family members were murdered in Auschwitz, the Nazi death camp, during World War II."

He continued, "I said then, and I will say again: the extremists who incited violence do not speak for me, nor do they speak for this Party. Together, we can fight against racism and hatred."

A noble statement. But here's the thing: The Michigan Republican Party played footsie with the white nationalist movement a little less than a decade ago. In fact, party leadership wrapped one of its rising stars in their embrace and declared him "exactly the kind of kid we want."

Memories are short, and the 2000s might feel like a different time. And in comparison to today, they are. But BTL covered the rise of Michigan State University's student hate group and its leader. The paper reported then that this was a new face of the white nationalist movement. It's clear from that history, the poisonous flowers of white nationalism and the alt-right that bloomed in Charlottesville came from seeds planted and tended by some mainstream Republicans.

### Bristow's Rise in the MI GOP, Hate Groups

That kid the state GOP was so high on was Kyle Bristow, then a Michigan State University student studying international relations. He was, for a brief moment, an elected representative in the student government, until his fellow students overwhelmingly recalled him because of his racist political agenda, which included defunding student groups for students of color, creating a white club and helping to hunt down and deport illegal aliens.

Undeterred, Bristow took over the leadership of a group called Young Americans for Freedom. The group, with



Chairman of the  
Michigan  
Republican Party  
Saul Anuzis

roots dating to the 1960s and conservative movement leader William F. Buckley, is ostensibly a conservative student leadership group. But under Bristow's leadership, the group would try to host events like "Catch an Illegal Immigrant." The organization brought in such speakers as Colorado Rep. Tom Tancredo and Chris Simcox, leader of the Minutemen Civilian Defense Corps, which patrolled the U.S. southern border in search of illegal immigrants. Each event and speaker was met with louder protests. Some of them were verbally nasty, but certainly never rose to the level of what happened in Charlottesville.

Bristow was showered with praise as a leading young conservative voice by groups like the Leadership Institute. That's a group that trains young conservatives how to battle liberals on college campuses, often using what the group called "guerilla tactics." It provides speakers too, like Simcox. In fact, Bristow cited their advice to "make a mockery" of being labeled a hate group.

Bristow and his band of followers attracted the attention of the Southern Poverty Law Center in November of 2006 when they stood in front of Lansing City Hall holding signs with such memorable lines as "Straight Power." They were there to protest passage of a comprehensive human rights ordinance prohibiting discrimination against, among others, the LGBTQ community. A few months later, the SPLC listed the MSU chapter of Young Americans for Freedom as a hate group. The conservative movement condemned the SPLC's action. So did the Michigan Republican Party's then-chairman,

A screen capture of one of Kyle Bristow's former websites featuring Bristow with former Michigan GOP Chairman Saul Anuzis. Source: YAFWatch.blogspot.com archives. To left, BTL file photo: Kyle Bristow by Todd Heywood

Saul Anuzis.

"(Bristow) is exactly the type of young kid we want out there," Anuzis told Lansing radio host Michael Patrick Shiels in May 2007. The audio of that conversation has since disappeared from the internet, but the SPLC reported on it. And his praise of Bristow didn't end there. "I've known Kyle for years and I can tell you I have never heard him say a racist or bigoted or sexist thing, ever."

Indeed he had. Bristow had been engaged in Macomb County Republican politics for years. In 2006, as his star was rising as a conservative young leader, he was also serving as the vice chair of the Macomb County Republican Party. In 2008, he was elected a precinct delegate to the Michigan GOP.

Time hasn't mellowed him. In 2015, the Michigan Bar Association was embarrassed into apologizing and withdrawing an honorable mention award made to Bristow in a fiction-writing contest the association sponsored. Bristow's entry, the MBA said, was "embedded with racist cues" and featured a lawyer who stabs to death a prisoner named "Tyrone Washington" who had been convicted of killing the lawyer's daughter.

And in a speech last year at the 2016 Alt-Right Conference in Detroit, sponsored by Bristow's Foundation for the Marketplace of Ideas, Richard Spencer's white nationalist National Policy Institute and Identity Evropa, Bristow said, "Make America white, er um I

See [White Nationalists](#), page 8



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# Scott Urbanowski: ‘Government Belongs to All of Us’

## Kentwood Mayoral Candidate Pledges to Give Everyone a Seat at the Table

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Scott Urbanowski has noticed the growing disconnect between elected officials at every level of government and the people they serve.

“Unfortunately, that disconnect has become even more pronounced here in Kentwood,” he said. “A lot of people don’t feel like City Hall is listening to them.”

If Urbanowski were to become mayor, he believes he can reestablish a connection with the residents in his hometown where he has lived, studied, worked and worshipped since 1988.

“Leadership is about making sure there is trust between those you lead and yourself,” he said. “There aren’t many good and capable leaders leading. We need people who are going to set forth a positive vision.”

The 29-year-old announced his run in April against incumbent Stephen Kempley. When asked what distinguishes him as a candidate, he said, “I don’t have a background of wealth or privilege.”

Urbanowski graduated from East Kentwood High School before earning his degree in political science with a leadership minor from Central Michigan University in 2010. It took him almost two years to find a full-time job.

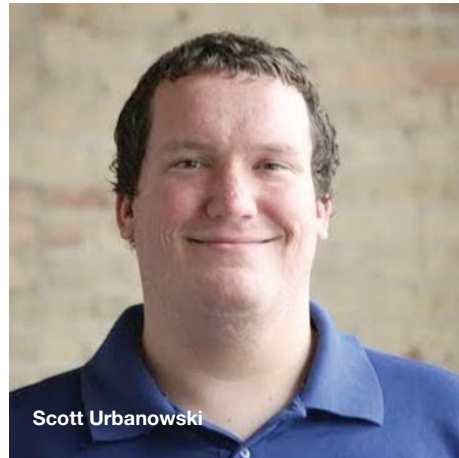
“It was a struggle so I know what a lot of people are going through,” he said. “Having that kind of background in elected office is even more important than many of my other qualifications.”

Urbanowski owns Humanoid Digital, a digital media company. He serves on the public relations committee for Grand Rapids Young Professionals. He was involved with Local First of West Michigan, the West Michigan Environmental Action Council, and Relay for Life. He is involved with the Kent County Democrats and is the administrative co-chair for the Michigan Democratic Party Justice Caucus.

Urbanowski said his experience working in a number of customer service and hospitality positions over the years has enhanced his ability to serve Kentwood’s growing, diverse population of more than 50,000.

“There is a lack of diversity in City Hall, which in many respects, isn’t keeping up with the times,” he said, pointing to five white men on the city commission out of seven members, for example.

The most recent Census data shows that non-Hispanic whites make up approximately 70 percent of the city’s population in 2010,



Scott Urbanowski

compared with 83 percent in Kent County and 80 percent in Michigan. Kentwood is home to refugees and immigrants from Asia, Africa, the Balkans, and elsewhere, along with their families.

Urbanowski is aware of a lack of LGBTQ visibility in politics on his side of the state. He is hoping to change that by working with other LGBTQ elected officials to organize the community politically so they can have their concerns heard and acted upon.

While working as a substitute teacher in the Kentwood public school system where he volunteers with the Kentwood Band and Orchestra Boosters, Urbanowski noticed that teachers are intentional about creating safe spaces for their LGBTQ students starting with the display of equality stickers on their classroom windows.

Urbanowski is committed to public safety, including police protection and traffic improvements. He will strengthen the economy by bringing businesses and good-paying jobs to Kentwood, will manage the city’s resources responsibly and will proactively engage residents and businesses on major city projects and activities.

Unlike current leadership, he said, which makes decisions with little to no input from ordinary residents.

“Since Kempley’s election, the city board and committee seats have remained open for months at a time. Meanwhile, bus drivers for the Interurban Transit Partnership – on whose board Kempley serves as Vice Chair – have worked without a contract,” he said.

In 2013, several prominent conservatives – including five members of now-Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’s family – gave vast sums of money to Kempley’s campaign for

“Leadership is about making sure there is trust between those you lead and yourself. There aren’t many good and capable leaders leading. We need people who are going to set forth a positive vision.”

mayor of Kentwood.

Those are the same DeVoses, he said, who infamously acknowledged, “We do expect something in return...We expect a return on our investment.”

Urbanowski said, “The DeVoses influence is really hurting people. They have made efforts to undermine the labor movement around here for some time.” He notes that in June the city’s defined contribution pension plan was amended to increase the city contribution for non-union hourly employees from 8-9 percent. A memo to city commissioners stated that the change was made in part “to improve the city’s attractiveness to prospective non-union employees.”

Urbanowski said there is some focus on

local businesses, but a lot of the emphasis centers around trying to bring large national chains (such as Trader Joe’s and Chick-fil-A) to Kentwood. A “local first” policy, he said, would prioritize local businesses for city purchasing and procurement.

“If you buy from a local chain, you’re helping someone who is just a striving business owner from your community trying to make ends meet, trying to do the right thing for themselves and their family. You’re really helping your own neighbor and your own community members when you buy locally.”

But all of the changes Urbanowski would like to see happen cannot if members of the community don’t vote.

“Local office elections are just as important as if not more important than federal and state office elections,” he said. “Unfortunately, not a lot of people vote in these elections. Those who do vote have more power. If more people voted in every single election, the impact at the ballot box would be incredible.”

*Volunteer for Scott Urbanowski’s campaign leading up to the Nov. 7 general election. Visit <https://scotturbanowski.com> or [www.facebook.com/ScottUrbanowski](http://www.facebook.com/ScottUrbanowski) for more information or to make a donation.*

### ► White Nationalists

Continued from p. 8

mean great again,” parroting then candidate Donald Trump’s campaign slogan.

Michigan GOP spokeswoman Sarah Anderson referred questions about Anuzis to the former chair, but concluded her email by writing, “The Michigan Republican Party does not now, nor have we ever, embraced white nationalism or the alt-right.”

But at the same time Bristow earned his precinct delegate status in the 2008 election, another white nationalist was also elected to a precinct delegate post in Midland. His name was Randy Gray. Gray is a member of the Ku Klux Klan, helped organize and spoke at the “Rally Against Black Crime” in Kalamazoo in 2007, where he appeared with white nationalists the SPLC called “the worst of the worst.” To celebrate his win as delegate and protest the election of Barack Obama, Gray took to the streets the day after

the election in full Klan regalia.

When Midland County Republican Chair Diane Bristol was informed of Gray’s KKK ties in 2008, she said “If, in fact, he’s associated with the KKK, (then) yes, it troubles me.”

The barrage of media reports must have convinced her and other executives in the county that Gray was associated with the KKK. On Nov. 20, the Midland County Republican Party Executive Committee passed a resolution that booted Gray from the party.

The events in Charlottesville surely horrified many Republicans, who have watched individuals like Bristow and Gray grow comfortable enough in their party to be far more open in expressing attitudes moderate – or just decent – party members find repellent. Perhaps this is a lesson for political entities on both sides of today’s pressing policy questions: Be careful what you wish for, and plant your garden with care.





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## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

I recall a New Yorker cartoon that appeared years ago. Picture if you will: two or three animals are gathered in a sunlit forest. A cute rabbit looks up to a chirpy bird and asks, “Where were you when Bambi’s mother died?”

It’s a lighthearted way of dealing with memory, movies, mortality, and gently poses a question that we often ask: “Where were you when so-and-so-important died (was fatally run over by a car, was kidnapped, held for ransom, was axed by Trump )?”

I was five when my mother took me to see Walt Disney’s “Bambi”. Like hundreds of kids I cried during the forest fire animation, but was reassured that it was only make-believe. “Bambi’s mom is safe in Heaven,” my mother whispered, and I felt secure knowing that there were happy endings in my storybook kingdom.

I was 10 when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Warm Springs, Georgia, just days before World War II ended. Mrs Weeks, our prim Burton Elementary School music teacher, made the tearful announcement, and we sang “America the Beautiful”.

“I’ll bet Hitler’s glad,” I commented that night at the dinner table. “Yes, Bobby; but not for long,” said my dad.

When Princess Di died on August 31, 1997, I was staying with a friend in Chicago. I joined the queue of mourners who signed the memorial book at the British Embassy. She was the epitome of glamour. A fairy tale princess abandoned by a philandering prince. Her dedicated — and so often courageous — AIDS volunteering and charity work set her apart as someone regally special. What will become of William and Harry? I wondered. (These days they seem to be doing OK.)

Now 54 years later I recall President John F. Kennedy’s assassination. At the time I was working at Wayne State, and returning from lunch to hear unthinkable news. Coworkers located a portable TV set, and we huddled in shock, watching stark black-and-white history unfold moment by tragic moment.

Two days later I witnessed in disbelief as Jack Ruby stepped out of a police-cordoned crowd and pistol blasted Lee Harvey Oswald in the stomach. “Oh, my God. I can’t believe it!” I shouted, shaken. Sickened by what I saw. But all alone in my off-campus apartment.

(Joyce Berman, former co-owner of my favorite coffee shop The Potato Place, is Ruby’s niece. She says her uncle’s family believes his motivation for killing Oswald was a fanatical admiration for the then 46-year-old president. Joyce was 9. Her family received death threats and police protection for some time afterward.)

A year after the assassination I sat next to a U.S. Army sergeant named Larry Stetson at Detroit’s Woodward Bar. He was on leave, stayed the night, and I gave him my address, promptly forgetting about it (and sobering up the next day). A month later I got a hasty note from him. Could he see me again?

When Larry was discharged, we saw each other often and eventually moved in together. In the course of getting to know Larry, who was quite, quite modest (unlike yours truly), I learned that he’d been in the Kennedy funeral Honor Guard. Larry died a year ago.

He’d accompanied our Beloved President’s body for Arlington burial. A gay sentinel to history. It was in the forest of yesterday. The evil edge of a long, brutally chilling winter. November 22, 1963. (Will history repeat itself?)

Connect with Charles Alexander at [Charles@pridesource.com](mailto:Charles@pridesource.com)



## Viewpoint



## Democratic Diversity: Upgrading The Race for Attorney General

BY BRIAN STONE

One of the greatest hallmarks of the Democratic Party is our embrace of diversity. As the Democratic field of candidates widens for Michigan Attorney General, it’s important that we ensure Democratic leaders are pushing for all kinds of diversity, including sexual orientation and gender identity, on the top of the ticket.

For those not in the know, traditionally, the Michigan Democratic Party works to ensure that there are African Americans and candidates of both genders at the top of the ticket each year. This year we’re running into an unusual, but not necessarily unwelcome, possibility of having all women at the top of the ticket for 2018. The only problem is that all of those women are white.

This is putting additional pressure on party leadership to recruit an African American candidate. Who becomes our Democratic attorney general

candidate won’t be decided in a primary election, but instead decided at the Spring convention in 2018 by party members.

In the meantime, Dana Nessel is running a campaign to garner support within the party ranks. Nessel is most famous for taking the DeBoer v. Snyder case up to the Supreme Court to win our community the right to marriage in 2015. Nessel was also a Wayne County Prosecutor and is a successful private practice attorney.

Unfortunately, because Nessel is white, it means that some within the party are talking about writing her off so that they can fill deficiencies in the diversity of the ticket. The unfortunate undercurrent to this discussion is that, within the Democratic party, race is important for diversity but sexual orientation is not.

See next page

“Never before have we had an openly gay candidate for any statewide office in Michigan. The discussion within party leadership should consider someone of a minority sexual orientation as an equal addition to the diversity of the ticket as if they were of a minority race.”

### ► Viewpoint: Brian Stone

Continued from p. 18

I ran into this strain of political homophobia myself. When I became the first openly gay man to run for public office in Dearborn history, an elected official who was a fellow veteran (I’m a decorated Navy veteran) told me to contact the other openly gay legislators and refused to offer support because, “We don’t have anything in common that would justify it.”

It was as if my sexual orientation was the only thing he saw in me and not our common background as veterans or the many times we had worked together on veterans issues in the past. That same elected official later endorsed an opponent who had never served with the absurd excuse that they would be a better advocate on veterans’ issues.

