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Grand Marshall Edith Windsor, the 84-year-old woman at the center of the U.S. Supreme Court decision granting gay couples federal marriage benefits, smiles as she rides in a convertible during the gay pride march in New York Sunday, June 30, 2013. AP Photo/Craig Ruttle

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East Lansing Farmer's Market Battle

Religious Freedom Battle Comes to East Lansing, Met with Protesters

BY TODD HEYWOOD

A Catholic farmer, armed with a court order, returned to hawking his apples at the East Lansing Farmer's Market Sunday despite the city and some area residents not wanting him there.

Farmer Steve Tennes of Charlotte Michigan based Country Mill has been at the center of a battle with the college town since last year. That's when he posted a statement on his Facebook page that his Catholic beliefs prevented him from renting his orchard to same-sex couples for marriage ceremonies or events.

U.S. District Judge Paul Maloney ruled Friday the despite the city seeing the farmer's actions to discriminate against same-sex couples as a violation of its law, that Tennes and his orchard had a compelling case that the city retaliated against Tennes for his religious beliefs in violation of the First Amendment. Maloney then issued a preliminary injunction against the city prohibiting it from keeping Tennes and his Country Mill business out of the market.

East Lansing issued a statement Friday calling the decision "disappointing," but acknowledging that it would "comply" with the order. The statement also called on those feeling "disappointed" by the ruling "to respect the court's ruling."

But on Sunday, a group of LGBT people and allies stood in front of Country Mill's red awning tent talking to customers about the lawsuit and the alleged discrimination.

"We moved to East Lansing to raise our family in an inclusive community," said protester DeeDee Brown-Wren of East Lansing. "East Lansing's nondiscrimination ordinance gives us a sense of safety and belonging. One of our values in our family is to spend money on businesses that affirm our place in this community. The Country Mill was a place that our family enjoyed spending time at every fall. It's disheartening to hear that they were willing to take our money but not support our family."

They were surrounded by television cameras and still photographers, which irritated at least one vendor.

"My problem is I'm here to do business" said Dale Woods, owner of Applegarth



An employee of Country Mill sells apples and apple products like cider at the East Lansing Farmer's Market Sunday. They returned to the market after winning a federal court injunction. They had been banned from the market for discrimination against same-sex couples.

Honey. "I don't need two cameras and a crowd of people blocking my booth. This is my business, I'm here to sell honey. I'm not here for political reasons."

Country Mill, despite a handful of protesters, did brisk business Sunday.

David and Jane Lopez said they travelled from metro Detroit to support the orchard.

"We wanted to be supportive of what they were doing and their ability to choose what they do in their own homes," David said.

"And with their own property, Jane piped in.

"It's got nothing to do with discrimination," David said. "If somebody came into your home and said you need to do this here, I don't think you'd be very happy about it."

The couple are Catholics.

The case dates back to August 2016, when the city asked Tennes to voluntarily remove himself from the publicly financed farmer's market held each Sunday in Valley Court Park, over his Facebook statements on same-sex couples. Tennes refused. Ultimately he announced he would stop renting the facilities for any wedding related event. He finished out the market season last year.

Tennes took to Facebook in Dec.

to announce his company, as a matter of policy, would discriminate against same-sex couples in renting out their facilities. The City of East Lansing, which has the oldest human rights ordinance including sexual orientation in the country, cried foul. They adopted a new rule requiring vendors at the market to sign an acknowledgement they would follow East Lansing's ordinance in their general business practices. Tennes, despite signing an agreement that he would follow the city's law, was denied a permit because of his discrimination against same-sex couples.

He sued the city in federal court in May claiming the refusal to issue a permit violated his religious freedom. His lawsuit also contends that the city is overstepping its legal boundaries by trying to enforce its local law in another county and city, violating the city's Home Rule Act.

While Tennes has the blessing of the federal court to return until the end of the season, activists say they will continue to educate shoppers about his business practices and the lawsuit.

"I think folks will continue to protest as long as he is at the market," said Brown-Wren.

MCRC 'Barred by the Attorney General from Taking Action'

AG Schuette's Office Says It Will Provide Formal Opinion on Commission's Authority

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

At a meeting of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission in Lansing on Monday night, the commission voted 6-2 to table the request from Equality Michigan to issue a statement interpreting 'sex' in the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Following more than two hours of public comment on both sides of the issue, the commission's legal counsel, Assistant Attorney General Ron Robinson, informed the commission that it is the opinion at the divisional level of his office that the commission does not have the legal right to issue an interpretive statement on this issue, and that it is the role of the legislature to address any changes in law.

"And should the commission issue a ruling contrary to the Attorney General, the commission would give up its governmental immunity and would be subject to a lawsuit," said Robinson during the meeting.

According to EQMI, the interpretative statement being requested would make it clear that anti-LGBT discrimination is unlawful in Michigan, clarifying the legal responsibilities of employers and individuals and giving notice to victims of discrimination that there are remedies available.

After the July meeting where EQMI officially submitted their request, more than 300 individuals and organizations responded on both sides during a month-long public comment period.

Nathan Triplett, director of public policy with EQMI, said the AG's office incorrectly intervened with the commission's authority.

"Once again, Attorney General Bill Schuette has used his position of power and public trust to stand for discrimination and against equality. He put his personal bias and political ambition above the law and the best interest of Michiganders," he said.

As a result of the AG's intervention, Triplett said LGBT Michiganders will continue to be denied a fair hearing. As commission co-chair Rasha Demashkieh stated, "We have been barred by the Attorney General from taking action."

In what the department calls a "scathing statement," Demashkieh added, "This commission has been on record for more than 30 years in support for protecting people's civil rights on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. What happened here tonight has not changed that, but it is quite upsetting that the Attorney General's office would decide at the last moment to issue an opinion that we had been

SAVE THE DATE

2017 Equality Lobby Day Sept. 28

Central United Methodist Church
215 N. Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933
8:30 a.m. - Doors open, registration begins
9:00 a.m. - Welcome and training
12:00 p.m. - Lunch is provided
3:00 p.m. - End
Register here: <http://bit.ly/eqlobbyday>

requesting for more than 30 days. Initially their response was to recuse themselves. Then tonight, they tell us we cannot legally issue a statement. It made this meeting a futile exercise."

More than 100 people turned out to the Lansing Center for the meeting.

Jay Kaplan, LGBT Staff Attorney with the ACLU of Michigan, said the organization has received more than 500 complaints of LGBTQ discrimination in employment, housing, education and public accommodations in the past 17 years.

Despite the non-discrimination ordinances in place in more than 40 cities across the state, LGBTQ people can be "fired for being gay, denied an apartment for being lesbian or be refused services for being transgender," he told the commission.

Kaplan said the interpretive statement is important because many of the local ordinances lack remedies provided by state law and municipalities lack resources to adequately investigate discrimination complaints.

As for what's next, the commission requested a formal opinion on the matter from Attorney General Bill Schuette, who announced his

campaign for governor last week.

"The Legislature creates laws, not commissions," said Andrea Bitely, a spokeswoman for Schuette, after the meeting.

"The Attorney General's politically-motivated intervention short-circuited our effort today, but ultimately this kind of unity and hard work by pro-equality Michiganders will carry the day," said Triplett, adding that EQMI will be watching closely as the commission submits their request for a formal opinion to the AG's office and continues their efforts to advance equality in the legislature, starting with their Lobby Day on Sept. 28.

"It's important not to lose sight of what Michigan's LGBT community accomplished today. Thirty-eight LGBT and allied organizations came together, organized, and with a unified voice demand action on anti-LGBTQ discrimination," said Triplett.

There are bills pending currently that would also provide LGBT protections. Senate Bill 424, sponsored by Sen. Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor, would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. House bill 4689, sponsored by Rep. Jon Hoadley, D-Kalamazoo, would also ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.



The Michigan Civil Rights Commission tabled a request in Lansing on Monday night by Equality Michigan for interpretive statement on "sex" in ELCRA. Photos courtesy of Nathan Triplett, EQMI

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It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood for AIDS Walk Detroit

Annual Walk Keeps Pace with Last Year's Numbers

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Summer proved it has yet to sing its final note as the 26th annual AIDS Walk Detroit took place Sunday under a cloudless sky with temperatures hovering at just below 80 degrees. Walkers expecting crisper weather had to take off their jackets and hoodies and discard them if not before the walk than during.

"The weather was awesome," said Carissa Rys, development coordinator for AIDS Walk Detroit. "We couldn't have asked for nicer weather. We've actually been really lucky these past few years. We haven't had rain, we've had sunshine, and this year continued that trend for us. It was a great weekend all around."

As numbers continue to come in, Rys estimated about 1,200 walkers took to the streets of Royal Oak this year and that about \$125,000 had been raised so far with more monies expected to come in before collection ends. These numbers are almost identical to last year's walk and organizers said they were happy with them.

"I feel like it was a great day," said Rys. "We were able to reach some new people. We've been able to continue the excitement around our walk and just continue building awareness. And we've really been able to

continue doing what we're here for and to help the organizations that we help. We're definitely going to be able to make some good donations to our partner organizations and give back to them."

Giving back appeared to be the theme of the day for many who took place in the walk. "One of my biggest things about the community is I wanted us to be a give back," said Randall Wrisinger, director of the PRISM Chorus. "It's not just about us, even though we're a 501c3 organization, I wanted us to have opportunities to be able to give back to the community at large and this is very important."

The PRISM team, which was led by member John Joannette, consisted of 29 members. "Our goal was 25 people and \$2,500 and we have 29 people walking who raised over \$6,000," Joannette said. "HIV isn't over with and it's important to get that message out."

Important, yes, but sometimes more difficult these days Joannette admitted. "We had so many allies helping us in the early days when people were really dying," he said. "Now the messaging is a little bit harder because for most people it's a manageable chronic disease. But people are still perishing from HIV. Drugs don't work for everyone. There's about 10 percent that continue to have a health decline. We need to make sure that we're not only here for them but to make sure that the transmission



PRISM Chorus director Randall Wrisinger in blue shorts gets ready to perform. The group raised over \$6,000
Photo: Tih Penfil

rate continues to go down and that there are services available to educate and treat."

Scott Robin works for Delta Airlines, one of the walk's premium sponsors. While he has walked for the past four or five years, this year he was captain of his team. "Our team this year is probably about 15 people and we're made up of agents at the airport, flight attendants and mechanics all based in Detroit," Robin said. "I've had friends who have lost their lives. So it's a way for me to kind of memorialize them, remember them and give back."

Jay Kaplan, who has participated in every AIDS Walk Detroit since its inception in 1991, agreed.

"We should never forget," said Kaplan. "It's amazing what has happened in the area of HIV healthcare. But all those people whose lives were lost we have to remember them and the importance of supporting funding for programs. And we still have to remove the stigma that is associated with AIDS."

In contrast to Kaplan, this was the first time Daniel Jones ever participated in the walk.

He decided to walk after seeing a friend's post on Facebook about it.

"I am not HIV positive but I know people who are," he said. "My uncle passed away while I was still in college. So it's important that we educate ourselves. I hope this walk brings awareness and just brings us closer to finding a cure."

