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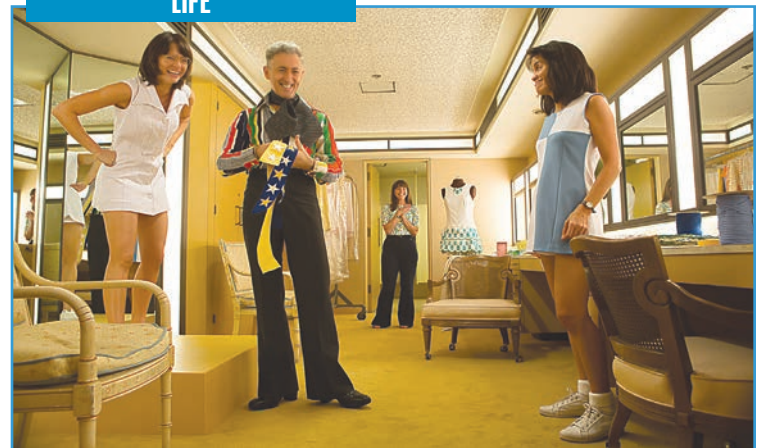
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Dingell: DeVos Title IX Decision is “Outrageous Affront to Survivors”

DEARBORN – U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (MI-12) released the following statement after Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced on Sept. 22 that she would rescind Title IX guidance that protects survivors of sexual assault at colleges, universities and K-12 schools. This has led advocates of college sexual assault survivors to worry that it could unfairly shield those accused of sexual misconduct.

The new guidance allows schools to move from a preponderance of evidence model to a “clear and convincing standard” of proof. The sentence in such cases does not necessarily carry legal implications but can lead to school disciplinary actions and expulsion.

“This interim guidance will help schools as they work to combat sexual misconduct and will treat all students fairly,” DeVos said in a statement.

“Secretary DeVos’ announcement is an outrageous affront to survivors of sexual assault across this country. The decision to rescind Title IX protections, and introduce new, less protective interim guidance before the rulemaking process has even taken place is unacceptable and turns back the clock to a time when survivors of rape and assault suffered in silence, terrified that if they came forward they would be ostracized on campus or in their classrooms, or that their voices would be ignored completely. We must protect due process, but what we cannot do is again tip the scales of justice against survivors. This decision does exactly that – it discourages survivors from speaking out and seeking justice and sends a message that instead of support, they will be met with doubt and skepticism. This is shameful and unacceptable.”

Dingell is a strong advocate for building upon the critical sexual violence protections guaranteed under Title IX. In June, Dingell and Rep. Ryan Costello (PA-06) led a bipartisan letter to DeVos urging her to maintain Title IX guidance in K-12 schools. The letter, signed by 52 Members of Congress, also urged DeVos to continue training for Title IX coordinators and support other critical programs that combat sexual violence in schools. Dingell led a letter to DeVos this week urging her to maintain Title IX protections in K-12 schools and on college campuses.

ACLU Sues Michigan Over Discriminatory LGBTQ Adoption Policies

BY DREW HOWARD

The ACLU filed a lawsuit against the state of Michigan on Sept. 20 for allowing child-placement agencies to use religious beliefs as an excuse to discriminate against same-sex couples. The 22-page complaint is backed by five plaintiffs, including same-sex couple Kristy and Dana Dumont. The couple was denied adoption services by Bethany Christian Services and Catholic Charities due to their sexual orientation.

The litigation contests the statute, which was signed into law in 2015 by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment by favoring particular religious views and the Fourteenth Amendment for denying equal protection to LGBT families.

The Dumonts sought help from these agencies in particular because of their proximity, stating it would be easier on the prospective child to be placed in a home near their friends and family. Dana said she felt angry, hurt and devastated following the rejections.

“We felt hopeless,” she said. “They didn’t even know us and made the decision solely on who we’re married to.”

Other plaintiffs in the lawsuit include a Detroit couple, Erin and Rebecca Busk-Sutton, and Jennifer Ludolph, a foster parent and former foster child. Erin and Rebecca were also turned away from Bethany Christian Services as the agency claimed same-sex couples were not in their area of expertise.

The lawsuit challenges the 2015 Michigan law that gives faith-based child-placement agencies permission to refuse services to people based on religious beliefs. Leslie Cooper from the ACLU said such a policy violates the Constitution, and does no good for the 13,000 children currently in the Michigan foster care system.

“By allowing this, the state is making it even harder for children to find loving homes,” Cooper said. “The First Amendment freedom of religion guarantee would forbid

the state from imposing a religious litmus test on prospective foster or adoptive families.”

Jay Kaplan, staff attorney at the ACLU of Michigan’s Nancy Katz and Margo Dichtemiller LGBT Project, also slammed the 2015 law, saying that it actually harms the welfare of foster children.

“Allowing an agency to discriminate could be the difference between a child finding a permanent, loving home and remaining in the system. Michigan’s child welfare services must put child welfare first.”



– ACLU of Michigan Attorney Jay Kaplan

“Allowing an agency to discriminate could be the difference between a child finding a permanent, loving home and remaining in the system,” Kaplan said. “Michigan’s child welfare services must put child welfare first.”

Aside from Bethany and Catholic Charities, Kaplan said it’s unclear how many Michigan child-placement services are actively discriminating couples like the ones in this lawsuit. He added it’s also unclear how many same-sex couples have been denied adoption services since the 2015 law was put in place.

The Human Rights Campaign compiled a list of LGBTQ-friendly adoption agencies across the nation, with two Michigan agencies making the cut. Agencies made the list by passing 10 benchmarks, among these being client non-discrimination and comprehensive staff training.

Fostering Futures is one such Michigan agency on the list. Katie Liparoto, a licensing worker at Fostering Futures, said it’s their mission to serve all families regardless of sexual orientation.

“I think our agency is rare in the state of Michigan,” Liparoto said. “All these kids

need are love and structure and stability.” Michigan is one of several states with laws allowing for discrimination, including Alabama, South Dakota, Texas, Mississippi, North Dakota and Virginia. Cooper said there have not been any legal challenges in these other states yet.

Ineke Mushovic, executive director of the Movement Advancement Project, also spoke out in support of the lawsuit. MAP is an independent think tank that works to speed equality for the LGBT community.

Mushovic said laws like the one in Michigan open a can of worms and are “ripe” for abuse.

“Most child welfare workers are good people who want to do the right thing, but there’s a wide range of moral and religious beliefs out there,” Mushovic said. “Saying that we should prioritize all of these individual beliefs over the best interest of the kids is bad policy run amok.”

BTL requested and is awaiting comment from Gov. Snyder’s office.

Find more details about the case and its plaintiffs at www.aclumich.org/article/standing-for-children-foster-care-michigan.

The lawsuit challenges the 2015 Michigan law that gives faith-based child-placement agencies permission to refuse services to people based on religious beliefs.

Spotlight On Legacy Award Recipients at MCC Detroit Anniversary Event

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Around 130 people attended the 45th anniversary celebration of Metropolitan Community Church Detroit on Sept. 23 at the Detroit Marriott Livonia.

“Happy anniversary MCC Detroit,” said Rev. Elder Rachelle Brown, interim moderator for the MCC denomination in a taped message. “We are so proud of you. It was great to be with you a few months ago and bring the word with the gospel of Motown.”