We need to change this attitude within our party. The reality is that legal, de facto discrimination from the government continues to be widespread against LGBT Michiganders. We have neither the right to fair housing nor the right to non-discrimination in employment and no one can be depended on to do a better job standing up for our community than one of our own.

Never before have we had an openly gay candidate for any statewide office in Michigan. The discussion within party leadership should consider someone of a minority sexual orientation as an equal

addition to the diversity of the ticket as if they were of a minority race.

Likewise, Nessel provides benefits to the ticket that will help the party’s broader goals of turning the state blue. When Democrats spend money on advertising next year, much of it will go to attacking the likely Republican gubernatorial candidate, Bill Schuette.

By placing Nessel on the ticket, her signature achievement of beating Schuette in front of the Supreme Court can be used to remind voters that Schuette is a bigot who wasted millions of their dollars on a losing fight that more than 60 percent of the public disagreed with him on.

As a communications professional, I can tell you this would do wonders for our ability to layer our message and ensure that all parts of the ticket are helping us win back the governorship.

It’s time we upgraded our idea of diversity within the party to actively include persons of minority sexual orientation and gender identity. Anyone can join the party by going to MichiganDems.com. Those who join by at the end of February 2018 will be able to participate in the convention and help Dana Nessel make history once again. I hope to see you there!

*Brian Stone is an award-winning communications professional, Navy veteran and a contributing writer for the Huffington Post.*

# Creep of the Week

## Dave Daubenmire

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI



Hurricane Harvey has wrecked havoc on Texas, especially Houston and the surrounding areas. Thankfully the hurricane has prompted people who’ve previously denied global warming to

say, “You know what, maybe these scientists know a thing or two after all.”

Ha ha. Just kidding. They’re blaming lesbians.

One particular lesbian shoulders much of the blame: former Houston Mayor Annise Parker who served from 2010 to 2016.

I’m not sure why people are acting so surprised. She did say during all of her campaign appearances, “Elect me your Sapphic leader and I shall summon the moon to sync the menstrual cycles of all Houston womyn and the ocean shall rise up until the tides cover the dirt and we shall call this new mermaid city Swamp Ophelia.”

You know, boilerplate lesbian stump speech material.

And so there are some people who are like, “God did this to teach those homo-lovers in Houston a lesson!”

There’s Ann Coulter, the human manifestation of a hermit crab who gets loose in the house and dies in a heating duct that no mortal can reach. On Aug. 28, she said via Twitter, “I don’t believe Hurricane Harvey is God’s punishment for Houston electing a lesbian mayor. But that is more credible than ‘climate change.’”

And then there’s Dave Daubenmire who calls himself “Coach Dave” because he loves Jesus and football. He’s also complained in the past of being “Sodomized by the left” and declared that America needs “a more violent Christianity.”

During Daubenmire’s “Pass The Salt Live” webcast on Aug. 29 he addressed Houston directly.

“Houston, we got a problem here,” he says. “Could some of the problems be the result of the judgment of God coming your way because of the slaughter of unborn children? You had a lesbian mayor who wanted to look at the prayers of pastors in their churches. It’s a debauchery.”

What’s this about looking at “prayers of pastors?” While Daubenmire and other

“Could some of the problems be the result of the judgment of God coming your way because of the slaughter of unborn children? You had a lesbian mayor who wanted to look at the prayers of pastors in their churches. It’s a debauchery.”

“religious freedom” advocates would like you to believe that Parker was infringing on the free speech of Christians, that is not the case. The truth is actually much more boring and has to do with overly broad subpoenas in a lawsuit over HERO, the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, something the pastors in question fought very hard. The subpoenas were later narrowed in scope making the whole thing moot except to religious freedom conspiracy theorists like Daubenmire.

“People tell me that Houston, Texas, is one of the darkest cities in America,” Daubenmire continues. “Isn’t it amazing, Katrina slammed New Orleans – we know about voodoo and the darkness in New Orleans. Then it moved right down the coast to Houston, Texas which isn’t far away, 5 hours right down along the Gulf of Mexico. Boom, here it comes, now it’s underwater.”

Surely calling Houston and New Orleans “dark” cities is simply a reference to some kind of sinister energy has nothing to do with the fact that lots of brown and black people live there. So don’t try to Sodomize Daubenmire with your racist accusations, leftists!

“Water is a sign of judgment and cleansing,” he continues. “Is now not the time for the voice of the church to rise up and declare, ‘Let’s stop killing the babies!’”

As far as the “voice of the church” demanding the end of abortion, it’s not like conservative Christians have been in any way shy about their disapproval of reproductive rights. Maybe Daubenmire is hoping for some of that “more violent” Christianity at work.

Daubenmire then says, “I don’t want this to appear to be judgmental, but I don’t know what else to do!”

Well, you just blamed a flood on lesbians and people who have abortions. So it’s kinda late to worry about seeming judgmental. But if you’re looking for feedback, you also seem hateful and mentally unstable like you might be a danger to yourself or others. Hope that helps.

## Michigan Non Profit Resource

### Have You Experienced Discrimination?

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

contact Equality Michigan's Department of Victim Services at :

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

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

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

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

## U.N. Human Rights Chief Criticizes Trump Over Trans, Media Comments

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS, WASHINGTON BLADE

The United Nations' human rights chief on Wednesday criticized President Trump over his statements against transgender people and other minority groups.

The New York Times reported U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein told reporters during a press conference in Geneva that Trump's comments about Muslims and trans people, among others, are "grossly irresponsible."

"It emboldens those who think similarly to sharpen their assaults on these communities," said al-Hussein.

Al-Hussein spoke to reporters less than a week after Trump directed the Pentagon to implement a ban on trans servicemembers that he announced last month.

Australia, Bolivia, Canada and New Zealand are among the 18 countries that allow trans people to serve in their respective armed forces. Capt. Shachar Erez, who is the first trans officer in the Israel Defense Force, last month described Trump's decision to ban trans people from the U.S. military as "simply pure transphobic discrimination."

The New York Times on Wednesday reported al-Hussein also criticized Trump for his continued attacks against the U.S. media, referring specifically to comments that he made earlier this month at a Phoenix rally.

"It's really quite amazing when you think that freedom of the press, not only a cornerstone of the Constitution but very much something the United States defended over the years, is now itself under attack from the president himself," said al-Hussein, according to the New York Times. "It's a stunning turnaround."

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders in an email to the New York Times defended Trump's comments, while noting the administration believes "in a free press and think it is an important part of our democracy."

The president continues to face criticism over his response to a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va., on Aug. 12 that left Heather Heyer dead and more than a dozen others injured.

The U.N. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in an Aug. 16 press release condemned the rally. The panel of U.N. human rights experts later called upon the Trump administration and "high-level politicians and public officials to unequivocally and unconditionally reject and condemn racist hate speech in Charlottesville and throughout the country."

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

# Groups Warn Trans Ban is Real

BY LISA KEEN

Gauging the significance of statements from officials in Washington, D.C., has often been a dicey sort of pursuit, especially on LGBT matters.

In President Clinton's first days in office, he said he would issue an executive order ending the military's policy of banning gays; the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Congress pushed back and, 10 months later, he signed into law the infamous "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy that forbid gays from serving openly. Running for the White House in 2000, George W. Bush said he thought gays and lesbians should have the "same rights as other Americans;" four years later, he called on Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to ensure that same-sex couples not have the same rights as other Americans when it comes to marriage. At first, President Obama was "not in favor of gay marriage," then, he became a champion.

Enter President Donald Trump, a man known to contradict himself without any influence from outside forces. On July 26, he announced on Twitter that the Department of Defense should ban transgender people in the military. He issued an official memorandum, "Military Service by Transgender Individuals," Aug. 25, directing the DOD to do so. But the memo says the ban, which is due to begin March 23, would stay in place "until such time as a sufficient basis exists upon which to conclude that terminating that policy and practice" would not have negative effects. And in an impromptu press gaggle Aug. 31, Trump's Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis said the president is "leaving it up to me" to determine the military's policy of transgender service members.

Mattis was responding to a question about whether "you agree with the president" on banning transgender people. President Trump formally conveyed his directive to Mattis in an Aug. 25 memo.

"The president gave me the time to look at this," replied Mattis. "And obviously he wanted me to do something, or he would have said, 'I want something done tomorrow.' He's told me what he wants, in theory – in broad terms – and now he's leaving it up to me."

"Leaving it up to me." That comment came just two days after Mattis issued the "Statement by Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis on Military Service by Transgender Individuals" that led some to believe he might not agree with President Trump's directive. The Statement asserts the DOD



In a statement released on Aug. 30, Defense Secretary James Mattis says, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security and "soon arriving senior civilian leadership of DOD," he is convening a panel of experts "to provide advice and recommendations on the implementation of the president's direction. Panel members will bring mature experience, most notably in combat and deployed operations, and seasoned judgment to this task. The panel will assemble and thoroughly analyze all pertinent data, quantifiable and non-quantifiable. Further information on the panel will be forthcoming."

"will carry out the president's policy direction," but it also states Mattis will provide "my advice to the president concerning implementation of his policy direction."

In the Aug. 29 Statement, Mattis says he will base his "advice" on the findings of a newly forming panel of "senior civilian [DOD] leadership" which will "thoroughly analyze all pertinent data" regarding the issue.

"As directed, we will develop a study and implementation plan, which will contain the steps that will promote military readiness, lethality, and unit cohesion, with due regard for budgetary constraints and consistent with applicable law."

"In the interim, current policy with respect to currently serving members will remain in place."

Question: Does the Trump memo's "sufficient basis" clause and Mattis' "leaving it up to me" claim signal any likelihood that the Trump administration might not go through with the proposed ban on transgender service members?

LGBT activists say 'No way!' And they are alarmed that some major news outlets have suggested that Mattis' remarks constitute a "freeze" on Trump's directive or that he might advise the president to withdraw the order to ban.

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said the language of the Trump memo and the Mattis statement amount to "a patently bogus strategy to make it appear that there

is going to be some new 'study' that will legitimate" Trump's proposed ban.

"The Aug. 25 Memorandum is perfectly clear: President Trump has ordered the military to ban transgender people from serving," said Minter. "That ban will go into effect in about 7 months, on March 23."

Minter dismissed the idea that the panel Mattis is assembling to study the issue. Noting that the DOD had already spent two years reviewing the issue, Minter said Mattis' panel is "a transparent effort to provide a retroactive fig leaf for the President's bigotry."

"The notion that there is any good faith 'study' being conducted," said Minter, "is a blatant pretext for unmitigated, vicious, baseless discrimination."

Meanwhile, NCLR and GLAD (the GLBTQ Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders) on August 31 filed a motion for a preliminary injunction to stop President Trump's proposed ban until the group's lawsuit against it can be resolved in the federal courts.

And two more legal groups have filed their own lawsuits against the ban. While the NCLR-GLAD lawsuit (*Doe v. Trump*) is filed in the U.S. District Court for D.C., Lambda Legal and Outserve-SLDN have filed a challenge (*Karnoski v. Trump*) in the U.S. District Court for Western Seattle. And that same day, the ACLU has filed its challenge (*Stone v. Trump*) in U.S. District Court for Maryland.

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Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

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This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or by calling 1-844-722-8256. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

#### What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

**Do Not Take Mytesi** if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

#### Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

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

#### Should I Take Mytesi if I Am:

##### Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

##### A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

##### Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

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If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

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## Congresswoman Introduces LGBTQ Youth Sexual Health Education Legislation

(AP) – Last week, Congresswoman Alma Adams (D-NC) held a press conference at Time Out Youth, a local LGBTQ youth center in Charlotte, NC, to announce the introduction of the Youth Access to Sexual Health Services (YASHS) Act. The bill provides federal funding to expand access to sexual health services and scientifically-based, inclusive sexual health information and support programs that promote sexual health for LGBTQ youth, young people of color, homeless youth, youth in foster care, immigrant youth, and youth in juvenile detention.

In a recent report, HRC hailed the introduction of the YASHS Act in the U.S. House of Representatives by Adams to provide sexual health services to marginalized youth. Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and seven co-sponsors introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

“Recent studies rank North Carolina among the states with the highest number of reported cases of STDs in the nation,” said Congresswoman Adams. “Across the U.S., youth ages 13-24 account for more than one in five new HIV diagnoses, an epidemic that must be stopped.”

HRC joined nearly 30 national organizations including the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS), National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) and the Planned Parenthood Federation of America to endorse the YASHS Act. Scott Bishop, a member of HRC’s Board of Directors, and HRC Southern Regional Field Organizer Hope Jackson were present at the event to thank Congresswoman Adams for introducing important legislation that will support the needs of LGBTQ youth across the country.

Mayor Jennifer Roberts, Equality North Carolina’s Interim Director Matt Hirschy, and Councilmember LaWana Mayfield joined Congresswoman Adams in speaking to the importance of YASHS and protecting underserved youth.

“Far too many youths in this country face far too many barriers that prevent them from accessing very necessary health resources and services,” said ENC Interim Director, Hirschy. Our current systems are struggling to reach LGBTQ, immigrant, and homeless youth and we can’t rely on that any longer. That’s why Equality NC is proud to endorse Representative Adams’ YASHS act alongside so many other organizations.”

“If we are going to help every young person in this community to be successful then we must be committed to the development of all facets to their mental and physical health. The YASHS goes a long way towards that total development of our youth,” said Councilmember Mayfield. “We know that our youth faces challenges that we never faced... particularly pleased to see that grantees have to form a partnership with community organizations like Time Out Youth, use scientifically effect strategies, provide medically accurate information, provide an annual report on their uses of funds and how their efforts increased youth access to sexual health services,” said Mayor Roberts. And so, we are talking about a way that young people know that they are getting real information so they may have empowerment to take control of their futures and their lives.”

In far too many places across the country, at-risk youth that are LGBTQ, people of color, homeless or in foster care or juvenile facilities lack access to medically-accurate sex education and health services that are imperative to their sexual health and well-being. Congresswoman continued leadership helps protect and expand healthcare for LGBTQ youth.

*Learn more about sexual health education from HRC’s brief, “A Call to Action: LGBTQ Youth Need Inclusive Sex Education” [www.hrc.org/resources/a-call-to-action-lgbtq-youth-need-inclusive-sex-education](http://www.hrc.org/resources/a-call-to-action-lgbtq-youth-need-inclusive-sex-education).*



A Human Rights Campaign supporter chants during a rally in support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) programs at Lafayette Park on Aug. 15, 2017. President Trump has reportedly decided to end DACA that allows roughly 800,000 young undocumented immigrants to remain in the U.S. Washington Blade photo by Michael K. Lavers

## Trump Administration to End DACA

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

The Trump administration on Tuesday announced it will rescind a program that has allowed roughly 800,000 young undocumented immigrants to remain in the U.S.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions made the announcement about the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program at the Justice Department.

Former President Obama in 2012 enacted the DACA program. The Human Rights Campaign and Equality California are among the LGBT advocacy groups that have urged

Trump to allow DACA to remain in place.

Politico on Sunday reported the White House will delay the implementation of Trump’s decision by six months in order to allow Congress to act.

Immigrant rights groups and LGBT activists are among those who have urged Trump not to end DACA. Politico noted House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) on Sept. 2 said the president should allow the Obama-era program to remain in place.

Dozens of immigrant rights advocates on Sunday gathered in front of the White House and urged

the president to allow DACA to remain in place. Illinois Congressman Luis Gutierrez and former NAACP President Ben Jealous, who is running for governor of Maryland in 2018, are among the more than two dozen people who were arrested outside the White House on Aug. 15 during a pro-DACA protest.

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

## Ending DACA Puts LGBT Lives at Risk

National Center for Lesbian Rights Executive Director Kate Kendell issued the following statement in response to Tuesday’s Trump administration announcement that it will be ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program:

“Today, the Trump administration needlessly took aim at the estimated 800,000 young people, including over 75,000 LGBT people, who came to the United States as children, work, pay taxes, and are protected from deportation under DACA. In doing so, the Trump administration rescinded not only this program but our country’s promise to protect

these young people – many of whom have never known a life outside of the U.S.