To date, AIDS Walk Detroit has granted nearly \$4 million to 25 area agencies. This year's partner organizations include Affirmations Community Center, Community

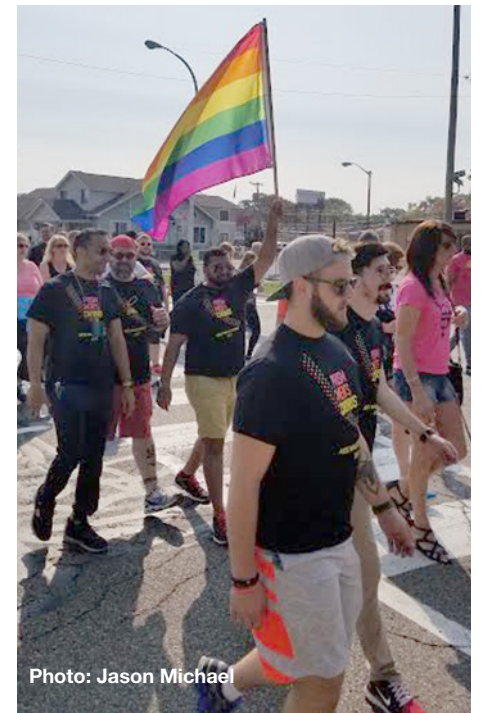


Photo: Jason Michael

Health Awareness Group, Children's Hospital Michigan/Horizon's Project, Deaf CAN, Henry Ford Health System, Health Emergency Lifeline Programs, Southeast Michigan HIV/AIDS Council (SEMHC)/STAR Foundation, UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond, and WSU Adult ID Clinic.

Learn more about AIDS Walk Detroit by calling 248-399-WALK (9255) or visit www.aidswalkdetroit.org.

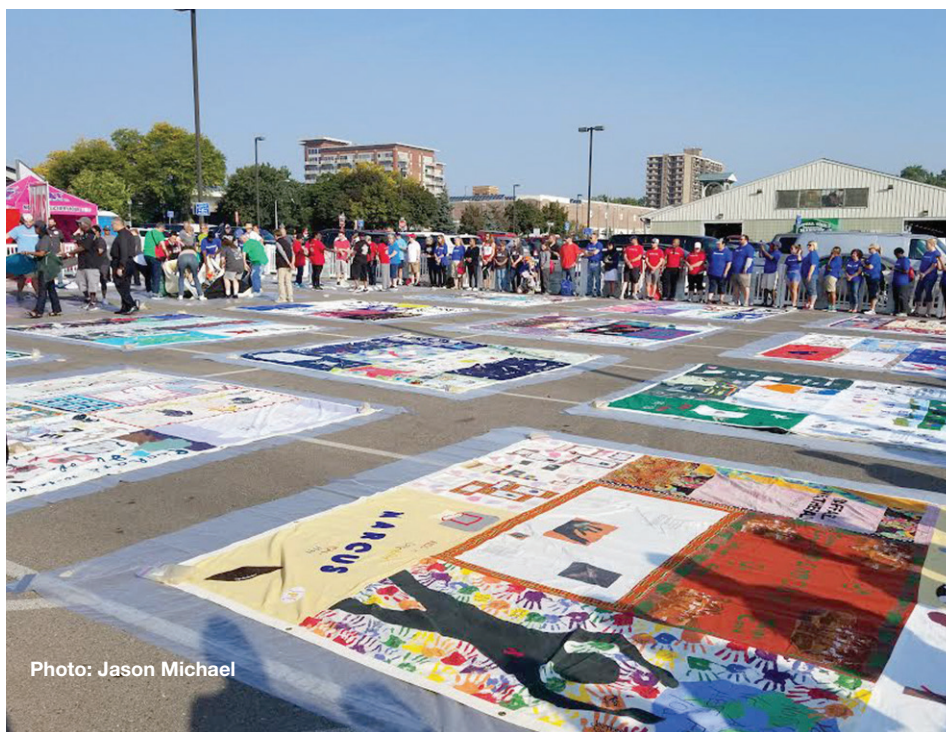


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Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

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)

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Mytesi comes from the *Croton lechleri* tree harvested in South America.

Remembering Edie Windsor 1929 -2017

BY LISA KEEN

Edith Windsor has died.

The senior woman who became the unlikely face of a movement and a lawsuit to champion the right of same-sex couples to marry died Sept. 12 at her home in New York. She was 88. The cause of death was not immediately made known but it was known, even during the litigation of her lawsuit against the Defense of Marriage Act, that she suffered from heart disease.

Known as “Edie” to most, Windsor was 84 when she became an internationally recognized plaintiff in a lawsuit challenging the DOMA.

With the help of attorney Roberta Kaplan and the ACLU’s National LGBT Project, Windsor filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York to challenge DOMA’s treatment of her following the death of her first spouse, Thea Spyer.

Windsor and Spyer had been together as a couple for 44 years and had obtained a marriage license in Toronto, Canada, in 2007. Spyer died in 2009, following a long illness. But because DOMA prohibited the federal government from recognizing the marriages of same-sex couples, Windsor was not able to claim the estate tax deduction available to the spouses of straight married couples. The disparate treatment cost her \$363,053 in federal estate tax on Spyer’s estate.

In one of its most significant LGBT-related rulings ever, the U.S. Supreme Court in June 2013 struck down DOMA. In a 5-4 decision, *U.S. v. Windsor*, the majority said DOMA violated the Fifth Amendment guarantee that no person shall be “deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.”

In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal* a year later, Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said Windsor was “such a well-chosen plaintiff.” While legal groups do often carefully choose their plaintiffs in test case litigation, Windsor self-selected and sought out attorney Roberta Kaplan to file her lawsuit.

In her book *Then Comes Marriage*, released in 2015, attorney Kaplan revealed that her effort to represent Windsor ran up against the effort of Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) to press two of its own cases. Publicly, attorneys for all the DOMA lawsuits maintained a veneer of camaraderie, but Kaplan acknowledged that she felt Windsor’s lawsuit was the target of a press release many national LGBT groups signed onto in 2009, warning that some challenges to DOMA might set back the movement for marriage equality.

“[I]f the major gay rights organizations

had had their way, we never would have filed Edie’s lawsuit in the first place,” wrote Kaplan in *Then Comes Marriage: United States v. Windsor and the Defeat of DOMA*. In fact, the nation’s oldest and best-known LGBT litigation group, Lambda Legal Defense, declined to help Windsor. And the ACLU, which ultimately joined Kaplan, was hesitant at first.

Kaplan said the ACLU worried that Windsor’s image as a “privileged rich lady” was “not a story that’s going to move people.”

And Kaplan acknowledged that even she worried about Windsor’s unembarrassed candor in talking about her personal relationship with Spyer.

“I wanted the judges (and potentially Supreme Court justices) to see Edie and Thea’s relationship for its qualities of commitment and love,” wrote Kaplan, “not for anything having remotely to do with their sex life. It just seemed safer that way.”

But all the major LGBT groups and activists were quick to acknowledge the significance of Windsor’s historic legal victory and her activism.

GLAD called Windsor a “true warrior for love and justice” and said “she helped the nation and the Supreme Court to see the humanity in the relationships of same-sex couples.”

Susan Sommer, director of constitutional litigation for Lambda Legal, said Windsor “fearlessly stood up for herself and her community.”

“She called for the respect and dignity denied to same-sex spouses, and the Supreme Court heard her plea,” said Sommer. “Because of Edie, we are a more perfect union. She left an indelible mark on all who knew her story, and all whose love is now recognized and protected because of the victory she helped secure for LGBT people.”

“Edie was my close friend, supporter and a mentor,” said Quinn, in a statement. “When New Yorkers – especially young LGBTQ New Yorkers – saw Edie on the street, they’d run up to her, thank her, hug her, sometimes with tears of gratitude and tell their stories and detail how her story touched their lives. She’s a civil rights giant who will impact hundreds of thousands of people for decades to come and will be remembered as a woman whose bravery and insistence on equality and respect changed the course of history.”

Kaplan issued a statement, saying, “Representing Edie Windsor was and will always be the greatest honor of my life. She will go down in the history books as a true American hero. With Edie’s passing, I lost not



June 2017: A beautiful peach colored vehicle drives through the Capitol Pride parade with Edith Windsor as one of their grand marshals. She's onboard waving to the crowd. She was the lead plaintiff in the Supreme Court of the United States case *United States v. Windsor*, which successfully overturned Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act. She died Sept. 14 at her NYC home. She was 88 years old. Photo:istock.com

only a treasured client, but a member of my family... I also know that her memory will be a blessing not only to every LGBT person on this planet, but to all who believe in the concept of *b'tzelem elohim*, or equal dignity for all.”

The *New York Times* reported that Windsor re-married last year to Judith Kasen-Windsor, who is her only legal survivor.

Following her victory at the Supreme Court, Windsor became involved in other LGBT campaigns. She endorsed Christine Quinn in her bid to become the first lesbian mayor of the nation’s largest city, served as the grand marshal of New York City’s annual LGBT Pride parade, and came in third place in *Time* magazine’s “Person of the Year” poll in 2013.

And though Windsor acknowledged having come out only “selectively” for most of her life, she contributed quietly to the LGBT movement prior to her lawsuit, and many media reports referred to her as the “matriach” of the LGBT civil rights movement.

In a posting on Facebook Tuesday evening, former President Barack Obama said he spoke with Windsor just a few days ago.

“Edie spoke up—not for special treatment, but for equal treatment,” wrote Obama, “so that other legally married same-sex couples could enjoy the same federal rights and benefits as anyone else.”

Windsor and Spyer’s relationship was the subject of a touching 2009 documentary, *Edie and Thea: A Very Long Engagement*, that has

won numerous awards. Born Edith Schlain to Jewish immigrants from Russia, she grew up in Philadelphia and first realized she was gay while attending Temple University. In the 1950s, at a time being gay was harshly stigmatized, she married a man and changed her last name to his, Windsor. The marriage was over within a year, and Windsor moved to New York and eventually became immersed in the gay community. She also earned a master’s degree in mathematics at New York University and landed a job working with computers for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and, then, as a computer programmer for IBM.

Windsor and Spyer began their relationship in the early 1960s and considered themselves married. Spyer eventually developed multiple sclerosis, and the couple registered as domestic partners when that became possible. As Spyer’s condition worsened, they decided to seek a marriage license in Canada. Spyer died two years later, in 2009.

Donations

A public memorial service for Windsor took place on Sept. 15. Windsor requested any donations in her memory be made to one of the following four LGBT organizations: The LGBT Center of New York, the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, the Hetrick-Martin Institute for LGBTQ youth, or SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment).



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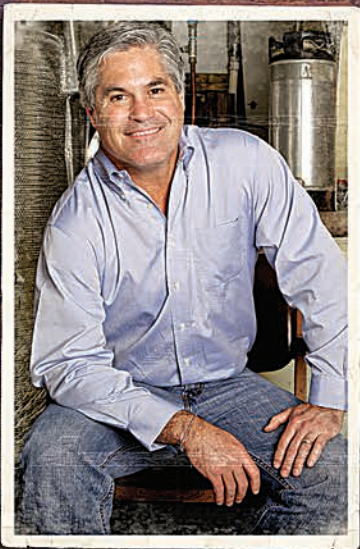
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The Gas-trophy of 911 Dating



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Connect with Charles Alexander at Charles@pridesource.org.



Viewpoint



Needed Now: Sustained, Patient, and Persistent Protests and Political Engagement

BY ERIC RADER

Elections have consequences. If the last eight months have not proven this adage to be true, nothing ever could. The United States is witnessing an incompetent and ultra-conservative administration, led by a man whose mental stability is in serious question, inflict damage on the American people every day.

During his campaign in 2016, candidate Donald Trump proclaimed that he would be better for the LGBT community than his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. It becomes clearer by the day that this statement was as false as so many others he's made.

Trump has no core convictions or principles, other than winning. As a New York businessman for many years, Trump had gay friends and associates in his circle. On a personal level, it is likely that Trump is not particularly opposed to rights for LGBT folks. However, when it comes to his actions in office, this president has been a disaster for our community. In

his normal cavalier manner, he announced via Twitter that he was rescinding former President Barack Obama's policy allowing transgender Americans to serve openly in the military. He has reversed the Obama administration's legal argument that federal civil rights protections against gender discrimination include LGBT citizens. Soon after taking office, Trump's Education Department reversed the Obama administration's order to public schools requiring they allow students to use the restroom that corresponds with their gender identity. The president appointed an anti-gay ideologue to the Supreme Court, filling the seat that opened under President Obama with a justice who will likely sit there for 25-30 years or longer. The Trump administration is filled with far-right religious fanatics who believe that there is something morally wrong with LGBT people.