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Legacy Awards to two longtime local LGBT heroes who have a combined total of nearly 100 years of activism between them. The first award was given to John Kavanaugh, the co-founder of MCC Detroit. Kavanaugh served as a lay leader with the church when it was founded as part of the Radical Gay Christian Caucus of the Detroit Liberation Front in 1972. The church quickly hooked up with the fledgling MCC movement, which Rev. Troy Perry had started in Los Angeles in 1968.

“The question is what was radical?” asked Kavanaugh when he accepted his award. “What did we mean by Radical Gay Christian Caucus? Radical, when it comes to Christianity, it has not just to do with



John Kavanaugh (left) and Jim Toy (right) - recipients of the MCC Detroit Legacy Awards - pictured with Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow (middle). BTL Photo: Jason A. Michael

homosexuals. It has to do with blacks, women, Jews, Arabs, Christians, non-Christians and it's a very simple thing. Do we welcome each other or don't we? If we do not welcome everybody then we're not Christian.”

Summing up his approach to activism throughout the years, Kavanaugh said, “I believe in calling it as I see it, whether or not anybody else sees it that way.”

For his part, fellow Legacy Award recipient Jim Toy was, as usual, quite humble in his acceptance speech.

“I'm so thankful to be here with everybody and to give thanks for having had the opportunity to work for justice and for freedom,” Toy said. He went on to talk about the present political climate and his continued work.

“We are living euphemistically in interesting and challenging times,” Toy said. “So we find ourselves occasionally in conversation with people who disagree with us. I have learned after years of running my mouth ineffectively that if we find some common ground to have a conversation with those who disagree with us we are likely to be further ahead.”

Members Show Appreciation for Their Church

Those in attendance at the banquet were ebullient in their praise for their church and the good works it has done in nearly half a century. B.C. Cabangbang met his partner, Gary Murphy, at the church 27 years ago.

“The oldest gay organization in Detroit is MCC,” Cabangbang said. “We all come from different churches, faiths, denominations. But

here you are able to worship one God, one creator, and you can come as you are.”

Ken Kevelighin has been attending the church for the past decade.

“I like everything about it,” he said. “I love the people. I love the inclusiveness of the messages. It's just for me the best church fit that I've ever had.”

Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow, MCCD's senior minister and teacher, said he was pleased with the night.

“What made this celebration unique for us was having John Kavanaugh and Jim Toy present,” he said. “The committee really sought to focus on legacy and appreciating the contributions – the everyday contributions – of people who don't set out to be heroic or trailblazers in the moment but based upon their courage and confidence in their identity they end up really changing the lives of so many others. So the anniversary was that time of recognition of not only these two trailblazers but hopefully they'll serve as an example to each of us as to how our actions can be used to be a blessing in the lives of others.”

The Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit is located at 2441 Pinecrest Dr. in Ferndale. Call 248-399-7741 or visit www.mccdetroit.org/ for more information.



Photo by Christophe Dessaigne

L'État de siege (State of Siege) Théâtre de la Ville

by Albert Camus
Directed by Emmanuel Demarcy-Mota
Friday-Saturday, October 13-14 // 8 pm
Power Center

In this nightmarish future, a city is reduced to silence and submission to authority. A character called The Plague takes control of the government, imposing a regime of contagion, domination, and disinformation — until a young man, Diego, organizes a revolt. Written in 1948 in the aftermath of World War II, *State of Siege* reflects the creation of a corrupt, totalitarian regime, weaving together paranoia, endurance, and the necessity of resistance.

Performed in French with English supertitles.

Presenting Sponsor: James Garavaglia Theater Fund
Funded in part by: Wallace Endowment Fund
Media Partner: WDET 101.9 FM



2014 National Medal of Arts recipient



Written in Water Ragamala Dance Company

Ranee and Aparna Ramaswamy, co-artistic directors
Live music performed and written by Amir ElSaffar
Friday, October 20 // 8 pm
Power Center

In *Written in Water*, Ranee and Aparna Ramaswamy explore the concept of spiritual ascension through the 2nd-century Indian board game *Paramapadam* (upon which Snakes & Ladders is based) and the 12th century Persian epic *The Conference of the Birds*. Rooted in the South Indian Bharatanatyam classical dance form, the large-scale multi-disciplinary performance unfolds with paintings projected on the stage floor. This “gameboard” serves as a physical and metaphorical framework for a world of psychological complexity, with snakes and ladders representing the heights of ecstasy and the depths of longing in Hindu and Sufi thought.

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More Than 100 Businesses Support the Equality Act

Michigan-Based Companies Dow, Kellogg and Whirlpool Sign On to LGBTQ Anti-Discrimination Bill

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin announced that HRC's Business Coalition for the Equality Act has reached a milestone with support from more than 100 major American businesses during a press conference held at the Detroit Regional Chamber offices in downtown Detroit on Monday.

Launched in March 2016, the coalition includes 105 companies with operations in all 50 states, headquarters spanning 23 states, and a collective revenue of \$2.6 trillion. In total, these companies employ more than 5.8 million people across the U.S.

"The Equality Act will once and for all end this unacceptable patchwork – this crazy quilt of non-discrimination laws across the country that put far too many in our community at risk," said Griffin pointing to 31 states where LGBTQ people remain at risk of being fired, evicted or denied services because of who they are.

"Unlike a lot of legislation that rolls through the halls of Congress, this bill is actually really simple. It would finally ensure that gender identity and sexual orientation are protected under our long-standing federal civil rights laws right alongside race, religion, sex and national origin. That's why the Equality Act enjoys the overwhelming bipartisan support of the American public," he said.

Polling released last year by the nonpartisan Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) found that support for a bill like the Equality Act topped 70 percent nationally, including a majority of Democrats, Republicans and Independents. PRRI's groundbreaking survey included 42,000 interviews in 50 states and found majority support for the Equality Act in all 50 states.

First introduced in 2015 by Representative David Cicilline (D-RI) and by Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Cory Booker (D-NJ), the Equality Act is currently co-sponsored by 241



Left: Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, speaks during a press conference on Sept. 25. Right: Stephanie White, executive director for Equality Michigan on Sept. 25 stands with corporate leaders and in league with companies that know taking a stand for equality helps grow their businesses. BTL Photos: Andrew Cohen

members of Congress.

"If the leadership would allow a vote, I truly believe that this coalition would win that vote in the Senate today. But where it stands today, the leadership in the House and the Senate have thus far refused to have a vote on the Equality Act," said Griffin. "We intend to keep building the momentum, to continue to support and promote lawmakers and members of Congress in the House and Senate who support the Equality Act and make it a priority. During the midterm elections, HRC will work very hard to defeat those who stand in the way of equality."

Like Michigan's Attorney General Bill Schuette who "notably stuck his neck out again last week to thwart the advancement of LGBT rights and has made it very clear throughout his political career that is he opposed to our equality," said Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan.

Schuette announced his run for governor this month to replace the term-limited Gov. Rick Snyder, who "hasn't pushed forward the agenda he has said that he is open to and he hasn't pushed forward what we would like him to do," said White, noting "he has set a tone that he wants to be more inclusive and talk about these issues, at least."

White said that passing the Equality Act nationally will help Michigan achieve two of the goals that Gov. Snyder has articulated that members of the LGBTQ community share.

"One, rebuilding the overall population of our state - eliminate the reasons why people leave - and two, address the growing talent crisis in filling our most in demand jobs."