For the 11 percent of DACA recipients who identify as LGBT, today’s announcement is even more chilling. In an announcement that lasted only minutes, this administration just turned the lives of tens of thousands of our community members upside down, putting their dreams, their futures, and potentially their safety at risk.

We join with the millions of others who pledge to do all in our power to resist this brutally vicious and depraved directive and to stand with these young people.”

# Trump Names Gay Nominee as U.S. Ambassador to Germany

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

President Trump made one of his last acts before the Labor Day weekend nominating foreign policy expert Ric Grenell as U.S. ambassador to Germany, the first openly gay major appointment of the current administration.

The White House announced Trump had named Grenell to the post, which requires U.S. Senate confirmation, in a statement late Friday along with scores of other nominees.

The nomination was expected. Media reports in July indicated Trump would tap Grenell for the post, but Trump hadn't formally made the designation until this time.

According to his bio, Grenell founded the international consulting firm Capitol Media Partners in 2010 and served in various roles as a public communications adviser for nearly two decades. Under the George W. Bush administration, Grenell was the longest serving U.S. spokesperson at the United Nations and served four United States Ambassadors.

For a period of less than two weeks, Grenell served during the 2012 presidential election as a foreign policy spokesperson for Republican nominee Mitt Romney,



but resigned amid pressure from social conservatives over his sexual orientation. Grenell never had the opportunity to speak publicly in the role.

Grenell, who has described himself as a gay conservative Christian, has a same-sex partner, Matt Lashey. According to *The Atlantic*, the two have been together 15 years and Lashey himself is a conservative Christian who graduated from Jerry Falwell's Liberty University.

At times, Grenell has supported LGBT rights, endorsing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in 2013 and supporting same-sex marriage. Grenell hailed Trump for saying he's "fine" with the U.S. Supreme

Court ruling for marriage equality, although the president's words seemed to fall short of a full endorsement.

But Grenell has expressed skepticism over the Student Non-Discrimination Act and former President Obama's 2014 executive order against anti-LGBT workplace discrimination among federal contractors.

But Grenell is perhaps best known on Twitter for his combative relationship with reporters, including those from the *Washington Blade*. Taking a cue from Trump, who has declared war on the media, Grenell often accuses reporters of harboring biases that undermine their reporting.

Grenell is named as U.S. ambassador to Germany at a time of continued cooperation between the United States and Germany, but also tension. Merkel has criticized Trump for his approach to climate change and North Korea. Trump, in turn, has called on Germany, which spends 1.2 percent of its gross domestic product on defense, to double its expenditures in this area.

Grenell earned his bachelor's degree from Evangel University in Springfield, Mo., and his master's in public affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

## Attorneys: West Virginia Clerk Apologizes to Lesbian Couple

**MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP)** – Attorneys for a lesbian couple say they're receiving a public apology and \$10,000 in damages from a county clerk's office in West Virginia where they were disparaged when applying for a marriage license last year.

Amanda Abramovich and Samantha Brookover sued Gilmer County Deputy Clerk Debbie Allen and Clerk Jean Butcher, saying Allen told the couple while processing their application that they were an "abomination," what they were doing was wrong and that God would "deal" with them.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the Mayer Brown law firm say the clerk's office has promised to refrain from such treatment in the future.

Butcher said Aug. 30 that she didn't know about the settlement and referred calls to the county's lawyer, who didn't immediately respond to telephone messages.

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# Lifelong Dream Comes True for Livonia Couple

BY DAVID RYALS

Marriage has been a lifelong dream for Ward Supernois and Larry Iddins Jr. They never believed it could happen in their lifetimes, but they finally tied the knot this year on Aug. 12 inside the Newburg Church at Greenmead Historical Park in Livonia.

"From the time I was a child all the way into my adulthood I have never dreamed of the moment I would find my special someone to spend my life with and get married," said Ward. "I seriously never believed I would be able to legally marry in my lifetime. I still find myself expecting to wake up from my dream."

The couple's relationship began after meeting at the Java Hutt in Ferndale. They ordered Chai tea lattes, found a table and talked for hours until closing time on April 25, 2009.

They discovered they have many common interests like a love of dogs, old cars and antiques. "We just don't agree on horror films. Ward's an avid fan though," said Larry.

They dated for a year before Ward proposed to Larry on a weekend antiquing trip in Bay City. Shortly after, they moved in together and started planning a Holy Union in 2012.

"Sadly, that never happened," said Ward. He was dismissed from his job as a result of corporate downsizing at a local bank where he worked for 22 years. Since then, he has been working with Ford Motor Company.

In 2015, it was Larry who proposed to Ward this time on June 26 when same-sex marriage became legal nationwide.

"I had just come home from work and Larry proposed to me in our living room," said Ward.

Larry's family went above and beyond to make sure it was a spectacular event. Their families have been embracing of their love, though sadly Ward's immediate family is deceased. His mother did get to meet Larry before she passed away in 2012. "My family has come a long way from their fundamental Baptist roots. They have stepped in to fill that void (for Ward)," said Larry, who grew up in St. Clair Shores as the son of a Free Will Baptist minister.

He currently attends the Metropolitan

Community Church of Detroit and is active in the music program there. He is a classically-trained vocalist for six years at Macomb Community College and Western Michigan University.

At one point during the couple's wedding vows, which they wrote themselves, Larry sang part of a song to Ward called "The Second Time Around"



Ward Supernois and Larry Iddins Jr.



by Frank Sinatra.

Beyond helping with invitations, decorating and putting together wedding favor boxes, his mother and sisters chose to wear dazzling fashions indicative of Larry and Ward's love of thrifting.

"My little sister wore a grey dress with an antique opera-length strand of black pearls we found at an antique store in Marine City. My mother was so excited about her new dress and shoes that she played dress up for about two months prior. As for the shoes, think ruby slippers but in all peacock greens, blues, and purples. They were stunning," said Larry.

"She also had Givenchy accessories to round out the look. My middle sister

wore a beautiful beaded red grape-colored dress with an antique family necklace from Ward's family."

Larry calls the wedding an aesthetic a mix of "Downtown Abbey" and "The Great Gatsby" with intricate candelabras, sparkling chandeliers and a harpist to complete the ceremony. Before starting a career in health care, Larry was an FTD-certified master floral designer.

"So I decided to take my weeks vacation prior to our wedding in order to do all of my own florals. I created permanent botanicals for the church and half of the tables at the hall. The body flowers – corsages and boutonnieres – and the rest of the tables at the reception were fresh flowers," he said.

The cake was the jewel of the reception. For quite some time, the couple had been brainstorming about how they wanted their cake to look.

"I had an idea of taking the patterns from the Depression-era glass we collect and use them on the cake. That way it was personal to us," said Ward, adding that "Larry loved the idea. He collects the pattern Rose Point by Cambridge glass and I collect the pattern Cleo by Cambridge glass. When we meet with Monica from Sorella's and explained to her our ideas for the wedding cake she got excited about it and suggested marrying the patterns together on the top tier. It turned out wonderfully and tasted delicious."

The entire event was captured beautifully by Natalie Mae Photography. "She is a true artist with her camera. She is personable as well as professional. We felt could trust her ability and creativity," said Ward.

The couple moved into the house Ward inherited from his parents in Livonia.

"I married the man I love and bonus, I no longer feel like a second class citizen in this aspect," said Larry.

For almost ten years, the couple has loved each other, supporting each other through good times and bad.

"It was important to me to legally get married because it's a special bond between two people that love each other," said Ward. "We are newlyweds and my husband and I are loving every minute of it."

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# Love Is Love at the Village Chapel

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The Village Chapel in Fowlerville dates back to 1891. It was built as the home of St. Agnes Catholic Church at the corner of Church and Maple Streets. But its time in its original structure was to be short lived. In May of 1909 a violent tornado tore off the roof and ripped through the church leaving it in shatters. Just five short months later, a new cornerstone was laid and the church was rebuilt a few blocks away.

"I have two cornerstones," said Karen Ryan, owner and manager of the chapel. "I have the new one and the one that blew away. Our walls are like three feet deep because they didn't want their brand new church to get blown away again by another tornado."

The new structure, situated at 123 S. Second Street, remained St. Agnes until the church sold it in 1974. It was purchased by a doctor and used for a time as a private residence. The building changed hands a few times and was once again being used as a wedding chapel when Ryan purchased it in 2001.

"At the time, it was the best buy for square footage in town," said Ryan, who is also a realtor and a tax preparer and has turned the chapel into a multiuse building. The chapel has a long history of supporting the LGBTQ community. Ryan hosted her first same-sex wedding in the chapel before marriage for gays was legal.

"It was kind of neat because this is a pretty conservative town and it was a



female police officer and her partner who were getting married," Ryan recalled. "Our chief of police actually came to the wedding."

The chapel's stained glass windows make for a lovely backdrop to any wedding, and the chapel is home to Livingston County's only 600-pipe theater organ, which was moved from the Granada Theater in Detroit.

"People will stop by and say, 'I'd like to take a picture with my family's window' because they donated that particular window," Ryan said.

For a time, Ryan put the chapel on the market but it failed to sell.

"I had it closed for two years and every single week I'd get calls for weddings so I said this is ridiculous," said Ryan. "So I just reopened it."

The chapel can seat up to 150 guests.

Packages for petite weddings start at \$300 and large ceremonies start at \$600. The space can also be rented out for memorials, christenings, seminars and concerts. Ryan strives to be as accommodating as possible.

"In the past I used to say you could do anything but a nude wedding," she said. "But now I have an officiant who'll do that too. We've had people get married with their pets. We're pretty open. We support the creative use of our facilities to honor our clients' wishes to achieve their true dream wedding. Please do not hesitate to ask."

For more information about the Village Chapel, visit [loveislovechapel.com](http://loveislovechapel.com) or call 517-223-0517.

## Malta Same-Sex Marriage Law Takes Effect

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS, WASHINGTON BLADE

A law that allows same-sex couples to legally marry in Malta took effect on Sept. 1.

Gabi Calleja, coordinator of the Malta LGBTIQ Rights Movement, a local advocacy group, told the Washington Blade on Sept. 1 during a telephone interview that same-sex couples can now fill out a marriage application with local officials. Calleja noted there is a 6-week waiting period under Maltese law before they – and any other couple – can legally tie the knot.

The Maltese Parliament in July nearly unanimously approved the marriage bill.

Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, who was re-elected in June, is among those who backed the measure.

"Today is when it comes into force," Calleja told the Blade.

ILGA-Europe and Rainbow Rose, the LGBT network of the Party of European Socialists, also applauded Muscat and Maltese advocates on Sept. 1.

Same-sex couples can legally marry in Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Ireland, Scotland, England, Wales, the Isle of Man, Guernsey, France, Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland. A law that will allow gays and lesbians to tie the knot in Germany

is slated to take effect on Oct. 1.

A Maltese law that allows trans people, among other things, legally change their name or gender without undergoing a sex-reassignment surgery or hormone therapy and provides legal protections to intersex children took effect in 2015. Malta last December became the first country in Europe to ban so-called conversion therapy.

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

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Photo: W&W

## Detroit-Bound Patti LaBelle Dishes on ‘Still Standing’ Thanks to the LGBT Community, Lip-Syncing ‘Divettes’ and Trump

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Is there a singer more real than Patti LaBelle? The 73-year-old legend of song (and shade) is a firehose of strong-minded opinions, and in an age that has some tight-lipped “divettes,” as LaBelle calls them, refraining from saying *too* much, the ever-honest LaBelle is, refreshingly, that rare freewheeler who revels in being blunt AF.

In 2014, she told me she no longer considers herself a diva because “all these little heifers who can’t sing are called divas.” The word,

she observed, is not “cute anymore.” Now, after our recent warm phone reunion while doing promo for her new jazz album, “Bel Hommage,” she who has given the gays so much, from music and pies to a bevy of side-eye-serving GIFs, still has more to give—even her own precious pie-making time.

“I really like talking to you,” she tells me when I start to wrap the interview. My allotted time has long passed, but she’s not done. And by the end of our 25-minute interview we’ve covered generous ground: why she’s “still standing” thanks to the LGBT community,

President “Trumpette” and his Twitter-proposed ban on transgender people in the military, her music-biz foes (and how Aretha Franklin is not one of them) and how you “may see me as a diva and that’s a compliment to those who think it’s a compliment.”

**Last time we had a gay press chat it was shortly before you had me twerkin’ on your stage here in Detroit. I still can’t believe you let me do that. What’s the craziest thing a gay fan has done on your stage?**

Gosh, I don’t really know! Maybe you! I know I’ve had a lot of gay men on my stage during “Lady Marmalade” and they go way out because once they’re up there they say, “I’m here with Ms. Patti’s microphone and I’m gonna wear it out.” I’ve had so many do so many things that I can’t tell you specifically one.

**I don’t know if he was gay, but in Vancouver last year, a fan got frisky on your stage and...**

Showed me his ass?

## INFO

### Patti LaBelle

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#### Is that what he did?

Yeah! He mooned me! Because he came up and I was looking at him through the whole show and I said, "Oh, he's an enthusiastic fan," right? I try to look at the people that I'm gonna bring up, so I brought him up thinkin' he was cool. He did his little shake and then turned around and pulled his pants down. I had on high pumps. I kicked that ass.

#### You even called him a "bitch."

I did! I did use a curse word. And I felt so bad. He took me to that limit. I said, "How could he take me there?" And they had it on TMZ or whatever. I said, "It's true." Gotta protect myself. (Laughs)

#### I was happy to see that you did NYC Pride this summer. Is there something special about performing for an all gay audience?

That night it poured, so when Deborah Cox was on she did three songs and then had to be rushed off the stage. It could've been shut down 'cause it was so bad. Everybody got drenched. So instead of my going on at 9, I went on at about 10:15... and they were still there!

My whole thing is, when I knew I was doing gay pride, I said, "I'm gonna wear something beautifully outrageous, and I'm gonna have that old Patti LaBelle hair that I used to do with the fans and all that jazz." I said, "I'm gonna wear that hair!" And from the time I went on until the end, they never stopped yelling for more. I mean, when we were pulling out in our car, they were still, "More, more, more!" They were so enthusiastic. But what I did: I wore that old hair, and a lot of people who didn't know me from the '80s – we got some bad press for it – and I said, "You know what, I did that for my queens. They understand it." It was for you guys. But I enjoyed doing it. And then the wind knocked that sucker down. I said, "OK, I'm gonna have to kick it up." (Laughs)

#### Ha! Who would give Patti LaBelle crap for her hair?

People who didn't really understand where I was in the '80s. You know, some of the younger kids – they don't have a clue who Patti LaBelle or Labelle was.

#### So what do they know you for?

I have no clue.

#### I'm thinking, "But that is part of your legacy."

Yeah, they're Patti latecomers.

#### Speaking of Deborah Cox, a lot of people don't know that Montell Jordan wrote "Nobody's

#### Supposed to Be Here," but you didn't love it and then it went to Deborah.

Deborah always says I'm her reason for being in show business because I let the song go and she got it. That's her start. After that, I started performing that song at my show and told the audience, "This is the song that got away." But I'm happy it did because I love her.

#### Have you given up a lot of songs that became hits?

Right?! Well, this is the first time for me. But I'll know the next time to hold onto something that sounds halfway decent.

#### I read "Hello, Dolly!" came your way years ago, before it hit Broadway, but that you passed on it. When the role ultimately went to Bette Midler, were you kicking yourself for not jumping at the chance?

Nope, I didn't. 'Cause you know what: That's a big piece of work and I think Bette Midler can do it much better than Patti LaBelle. I thought about it after she did it. Might I do it in the future? You never know.