See next page

One easy way to counter the Trump administration's noxious actions is to vote in upcoming elections. Far too many people do not participate in American democracy, leaving a vacuum into which charlatans like Trump can leap. Nonparticipation is part of the reason the president won Michigan in last year's election.

During last year's election campaign, Trump infamously held up an upside down rainbow flag in a futile effort to demonstrate his support for our community. In his toxic acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention in July 2016, Trump announced his support for the LGBT community, stumbling over the letters as if he were a young child learning his alphabet for the first time. For some moderates who were reticent to support an inconsistent and unpredictable candidate, Trump's "inclusion" of gay people in his first major speech was enough to convince them that he would not align with radical fundamentalist types in the GOP. Many others held their noses and voted for Trump, believing that his focus would be on dealing with the economic problems facing Michigan and many other states, even as the overall economy has improved. And of course, a significant number of Trump's supporters were bigots, fully expecting that he would cater to their racism, misogyny, homophobia, and transphobia.

A large number of voters could see Trump for who he has always been – an unprincipled bigot.

Unfortunately, the LGBT community is now a prime target of Trump's bigotry, which is being used for his own political expediency. Now the question is how our community should respond. One easy way to counter the Trump administration's noxious actions is to vote in upcoming elections. Far too many people do not participate in American democracy, leaving a vacuum into which charlatans like Trump can leap.

Nonparticipation is part of the reason the president won Michigan in last year's election.

While there are no federal elections in 2017, there are a host of local ones taking place in November. We all need to participate in these elections and ensure that equality can expand around our state. Heading into 2018 and beyond, we must continue to hold our leaders accountable. The Obama years saw great leaps forward in equality for the LGBT community. While some of these gains may be halted or even reversed under the Trump administration, the reality is that a majority of Americans now support equal rights for all of us. That means Trump and his coalition are on the wrong side of history, just as segregationists were in the 1950s and 1960s. The LGBT movement can learn from the efforts of the Civil Rights movement as we proceed in our own struggle to make our rights permanent. There will be setbacks in the coming few years, but they need not be irreversible. Sustained, patient, and persistent protests and political engagement is our best response to Trumpism. Work your tail off to elect candidates who will check Trump and get involved in our own civil rights movement. History shows that political engagement is the key to social progress, and this is a lesson we must learn and apply at this perilous time for our nation.

Eric Rader teaches political science at Henry Ford College and loves talking politics. You can connect with Eric at ewill4651@yahoo.com, or via Twitter @RaderEric.

Creep of the Week

Bob Marshall

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Well hell, if he has feet like a duck, quacks like a duck, and denies LGBTQ people their humanity, then he's a ducking bigot.

For a long time now we've been hearing about people terrified that they might share a public restroom with a transgender person out of fear that trans people will pee on them (that's the fear, right? I'm pretty sure I read that on World Net Daily). Now we've found someone terrified to share a stage with a transgender person.

Bob Marshall, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates (R-13th District), is running for reelection. His challenger, Democrat Danica Roem, is hoping to unseat Marshall, thus becoming Virginia's first openly transgender elected official.

Marshall, however, is basically pretending that Roem doesn't exist. He won't debate her at a candidate forum, he said, because he doesn't want to get called names.

You see, nasty LGBTQ advocates have taken to calling him "Bigot Bob."

According to the Washington Post, Marshall got this nickname "because of his sponsorship of a 'bathroom bill' that would have regulated transgender people's use of restrooms in government buildings. That measure was unsuccessful. Marshall also sponsored Virginia's constitutional amendment barring same-sex marriage – which stood until the U.S. Supreme Court declared such prohibitions unconstitutional."

Well hell, if he has feet like a duck, quacks like a duck, and denies LGBTQ people their humanity, then he's a ducking bigot.

But Marshall takes offense to the label. He tells the Prince Williams Times that it "is simply not correct" and chastises Roem for "hurling insults."

"In the same interview," the Times reports, "Marshall doubled down on calling Roem ... 'he.'"

"Why do you call Danica a female?" Marshall asked the Times reporter. "Did Danica's DNA change?"

Sick burn, bro. Like, seriously, your contempt for transgender people is sickening.

Then Marshall has the nerve to cry to the Washington Post about a "lack of civility."

"In the last few elections, there's been a distinct lack of civility," Marshall said.

"Prior to that, it wasn't so bad. You weren't automatically identified as a bigot, or a hater or anything like this. That has changed."

Yes, bigots being called out for their bigoted bullshit is a change. A refreshing one if you're a member of an oppressed minority in the United States. Maybe we have learned something from the election of Donald Trump, a white supremacist, misogynist, and LGBTQ foe. But if you're a straight white guy in America and being called "a bigot, or a hater" feels oppressive to you, well, it's literally the LEAST everyone else could do.

As an added bonus, the candidate forum Marshall is refusing to attend is hosted by the NAACP. I suspect that in addition to not wanting to have to treat a trans person like a human being in public, Marshall probably also has a problem with the NAACP, specifically that they're allowed to use the term "colored people" but he, a 73-year-old white man, isn't. Again, that's just a guess. I suppose we'll never know since he won't attend the forum.

According to the the Prince William Times, Roem and other Democrats are still planning on meeting with voters regardless. "I think it's a damn shame that he refused to debate, but we're going to do it anyway," Roem said.

Cosmopolitan magazine calls the fact that Roem is running against Marshall "cosmic poetry," and I have to agree. It would be a beautiful thing to see her unseat Bigot Bob.

"The message that I can succeed because of my gender, not despite it, because of who I am without being afraid of who I am is a human message," Roem told Cosmo.

To learn more about Danica Roem, who is endorsed by the Human Rights Campaign, Emily's List, and the Victory Fund, among others, and to throw a few bucks her way visit <http://danicaroom.ngpvanhost.com>. You can also follow her on Twitter @pwcandica.

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.

Hundreds more resources can be found at
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Former Secty. of Army Fanning Sounds Off on Trump's Transgender Ban

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Calling President Donald Trump's directives to ban transgender people from serving in the military "a betrayal" and "unpatriotic," former Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning has added his voice to a growing chorus of current and former military staff opposing the move.

"It's unprecedented to say to a group of people we see that you are there, you can serve openly," Fanning said Sept. 6 in an interview during the Michigan Response to Hate Conference in East Lansing. "And then to change our minds and say those people who have identified themselves we're kicking you out. It's completely a betrayal and it's unpatriotic in my view."

As the 22nd Secretary of the Army, Fanning oversaw a comprehensive review of transgender military service questions under the Obama administration. The review resulted in allowing transgender people to serve.

He called the roll out of the ban "confusing."

"Then when the president tweets this ban, first of all that's a confusing way for him to communicate with the military," he said. "We don't know: is that policy? is that guidance? Is it just what was on his mind in the morning when he woke up?"

Fanning also took issue with the costs Trump has claimed transgender servicemembers cost the U.S. military, noting the actual costs, according to a study by the Rand Corporation was a "fraction of what we spend on Viagra."

"There is absolutely analysis

whatsoever to support these crazy numbers we are getting about transgender service," he said.

He also trashed claims that allowing open trans service would somehow open the flood gates of transgender Americans entering the service. Current policy, he said, requires a person be stable in their gender for at least 18 months before they can join the military.

"I can't imagine a transgender American who needs to transition adding boot camp on top of that," he said.

Fanning was the first openly gay person ever appointed as a civilian leader of a U.S. military branch. He came from a military family, but because he was gay was unable to join. Instead he rose up the ranks first by serving as an aide in Congress then in various positions in the Pentagon. He was appointed to the post by President Barack Obama.

He was in Michigan to stump for Democrat Elissa Slotkin as she campaigns to challenge Republican Mike Bishop in the 8th Congressional District. He said Slotkin's service in the CIA and the Pentagon make her a good choice for Congress, noting that she knows how to build consensus.

"I could have used a lot more Elissas in Congress," he said, noting the acrimony that has marred Congressional action for nearly a decade.

While Secretary, Fanning also issued new rules on grooming for Muslims and Shiks serving in the Army. He said that was done because the military is at its best when it fully represents and looks like the country it is protecting.

But the military has a dark underside.

White nationalists have for years been infiltrating the services in order to garner military training which they then share with other members of the movement. The problem was first addressed under President Ronald Reagan. Then Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger issued rules prohibiting service by white nationalists. The issue flared up again in 1996 after the Oklahoma City bombing which was carried out by two Army veterans. And it's back in the news today following the Charlottesville Virginia protests last month.

"Absolutely we don't need to accommodate it, in the military or in society," he said of white nationalism. "I am like, most Americans, very alarmed by what I see, what I saw, in Charlottesville and thinking through what it is giving voice to that and what's making that group of people feel empowered to speak up and act as they are. It's absolutely not anything we should tolerate inside the military. In fact we do a lot to try to stamp it out."

Despite pushback on various civil rights related to diversifying the American military as "experimenting," he said it's important.

"I resist that as strongly as I can. I don't think equality, inclusion, opportunity are experiments, they're American values," he said. "But it is what keeps the fabric of the military strong. It's about respect for someone who wears the uniform. The uniform leadership drills that in. Every soldier wearing the uniform on your right or your left deserves your respect."

Corporal Dani Woods Honored with Spirit of Detroit Award

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

When Detroit Police Department's LGBTQ Liaison Officer Dani Woods received the Spirit of Detroit Award at the Detroit City Council meeting on Sept. 7, she said, "It was a total surprise. My wife called me and told me she was receiving an award and wanted me to come down to see her receive it, so as I'm sitting there getting my phone ready to take her picture and Assistant Chief Williams calls me to the front to present me with the Spirit of Detroit Award. My eyes were as large as the Simpsons (LOL). It was a humbling, yet appreciative moment."

The award was requested by Council



Dani Woods

"We are pleased to recognize Corporal Dani Woods with a Spirit of Detroit award for her leadership in building relationships between the Detroit Police Department and the LGBTQ community. Often, members of this community are victims of violence or abuse and because of their sexual orientation, they may be hesitant to report or prosecute the crime. Corporal Woods is opening these channels, while raising awareness and promoting respect for diversity and inclusion within the department."

Connect with Corporal Dani Woods on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dani.lgbt.liason.

President Brenda Jones, who explained why Corporal Woods was selected.



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Guide Helps Parents Recognize ‘Conversion Therapy’

WASHINGTON – On Sept. 11, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the nation’s largest LGBTQ civil rights organization, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights, a national legal organization committed to advancing LGBTQ equality since 1977, released *Just As They Are*, a comprehensive resource for parents on the harmful practice known as “conversion therapy.”

The guide helps parents recognize when and how conversion therapy is promoted, provides information about the dangers of the practice, and outlines best practices for parents seeking to promote the health and well-being of their LGBTQ child, including finding inclusive counseling services and churches. It features the voices of LGBTQ youth and young adults who have been subjected to this dangerous and debunked “therapy,” including Lynse, a gender non-binary and queer former congregant at Ted Haggard’s New Life Church, and Darren, a Black, gay, Christian man who once made his home in a church basement where he was forbidden from leaving without his pastor’s permission. Their stories highlight the devastating harm that conversion therapy, along with family and community rejection, can have on LGBTQ young people.

“Parents need and deserve information and guidance they can trust when they are helping their children navigate issues around their sexual orientation and gender identity, not discounted theories and dangerous so-called therapies,” said Mary Beth Maxwell, HRC Senior Vice President for Programs, Research and Training. “Even as more families within all faith communities open their hearts and embrace their LGBTQ loved ones, in too many homes across the country, LGBTQ youth continue to face rejection, bullying, and the harmful impacts of ‘conversion therapy.’ We must redouble our efforts to educate families and communities about the terrible dangers of efforts to change sexual orientation or gender identity and that is why we are proud to partner with NCLR to release *Just As They Are* - so that parents have the information and resources they need to protect the health and well-being of their LGBTQ children.”