EQMI takes on about a dozen new cases each month involving people who have survived awful discrimination or violence simply for who they are or who they love.

"Not only is this morally wrong, but it's also self-defeating for our shared goals of creating a vibrant economy that works for everyone and an America that lives up to the values of honoring hard work," said White. EQMI has been working to correct this problem in Michigan for decades. "At first we were told that we couldn't enact discrimination laws because it would kill businesses. Well today I'm happy to put that lie to rest with these partners and others."

White joined Griffin with Kevin Heard, president of the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce; Cory Valente, LGBTQ ERG Global Leader for Dow Chemical Co.; and Willard McCloud, chief diversity officer of Cargill, Inc.

Dow Chemical Co. was one of the

first companies to join the coalition, according to Ianthe Metzger, state and local press secretary for the HRC.

"Their leadership really helped build the momentum of corporate support for this legislation," she said, adding that they wanted to celebrate this milestone in a city that has a long standing commitment to LGBTQ equality.

"That's exactly the case with Detroit which understands that inclusion drives innovation and attracts top talent. Overall, Michigan is also a critically important state to the legacy of corporate America."

When asked about religious freedom and how that might impact doing business with everyone, Griffin said, "The First Amendment is alive and well in this country. Religious freedom is a bedrock principle of this country. It's really important. That's why it's the First Amendment to our constitution. There are some in this country with extreme views who oppose equality of any kind who would try to use and abuse religion and religious freedom to their own cynical and political benefit."

Specifically, as it relates to businesses – stores, restaurants, bakeries and so forth – Griffin said, "In this country, when you open a business to serve the public, you are to serve the public. You don't

get to pick and choose based on race, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity. You are there to serve the public. That is also a bedrock principle in this country. It's a struggle that we have seen throughout our history. This country has also in each and every one of those struggles come down on the side of equality and justice for all."

Major corporations in Michigan that are a part of the coalition include the Dow Chemical Co. in Midland, the Kellogg Co. in Battle Creek and Whirlpool Corp. in Benton Harbor. View the full list of leading employers that support the passage of the Equality Act here: <http://gaybe.am/Da>.

For those that have not yet joined the coalition, Heard said, "To the manufacturing, utility, logistics and automotive industry here in Michigan - you hold true influence in this region. We invite you to join the LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce as well as the HRC as you employ many of our residents with many talents, religions, racial backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities. When you are in full support of this legislation, you will amplify the voice of this community, this country and the world. We will all be closer together and better together."



Stand With Trans Tells Youth 'Express Yourself'

One-Day Workshop Offers Community, Friendship, Fun and Learning

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Upon founding Stand With Trans in 2015, Roz Keith said hosting a successful conference each year was one of her visions right from the beginning.

"Because I wanted a place for youth to come and meet other trans youth and to learn some new skills that would help them learn confidence," said Keith.

The non-profit organization presents the third annual Transgender Youth Empowerment Workshop titled "Express Yourself," now including parents and younger gender-expansive children ages 6-11.

The one-day event, for youth ages 12-22, offers multiple sessions facilitated by trans advocates and LGBTQ-allied community leaders on Oct. 7 at the Orchard United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills.

"The workshop has really evolved," said Keith, who established Stand With Trans so transgender youth, like her son Hunter, could access the resources and tools needed to be empowered, supported and validated as they transition into their authentic life.

Trans youth are able to choose from a variety of sessions throughout the day, like art.

"It's an opportunity for the kids to use art as a way to learn about their own identity and reduce stress and work with others," she said.

Considering the prevalence of substance abuse – 2.5 to 4 times higher for transgender youth, according to a pair of new studies conducted by researchers at the University of Texas at Austin – Keith is committed to helping trans youth find healthy ways to cope by providing some sort of social support mechanism.

"Youth will have an opportunity to meet with a gender specialist who is also transgender and have an open discussion about triggers, how to avoid them, what to do if the feelings arrive and how to ultimately overcome the behavior. So that will be a very powerful one that I have a feeling will be well attended," said Keith about this year's new workshop.

There will also be a music session, a meditation and mindfulness session and one on the subject of sexual health for trans teens.

A representative from GLSEN will moderate another new session, "Where's the T in GSA?"

Keith said, "The letters used to stand for Gay Straight Alliance. But that really doesn't fit anymore."

Continued on next page



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Trans Sistas of Color Project Locked Out By Local Ministry

Ruth Ellis Center Opens Doors to Help TSOCP Host a Fundraising Event Despite Setback

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The Trans Sistas of Color Project's first-ever "Building a Dream House" brunch almost didn't happen.

The women were supposed to hold their fundraising event at the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries on Forest Street in Detroit on Sunday. They were scheduled to be admitted into the building to set up between 8-9 a.m. Instead, no one ever showed up, and their contact, Tony, never answered his phone. More than two months ago, Bré Campbell, TSOCP's executive director, entered into an agreement to hold two events there for which she paid \$850.

"We had paid entertainment, catered food and people coming from out of town and they almost ruined it," said Jeynce Mizrahi Poindexter, a TSCOP board member and Transgender Victims Advocate for Equality Michigan.

Thinking on their feet, Mizrahi Poindexter and Campbell posted a video message (<http://gaybe.am/uu>) on Facebook complete with images of themselves outside the locked gates. That video was seen by Cedric McClain, a co-manager of the Ruth Ellis Center Second Stories Drop-In Center in Highland Park.

"I saw they were locked out of their space so I reached out to my co-worker and we felt we should go ahead and open the space for them so that everything they were trying to do didn't get ruined," he said.

Angelika Lewis, McClain's co-manager was of the same mind. "I was coming to support the event anyway," she said. "So we were very happy we could help."

Campbell, Mizrahi Poindexter and other



Jeynce Mizrahi Poindexter and Brenda S. White show off their awards at the first ever Trans Sistas of Color Project "Building a Dream House" brunch. BTL Photo: Jason A. Michael

volunteers scrambled to relocate to the new space and at the same time notify people of the change. The brunch that was supposed to start at 1 p.m. started at 3:30 p.m. But the TSOCP put out quite a spread and the 40-plus people in attendance appeared patient and pleased.

Following brunch, the TSCOP presented awards for the first time. Brenda S. White received the Brenda S. White Ally Award, named after her. She was reduced to tears upon acceptance. Mizrahi Poindexter was given the Living Out Loud Award.

"I promise on my mother I did not know this

was happening," she said. "And few people get to surprise me...Nothing that I do and nothing that I accomplish or will accomplish is on my own. To God be my glory."

Although she was not in attendance, Henry Ford Pediatrician Maureen (Mo) Connolly, M.D. was honored with the third Caring For Us Award.

Conflicting Reports

C. Paschal Eze, director of spiritual life and public relations at the ministry, said in an email on Tuesday morning that it was all "a case of misunderstanding of the allotted time. Tony said he arrived at the venue at 7:30 a.m. and opened the main gate and doors for the group but the group's members did not show up. So, he left at about 9 a.m."

Campbell insists she and others were there by 8:45 a.m. and everything was locked up.

"At about 9:20 a.m., he learned that the group had arrived at the venue," said Eze. "He headed back there to attend to them. Unfortunately, by the time he got there at about 10:30 a.m., the members had left."

Campbell said this, also, is untrue. The event was supposed to begin at 11 a.m. She and others were outside waiting to gain entry to the property until well after that time.