#### Do you pay attention to the memes and GIFs of you throwing shade that people love to share on the internet?

Yeah, I see them. And you know what, I'm honored! (Laughs) And whenever I see something that's not totally positive about me, I say, "God, at least they thought about me." It's really the way to look at these situations. But at the end of the day I know who I really am... and that's a cool chick! (Laughs)

#### Has your son given up on keeping what you say in check?

Well, he tries. Lately, he hasn't had to because I've not been saying anything out of order. But I know he's always waiting and when I do he'll take me to the side: "Mom, could you not say that ever again?" I say, "OK." Something happened about two weeks ago and I'm trying to remember what it was. This time it was about... god, what did I do? I'm always doin' something and he's always reprimanding me for it.

#### Do you ever regret things that you say?

My god, about 50 million things. I'm full of regrets. But you know what, I'm honest. So it will come out and I'll say, "God, I didn't mean to say that." But it's too late. And I'm not gonna whoop myself up for it. I did it and I'll do it again. I *know* I'll do it! I do have my little cop son watching me, so I try to be nice.

#### Three years ago you told me you don't call yourself a diva because "all these little heifers who can't sing are called divas." But then, after that interview, you did VH1's "Divas Holiday: Unsilent Night" last year and then "Daytime

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Continued on pg. 22

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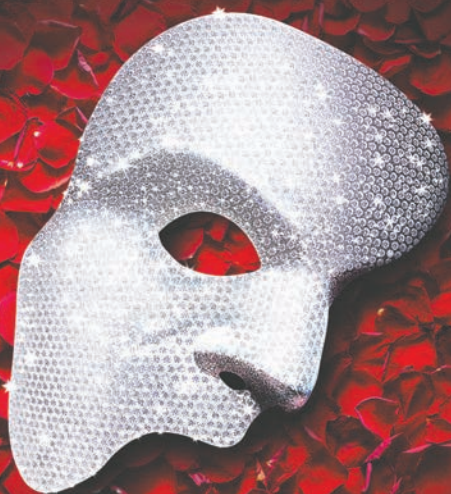
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### ► Patti LaBelle

Continued from p. 21

**Divas” this year. Now, Ms. Patti, I feel like you’re sending me mixed signals here.**

(Laughs) No – no, mixed signals! If I do “Daytime Divas,” which I did, and if I did “Divas” the concert, of course, I’m gonna be in it, but I’m not saying, “I’m a diva.” People look to me and may see me as a diva and that’s a compliment to those who think it’s a compliment. Like I said, Lena Horne and Dinah Washington and all those beautiful dolls back in the day, they were divas. These little divettes walking around – I don’t wanna put myself in the same sentence with some of these little kids. So, I’m not a diva; just a singin’ fool.

**People are under the impression there’s rivalry between you and Aretha Franklin, but you recently quashed that rumor when you said, of anyone, you’d most want to duet with her. Why do people think you had a beef? And what’s the deal with women constantly being pitted against each other?**

I’m not gonna be pitted against any lady in this industry. I do my job, I sing hard and I sing well, and I love what I do. If another lady finds that as being too much for them, or whoever might feel I’m being too much, that’s their problem. But I’ve never had beef.

Now, there are a lot of ladies in this industry who don’t care for Patti LaBelle – and some gentleman, also – but I look at them and I smile. Because what can I do? I can’t change your mind, boo, because I don’t *wanna* change your mind. You go on thinkin’ about me the way you think. No – but I haven’t had beef with anyone. I’ve had a lot of dislikes. But I pay no mind. I keep moving and I don’t stop to talk about the ones who talk about me.

**Let’s talk about food. You know how people say gays don’t eat carbs?**

Gays don’t eat carbs – who said that?! Every gay guy I know, they eat carbs. (Laughs)

**And they eat your pies?**

They eat my pies, honey! And my peach cobbler. You have to go to Walmart, or I’ll have to come and make you one personally. One more thing about food: I start taping my cooking show soon and Laverne Cox is one of my cooking buddies.

**Regarding “Bel Hommage”: If there’s ever an album that pays homage to you the way you pay homage to artists such as Nina Simone and Frank Sinatra on this album, who would get your blessing to cover your songs?**

Oh, I would give Fantasia blessings. And Ledisi. The little singing girls. The ones who can really, really sing.

**What does it mean to you to be able to “really, really sing”?**

Someone who can sing without someone in the studio tweaking what they just sang because it was so flat or whatever. Sing straight out in the studio, record without all those little gimmicks. Some of them are lucky because they end up selling a lot of music, but a singer is a person who goes out there and throws down. Just get on a microphone and sing. Phyllis Hyman was that girl.

**Would you still regard a “singer” as someone who can throw down in the studio but lip-syncs live?**

Oh, a lot of them lip-sync. But they lip-sync and they do it so well you can’t tell that they’re doing it. But I can always tell. I can *always* tell. I’ve never done that.

**What gives them away?**

Their mouths sometimes miss the movement! (Laughs) Your mouth should be making a certain movement when you sing a certain note, and they miss sometimes. But that’s what they do for a living. I don’t do that.

**So we’ve got Fantasia – who else is on this covers album?**

Ledisi, Andra Day, Emeli Sandé and Leela James – my god, that girl can sing. I love these ladies.

**Why have you never duetted in the studio with your goddaughter, Mariah Carey?**

I don’t know. We always talk about it when we see each other.

**Maybe you two can hook up for a song on your dance album, which I believe is in the works. Hopefully we don’t have to wait as long as we waited for this jazz album.**

Right?! Not 10 years, that’s for sure. I have not started working on it. I’m working on a Christmas album at the moment and old R&B favorites of mine from back in the day. And that... the uptempo music, I call it (laughs)... that will be done as soon as I do something with these other two projects, but it’s definitely in the mix.

**Will it be for the gay clubs?**

Oh yeah, for the gay clubs. You know what, I was so angry with myself when I did NYC Pride. There was a song that I recorded many, many years ago called “Land of the Living.” I meant to do that that particular night and we didn’t have time to rehearse it, but I’m gonna put stuff like that back in my show.

**Why did you want to perform that song at NYC Pride?**

Because there are so many gay men who were there who might be going through something with life. You’re in the land of the living, so act like you’re living. I just know what gay men go through and I wanted to put that song in the air, but I will.

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There couldn't be a more perfect time. There is so much happening in the world. Maybe you heard, but President Donald Trump said trans people are no longer able to serve in the military.

I know! My friend told me. They're banned from service, according to the Trumpette. Ain't that a witch.

#### Do you think about your legacy, Patti?

I just want to be honest and truthful, and I want people knowing that when I did whatever I did, it was all the way. Never half percent, always 100 percent. One-hundred percent in everything: my cooking, my dressing, everything. If I can't go all the way, I won't go halfway. I have to go all the way. And just how honest I am – they can remember that. The more honest I am, the better I get by, the more things come to my plate. Everybody knows that if you give Patti something, it's gonna be quality. That's just how I work.

#### Any last words for your gay fans?

I just want all of my gay fans to know that I will always be here for them the way I am: honest, to the point, and loving my gay fans even more and more each day. I mean, when I think about it, the gay fans are some of the reason – one big reason – I'm still standing, 'cause they loved me when other people tried not to. Everybody always says, "What makes gay men like you?" "I have no clue," I say. I still don't. But I know that love has lifted me up for many, many years.

As long as I can stand on stage and my gay men and lesbian women see Patti LaBelle as someone who's always been honest on stage – you know, I'll stop and have to go to the bathroom and I'll let them know I'll be right back. A lot of cutie girls stand up there and they pretend for the hour or however how long and that's just gross. It turns me off.

#### They pretend like they wanna be there?

Yes! And everything you see of them is gonna be mechanical. Gladys Knight – she's a raw girl. And whenever you see Gladys, you're gonna see a different Gladys. If you just saw her show five nights in a row, she will not do everything the same.

#### You just want something real.

It has to stay that way.



Photo courtesy of The DATC

## The DATC 'Breaks the Mold' in Community Theatre

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

There's a reason for the apostrophe in the word Actor's in Detroit Actor's Theatre Company.

"It's because the actors take ownership of their work and essentially, the company. It does not belong to one single person. All productions are a collaborative effort. That is our biggest strength," said Eric Swanson, co-founder and artistic director of the DATC established in 2011 with Michael Johns, co-founder and marketing director. Their vision was to create a safe place for a diverse group of actors, actresses, musicians, dancers, and instrumentalists to create on and off stage.

"We are just kind of getting our footing and figuring out how to exist in such a big city," said Swanson. The "we" includes Mindy Grissom, creative director; Gerianne Ditto-Harvey, music director; and Adam Milstein, tech director.

As of 2015, the DATC has moved to their final destination in Detroit as a member of the Bamboo Detroit shared office space, located on Brush Street near Music Hall and the Gem Theatre, where it conducts business on a routine basis. The DATC performs in iconic Detroit locations such as New Center, Grand Circus Park, and Campus Martius.

"We are able to travel in the city. Wherever people will have us, we'll put up a show," said Swanson.

The first production officially produced by the DATC was "Bare: A Pop Opera" in November of 2011 which took place in Pontiac at the old iLounge in the basement of Clutch Cargo's, which is now closed.

"This is where we started building our audience and our repertoire," said Swanson. The DATC was headquartered in Pontiac until the spring of 2013 when it moved to the Social Hall Theatre in Ferndale's United Methodist Church on Woodward Ave.

"They really gave us a home with no agenda. They were a fabulous support system for us," he said. During that time, the DATC took a leap and created a video for their performance of "The Hobbit."

"We invested some money in really cool special effects and prosthetics. Somebody who books for Campus Martius saw the video. He's like 'You guys look cool, can you come do something here?' From there it spiraled. We got lucky. That was our break quite honestly," said Swanson.

The DATC strives to provoke thought by producing works addressing social justice issues such as LGBTQ rights, women's rights, socioeconomic issues, racial debates, and moral issues.

Swanson points to the DATC's Create for Action Series featuring five Main Stage shows, all of which create a conversation and help to "break the mold."

"The caveat to that is we will welcome representatives from local nonprofits

See DATC, page 24

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“Our talkbacks have the most profound and biggest impact following the show,” he said. “It’s an intellectual experience that has been very powerful. People are so moved by what they see. They are really touched and get a chance to say that to the actors and that feeds the next performance and the next performance. It’s a beautiful way of forming our company.”

#### ► DATC

Continued from p. 23

that advocate in those specific areas,” said Swanson. For example, Alternatives for Girls in Detroit has been invited to push their material throughout the entire run of “The Vagina Monologues.”

“Our talkbacks have the most profound and biggest impact following the show,” he said. “It’s an intellectual experience that has been very powerful. People are so moved by what they see. They are really touched and get a chance to say that to the actors and that feeds the next performance and the next performance. It’s a beautiful way of forming our company.”

The DATC Second Stage, guided by the DATC’s board member and artistic director Brent Brozek, fosters the growth of their member produced shows. These include a wide variety of cabarets, stand up, improv, and other interactive shows.

The DATC staff looks to its board – which meets once a month to exchange ideas – to support their mission and needs. It is a partnership that Swanson and his team value. To look at the DATC board, people will see a minority with regards to people of color.

“I do believe firmly that that should and will change the more time we spend in Detroit and the more people we get excited about our organization,” said Swanson, noting that it is a challenge to exist in a theatre company in a city that’s striving to be so diverse.

“I would only add that diversity goes beyond skin color. We have openly gay members on the board, quite a wide range in ages, people of Jewish, Catholic, and agnostic faiths, and a variety of socio-economic backgrounds. Additionally, half of our named officers are women with my own co-founder hailing from Lebanese decent. Diversity goes beyond skin color.”

While not all of the DATC’s shows are free, their main objective is to present shows in various public forums free of charge.

Some of their more recent performances like “Jesus Christ Superstar” and “Hair” each attracted more than 1,000 attendees.

“Allowing people to come and view a show without the financial barrier of a ticket has been huge for us. It’s an amazing way to engage people without asking for money, not that our art isn’t worth the money,” said Swanson, adding that they do the work ahead of time to secure funding to produce their shows.

The DATC received a Michigan Council for Art and Cultural Affairs grant this year. Beyond that, they rely on support from sponsorships and are committed to fundraising. On Sept. 29, the DATC will host The Mad Hatter Ball, their sixth annual fundraiser. The event, for which tickets can be purchased online at [www.thedatc.org/](http://www.thedatc.org/) gala, will take place at 5 p.m. at Eastern Market’s Shed 5, 2801 Russell St. in Detroit.

For more information about The Detroit Actor’s Theatre Company, visit [www.thedatc.org/](http://www.thedatc.org/) or [www.facebook.com/TheDATC](https://www.facebook.com/TheDATC).

## PERFORMING

### DATC Upcoming Performances

#### The Vagina Monologues

Oct. 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 26 and 28

All performances at 8 p.m.

Boo’s Music Lounge, 215 S. Main St., Royal Oak

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## Chanticleer: Heart of a Soldier

The hearts of soldiers burst with every emotion. Expressed in music from the Renaissance to the present day, these sentiments ranging from extreme pain to extreme joy are universal.

Heart of a Soldier at 8 p.m. on Nov. 10 at the Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave. in Ann Arbor will feature early music of war and peace from Byrd, Tomkins, Janequin, and Dufay. Stirring martial music from Russia includes works by Glinka and traditional songs sung by ordinary soldiers. New works for Chanticleer by Mason Bates and John Musto are paired with celebrated choruses from Jennifer Higdon's Cold Mountain and lighthearted music from the home front.

Called "the world's reigning male chorus" by the New Yorker, the Grammy Award-winning ensemble Chanticleer is known around the world as an "orchestra of voices" for the seamless blend of its 12 male voices, ranging from soprano to bass.

The University of Michigan Glee Club makes a special cameo appearance in this Veterans Day Weekend concert, which kicks off the Ambassadors of Song International Male Chorus Symposium on the UM campus.

For more information, visit [ums.org/performance/chanticleer/](http://ums.org/performance/chanticleer/).



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# Meet Burlesque Performer Kitten Von Mitten

## Burlypicks Winner Takes the Stage at the Michigan Burlesque Festival



BY JASON A. MICHAEL

**K**itten Von Mitten began as a pinup model in 2013 before venturing into the world of burlesque where she has been expanding and building her craft and experience as a performer with the Detroit School of Burlesque. She is a former member, performer and student of the Valley Burlesque Society in Fresno, California.

Mitten won Master of Comedy and second place for Best Overall at the World Championship Burlypicks Weekend held in Denver, Colorado last month. During Michigan Burlypicks in June, she won Master of Comedy, Master of Lip Sync and Best Overall.

She will join more than 50 talented burlesque performers for the fifth annual Michigan Burlesque Festival Sept. 15-16. The show is co-produced by Valencia Starling and Mabel Syrup who said she expects this year to be as fantastic as ever.

"Every year we look forward to showcasing such diverse and inspiring talent, and every year we are just amazed at the acts that come out and do just that. It has been quite a journey and we are elated to be where we are. We

have had so much continued support and encouragement that we know we are bringing a truly entertaining show to Michigan, hopefully for many more years to come," she said about the show which features original burlesque theater with a variety of vaudeville performances, acrobatics, comedy, and award-winning vocalists.

The Boss of Burlesque, the insatiable Foxy Tann, will emcee the festival. The cast of performers include Mr. Gorgeous and Jeez Loueez who were both ranked among the Top 50 Performers by 21st Century Burlesque Magazine. Also performing will be Chicago's Queen of Halloween, Red Rum, and Cleveland's Queen of Burlesque, Bella Sin.

### Why did you get involved with burlesque?

I wanted to do something that was just for me to help with my self-confidence and to have a creative outlet. I wanted to do something completely aside from everything I was doing at the time.

### Tell me about the name Kitten Von Mitten.

It's a cute little rhyme. It pays homage to my home state of Michigan. And it's a reference to "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," which is one of my

favorite shows.

### What do you enjoy most about being a burlesque performer?

Other than how empowering it is personally, the community that I'm apart of is by far the best benefit of this form of art. The women and the people that I've met here in Detroit and across the nation are wonderful.

### What are some common misperceptions about burlesque?

Probably the biggest one is that it's like the movie, "Burlesque." That it's just pretty girls up on stage dancing around. It's not. Anyone can do it. It's a wonderful form of self-expression and it takes a lot of time and dedication.