“The American Psychological Association has linked so-called ‘conversion therapy’ to depression, substance abuse and even suicide, and these risks are particularly acute for youth,” said National Center for Lesbian Rights Youth Policy Counsel and Born Perfect Campaign Coordinator Carolyn Reyes. “That’s why *Just As They Are* is so critical. We need parents to know the signs, to recognize harmful and discredited conversion therapies, and understand the gravity of what’s at stake: the lives of our LGBTQ youth. All of our youth are born perfect.”

There is no credible evidence that conversion therapy can change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. To the contrary, research has clearly shown that these practices pose devastating health risks for LGBTQ young people such as depression, decreased self-esteem, substance abuse, homelessness, and even suicidal behavior. The dangerous practice is condemned by every major medical and mental health organization, including the American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, and American Medical Association.

The report came one day after World Suicide Prevention Day, when LGBTQ advocates raised the alarm that lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than their non-LGBTQ counterparts, and a shocking 41 percent of transgender adults report having attempted suicide, most before the age of 25.

NCLR and HRC have partnered with state equality groups across the nation to pass state legislation ending conversion therapy. Rhode Island recently became the eleventh jurisdiction – and the fourth state so far this year – to enact these crucially important protections. Connecticut, California, Nevada, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Oregon, Illinois, Vermont, New York, and New Mexico all also have laws or regulations protecting youth from this abusive practice.

To read *Just As They Are*, visit www.hrc.org/resources/just-as-they-are.

Trump Admin Comes Out Against Amendment Protecting Trans Troops

BY CHRIS JOHNSON,
WASHINGTON BLADE

The Trump administration has come out against an amendment proposed by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) that would undermine President Trump’s ban on transgender people in the U.S. armed forces.

A White House National Security Council spokesperson told the *Washington Blade* the administration opposes the amendment, which may be considered on the U.S. Senate floor this week as part of the fiscal year 2018 defense authorization bill.

“The administration opposes the Sen. Gillibrand amendment,” the NSC spokesperson said. “The president signed an EO tasking DOD with implementation.”

The White House referred the *Blade* to the Pentagon for more details, which reiterated in response to the amendment the process Defense Secretary James Mattis set up to examine Trump’s proposed transgender military ban.

“As directed, DoD will develop an 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,” Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Col. Paul Haverstick said.

The Gillibrand amendment, which is co-sponsored by Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), would mitigate the directive Trump sent to the Pentagon to ban transgender military service and has three parts.

It expresses the sense of Congress that qualified individuals should be able to serve in the armed forces; prohibits the military from discharging service members solely for being transgender; and codified the review Mattis established in June to determine whether openly transgender people can enlist in the armed forces. The amendment calls for a report to Congress on that study by Feb. 21.

It’s not clear whether the Gillibrand amendment will be allowed to come to a vote. On Tuesday, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer told reporters at his weekly press gaggle Senate leadership is still working on an agreement under which amendments will come up.

Senate Armed Services Committee Chair John McCain (R-Ariz.), who holds significant sway over consideration of the defense authorization bill, told the *Huffington Post* on Tuesday no

decision was made on the Gillibrand amendment.

“We’re working on it,” McCain is quoted as saying. “We’ve been talking for days.”

The Trump administration’s position is consistent with an email from the anti-LGBT Family Research Council urging supporters to contact their senators to oppose the amendment.

David Christensen, the Family Research Council’s vice president for government affairs, cites issues with privacy and cost of the transition-related care, making dubious estimates gender reassignment surgery would cost the U.S. military around \$3.7 billion over a 10-year period.

“Those suffering from gender dysphoria have a psychological and medical condition,” Christensen writes.

“Allowing people who identify as transgender to serve in the military, much-less be recruited for the military, will have a negative impact on readiness, recruitment and retention.”

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

HRC to Partner with Four Overseas LGBT Groups

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

The Human Rights Campaign on Monday announced it will partner with four LGBT advocacy groups around the world.

The organization will work with the Global Democracy Initiative in Georgia, Colors Rainbow in Myanmar, Kyrgyz Indigo in Kyrgyzstan and Ovejas Negras in Uruguay.

An HRC press release notes the groups are part of a program that “offers year-long capacity building and strategic planning partnerships to selected organizations that are working to improve the lives of

LGBTQ communities in their countries.”

“The goal of the program is to help strengthen the equality movement in each partner country through more effective advocacy, campaigning, organizing and outreach,” it reads.

HRC in its press release also said it will continue working with Consejo Consultivo LGBTI in Nicaragua, the Taiwan Tongzhi Hotline Association in Taiwan and SPoD in Turkey.

“HRC is honored to work alongside these amazing advocates and allies,” said HRC Global Director Ty Cobb. “Each of

these great organizations has an established track record in their countries of helping to better the lives of their LGBTQ communities.”

“We are excited to have the opportunity to share with them some of our organization’s knowledge, expertise and resources gained over our 30 years of experience and activism in the LGBTQ movement in the United States and around the world,” he added. “At the same time, we fully expect to learn even more from them as we embark on these longer term programs together.”

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.

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Before You Take That Next Bite: Can We Love Our Pets But Ignore Other Animal Rights?

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

We love our pets—the dogs, cats and other critter babies that bring so much joy to our homes. We watch them on videos, take them to work or daycare and according to the American Pet Products Association in 2015, spend an estimated \$60.59 billion a year for their case well-being and amusement. Despite our obvious love for all things pet, are we still guilty of species-ism?

Ask Liz Ross and the answer would be yes. She's a vegan. What's that? Many will answer "No meat. No dairy." Some might expand the definition to say it's a person who does not eat or use animal products. But for Ross, being a vegan goes beyond a dietary choice. Originally from Trinidad, Ross has lived many places but calls Los Angeles, California home. Ross is co-founder and director of Vegan Advocacy Initiative, formerly Coalition of Vegan Activists of Color, a woman-of-color-led non-profit organization. VAI is an animal advocacy and vegan food justice organization that creates events to encourage the public to consider a holistic way of thinking that upholds animal rights. Their initiatives also encourage others to view animal rights as part of the food justice and environmental justice movements to create more sustainable and fair systems.

She is also co-creator of the People of Color: Animal Rights, Advocacy and Food Justice Conference, which takes place in Los Angeles and is organized through VAI. This conference is the first-of-its kind in the U.S. that provides a platform for speakers of color who are leaders and activists in the animal rights, vegan outreach and food justice movement. I sat down with Ross to discuss her journey from deciding to "go vegan" to her work with the VAI.

Food can be really personal. For many people when they think about home, they think about food. What made you decide to become a vegan and how did that introduce you to animal rights?

The reasons I became vegan were two things. One was that someone planted a seed in my head when I was in college. I met a guy and we became friends. He was a vegetarian and talked about the conditions of the chickens on factory farms. They are so cramped that they have a pecking order so they end up attacking each other. It's a very stressful situation and it becomes very violent. So what the people in the factory farms do is that they actually cut their beaks. The other thing he talked about was that they fed them a lot of food to the point that they would eat and then throw up and eat and then throw up.

I've seen some video on those conditions. But it affects the workers too, right?

The factory farms are actually toxic for workers as well. The workers have to wear masks. The turnover is high and because many of these people obviously are poor or undocumented they don't have the power if they complain about an issue. They can be easily fired.

So you made the change right then. He must have been pretty persuasive.

He described all that to me but I actually wasn't even hearing it because I just thought he was a cool guy. I was listening to him but I was disconnected. I have memories of my mother taking me to a local slaughterhouse when I was 5. She would



literally point and say that's the chicken that I want. Then they would slit the chickens throat then gut the chicken, put it in a bag and we took it home for dinner.

So when did you go vegan?

It wasn't until I was actually living in South Florida for about eight years. I had gastric reflux disease, painful menstrual cramps and knee pain. And folks were like OK you're getting old and all that kind of stuff happens. And I thought to myself—I just started to visualize all the people in my family and around me who were over 50 in their '60s and '70s on medication and I thought to myself, "I don't want to be a person." So the way that came together was that I was cutting up a piece of chicken and the chicken leg was broken and I wondered if the chicken leg break occurred before she died or after she died. And that was when for the first time I actually started to visualize this living and breathing being with feelings. And that's when I had an aha moment.

It's really easy in these days of fast food, where we are so far away from the farm; where many have never been to a butcher to select that chicken or to a slaughterhouse; where for many it's a matter of going to the market and picking up the best priced package of food – it's really easy to forget the animals and what it they go through to put that meat on the table. So what is the role of Vegan Advocacy?

What we try to do in the advocacy initiative is we bring up these discussions among people of color. We had a conference

“I think it's important to connect with people where they are and then start talking about the systems of violence. When you look at these systems of oppression, you see a couple of things in common and that is that we are socialized to believe certain things on the basis of how the how we feel about certain groups that are actually not true.”

– Liz Ross

last year that was a huge success. It was the most diverse group of vegans ever seen in an environment of animal rights or vegan food justice environment. We basically provide a platform for vegans who are people of color, activists and doing work in these areas. And it was fantastic to hear how they went into their communities and had discussions with friends, family neighbors and the kinds of events that they have. You're reaching them where they are.

I think at the end of the day we want to explore the issue of us participating in a violent system. And also understanding that many of us actually mean well. We don't want to hurt animals. So why do we have a love of dogs and cats and will cry like babies if they're gone but we don't feel the same way for other sentient beings. Other animals. They care for their young. They feel pain. They feel joy.

I think it's important to connect with people where they are and then start talking about the systems of violence. When you look at these systems of oppression, you see a couple of things in common and that is that we are socialized to believe certain things on the basis of how the how we feel about certain groups that are actually not true.

So the difference is about our conditioning. We see that in all the other isms as well. It's about the conditioning, and I think once we start having discussions about the kinds of conditioning that makes us contradict our deep sense of compassion and fear. I think that's when we start to have real discussion as opposed to being judgmental and knowing that, like all the other isms, it's a process.

The second Vegan Advocacy Initiative conference will take place in Los Angeles Oct 21. Additional information about the conference and work of the VAI can be found at www.veganai.org. To hear the full interview with Liz Ross, listen to the "Collections by Michelle Brown" podcast on Blog Talk Radio, iTunes, Stitcher or SoundCloud.

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Keeping Your Dog's Headspace Healthy

BY AMY GARABEDIAN

September is Responsible Dog Ownership month. If you were to sign the AKC's responsible dog owner pet promise, one of the tenets you'd agree to would be this: I will ensure that the proper amount of exercise and mental stimulation appropriate for my dog's age, breed and energy level is provided.

What exactly is mental stimulation for a dog? Is a daily walk enough to satisfy this crucial and basic need? It's no surprise the promise includes exercise and mental stimulation in the same sentence.

Often, these go hand in hand. Taking your dog for a walk stretches their legs, true, but also gives them an opportunity to use their nose and investigate what the neighbor's doodle was up to this morning.

This is perhaps the simplest example, but there are many, many more. In fact, more 'dog sports' are being developed each year, which combine a dog's need for physical exertion with strengthening their mental muscles, too.

The types of activities, structured or otherwise, you can do with your dog are limitless, and they are necessary for a well-balanced dog. Like people, dogs can go a bit stir-crazy when left in

the house all day, for weeks at a time. And no, playing in the backyard doesn't cut it. Cabin fever, anyone? Having trained thousands of dogs over the past nine years, it's easy to see the pattern of fear aggression in poorly exercised dogs or dogs cooped up in the house all the time.