Eze said that Tony called the group and was told they had secured another venue, but according to Campbell, "He never answered, and he never called us back."

TSCOP said they are no longer interested in holding a second event they have planned at the same location and are demanding a full refund.

"I just can't believe that they just blatantly disrespected us and there's no accountability," said Mizrahi Poindexter. "They were paid weeks ago. So we held up our end of the bargain. They are in breach of the contract and at this point we just want our money back."

Eze confirmed on Tuesday morning that Tony is "sending them their check back."

Campbell said that although she was discouraged by what happened on Sunday, she is more motivated than ever to continue the work.

Founded in 2015 by a group of concerned Detroit community activists in direct response to the growing number of murders of trans women and gender non-conforming people, the TSOCP works to uplift, influence and impact the lives and well being of trans women of color in Metro Detroit. In 2016, EQMI became both a founding partner of TSCOP and its fiscal agent as the younger organization develops the necessary resources and infrastructure to independently build its programs, projects, and services.

"Although today was frustrating and I'm disappointed I think it speaks to our need to have our own space so that we can have our own agency and be able to walk into a building whenever we want and have events the way we feel we need to," she said. "I'm not stopping. This is going to push us forward."

For more information about the Trans Sistas of Color Project, their programs, projects, services, and events or how to support their work, like their Facebook page or contact them in the office at 313-537-7000 ext. 107 or via email at tsocproject@gmail.com.

► Stand With Trans

Continued from p. 8

This family-friendly event now includes parents who often times need guidance. One session in particular "Your Child is Trans, Now What?" will create discussion about what to do, how to handle it and what the next steps are.

Keith said additional sessions include a focus on faith, coming to terms with parenting a trans child, sexual health and laying the groundwork for difficult conversations and one dedicated to medical transitions including how to talk with a pediatrician and be an advocate within the school system.

Children ages 6-11 will be supervised in the

church's gym and provided with arts, crafts and other activities throughout the day.

"We created this day so transgender youth would have the opportunity to connect with others who are traveling along a similar path," said Keith. "They need to know that they are not alone. Helping trans kids to feel more confident and to be proud of who they are will, in the long run, strengthen families and contribute to improved emotional well-being of the transgender youth community."

Anonymous comments from last year's attendees affirm for Keith just how important this workshop is. Keith said one attendee was so happy they got to spend the entire day in a safe space, something that is not always available for trans youth.

"It's so amazing that we were able to do that

and provide that safe space for these youth

because often being at home is not safe for them," said Keith. "But it also told us that we're doing the right thing because this is so necessary. It's really important for self-esteem for the youth. It's important for them to find community because in community they find strength. We know we have to keep doing what we're doing because the need for it in the trans community isn't going away any time soon."

The workshop is presented by Springmatter of Ann Arbor. Some of the event sponsors include the Human Rights Campaign, Mercedes Benz Financial Services, Wentworth Associates, Know Resolve, Inclusive Justice, Temple Israel, Ozone House of Ann Arbor, Zingerman's Community of Businesses and University of Michigan Comprehensive Gender Services.

Also, University of Michigan Adolescent Eating Disorders Program, Celebrate Hope, Lake Orion United Methodist Church and the Ruth Ellis Center.

The Arbonne Charitable Foundation is providing personal care products for all youth ages 12-22 who attend. Dominos Pizza will provide lunch.

Registration will begin at 9:15 a.m. and sessions will start at 10 a.m. The workshop is free to youth ages 6-22. Adults are asked to pay \$25 for the day but accommodations will be made for those to whom cost is a barrier.

The Orchard United Methodist Church is located at 30450 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. For more information or to register, visit www.standwithtrans.org.



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Detroit HealthLink (Wayne State University & Karmanos Cancer Institute) is funded by a Eugene Washington Community Engagement Award from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute Award #6252.



A Very Modest Demand for Governing Recognition



Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

FORM REQUEST: We, the undersigned, do hereby petition the Michigan State House of Representatives and Senate to confer Honorary Second Class Citizenship on [insert name], who tirelessly works to deny the civil rights of LGBT persons regardless of their nationality, race, age, religion, Bridge, golf, or block club affiliation.

We, the undersigned, further deem it fit that [insertee] shall be given opportunity to experience – with the mixed blessing of Democrats and Republicans – denials in housing, military service, employment, marriage, adoption, school safety, and the afterlife, but only if such final status was conferred in violation of the Geneva Convention.

[Insertee] shall merit Honorary Second Class Citizenship by his/her affiliation with one or more of these special interest agendas: the American Family Association, Focus on the Family, 700 Club, KKK, Cosa Nostra, Nazi Party Alt-Right Redux, Mormon Polygamists for Family Values, and the Corpus Christi Snuff Film Consortium.

SUBSET 1: Should affiliation be covert due to theocratic oath-taking, promise of tax rebate, threat of hellfire damnation, or exposure of past celibate toilet training – candidate shall be deemed eligible by notarized statement of an LGBT victim that said candidate, in the course of his/her misguided life's mission, caused that LGBT person to be hated, damned, prayed over (under, for, or in the missionary position) or maligned publicly or privately.

And further: For accusing an LGBT person of undermining the sanctity of heterosexual marriage – including benefits of spousal abuse, separation, divorce, annulment, alimony, and child-support privileges – and blaming an LGBT for the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, current alphabetic, same-sex-marriage-caused hurricanes, popularity of Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand, Queer Eye for the Straight Guy, Glee, or Drag-Queen Bingo.

Eligibility for candidate second-class status may include IQ scores (mid-70s), failed three-syllable word association tests, blood pressure readings (140/250 normative), and erratic EKG readouts (arrhythmia's, with occasional but unconvincing stoppages – that is, none of such lasting duration as to benefit society, trickle-down economy, Medicaid, prevention of Donald Trump schizoid schemes.)