### How do you spend your free time when you're not on stage?

I have two kids, ages 1 and 3, so there's no such thing as free time. That, and I run a small food business. And probably the rest of the time I try to give back to the burlesque community. Holly Hock and Leena Mynx Allure – if it weren't for them I wouldn't exist as a performer. They run the Detroit School of Burlesque and I owe everything to them and the community.

The Michigan Burlesque Festival is at the Tangent Gallery & Hastings Street Ballroom located at 715 E. Milwaukee Ave. in Detroit. Intermission entertainment will be provided by Detroit's Striped Circus and LA Aerial. For more information, visit [michiganburlesquefestival.com](http://michiganburlesquefestival.com) or [facebook.com/MichiganBurlesqueFestival](http://facebook.com/MichiganBurlesqueFestival).

## Workshops On the Art of Burlesque

11 a.m. - Leena's Alluring Makeup and Hair hosted by Leena Mynx Allure  
 12:15 p.m. - Creature Feature, Transformative Prosthetic Makeup Demonstration hosted by Red Rum  
 1:30 p.m. - Twerk and Jerk: BOOTY Intensive Twerkshop hosted by Jeez Loueez  
 3:15 p.m. - Fabulous is a State of Mind hosted by Foxy Tann.



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# A Purgatorial Tour of the Famous and Infamous at Slipstream

## Award-Winning Playwright Pens Unique Look at the Life of Tennessee Williams

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

One might find it unusual for a tall, lanky 20-year-old budding playwright of Russian ancestry to show an interest in a long-dead 20th-century American author whose influential work is rarely produced today – and whose name may be barely recognized by many in his age group. Yet once University of Michigan undergraduate student Maxim Vinogradov began digging into the fascinating and complicated life of two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Tennessee Williams for his new, award-winning play that opened Aug. 26 at Ferndale’s Slipstream Theatre Initiative, the more difficult it became to decide who and what should be included in his story and what should be ignored.

However, one surprising discovery became a key focal point of Vinogradov’s “A Night of Stars with Tennessee Williams.”

“If you want to know how ignorant my generation is, I didn’t know (Williams) was gay,” the young playwright laughed. “And the fact that he had this long-time relationship with this guy – fourteen years he had with (Frank Merlo), who ultimately dies tragically.”

Vinogradov’s initial concept, he explained, was a two-person show exploring the power the playwright exhibited in convincing actors to tackle roles they didn’t want to do. “It was kind of like he was his own little lord of his dominion (who) had these people eating out of his hands...begging for a role or asking for help.”

The show’s other character was to be powerhouse actor Marlon Brando. “It was just going to be the two of them together on the night they met. Brando did the read for ‘(A) Streetcar (Named Desire),’ but he didn’t want to do it because Stanley Kowalski reminded Brando of his father who was an abusive alcoholic. They walked all night on the beach and claimed they never said anything, which is bologna, because Brando took the part.”

The wealth of information he uncovered led to other script possibilities. “How (could) Tennessee convince Elizabeth Taylor to take ‘Suddenly Last Summer’ when that’s something she was terrified of doing?” he wondered. “And, on the opposite turn, how Bette Davis desperately wanted to play Amanda Wingfield, but never got that chance.”

That led Vinogradov to ask himself: How did Williams come to possess and utilize such power? And then, how could he explore this in his new play?

The result was a script that mushroomed from two characters to more than two dozen, but subsequent rewrites whittled it down to a more manageable 10. “Imagine you start



Bailey Boudreau as Tennessee Williams. Photo courtesy of Slipstream Theatre Initiative

out with 30 fingers and you want to cut them down to the good 10,” he laughed. “So cutting off your fingers – you know it’s going to be better.” But not easy, as experienced playwrights will agree.

After a handful of drafts, “A Night of Stars with Tennessee Williams” has turned into a memory play in which Williams is the ringleader of his era’s celebrities. “(He) made a lot of them,” Vinogradov said, “and (he) broke a few. And there were a few that made him who he was.”

And that includes his mother – and not necessarily in a positive way, Vinogradov hinted. “(T)hrough all of this, he has to make the discovery of what aspects of his life does he need to reconcile, and what aspects of his life does he need to stop trying to bury because they’ve negatively impacted the way that he is.”

### A Complicated Character

Among the script’s many creative elements is its setting: Purgatory, where Williams serves as a tour guide for his many famous friends. But unlike most nights, this one is different, said Slipstream co-founder Bailey Boudreau, who stars in the production as Williams. “Tonight, we’re going to get a resolution, and so some events happen that he’s not used to, and I think it’s the first time he gets to see Frank and gets to resolve that. And he realizes it probably wasn’t the main issue that was holding him back. So it’s a journey of his life told in segments that are really, really funny and sometimes really tragic.”

It was through Boudreau – who has served as the director of West Bloomfield High School’s Michigan Interscholastic Forensic

### PERFORMING

#### A Night of Stars with Tennessee Williams

Plays now through Sept. 17 at the Slipstream Theatre Initiative, 460 Hilton Rd. in Ferndale on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and on Sundays at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance only. For more information, call 313-986-9156, email [insidetheslipstream@gmail.com](mailto:insidetheslipstream@gmail.com) or visit

>> [www.slipstreamTI.com](http://www.slipstreamTI.com)

Association program for the past several years – that Vinogradov first became aware of Williams and his work. “Funny enough, Bailey in my senior year of high school directed a MIFA show in which I played a character that was a mix of Amanda Wingfield and Blanche Dubois, and so I read ‘Streetcar’ and ‘(The) Glass Menagerie.’”

So what did he initially think of the playwright? “I thought he was very angry,” Vinogradov recalled. But once in college, as the young actor-turned-author started delving into Williams’ life, he came to a more nuanced conclusion. “He was probably a very bitter man. But in his memoirs, he’s just the most fun, sassy person. He was just writing about all the things he did not control in his life. He was just writing about his own grievances with himself.”

Playing such a complicated character – especially one based on a real-life celebrity – can be a lot of fun for an actor who loves a challenging role. But it can also be a nightmare. For Boudreau, “It’s the worst. It’s the hardest role I’ve ever played. When you’re playing a human that you can see what he was like in pictures and interviews, it’s really challenging. Not because I don’t trust the play, but because I don’t think I’m the right fit for it. It’s very, very difficult.”

Playwright Vinogradov disagrees. “Bailey is bewitching.”

Overall, however, it has been a rewarding experience for the actor. “I get to play a lot of comedy and some really, really genuine drama that I don’t think you see a lot because it’s not heightened drama. It’s very genuine. It’s very relatable.”

Others in the cast include Jan Cartwright, popular Slipstream heart throb Steve Xander Carson, Tiaja Sabrie, Jackson Abohasira (who, on Aug. 28, received the 2017 Rising Star Award from [EncoreMichigan.com](http://EncoreMichigan.com) for his impressive performance in Slipstream’s production of “P.Y.G.” this past season) and Ryan Ernst. And continuing an annual

See *Tennessee Williams*, page 28

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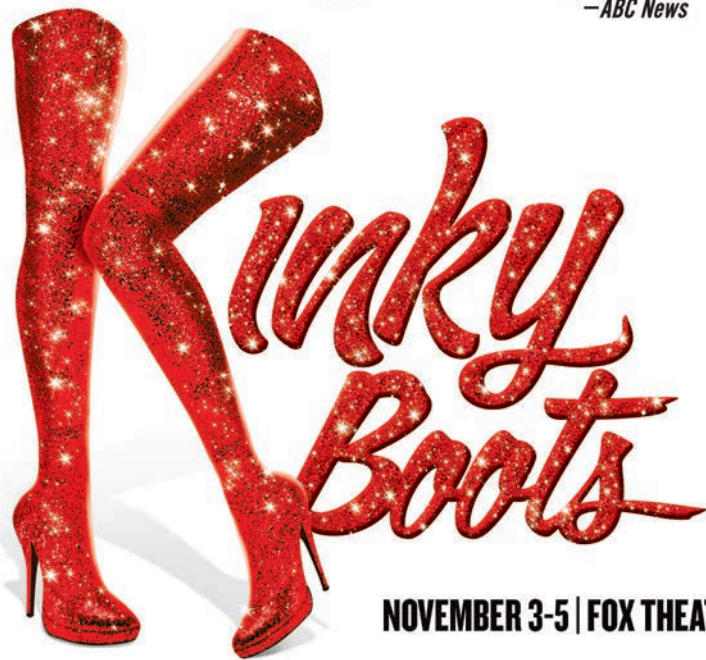
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► **Tennessee Williams**

Continued from p. 28

tradition, completing the cast are a handful of students from West Bloomfield High School.

**The Awards**

Currently in his junior year at UM Ann Arbor, the affable and always-smiling Vinogradov chuckled when asked about his major. “Oh, it’s a whole smorgasbord. I’m doing two majors and a minor. So I’m majoring in English with a sub-concentration in creative writing, and then the other major is in film with sub-con in screen writing. And then I’m minoring through the theater school in playwriting. So I want to be an

accountant,” he joked.

What’s not a laughing matter, however, is the recognition his writing has already received at the university. This year alone, “A Night of Stars with Tennessee Williams” earned him the 2017 Hopwood Drama Award and The Dennis McIntyre Prize for Distinction in Undergraduate Playwriting, earning him a considerable chunk of scholarship money.

“At Michigan, it’s like this big thing apparently,” Vinogradov explained. “When (Arthur Miller) was deciding where to go to school, he specifically went to Michigan because of the Hopwood Awards.”

The awards were named after dramatist Avery Hopwood, a 1905 graduate of the university, who left a fifth of his estate to establish and administer the program designed to encourage creative writing among the university’s students. Since 1931, more than \$3 million has been awarded to more than 3,200



student authors. “So the Hopwood for Drama is sort of like the big award,” Vinogradov said.

Equally impressive is this: The Hopwood Drama Award was the only category in which he competed with graduate students. “So it was me and two other graduate students that won it, but the Dennis McIntyre Prize is for recognition by an undergraduate in playwriting. So that one I swept. It was very unexpected; (I’m) still a little surprised by it – hoping, you know, they opened the right envelope or whatever.”

Previously, in his freshman year, he won a Hopwood award for undergraduate students. And not to be outshined, in 2016 Vinogradov was the first-ever recipient of EncoreMichigan.com’s Rising Star Award for his performance in Slipstream’s production of “BFs!”

When asked what theatergoers will take away from his play, Vinogradov thought for a few seconds. “I think that people will leave wanting to know more about Tennessee Williams, wanting to see what was fact and what was fiction, and also wanting to re-read some of the plays they talk about a lot. I think it’s very, very truthful, phenomenally funny, and the kids are really good. I shouldn’t call them kids. The younger actors are really, really good.”

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9/21:	* STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES WITH THE MASTERSONS	11/1:	OUR LADY PEACE WITH SMSHNG HRTS
9/23 -	* JOHN MULANEY (3 SHOWS)	11/4:	KIP MOORE WITH DRAKE WHITE AND JORDAN DAVIS: PRESENTED BY WYCD
9/24:			
9/27:	MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA WITH TIGERS JAW AND FOXING	11/5:	MACKLEMORE
9/28:	* JOHN CLEESE AND THE HOLY GRAIL	11/7:	THE SHINS WITH BAIO
9/29:	* MY FAVORITE MURDER (EARLY AND LATE SHOW)	11/9:	* DREAM THEATER
9/30:	BROKEN SOCIAL SCENE WITH FRIGHTENED RABBIT AND THE BELLE GAME	11/11:	HIM WITH CKY AND 3TEETH
10/4:	THIEVERY CORPORATION	11/14:	ST. VINCENT
10/6:	PIXIES WITH SUNFLOWER BEAN	11/17:	DIRTY HEADS WITH THE UNLIKELY CANDIDATES AND TYRONE'S JACKET: PRESENTED BY 89X
10/11:	PHOENIX	11/24:	YELAWOLF WITH BIG HENRI, MIKEY MIKE: PRESENTED BY 89X
10/12:	GOV'T MULE	12/1:	* JOE ROGAN (SOLD OUT)
10/13:	MILKY CHANCE: PRESENTED BY 89X AND 93.9 THE RIVER	12/2:	* MIKE BIRBIGLIA
10/15:	KESHA (SOLD OUT)	12/3:	THRICE & CIRCA SURVIVE WITH CHON, BALANCE & COMPOSURE
10/21:	* AN EVENING WITH AMOS LEE	12/7:	JON PARDI: PRESENTED BY WYCD
10/23:	JON BELLION WITH DIZZY WRIGHT: PRESENTED BY 98.7 AMP RADIO	12/9:	* NICK OFFERMAN
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BTL Photo: Jason A. Michael

## Artist, Teacher Makes Black Faces Valid in Art

### Tylonn J. Sawyer Creates Visual Poetry Based on People of Color

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Tylonn J. Sawyer, a figurative artist, creates powerful images on canvas. They depict the struggles of humanity and the fragility of human nature, and they come from a distinct point of view.

"My style has evolved but my work is really always focused on the world from a black perspective, no matter what the particular topic I am talking about," Sawyer, 40, explained.

A Detroit native, Sawyer grew up in an artistic family.

"I've been drawing my whole life," he said. "Even though my parents didn't necessarily go into art, I constantly had it around me."

Sawyer began college at Eastern Michigan University where he studied computer-aided art, which lacked the creative aspect of art. He took a couple drawing classes as a freshman and received A's.

"I was kind of hooked after that. I started to understand that it was possible to make a living out of doing this and not just have to be a starving artist in the studio," he said.

Sawyer went on to earn a master's

degree from the New York Academy of Art Graduate School of Figurative Art. But while learning the history and mechanics of figurative art he was always disappointed by the lack of black faces in the works he was asked to study and, indeed, of the faces of the artists whose works he was studying.

"For my thesis project I did a huge slave ship painting and portrayed people in the slave ship compartments and used slavery as a metaphor for self-imposed problems and how you can box yourself in," said Sawyer, who won a trip to study at the Royal Academy of Art in London.

Here in Detroit, Sawyer has earned a reputation not only as a gifted artist but also as a stern instructor. He is an associate professor at Oakland Community College and also teaches at the College for Creative Studies from time to time.

"I have a specific skill set and I really enjoy sharing it," he said. "I think it's important intergenerationally to kind of share certain art forms and pass them down so tradition isn't lost. But at the same time you can nurture new experiences that way...I really love teaching. To see somebody at the beginning of the semester who is

struggling and not doing well. Then at the end of the semester when you show them a whole breadth of their work and they can see the improvement. You almost can't tell it's the same person. That's the amazing part as an instructor. I don't think I'm a tough instructor. I think I'm demanding."

Though in his early days teaching Sawyer admits to doing a bit of a drill sergeant imitation, mimicking some of his own college instructors. With time he said he came around.

"Now I really try to come at it from a place of love and understanding," said Sawyer. "I nurture what they do and when they do something really well I talk about that and inspire them to do more of that. And when something's not working I just offer advice as to what can make it stronger rather than just saying this looks bad."

In his own pieces, Sawyer knows what works. About two years ago, he started incorporating masks, or people holding masks in front of their faces, in his art.

"I was thinking about how in certain African cultures they used masks as a way to evoke the spirit of their

See Tylonn J. Sawyer, page 34





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► **Tylon J. Sawyer**

Continued from p. 32

ancestors," he said. "Or like in orphic types of religion, there's a crocodile tribe that has a big crocodile mask that they put on and they try to evoke the spirit of the crocodile because they worship this crocodile in the river. So I was thinking about in contemporary times, what if people wore these kind of makeshift masks to do a similar thing and evoke the spirits of our past archetypes like Martin Luther King, Nina Simone, James Baldwin? And in that way see if we can somehow get a little bit of the spirit of what they had in that particular time. Each one is a little different but that's the starting part of them."

In this current political climate, Sawyer sees inspiration everywhere.