So what options are available to get your dog out and having some fun? The world of dog sports is wide. Lately, sports which may have been developed with a particular type of dog in mind are becoming more inclusive to other types of dogs. For example, lure coursing is a sport traditionally associated with sight hounds, like Greyhounds or Pharaoh hounds, dogs that are sheer grace in motion and very, very fast.

The "lure" is attached to the end of a preset course over a field, and the speed of the lure can be varied, depending on the dog chasing. Lure coursing taps into one of a dog's most basic instincts: chase. Sight hounds are fantastic at it, but St. Bernards love to run, too, even if they don't have the fastest time.

Other sports have done this same thing. A Beagle may be a superior tracker, but a Pit bull loves to use their nose, too. So tracking or barn hunt could be great options to try. Start with something you believe your dog may already have a natural inclination toward. Dog loves to

chase frisbees? How about disc dogs. Dog loves the water? Try dock diving or water rescue. Dog sports are accessible to all breeds, including our rescue friends of ambiguous origins. Any dog can register and compete in dog sports with the AKC, likely the largest sponsor of dog sporting events in our country. The only exception is conformation, reserved for purebreds, as the dogs are judged against a particular breed standard.

Getting started in dog sports is as easy as googling the sport of your choice, and finding events near you, or clubs which support their members in training for a particular sport. We're lucky in our area we have a very involved dog fancier community and plenty of opportunity.

If getting involved in dog sports seems overwhelming, providing mental stimulation for your dog can be simple. Not all activities with your dog need to be physical in nature to serve as mental stimulation, either. I'm involved with three of our dogs in therapy work. On the physical exertion scale, it's very small, but the girls love to get out of the house and get petted for an hour meeting new people. It's also a great choice for my older dog, who has limited physical opportunities.

In our puppy classes, we encourage owners of new puppies to teach tricks, but this applies to all dogs, at any age. At first it may seem superfluous, but teaching your dog anything, even give me your paw, stretches those mental muscles which are important for all dogs, but critical for high activity dogs more prone to anxiety like shepherds. In addition to tricks, simple games which encourage the dogs to use their nose to 'find it' for hidden treats are another example of providing mental stimulation to your dog, whether they are a Labrador or a Lhasa Apso.

Whether you begin with trying out a new sport or teaching roll over, start. Ultimately, you'll not only have a better bond with your dog, you'll have a better-adjusted, happier dog, too.

Go on. Go play with your dog.

Amy Garabedian is the co-owner of Sit Means Sit, Metro Detroit. In business since 2008, they specialize in happy, obedient dogs. More articles on the blog at MetroDetroit.SitMeansSit.com.

Dog Training from the Inside Out

BY CJ BENTLEY

If you share your life with a dog, you know the joy of receiving unconditional love. You know the comfort that comes from a furry head in your lap, and the fun of having a fetching buddy or a napping partner.

And...if you share your life with a dog, you probably also know a bit of frustration when your requests to "come inside" are ignored, or you're pulled down the street when a squirrel interrupts your peaceful stroll around the block.

Teaching dogs to behave is easy—and it's not. When it comes to dog training what's most important is your individual dog. There is no "one size fits all" in dog training. And that means just because a training technique worked for your neighbor or your coworker or your Aunt Martha—does not mean it will work for you.

And that's where Inside Out dog training comes in. To get your dog to behave on the outside—the behavior you see—you must first help him manage how he feels on the inside. For example: Let's say your dog walks along pretty well on a leash, until another dog comes into view. Then your mild-mannered pet becomes a lunging, barking lunatic who is difficult to control, frightens people and embarrasses you.

To change that behavior you have a couple of choices. One choice is to focus only on the outside behavior—the barking and lunging. To do that, you will probably employ some form of punishment. That means when your dog reacts inappropriately, something bad happens to him. As a result, your dog may then choose to behave—on the outside—to avoid being punished.

Your other choice is to focus on the inside of your dog—determine WHY your



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Lead Trainer at Canine College in Farmington Hills, Debbi Boynton, with Monkey, a 4 1/2 month old mix breed dog who is currently participating in the Puppy Development Program.

dog is misbehaving and deal with his emotions. Oftentimes when dogs bark and lunge at other dogs they do so out of fear or insecurity (yep, even if it looks and sounds nasty). For those dogs, if we are able to help them feel more comfortable around other dogs we will have a better behaved, calmer dog when other dogs are present.

Both methods can “work.” Its up to you, as your dog’s advocate, to determine which method makes you the most comfortable. The “outside” technique can yield a quicker response. That is, many dogs learn to behave “better,” more quickly because they fear being punished. The downside of that is your dog may still feel afraid or worried or frustrated. And in fact, his emotional discomfort may be made worse by adding the fear of being punished to the situation.

The “inside” technique takes longer, which is actually understandable. Your dog is a lot like you and it can take a bit of time to change his mind about how he feels. Imagine something you’re afraid of or uncomfortable with. What would it take to make you no longer

afraid? Some effort and time, right? But in the end you’d feel better, be more relaxed and behave with more confidence—all the extra time and effort would be worth it.

Helping dogs become more confident, calmer and focused pets is what training from the Inside Out is all about. It is a philosophy more and more pet parents are willing to invest in because they know they are helping their dogs to feel better and behave better—while at the same time strengthening their bond with their pet.

Sounds like a win-win-win.

CJ Bentley is the Dean of Canine College Honors Training Program, the Director of Behavior and Training for the Atlanta Humane Society and an instructor for Oakland University’s Animal Assisted Therapy online certificate course. For more information about training programs that feature the Inside Out philosophy, contact Canine College, 23717 Research Drive in Farmington Hills, at 248-427-8245 or visit <http://caninecollegemi.com>.



Five Signs Your Cat Isn’t Happy and Healthy

September is Happy Healthy Cat Month which begs the question, “Is your cat really happy and healthy?” Ask.Vet, a “virtual urgent care” service, has compiled five signs to figure out if your cat is happy and healthy.

Using the bathroom in inappropriate places.

If your cat isn’t consistently using her litter box, it’s a sign that she’s not stable in her routine and that could point to discontent or bad health.

Dropping food while eating.

If your cat drops food from her mouth frequently, it’s a sign something is wrong. Just like humans, eating should be a pleasure for your kitty.

Losing weight.

Irregularities in weight gain point to kitty discontent or sickness. Other signs include increased meowing and decreased appetite—your kitty is letting you know with her actions that something’s up.

Decreasing urination

It doesn’t just matter where your cat uses the bathroom, but also how frequently he uses it. If your cat isn’t urinating as much, he’s probably not hydrating effectively. Watch out for this sign of instability, especially if your cat is male.

Ceasing to groom

Is your cat’s coat rough or greasy? That means she stopped grooming herself. Since cats usually spend half their waking hours grooming, this is a major sign something is out of whack.

Ask.Vet is helping pet owners save thousands of dollars in vet expenses – and to keep their cats happy and healthy. Text licensed vets for answers to medically-related questions they have about their pets. For more information or to sign up to text a veterinarian, visit www.ask.vet/membership.



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Animal Shelters Seek Help in Hurricane Aftermath

BY BTL STAFF

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Humane Society of Midland County, Midland, 989-835-1877, www.hsomc.org

Harbor Humane Society, West Olive, 616-399-2199, www.harborhumane.org

Van Buren County Animal Control Office, Hartford, 269-621-4624
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Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit in Dearborn 313-943-2697
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Happy Days Dog & Cat Rescue in Livonia 248-479-5509
www.happydaysdogandcatrescue.org

New Hope Pet Rescue in Laingsburg 989-640-4709 (text only)
www.newhopepetrescue.org

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www.tcanimalsanctuary.com

Flint City Pits, flintcitypits@gmail.com, www.flintcitypits.com

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For those who want to help, but cannot adopt, donations can be made to these shelters online. In addition to adoption, the organizations are asking for help to house and foster the cats and dogs if possible.



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Lisa Schmidt & Benjamin Long

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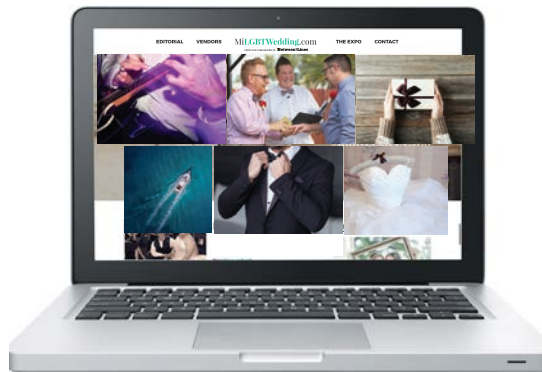


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OUR PETS

World-Record-Setting Cats Support Ferndale Rescue Efforts

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Farmington Hills couple Will and Lauren Powers recently announced some “awesome news” they had to wait over a year to share with the community. Their family cats Arcturus Aldebaran, a Savannah, and Cygnus Regulus, a Maine Coon, have each broken a Guinness World Record.

Arcturus is the tallest domestic cat, standing at 19.05 inches (48.4cm) and Cygnus – known as the “Featherduster” or “Door draft blocker” – has the longest tail measured to be 17.58 inches (44.66cm). They are both listed in the official 2018 Guinness World Record book as well as the 2018 Guinness Amazing Animals book.

The official vet measurements were done by Caitlin Szurek, DVM of Animal Kingdom Veterinary Clinic in Ann Arbor, according to Will Powers’ Facebook page. Will wrote that each cat holds both the “Ever” and “Living” records also.

“Even crazier,” wrote Will, “is that these records have stood for a very long time and each cat broke their record at only slightly over one year old. Since that time they have continued to grow and their height and tail length is far more than it was when we first measured them. They still aren’t even full grown now. If the records ever get challenged we will remeasure them and take them back. They are now vastly beyond their original records and continue to grow even more.”

Will attributes the health of his cats to a non-traditional diet, which he shares with his followers on Facebook at <http://gaybe.am/z0>.

“The probability of one family having two separate all time world records on two totally different unrelated animals of different breeds is astronomically small. However it was no accident,” he wrote on Facebook. “Despite the popular method of the ‘Organic/Raw/All-Natural’ diet recommended nowadays, our boys were raised on GMO-ridden, synthetic, chemical-based diets that I designed for them to eat since kittenhood. I admit this because natural is not always better. We’re super pro-science people. Both Lauren and I are doctors, and biochemistry, healthy eating, and real hardcore evidence-based science is in our blood.”

Arcturus – who weighs about 30 pounds and eats around a pound and a half of food daily – was bred by Stacey Dallas of Starfell Savannahs in



Will and Lauren Powers own two unrelated cats that have broken Guinness World records this past year. The cats will be doing meet and greets, signing “pawtographs”, to support the Ferndale Cat Shelter.



Traverse City. (He’s the son of Myst and Dream). Cygnus was bred by Katherine Greenman of Wildchild Maine Coons in Jackson. Cygnus is named for Regulus Rigel, the Powers family cat who died from nasal cancer at the age of 7, right after getting Arcturus as a kitten.

“Arcturus was so incredibly high energy that Sirius was having a hard time with him (besides being really depressed at the death of his brother),” said Will. “We got a kitten (Cygnus) for our kitten so that they could all be happy.”

Giving Back

Expect both cats to be doing meet and greets in the coming weeks, signing “Pawtographs” and taking selfies in exchange for donations for the Ferndale Cat Shelter where Will is the current president.

“They’ve raised thousands for underprivileged Detroit cats. The titles are only going to help us more with that,” said Will, noting that Sirius Altair was given a better life because of the “incredibly hard work” done by the local rescue in Ferndale.

“Sirius doesn’t have any world records, but he’s a wonderful rescue cat I’ve had for almost a decade,” he said. “He sleeps between us every night, and is the most affectionate cat I’ve ever seen.”