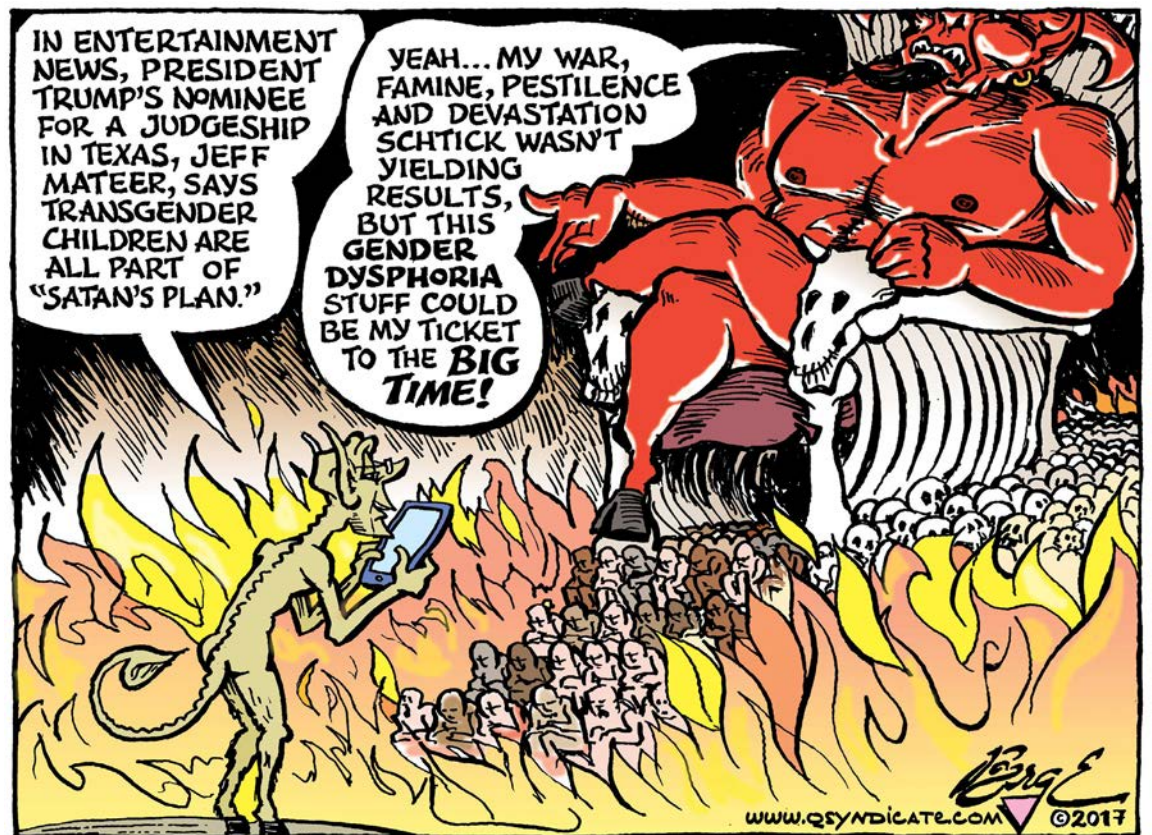
SUBSET 2: Candidates often exhibit these exotic traits: cerebral ice-over, skyward tweakings, zombie-like fixations, tremulous teeth chattering, holier-than-thou nit picking, and beet-red blushing when sniffing out the joy of abstemious sex or its aromatic lack thereof.

Candidates employ clone-speak coupled with chapter-verse sonar biblical echoing: Spare the rod and spoil the child; Love the sinner, hate the sin; Have a bless'd lay [sorry, day]; Never on Sunday; Once saved, always saved; God loves a cheerful liver [sorry, giver]; Read my lips – One Nation, One Faith, One God in 501.C Three-Trump Persons.

SUBSET 3: Second class status shall be conferred with yearly review. If married, that privilege shall be revoked, so that candidate may be denied 1047 spousal benefits, including HMO hospital visitation rights, 1040 tax loophole advantages, weekly diaper deliveries, family reunion hand-holding sessions, wedding gift registry at Marshall Field's, and joint bank account penalties with reoccurring ATM credit card snafus.

SNYDER FORM ADD-ON: It is modestly suggested that, in full accord with State bipartisan recognition, [insertee] shall have his/her mug shot prominently displayed in post offices, courtrooms, airports, truck stops, as well as in newspapers, pages of Christianity Today, Lansing State Journal, Congressional Record, Casket & Sunny Side, and the Police Gazette. (On second thought: forget the truck stops.)

Connect with Charles Alexander at Charles@pridesource.com.



State Rep. Jeremy Moss Sounds Off on the Super PAC



BY JEREMY MOSS

Viewpoint

If you launch a campaign for State Representative, you can raise money from individual donors into a candidate committee.

If you want to support other candidates and political causes that align with your values, you can raise money from individual donors into a political action committee.

That should be enough money in politics. But apparently it's not for Republican legislators in Michigan.

Last week, Governor Snyder signed legislation into law that would expand the influence of new Super PACs in Michigan by codifying the Supreme Court's Citizen United decision into state law. Senate Bills 335 and 336 passed out of the legislature with only Republican support in the House and Senate.

Unlike candidate committees and current political action committees – these Super PACs allow candidates to bypass campaign fundraising limits and use corporate money – often untraceable to individual donors – to influence elections.

As I pointed out last week during testimony on these bills in the House Elections Committee, if my top donor contributes the maximum allowable amount to my candidate committee, this legislation will allow me to direct him or her to pump an unlimited amount of money from a variety of untraceable sources into a Super PAC with which I'm affiliated.

(My exchange with the bill sponsor where this scenario plays out can be viewed on YouTube in a video

See next page

“ Unlike candidate committees and current political action committees – these Super PACs allow candidates to bypass campaign fundraising limits and use corporate money – often untraceable to individual donors – to influence elections. ”

titled “State Rep. Jeremy Moss Exposes Problems with Furthering Citizens United in Michigan.”)

Under current law, I can ask my top donor to contribute no more than \$1,000 to my “Jeremy Moss for State Representative” campaign committee. But under Senate Bills 335-336, my campaign attorney can create a “Jeremy Moss Super PAC” and I can personally solicit that same donor for another \$1,000...or \$50,000...or \$1 million.

All of this makes campaign contribution limits pointless if I can raise an unlimited amount of money from donors to hide them in a Super PAC that can perform the same function as my candidate committee – with the same campaign attorney overseeing both committees!

Candidate committees and political action committees are accountable to the public, but these new Super PACs would make politicians accountable only to the corporations that fund them.

Just one day after these bills passed the House, Governor Snyder quickly signed them into law just in time for the Michigan Republican Conference on Mackinac Island last weekend with party insiders and big donors.

We don’t need more money influencing Michigan campaigns, and ultimately influencing public policy.

I’m determined to continue my work to fight for increased government transparency and fairness in our elections despite Republican setbacks.

I believe people deserve the right to know who

is influencing their elected officials. That’s why I led a group of legislators to introduce legislation that would remove the exemption of the governor and state legislature to the Freedom of Information Act. This common-sense legislation will increase transparency, help the media and the public hold government accountable, and start to rebuild institutional trust that is at an all-time low.

And all the while, as my transparency bills remain stalled in the Senate, the Governor and legislative leaders are putting a further veil on transparency by introducing Super PACs in Michigan campaigns.

Michigan already ranks dead last among all states in the nation in terms of openness, accountability and ethics. Read more here: <http://gaybe.am/3h>. Republicans seem determined to keep us there.

Republicans will be reaching out to their wealthy and well-connected corporate donors. Instead, I’m relying on community supporters like you to help my efforts in Lansing. Can I count on a small contribution from you today – \$10, \$25, or \$50 – to make sure your voice is heard louder in the state legislature than special corporate interests?

I don’t have a Super PAC. Instead, I’m proud that I have supporters like you.

To support State Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) in his efforts, visit <https://secure.actblue.com/contribute/page/moss4rep>.

Creep of the Week

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

Mychal Massie

In sixth grade, sitting in a room with only girls and female teachers, we were encouraged to write anonymous questions about sex on a piece of paper. The teachers randomly selected some to answer.



An older woman unfolded a square of paper and read, “What is a drummer?” She looked at her fellow grown ups, all of whom shrugged. There was uncomfortable laughter from both kids and adults.

“Well, what IS a drummer?” I wondered. I was as clueless as the teachers and waited for someone to solve this mystery. The teachers asked if any of US knew the answer. We did not. Or, at least, no one admitted to knowing. It must be something really bad, I thought.

After the meeting I learned the truth: Bella (not her real name) had submitted the question. And she’d written, “What is a rubber?” But her loopy

sixth grade girl handwriting was apparently illegible. Anyway, she said, she already knew what it was and submitted the question on a dare.

This same girl would later accuse a boy of trying to rape her at 6th grade camp, which was quite the gossipy scandal for at least a day. What actually happened I don’t know. But neither she nor the boy were sent home from camp early.