"Especially since the election I'm thinking about the relationship of people of color to the United States and even now, we see in the news people wanting to tear down idols and tear down monuments. You see them focusing in on this narrow thing. But you can't be that specific about it. Because if you really want to talk about racism in terms of the imagery of the relationship of the United States we would have nothing up. We wouldn't have any images on money because this country to me is sort of a monument to that kind of oppression. And not just necessarily to black people but to poor people, to women. This is the world.

And not just the United States. I can't really think of a place on earth that would be exempt to that kind of indictment."

If Sawyer's vision seems radical he has no problem with that. At a bare minimum he hopes his work is thought provoking.

"Figurative art in and of itself is visceral so when people look at it, it's challenging for them to go beyond just exactly what they're seeing even if it does have a different meaning to it. So I like to make the image where it's something you can recognize but it's still a kind of visual poetry where you're going to look at it and be like why? If the first question is why are these people wearing masks then that's a great start. Then it's up to you."

Sawyer said he can discuss his work in-depth, but he'd much rather his audience interrogate the piece themselves and come up with their own explanation.

"If they're really, really far off, I'll correct people and be like no, it's nothing like that at all. But at least I know that I've succeeded in kind of creating that type of poetry which causes people to have to engage with the work themselves and have to figure some things out."

Learn more about Tylonn J. Sawyer at [tylonn-j-sawyer.com](http://tylonn-j-sawyer.com).

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## Geno Harris Named Curator for The Carr Center

Geno Harris, director at Poor Man's Art Collective in Detroit, has the opportunity to help artists with exposure, especially emerging artists and those who identify with being LGBTQ.

As the new curator for The Carr Center's downtown hub at 1505 Woodward Ave. in Detroit, Harris is responsible for bringing new creative programming into the gallery as well as managing existing programs that come through the gallery.

"There are a lot of artists that I have met over the years who work in obscurity because they don't have that support or guidance to help bridge the gap and provide an opportunity to show and sell their work," he said. "I am proud that my sexual identity is an asset which affords me opportunities to spotlight the vast amount of creative talent in the LGBTQ community. This job is a dream come true."

Harris will host an exhibit on Sept. 15 called "Art in the City: Detroit Visionaries" from 6-8 p.m. at 1505 Woodward Ave. at the corner of Clifford in Detroit.

"This exhibit will focus on the amazing talent that is right here in Detroit, including all genres no matter gay or straight," he said.

Harris works at one of seven hubs that will increase awareness and access to exciting concerts, visual arts, dance and education programs with people coming together for experiences in uniquely different venues.

For more information about The Carr Center, visit [www.thecarrcenter.org/](http://www.thecarrcenter.org/). Connect with Geno Harris on Facebook [www.facebook.com/geno.harris1](https://www.facebook.com/geno.harris1).



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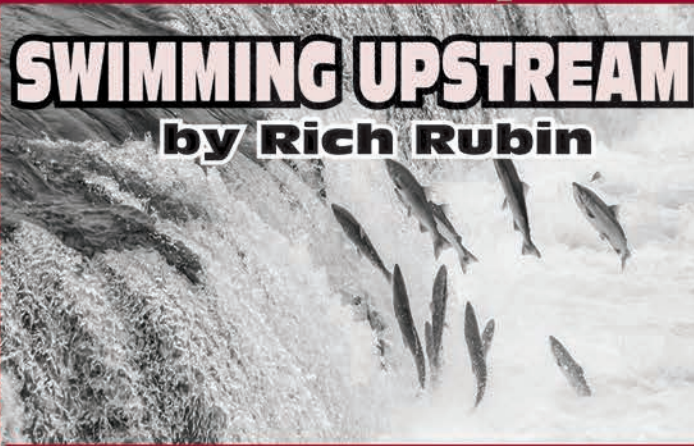
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**Dauphin Island**  
By Jeffry Chastang

Comedy/ drama  
written by a native Detroiter

Suspicion and fascination dovetail when (en route from Detroit to a new job on Alabama's Dauphin Island) Selwyn Tate interrupts the self-imposed isolation of Kendra in the piney woods--dramatizing the risks involved when two displaced souls intertwine.

World Premiere

**Mar 29 to May 20, 2018**



**HARMONY PARK**  
by Daniel Damiano

Set on the construction site of a soon-to-be public park the friendship between a black foreman of a landscaping team and a younger white landscaper is tested when a newly hired crew member's past is revealed.

Michigan Premiere

**May 31 to July 1, 2018**



**Ghost Gardens**  
by Steven Simoncic  
Native Detroit playwright

In a forgotten corner of Detroit there is a pimp-turned-preacher looking for redemption, a stripper-turned-nurse looking for justice, and Lorelie... who just wants a baby. GHOST GARDENS is a story of the humor, grit, denial and delusion it takes to survive in a urban village.

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# Lily Tomlin to Receive Ruth Ellis Legacy Award

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. Special guests Bruce Vilanch, Miss Coco Peru and Cameron Esposito will join Tomlin for the event. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.ruthelliscenter.org/voices](http://www.ruthelliscenter.org/voices).



# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Sep. 7

**45+ Club** 12 p.m. Activity and community group for persons age 45 and up. Play games and socialize in the Affirmations' Game Room. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [haymer@goaffirmations.org](mailto:haymer@goaffirmations.org) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Connections Youth Group** 6 p.m. For youth ages 13-18 OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**Foster Care and Adoption Orientation** 6 p.m. Orchards Children's Services is seeking adults from all counties to provide temporary care in their home for children ages 0 to 17 for foster care or independent living. Financial reimbursement, training and support system provided. Orchards Children's Services, 24901 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 601, **Southfield**. 248-530-5370. [smarks@orchards.org](mailto:smarks@orchards.org) [www.orchards.org](http://www.orchards.org)

**LGBTQ Networking Group** 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**LGBTQ Youth Meeting** 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. [michael@kgllrc.org](mailto:michael@kgllrc.org) [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**The League of Extraordinary Genders** 7 p.m. Transgender support group OutCenter, 132 Water St., **Benton Harbor**. 269-925-8330. [info@outcenter.org](mailto:info@outcenter.org) [www.outcenter.org](http://www.outcenter.org)

**Transgender Support Group** 7 p.m. Perceptions, 815 N. Grant, **Bay City**.

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

### Friday, Sep. 8

**Department of Victim Services Open Office Hours** 2 p.m. Contact Serena Johnson, lead advocate, for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome. Equality Michigan, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. 313-537-7000 Ext 115. [sjohnson@equalitymi.org](mailto:sjohnson@equalitymi.org) [www.grpride.org](http://www.grpride.org)

**The Future of Sex Offender Registration and Notification: In Michigan and Beyond** 4 p.m. RSVPs via email are encouraged. A conversation involving a diverse group of policymakers, advocates, law enforcement, and academics, including State Senator Rick Jones (R-Eaton County and Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee) and ACLU Political Director Shelli Weisberg with Wayne Logan and J.J. Prescott. University of Michigan Law School, 625 S. State St., **Ann Arbor**. [SORNevent@umich.edu](mailto:SORNevent@umich.edu)

### Saturday, Sep. 9

**Smart Recovery** 10 a.m. Smart Recovery offers people with any type of addiction a place to learn how to change unwanted behaviors through cognitive based methods. This is a non-12 step program, led by Smart Recovery trainers, and does not require abstinence. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

**Coming Out Over Coffee** 10:30 a.m. A casual discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-

7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

**Health Care Town Hall** 11 a.m. Michigan citizens will have the opportunity to have their questions answered and learn how to protect their health care. Oakland County Democratic Party, 38651 Woodward Ave., **Bloomfield Hills**. [www.michigandems.com](http://www.michigandems.com)

**Open LGBT AA Meeting** 11 a.m. Grace Episcopal Church, 341 Washington St., **Traverse City**. [www.tcpolestar.org/](http://www.tcpolestar.org/)

**Friends and Families** 12:30 p.m. Support group for friends and families of LGBTQ identifying persons. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [haymer@goaffirmations.org](mailto:haymer@goaffirmations.org) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Caregiving Resource Workshop** 1 p.m. Please register by phone. Free event. Discuss nutrition, finances, veterans resources, exercise and fitness, and community resources. AARP and DMC, 3990 John R. Road, **Detroit**. 877-926-8300.

**Alcoholics Anonymous Brownbaggers** 1:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

**Men's Discussion Group** 6 p.m. Topic: Leaders and role models - people who have inspired us Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Motor City Bears** 6:30 p.m. A gay male, social and fund raising activity group for Bears and admirers, established in 1994. Meet and greet starts at 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile

## Editor's Pick

### Never Stop: A Music That Resists

French filmmaker Jacqueline Caux takes an artful and introspective look at four pioneers of Detroit Techno and the trials and tribulations each experienced as they rose through the ranks of electronic music to become some of the most respected musicians in the genre's history. The event from 7-9 p.m. on Sept. 14 features exclusive music, live footage and interviews with Juan Atkins, Derrick May, Carl Craig, and Jeff Mills. The event at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave. is free, but a \$5 donation is suggested. For more information, call 313-832-6622, email [info@mocadetroit.org](mailto:info@mocadetroit.org) or visit <http://gaybe.am/7A>.



Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

**Own Your Gender** 7 p.m. For transgender, non-binary and gender and gender questioning people Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. [www.grpride.org](http://www.grpride.org)

**GLBT AA** 8 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. [www.jimtoycenter.org](http://www.jimtoycenter.org)

### Sunday, Sep. 10

**Rainbow Book Club** 4:30 p.m. Rainbow Book Club, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. [www.jimtoycenter.org/](http://www.jimtoycenter.org/)

### Monday, Sep. 11

**Trans Youth and Family Support Groups** 6:30 p.m. Penny Hader, LMSW will

facilitate the parent support group and Stephanie Lange, LMSW, will facilitate the youth support group. Contact Lange for more information. Stand with Trans, 21051 21 Mile Road, **Macomb**. 586-723-2872. [slange@cvs.k12.mi.us](mailto:slange@cvs.k12.mi.us) [www.standwithtrans.org](http://www.standwithtrans.org)

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

### Tuesday, Sep. 12

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

Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

### Wednesday, Sep. 13

**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](mailto:thepastorisin@outcenter.org) [www.outcenter.org](http://www.outcenter.org)

**Transcend** 6:30 p.m. For transgender and gender non-conforming individuals OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**FtM Detroit Support Group** 7 p.m. Support is limited to transmasculine, AFAB people who no longer identify as female,



# Editor's Pick

## Gaga to Perform in Detroit

"Joanne is about living every day as if it's my last," said Lady Gaga in V Magazine. "My father's sister died when she was 19 — that was Joanne, my aunt. This was the center of the pain in my family. Growing up, I never understood what the tears of my family were about." Lady Gaga is traveling the globe in support of her fifth studio album titled "Joanne" and will perform at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 7 at Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. For ticket information, call 313-471-7000



Out Loud Chorus, 319 Braun Court, Ann

www.goaffirmations.org

**Polyamory Network** 7 p.m. Open and inclusive community of people living polyamorously, people interested in polyamory and people of, friendly to and curious about polyamory. Welcomes diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity. Polyamory Network, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. jimtoycenter.org

### Friday, Sep. 22

**Alter-Abilities Support Group** 3 p.m. For alter-abled or "disabled" LGBTQ people. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

## MUSIC & MORE

### Benefits/Social Events

**Ozone House** "An Evening with Ozone House" Event will feature youth speakers, silent auction, and family-style dinner catered by Moveable Feast. Domino's World Resource Center, 30 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive, Ann Arbor. 6:30 p.m. Sep. 23. 734-662-2265. http://ozonehouse.org/calendar-old/evening-with-ozonehouse/

### Concerts

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Cube** "Strange Beautiful Music 10 Feat. New Music Detroit" Tickets: \$15. Max M. Fisher Music Center, Music Box, 3711 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 2 p.m. Sep. 23. 3135765111. www.cubedetroit.org

### Film & Video

**Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** "Never Stop: A Music That Resists" Suggested donation: \$5 for an introspective look at four pioneers of Detroit Techno - Juan Atkins, Derrick May, Carl Craig and Jeff Mills. MOCAD, 4454

Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7 p.m. Sep. 14. 313-832-6622. http://gaybe.am/7A

**University of Michigan Ross School of Business** "The S Word" Free of charge. Pre-registration required for the film screening and panel discussion on World Suicide Prevention Day. Robertson Auditorium, 701 Tappan Ave., Ann Arbor. 3 p.m. Sep. 10. depressioncenter.org/s-word

### Other

**Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers** "DIY Street Fair" . Downtown Ferndale, Woodward between E. Nine Mile Road and Troy Street, Ferndale. Sep. 22 - Sep. 24. www.ferndalediy.com/

## THEATER

**A Night of Stars with Tennessee Williams** Tickets: \$12. Slipstream Theatre Initiative, 460 Hilton Rd., Ferndale. Through Sep. 17. 313-986-9156. www.slipstreamti.com

**The Mad Hatter Ball** Tickets: \$125. RSVP by Sept. 15. Black tie optional. The Detroit Actor's Theatre Company, Eastern Market Shed 5, 2501 Russell St., Detroit. 5 p.m. Sep. 29. www.thedatc.org/gala

**The Revolutionists** Michigan premiere by Lauren Gunderson. Four beautiful, bad-ass women lose their heads in this irreverent, girl-powered comedy set during the French Revolution. Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Sep. 17. 734-635-8450. www.theatrenova.org

**Vagina Monologues by Eve Ensler** Tickets on sale Sept. 7. The Detroit Actor's Theatre Company, Boo's Music Lounge, 215 S. Main St., Royal Oak. Oct. 6 - Oct. 28. www.thedatc.org

### Professional

**Death by...Whatever!** A '90s murder

or are questioning, and their guests. FtM Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. ftmdetroit@gmail.com

### Thursday, Sep. 14

**Justice for Our Neighbors** 1 p.m. Free legal consultations for LGBTQ immigrants Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. www.grpride.org

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

**Men's Social Group** 7 p.m. Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. www.grpride.org

**Support group for parents and transgender youth** 7 p.m. Youth meet in the "youth lounge." Parents meet in room 100. Second and fourth Thursday of each month. Stand with Trans, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. 248-739-9254. roz@standwithtrans.org www.standwithtrans.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, Sep. 15

**Woman 2 Woman** 5:30 p.m. For lesbian, transgender and bi-attractual individuals. RSVP to Sharron Fincher via email. Woman 2 Woman, 20025 Greenfield Road, Detroit. sharronfincher@lgbtdetroit.org www.lgbtdetroit.org

### Saturday, Sep. 16

**Women Build: Exploring Careers in Construction** 8 a.m. Call for more information. Women's Center of Greater Lansing, 5708 Cornerstone Dr., Lansing. 517-372-9163. womenscentergl@gmail.com www.womenscenterofgreaterlansing.org/events/

**Transgender Health Fair** 1 p.m. Exhibits, vendors, speakers and panels dedicated to the health of the transgender community. Event is free. Transgender Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.transgendermichigan.org/events/health.html

**Bisexual Peer Group** 5 p.m. Meetings are a freeform discussion of current bi/pan/omni news, events, and other LGBTQ topics. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. paylor9@mac.com www.jimtoycenter.org/

**LGBTQ with HPV** 6 p.m. Support, discussion and activity group for anyone with HSV1/2 and HPV. Affirmations, 290

W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

**Men's Discussion Group** 6 p.m. Topic: What makes someone attractive to you? Do you have a type? Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

### Sunday, Sep. 17

**28th Ohio Lesbian Festival** Check the website for performance lineup. OhioLBA, Thornville. www.ohiolba.org

**PFLAG Meeting** 2 p.m. Info and Support Meeting PFLAG Tri-Cities, 2525 Hemmeter Road, Saginaw Township. 989-971-7085. leishashaler@gmail.com www.pflag.org

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

**LGBTQ Support Group** 5 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6726 Center Road, Traverse City. www.tcpolestar.org/

**Pride AA Weekly Meeting** 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo. 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

**Pride NA Weekly Meeting** 7 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo. 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

### Monday, Sep. 18

**Alcoholics Anonymous 5:45 Serenity** 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

**Lambda Group Open LGBT AA Meeting** 5:30 p.m. Lambda Group, 341 Washington St., Traverse City. www.tcpolestar.org/

**Brotherhood of Support** 6 p.m. For transmasculine identified people ages 16 and older. Group is affiliated with FtM Detroit. FtM A2 Ypsi, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. www.jimtoycenter.org/

**New Member Night** 7 p.m. Washtenaw County's original mixed LGBT chorus. Opportunity to join LGBT chorus group. No commitments, just see if we're the right group for you. All are welcome--LGBT & allies. No sight reading skills or audition are required. Out Loud Chorus, 1400 W. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor. 734-265-0740. outloudchorus@gmail.com www.OLcOnline.org

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

**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

### Tuesday, Sep. 19

**Foster Care and Adoption Orientation** 6 p.m. Orchards Children's Services is seeking adults from all counties to provide temporary care in their home for children ages 0 to 17 for foster care or independent living. Financial reimbursement, training and support system provided. Orchards Children's Services, 24901 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 601, Southfield. 248-530-5370. smarks@orchards.org www.orchards.org

**Coming Out Together** 7 p.m. A confidential discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

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

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

**Young Adult Group** 7 p.m. For young people ages 18-24 Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. www.grpride.org

**Ann Arbor TNG** 8 p.m. For the kink and fetish community Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. www.jimtoycenter.org/

### Wednesday, Sep. 20

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

**Students Affirming Youth** 4 p.m. A secular group for youth in grades 8-12, which functions as a community-based gay-straight alliance. Email for group details. Perceptions, 403 S. Jefferson, Saginaw. atjsteelouchart@gmail.com www.perceptionsmi.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.