Check out the Powers family cats on their Instagram page online at [Instagram.com/starcats_detroit](https://www.instagram.com/starcats_detroit). Learn more about the Ferndale Cat Shelter at <http://ferndalecatshelter.org>.



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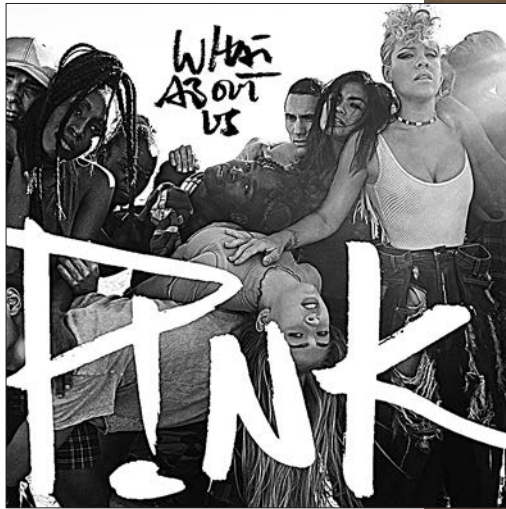
11 Tunes to Keep You Calm, Collected and Engaged In Our Current Political Climate

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

The resistance is in full swing, with late-night talk show hosts railing against Donald Trump's total incompetence as president and oppressed communities uniting to rally for equality. But they're not the only ones giving freedom, fairness and unconditional-love-for-all a voice as this current administration continues to roll back to medieval times – powerful anthems and hopeful paeans to keep the momentum going no matter how world-weary we may get are coming from all sides, *many* sides. So, next time you find yourself falling down the dark, divisive abyss of state-of-the-world despair, crank up one of these pick-me-ups – from Pink's new rally cry "What About Us" to Miguel's powerful Black Lives Matter anthem – and pull yourself up and out. We need you.

Tori Amos, 'Bang'

"Bang," from Amos' new album and most political to date, "Native Invader," confronts political hot topics head on – no fake news here. But somehow, while ripping into the White House's white politics



Pink, 'What About Us'

Just days after Heather Heyer was killed for standing up against hate-spewing white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, Pink's call-to-action video for the first single from her upcoming album, "Beautiful Trauma," was chillingly art imitating life, the rich choreography mirroring the emotional fervor resulting from minority persecution. No stranger to political smackdowns – Pink's "Dear Mr. President" slammed George W. Bush – pop's fearless rebellion doesn't shy from cutting remarks about our new non-leading leader ("You sold us down the river too far"). Feeling duped, she scolds, "Enough is enough," before taking the impassioned track's melancholic and Trump-confronting lyrics to the frontlines of freedom: "It's the start of us waking up... are you ready? I'll be ready." The answer is: Yes, Pink, we're ready.

and acknowledging Trump's failed ban on immigrants ("that's who we all are"), the equal-rights advocate and outspoken feminist takes a break from the broken world to find stillness and beauty in a shooting star, an offering of much-needed healing. Her sage advice is to "out-create," but finding that star can't hurt.

Kesha, 'Woman'

You don't have to be a woman to enjoy the hell out of Kesha's raw, lit ode to all the (single) ladies of the world. "I'm a motherfucking woman, baby, that's right," she defiantly roars, wielding themes of self-love, individuality and getting your own weed while sticking it to the patriarchy over a saucy brass track sure to put pig-headed men in their place. Take heed all you nasty women... and nasty men who love those women to pieces.



Pink. Photo: Ryan Aylsworth

Tyler Glenn, 'Devil' and 'John, Give 'Em Hell'

During "Devil," a bit of hard-earned joy from Tyler Glenn's "Excommunication" album, the Neon Trees frontman casts a side grin at the religious right when he says, "I think the devil made me," before acknowledging that abandoning the Mormon Church permitted him to fully accept himself as a gay man. Much like "John, Give

'Em Hell," written for John Dehlin, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints who was excommunicated from the church in 2015, it's hopeful and nurturing.

Lana Del Rey, 'Change'

Never the optimist, the brooding singer-songwriter felt her latest album, "Lust for Life," was not complete without one last song...

and it's hopeful? Indeed, it is; that song is the brighter-days rumination "Change," wherein Del Rey is all of us, except with a pretty piano melody that you'll want to loop until a real leader can actually fulfill his promise of making America great.

Beyoncé, 'Freedom'

Is there anything more Beyoncé than Beyoncé serving womanly

willpower while refusing to bend to her oppressors? “Freedom,” an explosive “Lemonade” touchstone, is the thunder during the storm, marching on like a modern-day civil-rights anthem and featuring a fiery rap from Kendrick Lamar. Freedom fighters, get in formation.

cupcakKe, ‘LGBT’

You can count on Chicago-based rapper cupcakKe’s ally anthem “LGBT” to keep you feeling fierce. Her rainbow-flag-waving celebration of all things queer comes at you fast and hard with a bangin’ bassline and the perfect sentiment for anyone who dares mess with the spitfire’s underdogs: “Fuck out my way when you see me, I’m rollin’ with the LGBT.”

Miley Cyrus, ‘Inspired’

When you’re not coming at Trump’s America like a wrecking ball, take a deep breath and let Adult AF Miley inspire your queerness by sheer example. While seeking answers to questions that seem unanswerable and finding refuge in happy memories with her father, Cyrus also reminds us all that just merely being ourselves can turn the tide: “Pull the handle on

the door that opens up to change, I know that sounds so strange, ‘cause you’ve always felt so small, but know you aren’t at all.”

Miguel, ‘How Many’

You know that prayer-hand emoji “do-gooders” post to their socials as if that’s the answer to hurricane relief and equality? R&B singer Miguel denounces said futile sentiments on “How Many,” a powerful protest song instilling sense and ownership into those blind to this country’s troubling race problem.

Andra Day, ‘Rise Up’

Andra Day has the right idea: “We’ll rise up in spite of the ache.” During the global women’s march in January and a Muslim-travel-ban march shortly thereafter and every Black Lives Matter march, we have; and with this soaring soul ballad offering mountain-moving fortitude, we will continue to rise and resist.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Sep. 21

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

Saturday, Sep. 23

Smeared Lipstick 3 p.m. A discussion group for self identified feminine lesbian women to identify issues specific to them. The group also does a monthly community service project to increase their visibility in every community. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

LezRead 4 p.m. Email Kerene Moore to join Ann Arbor's premier book club for lesbians. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. kerenem@jimtoycenter.org www.jimtoycenter.org/

Meet & Greet with Dana Nessel, Democratic Candidate for Attorney General 5 p.m. RSVP by Sept. 21 Maggie Lourdes, 3625 Napier Rd., **Superior Township**. maggielourdes@aol.com

Men's Discussion Group 6 p.m. Movie night Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

45th Anniversary Event 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$60 MCC Detroit, 17100 Laurel Park Drive North, **Livonia**. www.mccdetroit.org/

MCC Detroit 45th Anniversary Event 6:30 p.m. Featuring the Dynamic Duo Duelling Pianos Singalong and music provided by DJ Quinnetta Burke. Tickets: \$60, which must be purchased by Labor Day. MCC Detroit, 17100 Laurel Park Drive North, **Livonia**. www.mccdetroit.org/

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

Sunday, Sep. 24

Meet & Greet with Dana Nessel, Democratic Candidate for Attorney General 12 p.m. Hear how Fair Michigan is responding to the challenges to LGBT equality in Michigan and how faith communities can play a role in meeting those challenges. Fortunate Families, 20800 Grand River at Burt Road, **Detroit**. 313-670-2613. lindakarle@earthlink.net www.fortunatefamiliesdetroit.com/events

Gay Subtext Book Club 2 p.m. Email for more information. Gay Subtext Book Club, 610 Woodmere Ave., **Traverse City**. gaysubtext@gmail.com www.tcpolestar.org/

Transcend 4 p.m. For transgender and gender non-conforming individuals OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.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. 25

Department of Victim Services Open Office Hours 11 a.m. Contact Genny Maze, lead advocate, or Jeynce Poindexter, transgender advocate at jpoindexter@equalitymi.org, to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome. Equality Michigan, 121 S. Garfield Ave. Suite A, **Traverse City**. 866-962-1147. gmaze@equalitymi.org www.tcpolestar.org/

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/

T-Time 6 p.m. Social gathering every fourth Monday of the month where trans folks can meet in a safe space. FtM A2 Ypsi, 307 N. River St., **Ypsilanti**. www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/

FtM Detroit Support Group 7 p.m. Support is limited to transmasculine, AFAB people who no longer identify as female, or are questioning, and their guests. FtM Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. ftmdetroit@gmail.com

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.OLonline.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. 26

International Aids Society Conference Update 6:30 p.m. RSVP to email. Presenter: Dr. Paul Benson Be Well Medical Center, 27351 Dequindre, **Madison Heights**. 2485449300. research@doctorbellow.com

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

Addiction 101 7:30 p.m. Presented by Jim Balmer; President, Dawn Farm. Learn about addiction as a brain disease, and recovery. Free, open to all. Dawn Farm, 5305 Elliott Drive, **Ypsilanti**. 734-485-8725. info@dawnfarm.org www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series

Wednesday, Sep. 27

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

Health Care Town Hall 2 p.m. Michigan citizens will have the opportunity to have their questions answered and learn how to protect their health care. Northern Macomb and Clinton Township Democratic Parties and Congressman Sander Levin (D-Royal Oak), 40900 Romeo Plank Rd., **Clinton Township**. www.michigandems.com

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.

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, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. www.grpride.org

Thursday, Sep. 28

45+ Club 12 p.m. Activity and community

Editor's Pick

Bird Show

The Society of Canary and Finch Breeders of Michigan will host a bird show from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Oct. 21 at the Livonia Elks Lodge #2246, 31117 Plymouth Road in Livonia. The show features member and exhibitor sale birds, a silent auction, raffle, 50/50 and concessions. Non-exhibitor show admission is \$4. Exhibitor entries on Oct. 20 are from 5-9 p.m. and on Oct. 21 from 7-9 a.m. American Singers must enter on Oct. 20. For more information, visit www.scfbmichigan.com.



Editor's Pick

Ann Arbor Dog Walking Academy

This dog-friendly event will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Oct. 13-15 at LaQuinta Inns & Suites, 30847 Flynn Dr. in Romulus. The intensive three-day workshop, sponsored by dog*tec, leads to professional dog walking certification. Graduates come away fully equipped to start a dog walking business—or advance an existing one. Admission is \$850. Call 510-525-2547 or email info@dogtec.org for more information.