Later still, eighth grade maybe? There was a rumor that Bella had public lice that she’d gotten at a party after using the bathroom and, not able to find toilet paper, grabbing the cat to dry herself. For a long time I was stymied by this. Could you get crabs from pets? And who would use a cat as TP? This was long before Google.

I didn’t know I was gay in sixth grade. But I knew something about me was different. It would take me years to figure out what that different thing was and more years to understand and accept it. I had no idea that gays and lesbians existed and certainly no idea that they were capable and deserving of love. And that’s a very hard thing to figure out by yourself.

I don’t know whatever happened to Bella. I hope that she is living a happy life somewhere. My point is not to single one young girl. My point is that sex ed in the school Bella and I both attended failed us both.

This is what I thought of when I read Mychal Massie’s Sept. 25 column on a radical right website that urged parents to pull their children out of public schools in order to save them from the so-called gay agenda.

“What parents who ill-advisedly leave their children in public schools fail to realize is that this is not about education,” Massie writes, “it is about the desensitizing of future generations to depravity. It is also the naked undermining of traditional families by the homosexual-activist agenda.”

This statement makes perfect sense if you think sex is sinful and LGBTQ people are monsters, not human beings. But even under a Trump presidency, it takes a concerted effort to believe that is the case.

Learning in public schools, which the vast majority of American children attend, about how to use condoms, about consent, about how to protect against STDs, and about sexual orientation and gender identity doesn’t undermine families. If anything such knowledge strengthens families by empowering young men and women to make informed decisions about their sexual lives and health. The goal of this “agenda” is less unintended pregnancies, a decrease in sexual assault, and fewer LGBTQ people growing up feeling broken and alone.

I agree with Massie that parents should know what their children are learning at school, and I urge parents to advocate for comprehensive sex education. Get involved. Get informed. A good place to start is The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (<http://www.siecus.org>).

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
www.PrideSource.com**

Arizona Supreme Court Says Same-Sex Spouse is a Legal Parent

National Center for Lesbian Rights wins Arizona Same-Sex Parental Rights Case

BY BTL STAFF

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – The National Center for Lesbian Rights won on Sept. 19 the Arizona Supreme Court case, *McLaughlin v. McLaughlin*, which ruled that a woman was the legal parent of the child she and her same-sex spouse conceived through assisted reproduction during their marriage. As the Arizona Supreme Court recognized, the U.S. Supreme Court rulings in *Obergefell v. Hodges* and *Pavan v. Smith* require states to treat married same-sex parents and married different-sex parents equally under the law. The Arizona Supreme Court explained, “It would be inconsistent with *Obergefell* to conclude that same-sex couples can legally marry but states can then deny them the same benefits of marriage afforded opposite-sex couples.”

“I am relieved and overjoyed that the court recognized me as my son’s mother,” said Suzan McLaughlin. “All I have ever wanted is to be there for him like any mother would.”

“We are pleased that the Arizona Supreme Court has ruled – consistent with *Obergefell* – that same-sex parents and their children have the same rights as other families,” said Cathy Sakimura, Family Law Director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights. “The U.S. Supreme Court has twice explained that the U.S. Constitution requires states to provide the exact same rights to same-sex spouses and different-sex spouses.”

Suzan McLaughlin and Kimberly McLaughlin were a married lesbian couple who had a child in 2011 using an anonymous sperm donor. After separating in 2013, Kimberly stopped allowing Suzan to see their child, and Suzan filed a legal action to be recognized as a parent. Both the Arizona Court of Appeals and the trial court held that Suzan should indeed be recognized as a legal parent to her child. NCLR and Arizona attorney Claudia Work represented Suzan. Additionally, Professor Barbara Atwood and the Child and Family Law Clinic at the University of Arizona Rogers College of Law, as well as 23 Arizona family law attorneys and the ACLU and ACLU of Arizona, filed amicus briefs in support of Suzan.

Since the 2015 U.S. Supreme Court marriage equality decision, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, numerous cases have recognized that married same-sex parents and married different-sex parents must be treated equally under the law. In June 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court held in *Pavan v. Smith*, another National Center for Lesbian Rights case, that *Obergefell* required states to treat married same-sex parents and married different-sex parents equally. The Arizona Supreme Court’s decision in *McLaughlin* follows this settled law and should be instructive to other states across the country considering this issue.

For more information on NCLR’s June 2017 U.S. Supreme Court victory in *Pavan v. Smith*, go to <http://www.nclrights.org/cases-and-policy/cases-and-advocacy/case-pavan-v-smith/>.

Trump’s EEOC Nominees ‘Wishy-Washy’ on LGBT Workplace Rights

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

President Trump’s nominees for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission during recent congressional testimony – described by one Democratic senator as “wishy-washy” – signaled they may reverse the agency’s position that current federal law against sex discrimination applies to LGBT people.

Under questioning during their confirmation hearing on Tuesday, both nominees – Janet Dhillon, Trump’s choice to become the next chair of the commission, and Daniel Gade, Trump’s choice to fill a vacancy – were non-committal about upholding EEOC’s determinations Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 forbids discrimination against LGBT workers.

In fact, Dhillon, general counsel of Burlington Stores and former general counsel for the retailer J.C. Penney, seemed ready to overturn findings of LGBT protections on the basis the U.S. government should speak with one voice on the issue.

Dhillon first expressed a lack of commitment to upholding the determination Title VII applies to LGBT workers under questioning from Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), the top Democrat on the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee, although the nominee said she’s “personally opposed” to anti-LGBT discrimination.

“As chair of the EEOC on this issue, I would be one of five votes,” Dhillon said. “What I can commit to you is a very careful review and careful consultation with the career professional staff at the agency who have been working on this issue.”

Dhillon pointed out the split among circuit courts on the issue with regard to sexual orientation and differing views among U.S. agencies, prompting Murray to interject as her time expired the response “sounds wishy-washy to me.”

Gade, who served in the George W. Bush administration on veterans’ issues, military healthcare and U.S. disability policy, was similarly non-committal about upholding protections for LGBT workers under Title VII.

“I’m personally opposed to discrimination on the basis of... sexual orientation or gender identity, and I’m committed to enforcing the law as it’s written and as the court interpreted it,” Gade said.

In 2012, EEOC determined in the case of *Macy v. Holder* that discrimination on the basis of transgender status amounts to sex discrimination and is unlawful under Title VII – a position later adopted by former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder during the Obama administration. In 2015, EEOC reached a determination sexual orientation discrimination was unlawful under the same law in the case of *Baldwin v. Foxx*.

Although the Obama administration never took a position with regard to sexual orientation, the Justice Department upon confirmation of U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions came out against gay protections under Title VII in a friend-of-the-court brief filed by the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Trump administration hasn’t said in so many words transgender people aren’t entitled to workplace protections under Title VII, but that would be consistent with its reasoning for revoking Obama-era guidance assuring transgender kids access to school restrooms consistent with their gender identity under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

Dhillon more clearly articulated the split between the Justice Department and EEOC and her view the administration should speak with one voice under questioning from Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), who invoked recent stories of a gay worker who won \$50,000 in damages

and a transgender worker who won \$140,000 as a result of EEOC’s intervention.