**Out Loud Chorus Board Meeting** 7 p.m.

Arbor. 734-995-9867. www.jimtoycenter.org/

**Support Group for Transgender Individuals and Allies** 7 p.m. Facilitated by Paulette Niemiec, a licensed counselor in the state of Michigan. Contact Niemiec at 800-842-2954, ext. 122. Transgender Michigan, 1790 Fort St., Trenton. 734-676-7141. www.transgendermichigan.org

**Youth Group** 7 p.m. For youth ages 13-17 Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. www.grpride.org

**Support group for parents and guardians of LGBTQ people** 7:30 p.m. Grand Rapids Pride Center, 25 Sheldon Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. www.grpride.org

### Thursday, Sep. 21

**LGBTQ Book and Film Club** 7 p.m. September book: All Out by Alex Newman and Kevin Newman and September movie: Were The World Mine Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105.

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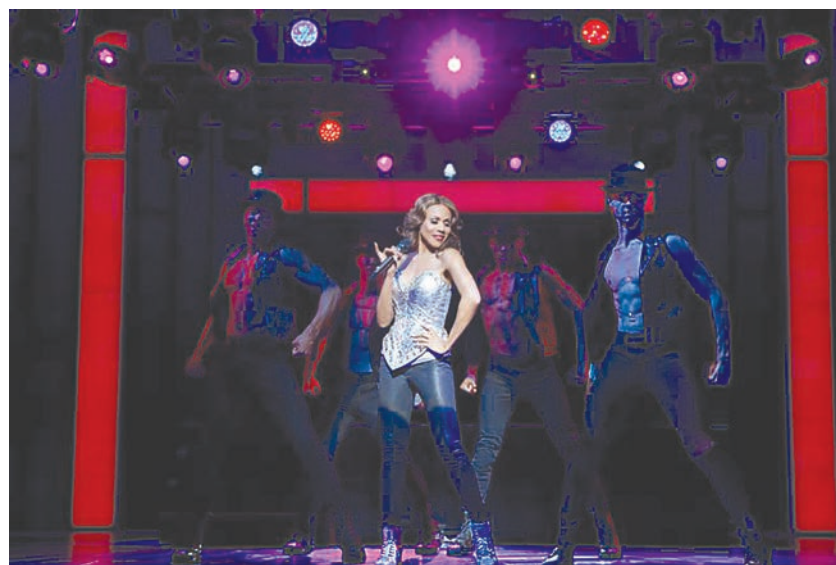
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# Deborah Cox Stars in Musical 'The Bodyguard'

Based on the smash-hit film, the award-winning musical "The Bodyguard" will star Grammy Award nominee and R&B powerhouse Deborah Cox Oct. 17-22 at Cobb Great Hall Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, 750 E. West Shaw Lane in East Lansing. Former Secret Service agent-turned-bodyguard Frank Farmer is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge. What they don't expect is to fall in love. A breathtakingly romantic thriller, "The Bodyguard" features a host of irresistible classics including "Queen of the Night," "So Emotional," "One Moment in Time," "Saving All My Love," "Run to You," "I Have Nothing," "I Wanna Dance with Somebody," and one of the most popular songs of all time, "I Will Always Love You." Broadway Records and Deco Recording Group released the album, "Deborah Cox: I Will Always Love You," digitally and in stores in March. The album is available on [www.BroadwayRecords.com](http://www.BroadwayRecords.com) and Amazon.com. "I've always been a



fan of the songs in the movie so it has been a dream to perform them on stage every night," said Cox. "This project was born out of continuous requests from my fans and people who have seen me in the show. They wanted to have something with me singing these songs so I listened and went to work putting

this EP together." Tickets start at \$32 for the performance during various showtimes. There will be an AfterChat following the Oct. 19 performance.

For more information, visit [www.whartoncenter.com/events/detail/the-bodyguard](http://www.whartoncenter.com/events/detail/the-bodyguard).

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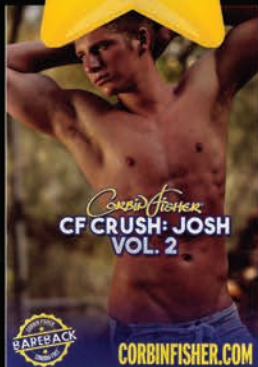


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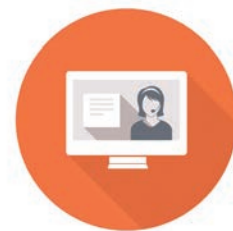
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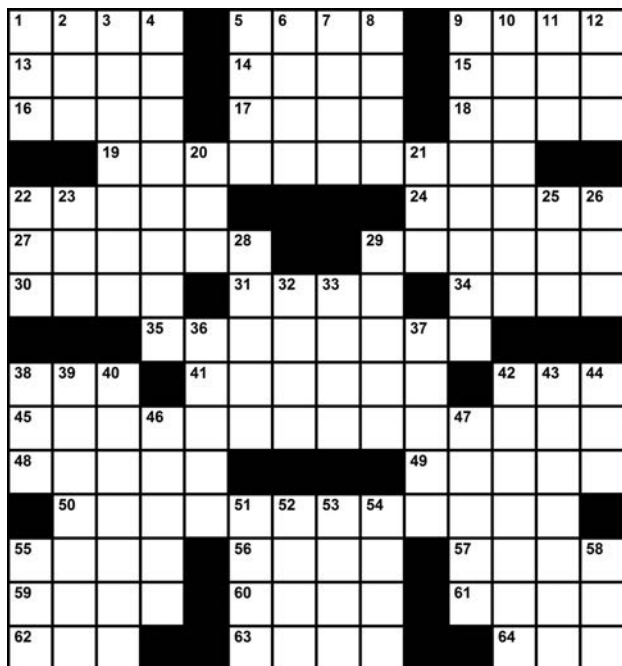


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# Q Puzzle



- 38 Where to look for the "gay gene"  
 41 Cannot bear  
 42 Writer's deg.  
 45 More of the Oscar saw  
 48 Holes entered by Minutemen  
 49 Wife and wife, for example  
 50 End of the Oscar saw  
 55 "Aren't \_\_\_ lucky one?"  
 56 Don't go straight  
 57 Sea eagles  
 59 Panic place for Jodie  
 60 Man, as a cruising goal  
 61 Baldwin's "The Evidence of Things Not \_\_\_"  
 62 Surrealist Jean  
 63 Like Scar in "The Lion King"  
 64 High-speed connection
- 21 Mary's little lamb, perhaps  
 22 USA rival  
 23 Kind of deer  
 25 Anal insertion procedure (abbr.)  
 26 Fabric name ending  
 28 "Let's make it a threesome!"  
 29 "Milk," when it plays in Mexico?  
 32 Nation on the Persian Gulf  
 33 Rex Reed does this to movies  
 36 Meredith's "Family Ties" role  
 37 Hopkins of "Bosom Buddies"  
 38 Amazon, for short  
 39 Amelia Earhart, for example  
 40 Tim Roth in "Four Rooms"  
 42 Like most cabs  
 43 Ralph of "Shakespeare in Love"  
 44 Buffoon  
 46 "Air Music" composer Ned  
 47 "For heaven's \_\_\_!"  
 51 Word on a map of Israel  
 52 Lover of Lucille Ball's  
 53 "Lesbians ignite!" e.g.  
 54 Family diagram  
 55 "I Got Rhythm" writer Gershwin  
 58 Trump-mocking comedy

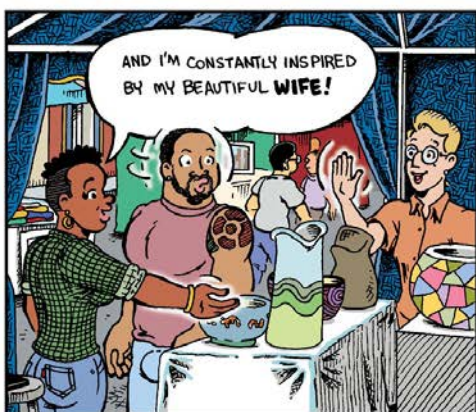
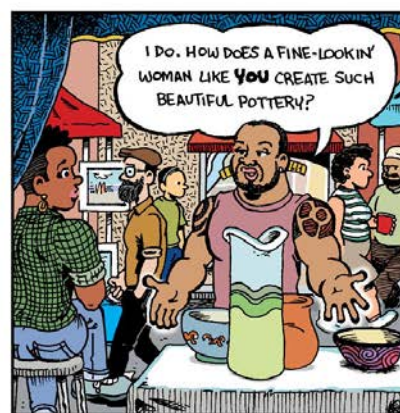
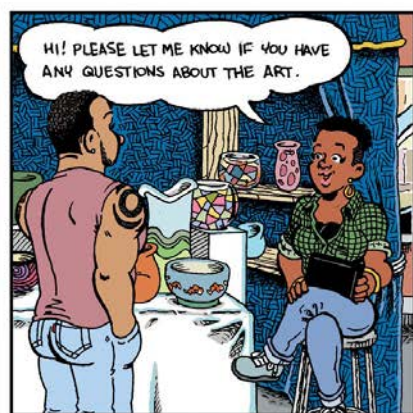
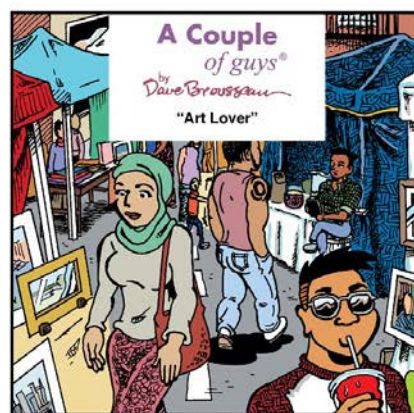
## Down

- 1 Bloomers worn around the neck  
 2 Tree on a shady street  
 3 Jim Nabors' home state  
 4 Queen, for example  
 5 "See you later"  
 6 Island of Diamond Head Beach  
 7 It makes gelatin get hard  
 8 High tennis shots from Mauresmo  
 9 Young ones in an orchard  
 10 Concern for 39-Down  
 11 Winter product prefix, in ads  
 12 Rubber avoidance danger  
 20 Voice vote option

# Oscar Saw

## Across

- 1 Fig part over a private part  
 5 Porter's fuel?  
 9 Smart-ass output  
 13 Scat queen Fitzgerald  
 14 Parrot in "Aladdin":  
 15 "Is so!" rebuttal  
 16 Apple Store buy  
 17 Moby Dick chaser  
 18 Examine anally, perhaps
- 19 Start of a saw by Oscar  
 22 Use a pattern  
 24 Oscar of this puzzle's quote  
 27 Denial to a dominatrix  
 29 Poe poem  
 30 Drop from a duct  
 31 "At Swim, Two Boys" is set in this land  
 34 "Hollaback Girl" singer Stefani  
 35 Takes away



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## LGBTQ and Jewish: Photovoice Project

**BTL STAFF**

**ANN ARBOR** – What does it mean to be Jewish and queer? What strengthens or hinders your involvement in the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti area Jewish community or in the LGBTQ community? Where and when do you feel that your religious identity and sexual orientation or gender identity fit together best?

These are all questions being asked by the University of Michigan Spectrum Center through a new LGBTQ Photovoice Project in the Fall this year. The group is seeking participants for the community-based research process that combines photography and social action in an effort to answer those questions. Participants become recorders, researchers and catalysts for social change by documenting through photographs and discussing their own experiences.

Participants in the project will meet weekly with a trained facilitator for six to eight weeks from September through December. They will learn about Photovoice, including ethical and safety issues, as well as basic photography concepts to aid in visual storytelling. They will be given assignments to take photos that

respond to a particular topic of question, and the group will share and discuss the resulting photographs each week.

The project will culminate in a photo exhibit to be mounted in the Jewish Community Center's Amster Gallery in Ann Arbor in January and February of 2018 where a panel discussion and reception will be held.

Participants should identify as Jewish - any denomination, practicing or not practicing, affiliated or not affiliated - identify as LGBTQ, are any age (teens through older adults are welcome. Parental permission is required for those under age 18), and are available to meet two hours per week in Ann Arbor (days and times to be determined based on participants' availability) for the length of the project. No photography experience or photography equipment is required.

The project is supported by a grant from the Jewish Community Impact Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor.

For more information, questions, or to sign up, email [Abbie Lawrence-Jacobson, Ph.D., LMSW](mailto:Abbie.Lawrence-Jacobson@umich.edu) at [abbielawrence2@gmail.com](mailto:abbielawrence2@gmail.com). Visit the UM Spectrum Center online at [spectrumcenter.umich.edu/](http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu/).

## Affirmations to Relaunch Youth Programming Services

**FERNDALE** – Many LGBTQ+ youth have negative experiences and are cast out when coming out to their families. This creates a lack of opportunity they would otherwise have with proper support and access to resources.

These young LGBTQ+ people turn to their local community centers for help. Affirmations in Ferndale is there to address the challenges many teenagers face on the streets, within their schools and at home.

Affirmations is preparing to relaunch the Cross the Line (XTL) Youth Workforce Development and the Cross the Line (XTL) Youth Leadership Development program. Both have been successful in empowering LGBTQ+ youth throughout the metro Detroit area and have maintained above a 75 percent retention rate.

The programming, which is constantly being updated to fit the current needs of the community, is designed for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies. It teaches essential skills that are necessary to succeed in a professional work environment while also

providing tools that will enable them to become leaders within their community.

The Leadership Development program starts Sept. 12 at Adult Well-Being Services in Grosse Pointe. The program, in place for 10 years, equips youth with valuable skills that focus on understanding power, privilege, creative advocacy approaches, mentorship, community engagement, and social risks prevention.

The Workforce Development program, in its third year, begins Sept. 18 and provides practical on-the-job training inside Affirmations' Recess Café, as well as soft skills training to give youth the tools that are needed to succeed in a professional setting.

"Workforce helped me to better my social skills and have a better understanding of the value of effort", said youth Jay Jarnot. "I gained worthwhile connections, as well as experiences I never would have had otherwise and I'm very grateful for the program."

For more information, visit [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/youth](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/youth).



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### The 45th Anniversary Event

September 23, 2017  
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Starts 6:30PM | Cash bar 6:30PM |  
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Entertainment for the evening will be provided by the Dynamic Duo - Dueling Pianos Singalong and music provided by DJ Quinnetta Burke for your Dancing and Listening pleasure.