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 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

LGBTQ Youth Meeting 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. michael@kgfrc.org www.outfrontkzoo.org

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. www.goaffirmations.org

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. 29

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

Saturday, Sep. 30

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

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

Open LGBT AA Meeting 11 a.m. Grace Episcopal Church, 341 Washington St., **Traverse City**. 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 www.goaffirmations.org

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

Men's Discussion Group 6 p.m. Topic: Death penalty Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

GLBT AA 8 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. www.jimtoycenter.org

MUSIC & MORE

Michigan Theater "Art House Theater Day" Gift card raffle, swag, Zingerman's Concessions & More!. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., **Ann Arbor**. Sep. 24. 7346688397. michigantheater.org

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

Cabaret 313 "Carmen Cusack" Use "Pride" code to save 10 on General Admission Tickets to the 2nd Performance only. Players Club Playhouse, 3321 E. Jefferson, **Detroit**. Sep. 23 - Sep. 23. 3134055061. cabaret313.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Strange Beautiful Music 10 Feat. New Music Detroit" Tickets start at \$15. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, **Detroit**. 2 a.m. Sep. 24. 3135765111. www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4561&prod=4556

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Strange Beautiful Music 10 Feat. New Music Detroit" Tickets start at \$15. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, **Detroit**. 5 p.m. Sep. 22. 3135765111. www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4518&prod=4517

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Strange Beautiful Music 10 Feat. New Music Detroit" Tickets start at \$15. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, **Detroit**. 2 p.m. Sep. 23. 3135765111. www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4555&prod=4553

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

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/

ferndalediy.com/

THEATER

Sister Act Tickets \$23-26.50. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, **Royal Oak**. Through Oct. 1. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

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

Professional

Evil Dead: The Musical Tickets: \$30. Sweat Equity Studio and Olympia Entertainment, City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. Sep. 28 - Oct. 28. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

God of Carnage by Yasmina Reza Purple Rose Theatre Company, Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., **Chelsea**. Through Oct. 29. 734-433-7673. www.purplerosetheatre.org

The Rocky Horror Show Tickets: \$25 on Friday and Saturday. \$10 on Monday. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., **Ferndale**. Sep. 29 - Oct. 30. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

The Taming Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, **Williamston**. Sep. 21 - Oct. 22. 5176557469. www.williamstontheatre.org

ART 'N' AROUND

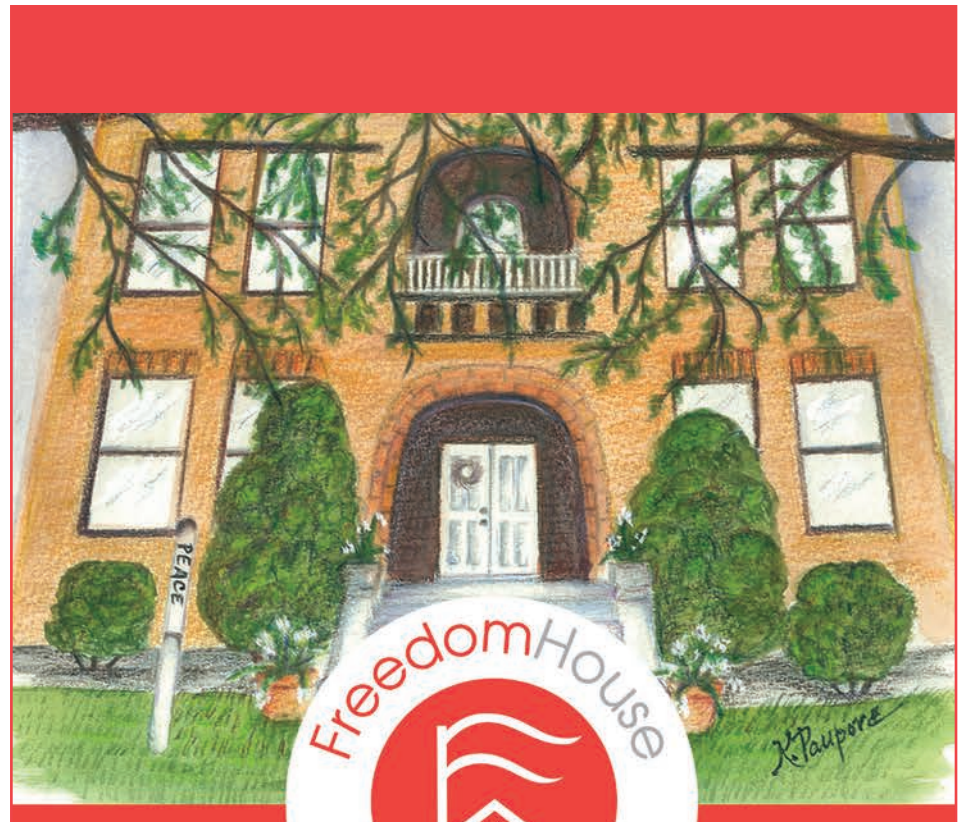
Affirmations "Remix Reframe: the Work of Aimee Michele Coldren" Opening reception Aug. 3 at 7 p.m. Pittman-Puckett Gallery, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. Aug. 3 - Sep. 30. www.goaffirmations.org

DIA "Art of Rebellion: Black Art of the Civil Rights Movement" Explore powerful artworks by African American artists who formed collectives during the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s and '70s. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., **Detroit**. July 23 - Oct. 22. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Size Matters" Big and small works from the FIA Collection Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., **Flint**. Sep. 16 - Dec. 30. 8102341695. flintarts.org

Flint Institute of Arts "Art on Tap" Tickets: \$35-50. Enjoy more than 100 craft beers, delicious cuisine from The Palette Cafe, live music by the Genesee Ramblers, a silent auction and incredible glassblowing demonstrations. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., **Flint**. 6 p.m. Sep. 23. 810-234-1695. <https://flintarts.org/events/special-events/beer-tasting>

Lawrence Street Gallery "Sherry Adams Foster - Play of Light" Opening Reception is Sept. 8 from 6-9 p.m. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Avenue, **Ferndale**. Aug. 30 - Sep. 29. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com



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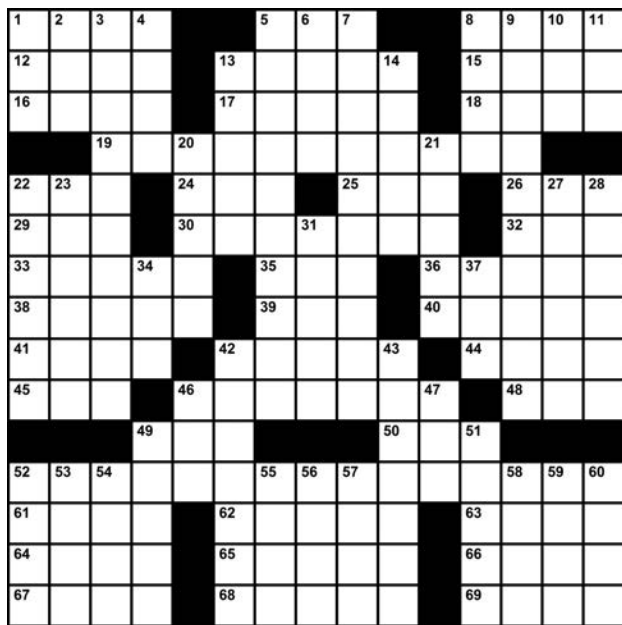
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Q Puzzle



Beyond Great

Across

- 1 "Mommie Dearest" star Dunaway
- 5 U. of San Francisco, e.g.
- 8 Second fruit eater
- 12 Julia of "Kiss of the Spider Woman"
- 13 Deep throat problem
- 15 Manger, to Mary
- 16 Potatoes high in sugar
- 17 "___ Family"
- 18 CrÈme-crÈme filling

- 19 Start of a motto that goes beyond great
- 22 Pigpen
- 24 The Eagle, to NASA
- 25 What Tim might call Tyne
- 26 Legislators in O. Wilde's land
- 29 Suffix with honor
- 30 Letter from St. Peter, for one
- 32 Flick it
- 33 Riyadh resident
- 35 Sgt. Perry Watkins, e.g.
- 36 Overdo it, on Broadway
- 38 Start of the source of the

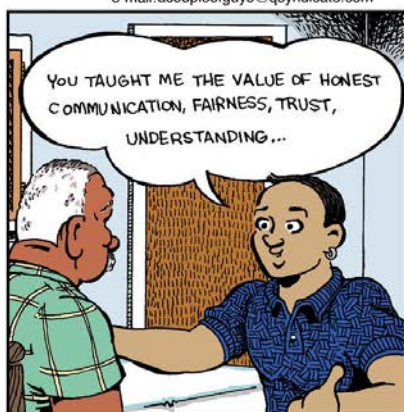
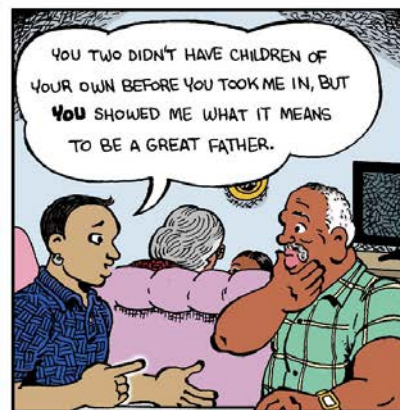
- motto
- 39 More of the motto
- 40 End of the motto
- 41 Frequent award for "Modern Family"
- 42 "Congratulations!"
- 44 Leave as is
- 45 Oral input
- 46 Front of a vehicle for visiting Uranus
- 48 Snake sound
- 49 When repeated, a Cole Porter musical
- 50 "South Park's" Big Gay and others
- 52 End of the source of the motto
- 61 Where Ohio ferries may travel
- 62 "Lover's Rock," for Sade
- 63 Like a Robert Mapplethorpe photo
- 64 Head honcho
- 65 Some people make it in bed
- 66 Word before "me" in a taunt
- 67 They crawl around your mound
- 68 "Horny" one at a gay rodeo
- 69 Starchy veggie

Down

- 1 Cook bacon
- 2 Sex toy battery size
- 3 Response to a Susan Feniger meal
- 4 Poet Gidlow
- 5 Becoming outraged about Trump, e.g.
- 6 Hit the books hard
- 7 Toaster's opening
- 8 Bi

- 9 Good-looking guys and dolls
- 10 'ard rain, to Eliza Doolittle
- 11 Some degree of control
- 13 Check for electronic bugs
- 14 Unsafe sex, e.g.
- 20 Calvin of underwear
- 21 "___ little silhouette of a man ..."
- 22 Beauty queens wear them
- 23 Condition after getting cold-cocked
- 27 Feels sorry for
- 28 CK One and such
- 31 Loads
- 34 Frequent Hudson costar
- 37 Sports cars
- 42 Dorothy and Auntie Em, for example
- 43 "Jailhouse Rock" setting
- 46 Grizabella of Broadway, for one
- 47 Lilly, the drug maker
- 49 Game with men that are queens
- 51 Penetrates
- 52 "Queen of Country" McEntire
- 53 Club for Patty Sheehan
- 54 Signorile's column, with "The"
- 55 Become solid, like cream
- 56 Village Voice award
- 57 Jane Siberry's "I ___ Aloud"
- 58 Vacation journey
- 59 Caesar's last question
- 60 Ogled a hottie in a bar, e.g.

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com



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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Cara Delevingne lines up 'Carnival Row'

She's still less known as an actress than as a model – we just saw her in the pages of the new September issue of "Vogue" over our morning tea, honestly – but really that's not Cara Delevingne's



fault. The bisexual actress was a charming presence in the indie "Paper Towns," and you can't blame her for the disastrous one-two box office failures of "Valerian and The City of a Thousand Planets" and "Tulip Fever" (both still in theaters now if you hurry). And the camera, obviously, loves her. So it's good news to us that she's just signed on to star in the new Amazon series, "Carnival Row," alongside Orlando Bloom. The show is described as a fantasy noir that takes place in a neo-Victorian city populated by mythical creatures, and Delevingne will play a fairy-like refugee named Vignette Stonemoss. And why not? We saw the giddily strange "Valerian," and "Carnival Row" will have to work overtime to be as wildly fantastical as that one, so we're not even a little shocked by any of these details. Most of all, we're glad to see this currently underrated performer get more screen time.

'The Wedding' tackles conservative religious culture

Nikohl Boosheri is one to watch. Currently the Persian Canadian actress is making a name for herself playing a headstrong Muslim lesbian artist on Freeform's series "The Bold Type." She also starred in the 2011 indie "Circumstance," as an Iranian teenager exploring queer sexuality, among other taboos. And now she's involved with filmmaker Sam Abbas for his debut feature, "The Wedding." Abbas wrote the screenplay, and is also directing and starring in the story of a young Muslim man who is also exploring queer sexuality in strict conservative religious and cultural environment. And while Abbas is the ringleader of this project, we have to admit that Boosheri's rising star and LGBTQ-centric career path to date has us especially intrigued to know where she'll go next. The film also stars Israeli actress Ruba Blal ("Sand Storm,"

"The Bubble") and filming is underway. Look for "The Wedding" at your nearest queer film festival, most likely in 2018.