“The challenge is that...while the EEOC has jurisdiction over the private workforce, and state and local government and federal government, the Department of Justice actually enforces Title VII with respect to state and local government employees,” Dhillon said. “So, I think it’s critical that the federal government ultimately speak with one voice on how this statute is appropriately interpreted.”

If Dhillon were confirmed to the EEOC, the only way she could unify the differing positions of U.S. agencies is by dropping EEOC enforcement of the law to protect LGBT people.

Concluding her response, Dhillon suggested only Congress could compel EEOC to protect LGBT workers, referring to a “legislative solution.”

Baldwin responded by pointing to a portion of Dhillon’s opening testimony in which she called filing an employment complaint a “courageous act” and justice delayed is justice denied – a principle the senator said can be doubly true for LGBT workers.

“I only practiced law for a very brief time many years ago, but when I represented individuals who had been discriminated against in the workforce on the basis of sexual orientation, bringing a complaint in and of itself was definitely a courageous act, potentially subjecting them to additional discrimination, and I agree with the point you made in your testimony about the delay,” Baldwin said. “It just strikes me of what you’re saying in terms of waiting to resolve differences is going to impact both of those in the opposite way that you wanted.”

Read the full story online at www.washingtonblade.com



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Supreme Court: Potential Blockbusters Await, Again

BY LISA KEEN, KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The new U.S. Supreme Court session, which begins Oct. 2, could be a critical one for LGBT people. And that's saying a lot, given some of the major victories, LGBT people have won at the high court in the past five years. But the issues cued up this time around could have even greater impact – good or bad – and they are largely concerned with religion. The court has already agreed to hear an appeal that seeks to use the First Amendment as a form of immunity against state laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations.

Lambda Legal has just asked the court to hear an appeal that argues that the federal Civil Rights Act already implicitly prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment. Lambda and other LGBT legal organizations have submitted briefs in opposition to a section of President Trump's executive order concerning immigration bans.

And there are several appeals pending that indirectly concern various LGBT-related issues.



The Worrisome Cake Walk

There's no date set yet for when the Supreme Court will hear arguments in *Masterpiece Cake v. Colorado*, but LGBT legal activists will be intensely involved in this ACLU case. Its implications – both symbolically and legally – could be huge, affecting whether any business can deny services or public accommodations to LGBT people by simply claiming to have either a religious belief or a personal opinion that is hostile to them.

The case involves a baker who refused to sell a wedding cake to a same-sex couple. The baker, Jack Phillips, has offered at least three reasons why he did so. He's claimed a religious belief opposed to marriage for same-sex couples. He's claimed a personal viewpoint that is hostile to marriage for same-sex couples. And he's claimed that a Colorado law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation impinges on his "artistic expression" in creating his wedding cakes. His legal team from the Alliance Defending Freedom says in its brief to the court that Phillips is a man of "deep religious faith" who can "only create cakes that are consistent with the tenets of his faith."

A tour of his website indicates these designs involve mostly flowers, ribbons, polka dots, and curlicues. Only two of the two dozen designs include incorporate a male-female image. And Phillips refused to sell the gay

One other big difference in 2017 versus 2014: President Trump. Under President Obama, the administration submitted a brief in support of equal treatment of same-sex couples. Under President Trump, the administration has submitted a brief defending the baker who claims a non-discrimination law imposes on his First Amendment right to freedom of speech and expression.

couple a wedding cake even before they had a chance to ask him to create a design just for them.

His attorneys say the issue is "whether Phillips may decline requests for wedding cakes that celebrate marriages in conflict with his religious beliefs." The Colorado Attorney General Cynthia Coffman says that, because Phillips "'categorically refused' to accept the cake order 'before there was any discussion about what the cake would look like,'" there was no imposition on his religious views. Phillips and his shop could have simply sold the gay couple "a product that they would sell to heterosexual couples."

Phillips' argument failed before the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, the state court of appeals, and the Colorado Supreme Court. But at least four justices of the U.S. Supreme Court have agreed it should hear

his appeal. This is particularly worrisome to LGBT legal activists because, just three years ago, the Supreme Court refused to hear a very similar case out of New Mexico. In that case, a wedding photographer refused service to a lesbian couple.

What's different with the *Masterpiece* case? It's probably not the newly added justice, Neil Gorsuch. Gorsuch replaced the late Justice Antonin Scalia in April and the court voted to take the *Masterpiece* appeal on June 22. But, Scalia had the worst voting record on LGBT issues of any justice, so it's a little hard to believe that Scalia was the missing fourth vote. More likely, it was Chief Justice John Roberts or even Justice Anthony Kennedy. And while Kennedy wrote the opinion in *Obergefell* in 2015 that struck down bans on marriage for same-sex couples, he also stated that marriage gives such couples provides "symbolic

recognition" that "nourishes the union."

"Many who deem same-sex marriage to be wrong," wrote Kennedy, "reach that conclusion based on decent and honorable religious or philosophical premises, and neither they nor their beliefs are disparaged here." It may also be a change in the argument. In *Elane Photography v. Willock*, at the Supreme Court level, the Alliance Defending Freedom argued only free speech as a reason to allow some businesses to ignore state laws prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination in public accommodations. Now, the Alliance, which is also defending the baker, is arguing free exercise of religion and freedom of expression.

One other big difference in 2017 versus 2014: President Trump. Under President Obama, the administration submitted a brief in support of equal treatment of same-sex couples. Under President Trump, the administration has submitted a brief defending the baker who claims a non-discrimination law imposes on his First Amendment right to freedom of speech and expression.

The Texas Two-Step

The City of Houston appealed a case to the Supreme Court September 15, seeking a declaration that the high court's decision in *Obergefell* means the city must pay

equal benefits to city employees in same-sex marriages as it does to employees in heterosexual marriages.

In the case, *Turner v. Pidgeon*, the City of Houston challenges a June 30 decision of the Texas Supreme Court that held that a trial court should consider whether *Obergefell* requires that the city pay equal benefits. The state court decision claims the Supreme Court addressed just the right to a marriage license and failed to address such specifics as equal benefits.

Following *Obergefell*, two taxpayers, including Jack Pidgeon, filed the original lawsuit to oppose the decision of then Mayor Annise Parker to see that city employees with same-sex spouses received the same benefits as city employees with heterosexual partners. The Texas Supreme Court ruled in their favor, saying that the “reach and ramifications” of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Obergefell* require additional rulings.

The city’s current Mayor Sylvester Turner filed a petition with the Supreme Court.

Trump Continues Opposition

The Trump administration has also taken sides against the interests of LGBT people in another major case: one deciding whether Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Lambda Legal petitioned the Supreme Court Sept. 7 to review an Eleventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruling in *Evans v. Georgia Regional*. That ruling held that Title VII does not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. On Sept. 26, the Second Circuit heard arguments in a similar case in New York (*Zarda v. Altitude Express*). In that case, U.S. Attorney Jeff Sessions has submitted a brief arguing (unlike the EEOC) that the Department of Justice does not believe Title VII prohibits sexual orientation discrimination.

Four justices will have to agree to hear Lambda’s appeal in *Evans* and, while the Trump administration’s position might discourage four votes, there is other impetus. In April, the Seventh Circuit, which covers the states of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin, ruled that Title VII does cover sexual orientation. And a conflict between the circuits is often a reason the Supreme Court agrees to hear an issue.