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# Mobile Pantry Comes to Flint

BY BTL STAFF

**FLINT** – Flint families may get nutritious food that can limit the effects of lead exposure during mobile food pantry hours set for September at locations throughout Flint.

The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in Flint and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services are announcing the upcoming schedule for mobile food pantry stops to distribute foods rich in calcium, vitamin C and iron.

Families receive shelf-stable items that include tuna, baked beans, mandarin oranges, cereal, tomatoes and more. Farm-fresh produce in September will be apples, sweet corn, squash, watermelon, peppers, eggplant, carrots, kale, cucumbers, zucchini and green beans.

The program is funded through the more than \$249 million in state taxpayer funds that have been provided to help the residents of Flint.

Food distribution sites remain open while supplies last. Upcoming dates are:

- Sept. 7, at 11 a.m. – Second Chance Baptist Church, 5306 North St.
- Sept. 8, at 10 a.m. – Flint Muslim Food Pantry, 4400 S. Saginaw St.
- Sept. 9, at 10 a.m. – Calvary United Methodist Church, 2111 Flushing Rd.
- Sept. 14, at noon – United Methodist Community Center, 4601 Clio Road.
- Sept. 15, at noon – St. Luke's NEW Life Center, 3115 Lawndale Ave.
- Sept. 16, at 11 a.m. – Higher Quality of Life, 5601 N. Saginaw St.
- Sept. 19, at noon – St. Michael Catholic Church, 609 E. Fifth Ave.
- Sept. 20, at 10 a.m. – Hispanic Tech Center, 2101 Lewis St.
- Sept. 20, at noon – Salem Lutheran Church, 2610 Martin Luther King Ave.
- Sept. 21, at 11 a.m. – Fairhaven Seventh-Day Adventist Church, 1379 W. Louis Ave.
- Sept. 26, at 1 p.m. – New Birth Church, 3918 Blackington Ave.
- Sept. 27, at 11 a.m. – Richfield Academy, 3807 N. Center Road.
- Sept. 28, at 10 a.m. – Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle, 930 E. Myrtle Ave.
- Sept. 29, at 10 a.m. – My Brother's Keeper, 101 N. Grand Traverse St.

Information about additional food distribution dates will be announced as they are scheduled. For more information, visit the Food Bank website at [www.FBEM.org](http://www.FBEM.org) or call 810-239-4441.

## Join Team Affirmations



**Sunday, September 17, 2017**  
**Royal Oak Farmers Market**

AIDS Walk Detroit supports HIV programs that focus on prevention, education and services.

The walk is a fun way to support a wonderful cause with Affirmations!

**To join Team Affirmations, please email:**

Kyle Taylor at [KTaylor@goaffirmations.org](mailto:KTaylor@goaffirmations.org) or log on to [AIDSWALKDETROIT.ORG](http://AIDSWALKDETROIT.ORG) and find Team Affirmations listed within the Top Teams.



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# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Find over 300 Non-Profit Listings Serving Michigan's LGBTQ Online @ [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

Editor's Note: This is a sampling of the hundreds of Michigan non-profits working with the LGBTQ community across the state. From time to time this print resource will emphasize different sectors as space permits.

## AIDS/HIV

There are dozens of AIDS/HIV organizations and resources listed at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com). Here are just three of them:

### AIDS Walk Detroit

Contact [info@aidswalkdetroit.org](mailto:info@aidswalkdetroit.org) or 248-399-9255 for more information. The walk takes place this year on Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Royal Oak Farmers Market

### Macomb County STD Clinic

27690 Van Dyke  
Warren, MI 48093  
586-465-9217  
<http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDSCounselingTesting>

### Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

120 Parsons Street  
Detroit, MI 48201  
888-226-6366  
248-545-1435  
[www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/ryanwhite/](http://www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/ryanwhite/)

### UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

3011 W. Grand Blvd. Suite 230  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-446-9800  
[www.miunified.org](http://www.miunified.org)  
Michigan HIV/STD Hotline  
800-872-2437

## Advocacy

### Equality Michigan

19641 W. 7 Mile, Detroit, MI  
313-537-7000  
[equalitymi.org](http://equalitymi.org)  
[Facebook.com/equalitymichigan](https://www.facebook.com/equalitymichigan)

## Campus

Currently there are 19 organizations listed as active online at [www.pridesource.com/](http://www.pridesource.com/) yellow pages. The following are some in the southeast Michigan area:

### U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center  
[Spectrumcenter@umich.edu](mailto:Spectrumcenter@umich.edu)  
<http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu>  
734-763-4186

### Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

[gsc@oakland.edu](mailto:gsc@oakland.edu)  
[www.oakland.edu/gsc](http://www.oakland.edu/gsc)  
248-370-4336

### Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center  
[emich.edu/lgbtrc](http://emich.edu/lgbtrc)  
734-487-4149

### The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

[ltu.edu/student\\_affairs/lgbt.asp](http://ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp)

### Wayne State JIGSAW

[Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW)  
[wsujigsaw@gmail.com](mailto:wsujigsaw@gmail.com)

## Community Centers

Michigan has nine active LGBTQ community centers, with a tenth planned in Lansing. Here are three of them.

### Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor  
[www.jimtoycenter.org](http://www.jimtoycenter.org)  
[www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter](https://www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter)  
or follow them on Twitter @JimToyCenter.  
319 Braun Court  
Ann Arbor, MI  
734-995-9867  
**LGBT Detroit**

### Detroit

[www.lgbtdetroit.org](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit](https://www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit)  
or follow them on Twitter @LGBTDetroit.  
20025 Greenfield Road  
Detroit, MI  
Phone: 313-397-2127

### Affirmations

Ferndale  
<http://goaffirmations.org>  
[www.facebook.com/Affirmations/](https://www.facebook.com/Affirmations/)  
or follow them on Twitter @GoAffirmations.  
290 W. Nine Mile Road  
Ferndale, MI  
248-398-7105

## Legal

### American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project  
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI  
[www.aclumich.org](http://www.aclumich.org)  
313-578-6800

### Fair Michigan

PO Box 6136  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
877-432-4764, 313-556-2300  
[fairmichigan.org](http://fairmichigan.org)  
[Facebook.com/fairmichigan2016](https://www.facebook.com/fairmichigan2016)

### Know Your Rights Project

Outlaws U-M student group  
[outlawslegal@gmail.com](mailto:outlawslegal@gmail.com)  
734-995-9867

## Older Adults

### SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI  
313-578-6812  
[sagemetrodetroit.org](http://sagemetrodetroit.org)  
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

## Political

### The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

[Facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP)

### Stonewall for Revolution

[www.facebook.com/stonewall4revolution](https://www.facebook.com/stonewall4revolution)

## Professional Groups

### Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 32446  
Detroit, MI 48232  
[detroitlgbtchamber.com](http://detroitlgbtchamber.com)  
1-800-DET-LGBT

### Ties Like Me

Professional networking events  
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.  
[TiesLikeMe.org](http://TiesLikeMe.org)

### Suits And The City

Lansing, MI  
[suitsandthecity@gmail.com](mailto:suitsandthecity@gmail.com)  
[www.suitsandthecity.org](http://www.suitsandthecity.org)

## Transgender

### FtM Detroit

<https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/>  
[ftmdetroit@gmail.com](mailto:ftmdetroit@gmail.com)

### FtM A2 Ypsi

[ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com](mailto:ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/>

### Transgender Michigan

23211 Woodward Ave.  
Ferndale, MI  
[info@transgendermichigan.org](mailto:info@transgendermichigan.org)  
[www.transgendermichigan.org](http://www.transgendermichigan.org)  
800-842-2954

### Trans Sistas of Color Project

19641 W. 7 Mile Rd. in Detroit  
313-537-7000 Ext 107  
[info@tscopdetroit.org](mailto:info@tscopdetroit.org)  
[www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/](https://www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/)

## Youth

### Ruth Ellis Center

77 Victor Street, Highland Park, MI  
48203  
[info@ruthelliscenter.org](mailto:info@ruthelliscenter.org)  
Facebook: Ruth Ellis Center  
313-252-1950

### Ozone House

102 N. Hamilton Street  
Ypsilanti, MI  
734-662-2265  
734-662-2222

### Stand With Trans

Farmington, MI  
[www.standwithtrans.org](http://www.standwithtrans.org)  
248-739-9254



Find a digital version of PrideSource Magazine online under Our LGBTQ Yellow Pages

## Find these resources online

- Adoption Services
- AIDS/HIV Hotlines
- AIDS/HIV Organizations
- Alzheimer's Association
- Animal Shelter
- Anti-Violence
- Archives/Collections
- Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
- Cancer Support Groups
- Choruses
- Community Centers
- Employee Resource Groups
- Families and Parents
- Foster Care
- Foundations and Funders
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- Labor Union
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- Youth Services

## Get Listed, Promote Your Events

You can add or update any listing by going to [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com) and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information.

You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com) and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to [editor@pridesource.com](mailto:editor@pridesource.com)

# World AIDS Conference Report

BY DR. PAUL BENSON

It was a momentous week (July 27 -29, 2017) at the International AIDS Society's (IAS) 9th Conference on HIV Science taking place in Paris, France. Nearly 8,000 clinicians, community leaders, policy makers, and HIV advocates from more than 140 countries were in attendance. I've been able to attend every HIV world conference annually since they began in the 1980s. Optimism increases each and every year. There were so many presentations occurring simultaneously that it would be impossible for one person to take in all that was offered. I will attempt to report on what was meaningful to me and hopefully to you.

Globally, there has been a 16% reduction of newly diagnosed HIV cases between 2010 and 2016. This contrasts with a 29% increase in new cases observed in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. There are currently 19 million HIV-infected individuals on therapy. This is slightly below the goal set forth by the World Health Organization of 30 million people on therapy by 2020.

Three-drug antiretroviral therapy (ART) has been the standard of care in the United States and other parts of the world since 1996. This approach has been responsible for maintaining successful therapy by keeping viral loads below the level of detection and allowing those HIV-infected to live well without getting sick. Newer drugs and combined formulations have made it as easy as one pill once a day, while avoiding toxicities. We've become quite comfortable with triple drug therapy, but it may be time to stretch our comfort zone and re-think this strategy by using two drug therapies instead. If effective, this could possibly reduce potential long-term toxicities and lower costs. The European AIDS Clinical Society has already approved dual drug therapy as an acceptable alternative.

This conference presented several smaller studies which suggested that dual therapy is efficacious. These studies included the ACTG 5353, the Paddle study, the Gardel study, and the Andes study. The Gemini study, a very large cohort which is now underway should answer the question of dual therapy effectiveness. The

Be Well Medical Center is one of the research sites participating in the Gemini studies. Enrollment is closed and week 48 results are expected next year. The Emerald study's 48-week results were presented using the single pill fixed dose combination of darunavir, cobicistat, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide compared to these individual agents separately. The Be Well Medical Center is also participating in this study. The single tablet was non-inferior to the multi-tablet regimen at 48 weeks. When approved, this will be the first single tablet complete protease inhibitor based regimen.

There is a future in long acting injectable therapy for both treatment and prevention of HIV. One injectable with promise is the long acting integrase inhibitor Cabotegravir. Two year results from the LATTE study demonstrated that monthly or bimonthly injections of Cabotegravir combined with another injectable rilpivirine (rilpivirine is currently available in an oral formulation) may be an option to replace daily oral regimens for HIV. The SWORD study presented 48 week data in experienced patients who switched from oral medication to this dual drug injection therapy. The results so far demonstrated equal efficacy.

The Gilead 1489 clinical trial presented 48 week results using the new Integrase inhibitor Bictegravir. It demonstrated 92.4% efficacy which was equal to the comparator arm. It demonstrated no resistance and was very well tolerated. The Be Well Medical Center is participating in the Gilead 1489 trial as well as three other trials using Bictegravir in both experienced and naive patients. The future is going to have a myriad of options to choose from. Bictegravir-containing regimens should be available commercially very soon.

A promising new nucleoside reverse transcriptase translocation inhibitor was described. Its current name is MK-8591. It is a very potent and has an extremely long half life. It is being studied for both HIV treatment and in prevention. Doravirine, a new non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor in development, has improved potency, a better resistance profile, and improved tolerability over other drugs in this class. Immunotherapies with monoclonal

and broad spectrum antibodies continue to be investigated for both prevention and treatment. VRC01 is the first such vaccine now in clinical trials. It was discovered from elite controllers of HIV. Vedolizumab, a monoclonal antibody, is being studied as part of HIV medication interruption therapy.

This Paris conference weighted heavily with discussion about HIV prevention. There were wmore presentations on this topic than anything else. Daily use of Truvada (PrEP) continues to be the gold standard with more and more countries approving this therapy. 80,000 unique individuals have been prescribed Truvada between 2012 and 2015. It is a safe preventive option with tangible benefits and very small risks. Correct adherence to dosing is imperative for success.

There were several studies evaluating Truvada on demand, instead of daily. The HPTN 067 (HIV Prevention Treatment Network) trial included 3 different methods of administration. There was daily administration, time driven (twice a week and one dose post a sexual encounter), and event driven (one tablet of Truvada before sex and one tablet after) arms in the study. The conclusions of the HPTN 067 suggest that on demand therapy is a viable option. It concluded that the event driven arm is a reasonable approach for those having infrequent sex. It's a favorable approach in this group because fewer doses are required compared to daily use. The disadvantage for event driven therapy is that it requires sex planning and the availability of the medication at the time of need, so one would always have to be prepared. Also, timing in event driven dosing is a little more complicated. One should not take more than one dose in a two hour period. Success depends upon the post sexual dose to be taken in the event driven method. Surveys suggested that younger individuals, or those having frequent and/or multiple sexual encounters, preferred daily dosing over an on-demand dosing schedule.

The IPERGAY study evaluating intermittent PrEP dosing had the same conclusion on the effectiveness on intermittent therapy. Caution is advised because Truvada is currently approved only for daily dosing therapy in the United States and according to the World Health Organization. The European AIDS Clinical Society does include on demand PrEP in their guidelines. All recommendations still include

a comprehensive prevention approach and the use of condoms for HIV prevention. The rate of sexually transmitted diseases were high in all of these prevention trials.

The nice thing about the future of HIV prevention is that individuals will have a variety of modalities to choose from. The HPTN 077 is studying the previously described Cabotegravir which involves an injection every 8 or 12 weeks for prevention. Phase 3 trials are underway to answer the questions about the use of this drug for prevention.

The SLAP (Sustained Long Acting Protection from HIV) study investigated reservoir implants using rods that osmotically control the release of HIV medication for prevention. The drug mentioned previously, MK-8591, is being investigated for use in this way. Medicated intravaginal rings and rectal lubes are also being studied for HIV prevention.

Individual choice for prevention will be important to meet diverse needs. Stigma still remains an important barrier. Many individuals are ashamed to ask their providers for this preventive treatment. Other providers may lack the knowledge to prescribe PrEP or take a detailed sexual history to determine who is at risk. Some individuals, for whatever reason, do not perceive themselves as being high-risk. Messaging and distribution for PrEP needs to be positively focused and simple. Peer support and education such as Adherence Clubs for PrEP may be of benefit. High-risk individuals choosing PrEP usually add Truvada to their own particular strategy that they are already practicing.

The consensus of scientific data presented at the conference shows that an HIV-infected individual who is being successfully treated, by having an undetectable viral load, is virtually non-infectious to their partners. This is described as treatment as prevention.

In summary, an individualized approach is a key and necessary challenge. Dual therapy is a realistic option. The treatment pipeline has newer agents that are being investigated. HIV treatment is more than simply obtaining an undetected viral load. PrEP not only has transmission benefits, but psychosocial ones as well. PrEP can reduce and replace fear, improve quality of life, remove guilt, and increase intimacy; all of which may be liberating as well.

Next year's conference will be in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

## INTERNATIONAL AIDS SOCIETY CONFERENCE UPDATE

Presenter: Dr. Paul Benson  
Sponsored by Be Well Medical Center

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

6:30 P.M. Dinner

7 P.M. Program

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