Andre Leon Talley gets his own documentary, thank god

In the documentary, "The September Issue," Andre Leon Talley is the imposing arbiter of taste who shouts, "There is a famine of beauty!" while Vera Wang sits next to him and holds up her hand to testify to his truth. It's a scene everyone should watch over and over daily, and if you don't do that then there's probably something wrong with you. The man needed his own documentary, though, because his importance in fashion and queerness in general is not to be underestimated. And that's why we're thrilled to announce the premiere of "The Gospel According to Andre," taking place at the Toronto International Film Festival as we speak. The film will cover the life and work of one of fashion's most vibrant stylists and "Vogue" personalities – where he worked for years alongside the legendary Diana Vreeland and then Anna Wintour – before becoming the fiercest of judges on "America's Next Top Model." After its Toronto bow, please wait breathlessly for its general release to theaters, and when it arrives, wear an enormous brocade cape as you walk up to the box office for your ticket. That's how it's done.

Freddie Mercury biopic rounds out cast

At long last, after so many fits and starts, they're calling the Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody," and gay director Bryan Singer will steer the ship. Critically acclaimed "Mr. Robot" star Rami Malek will play Mercury, and his bandmates in Queen will be UK actors Gwilym Lee, Joseph Mazzello and "X-Men Apocalypse" star Ben Hardy. But we'd be lying if we weren't even a little more excited about the latest cast addition, Allen Leech. Leech, you will recall if you were even half a fan of "Downton Abbey," played the sexy, Socialist chauffeur who married his way into the aristocracy on that series. And he did the most shirt-take-offing of any man in the cast, which is always important. In "Rhapsody" he'll play a much less sympathetic character: Mercury's manager, Paul Prenter, whose place in Queen history involves him having been paid to out Mercury's HIV status to British tabloids. The story may be tragic, but we're anxiously anticipating this one all the same. It's currently still in pre-production, so fingers crossed for a 2018 release.

Romeo San Vicente's has, in fact, been a bed of roses and a pleasure cruise.

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Henry Ford Hospital Earns Honors as a Top Nurse Employer in Michigan

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT – Nurse.org, the web’s leading career site for nurses, has recognized Henry Ford Hospital as one of the best hospitals for nurses to work for in Michigan. Over the past two years, Nurse.org has collected more than 1,411 reviews by nurses at 125 Michigan hospitals about their workplace satisfaction. Reviews in Michigan state have revealed that Henry Ford Hospital has one of the highest levels of satisfaction among its nurses.

Reviewers cited approachable managers, friendly staff, and opportunities to advance as the basis for the 4.2 star rating with 97 percent of the nurses surveyed recommending the hospital as an employer.

Nurse.org’s Product Manager, Phillip Lee, congratulated Henry Ford Hospital on this achievement saying, “We’re excited to be able to recognize Henry Ford Hospital for their excellent work environment. After surveying over a thousand nurses in Michigan, our data showed that Henry Ford Hospital ranked in the top 6 percent of hospitals in Michigan for work satisfaction among nurses.”

Nurse.org provides a safe platform on which nurses leave honest workplace reviews. Completely anonymous nurses share their opinions about culture, nurse-to-patient ratios, and other matters important to them.

Making the list of top hospitals shows the facility is focused on nurse satisfaction. Nurse recruitment – a challenge today – becomes easier when the hospital can demonstrate its commitment to nurses by pointing to an unbiased source.

The full rankings of the Best Hospitals in Michigan for Nurses is available to view at <http://nurse.org/articles/best-hospitals-michigan>. To see all of the Henry Ford Hospital reviews, see their facility page on Nurse.org.

National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month: Learn the Four Symptoms to Watch For

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING - In Michigan in 2017, it is estimated there will be 790 cases diagnosed, and 500 women will die from ovarian cancer. September is National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and while ovarian cancer does not have a screening test and can be difficult to detect early, there are four symptoms that women should be on the lookout for.

Studies have shown that ovarian cancer is not silent, but the warning signs are subtle. Ninety percent of women with ovarian cancer do report symptoms, even at the early stages. Four symptoms in particular have been found to occur most often.

If any of these symptoms are new and unusual and occur at least 12 times in one month, see a doctor, preferably

a gynecologist: significant bloating, pelvic and abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, and urinary symptoms such as feelings of frequency or urgency. Behaviors which may decrease the risk of ovarian cancer include: use of oral contraceptives (birth control pills), the surgical removal of fallopian tubes and/or ovaries, and breastfeeding.

Additionally, several factors may increase the risk of ovarian cancer:

- Personal or family history of ovarian, breast, uterine, or colorectal cancer. About 20-25 percent of ovarian cancer is hereditary. Any female who has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer should be referred to a genetic counselor.

- Increased number of menstrual cycles in a lifetime (never had children, late menopause, etc.)

- Infertility, regardless of whether or not fertility drugs were used.

- Use of Hormone Replacement Therapy.

- Increasing age, although ovarian cancer affects all ages and all ethnic groups.

- Obesity, like many health conditions, can contribute to one’s risk of ovarian cancer.

Because there is no screening test, only 10 to 15 percent of ovarian cancers are diagnosed early when treatment is most effective. Knowing your body and what symptoms to watch for is vital to detecting ovarian cancer as early as possible.

For more information about ovarian cancer, click here or visit www.michigan.gov/cancer.

Fortunate Families Detroit Hosts Dana Nessel

BY BTL STAFF



On Sept. 24 Fortunate Families Detroit welcomes Dana Nessel, president of Fair Michigan and one of the premier litigators of LGBTQ issues in the state who has recently announced her candidacy for Attorney General of Michigan. Fortunate Families are Catholic families with LGBTQ loved ones who support and advocate for the LGBTQ community. They are supported by Christ the King Parish in Detroit which identifies as a welcoming Catholic parish for LGBTQ

people and their families. The community is invited to join them to hear how Fair Michigan is responding to the challenges for LGBTQ equality in the state and how faith communities can play a role in meeting those challenges.

The event from 12-2:30 p.m. is located at Christ the King Church on 20800 Grand River at Burt Road in Detroit. For more information, call 313-670-2613, email lindakarle@earthlink.net or visit www.fortunatefamiliesdetroit.com/events.



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Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit; A Diverse, Inclusive, Christian church serving the LGBTQ and Ally community since 1972.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Emerge Michigan Seeks 2018 Class of Aspiring Women Political Leaders

BY BTL STAFF

DETROIT - Emerge Michigan, the state's premier organization for recruiting and training Democratic women to run for political office, has begun its recruiting process for the class of 2018. The organization seeks bright, self-motivated Democratic women who are committed to effective and ethical political leadership. The multi-part application process, which includes submission of a resume and several short essays followed by an interview, will remain open from now until Nov. 10.

"Emerge Michigan is excited to begin accepting applications for our third class of aspiring women leaders," said Beth Kelly, executive director of Emerge Michigan. "Our organization is committed to selecting exceptional applicants who will seize on political opportunities once they are given the skills and tools necessary to run an effective campaign. This recruitment process is a vital part of identifying those women and putting them on a path to success."

Emerge Michigan's training program offers Democratic women who want to run for public office a unique opportunity. Women who are accepted receive 70 hours of in-depth education over six months that inspires them to run for office and gives them the tools to win. The program's trainers are comprised of an elite team of campaign consultants, advisors and staff from all over the country who have been involved in some of the most successful campaigns and initiatives seen in recent election cycles. Participants learn from these experts and develop practical knowledge in areas such as public speaking, fundraising, campaign strategy, voter contact, media and messaging and others. Candidates also meet an array of dynamic women who hold elected and appointed office and become a part of a supportive network, which includes a national association of

Emerge alumnae, the Emerge board and advisory council members.

"Despite making some gains over the last decade, women are still extremely under-represented in our decision-making bodies at every level of government," said Kelly. "At this rate, it'll be almost a century before we achieve equal representation in our government. That's just not fast enough. At Emerge Michigan, we're tackling this problem head on by providing the aspiring female leaders of today with cutting-edge tools and training to run for elected office and elevate themselves in our political system. Our work is having



a direct positive impact on the number of women who are choosing to jump into the political arena and are ready to win."

Michigan ranks 27th in the country in terms of women's representation in elected positions. Women make up a mere 23.6 percent of the state legislature. There are only four women in the Michigan State Senate and 15 Democratic women out of the 110 members in the House. Emerge Michigan is working hard to improve these numbers by recruiting, training and supporting Democratic women to give them the critical skills,

confidence and network they need to run for office and win.

"After years of development on both the national and state levels, we know that our training program gives women the practical knowledge they need to run for elected office and win," said Kelly. "Emerge Michigan is committed to changing the face of politics in Michigan and the entire nation. All we need now is for the right women to step forward."

From their applicants, Emerge Michigan will select between 20 and 25 women who have the most potential to become political leaders. Criteria for selection include: evidence of political

leadership experience or potential, meaningful involvement in workplace or community, interest in pursuing political office, demonstrated ability to bring together disparate groups to achieve a goal, ability and desire to build effective networks, ability to articulate a personal political vision, demonstrated ability

to inspire others and commitment to full participation and attendance requirements of the trainings. Emerge Michigan will only accept Democrats into the program. Women of all ages, races, nationalities, marital status, religious affiliations, sexual orientations and physical abilities are encouraged to apply.

For more information on the application process, please visit Emerge Michigan's website at www.emergemi.org.

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RAINBOW

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Find over 300 Non-Profit Listings Serving Michigan's LGBTQ Online @ 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. Here are just three of them:

AIDS Walk Detroit

Contact 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/

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

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Detroit, MI 48202
313-446-9800
www.miunified.org
Michigan HIV/STD Hotline
800-872-2437

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

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

Campus

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

U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center
Spectrumcenter@umich.edu
<http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu>
734-763-4186

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

gsc@oakland.edu
www.oakland.edu/gsc
248-370-4336

Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center
emich.edu/lgbtrc
734-487-4149

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp

Wayne State JIGSAW

[Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW)
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
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
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/
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
313-578-6800

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

Outlaws U-M student group
outlawslegal@gmail.com
734-995-9867

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI
313-578-6812
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

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 32446
Detroit, MI 48232
detroitlgbtchamber.com
1-800-DET-LGBT

Ties Like Me

Professional networking events
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.
TiesLikeMe.org

Suits And The City

Lansing, MI
suitsandthecity@gmail.com
www.suitsandthecity.org

Transgender

FtM Detroit

<https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/>
ftmdetroit@gmail.com

FtM A2 Ypsi

ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/>

Transgender Michigan

23211 Woodward Ave.
Ferndale, MI
info@transgendersmichigan.org
www.transgendersmichigan.org
800-842-2954

Trans Sistas of Color Project

19641 W. 7 Mile Rd. in Detroit
313-537-7000 Ext 107
info@tscopdetroit.org
www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

77 Victor Street, Highland Park, MI
48203
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
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
- Hotlines & Switchboards
- Labor Union
- Legal Organizations
- Museums
- Music Groups
- National Organizations
- Political Organizations
- Professional Organizations
- Religious & Spiritual
- Senior Living
- Seniors
- Social/Community Organizations
- Sports
- Substance Abuse
- Transgender Groups/Services
- Women's Health
- Youth Services

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

You can add or update any listing by going to 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 and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to editor@pridesource.com



FUNKY FERNDALE ART FAIR

Hands On Art Projects, Community Organizations, Food and Surprises
FunkyFerndaleArtFair.com



Funky Ferndale Art Fair

SEPT 22-24, 2017

Nine Mile @ Woodward



Friday - 3pm - 7pm
Saturday - 10am - 7pm
Sunday - 11am - 6pm
9 Mile Rd West of Woodward
GPS: 200 West 9 Mile, Ferndale, MI

TWICE AS FUNKY AS THE AVERAGE FINE ART FAIR

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