LGBT Groups Push Back, Too

One of the session’s highest profile cases will, no doubt, be one that asks whether one aspect of President Trump’s controversial immigration executive order violates the First Amendment’s admonition to “make no law respecting the establishment of religion.”

The executive order sought to ban foreign nationals from six countries in the Middle East from entering the U.S. for 90 days to “prevent infiltration by foreign terrorists.” It also limits to 50,000 the number of refugees who can enter the U.S. during the current fiscal year. Opponents say the executive order unfairly

targets people of Muslim belief, in violation of the First Amendment establishment clause.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights joined a brief from several civil rights organizations, including the NAACP. The brief notes that NCLR’s Immigration Project has provided free legal assistance to “thousands” of LGBT immigrants in the U.S. The brief argues that President Trump’s proposed immigration executive order “improperly promotes social categorization and stereotyping that endangers the lives and well-being of individuals of the Muslim faith.”

Lambda Legal signed onto a brief, too; one led by the Southern Poverty Law Center, People for the American Way, and others. Lambda, too, has represented people seeking asylum. Among other things, the brief argues that the executive order “foments the social divisiveness and violence that the Establishment Clause was meant to forestall.”

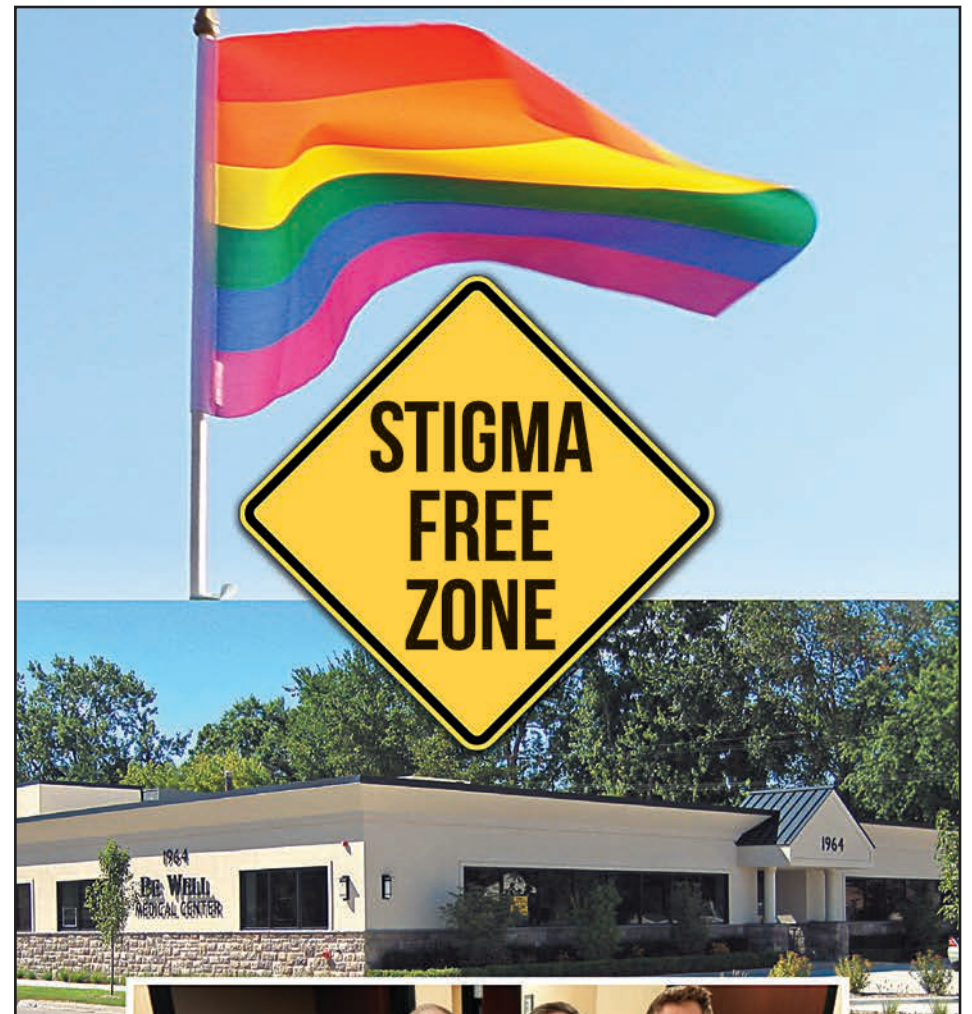
Quoting from *Obergefell*, the brief states, “Governmental policies that disfavor a minority group impermissibly ‘put the imprimatur of the State itself on an exclusion that soon demeans or stigmatizes those whose own liberty is then denied’.”

Other Potential Cases

There are several other appeals pending before the court that could have potential implications for LGBT people. The court has not yet indicated whether it will review them, but they include:

Reyes v. Sessions (17-241): This case, from the Ninth Circuit, concerns how to interpret the words “particular social group” under the Immigration and Nationality Act. Under the INA, a person can be eligible for asylum if they might face persecution in their country of origin because they belong to a “particular social group.” The person who brought this challenge was not LGBT but rather a member of a violent street gang in El Salvador. He challenges the narrow interpretation of “particular social group” used by the Bureau of Immigration Appeals. The BIA interprets it to require that everyone in this “particular social group” have an “immutable characteristic” in common.

A Woman’s Friend v. Becerra (16-1146): The court is set to discuss in its private conference September 25 whether to take this case. It tackles several questions related to a California law that requires clinics that provide pregnancy-related services, including church-based non-profits, post information about where patients can obtain help with abortion and other pregnancy-related services. “A Woman’s Friend” clinics consider “abortion is evil and a sin” and do not receive any governmental funding. The clinics argue that laws imposing such “content-based” requirements should be held to the highest level of scrutiny by the courts and violate the First Amendment guarantee of free exercise of religion. Also seeking appeal on the state law is *LivingWell v. Bacerra* (16-1153)



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Bombshell Bridal Debuts YouTube Reality-Type Show

BY BTL STAFF

ST. CLAIR SHORES – Best friends and sisters Amanda Cover and Amy Krizanek own Bombshell Bridal, the Midwest's first and largest bridal shop dedicated to curvy and plus size brides. They have been open for seven years, helped thousands of brides, and made countless connections with their customers.

These women are launching a new project unlike anything they've ever done, and quite different from any typical marketing the industry has seen; they have spent the past six months filming and producing their own unscripted, reality-type show that will air on the Bombshell Bridal YouTube channel.

"We are smart, funny, talented, hard working, interesting, plus size women, of all ages and stages of life. We love what we do passionately, and this project is our story," said Amanda, explaining further what the project is.

"It's the wonderful, true story of our lives and our business. It's vulnerable moments and joyous ones, highs and lows, and an inside look behind the scenes of our amazing business. It's about us, why we do what we do, and the passion and dedication behind it all. We are so proud of this project, because it is unlike anything you have ever seen before. Every moment is genuine and true, and nothing is scripted."

Amanda and Amy and their crew can be found all over the Detroit area highlighting local landmarks and hot spots. Bombshell Bridal is their anchor, but their story includes the planning and opening of their new plus size clothing boutique, Liz Louize, in Royal

Oak. Also, their various travels around the country and all of the shenanigans they get into along the way.

Amanda said they do this "to better connect with our brides, customers, and friends. We've actually been approached seven times now by various production companies interested in making a show about us, mostly for cable networks. Each time there was something that just wasn't right for us, something that took away the integrity of our customers and the work we do. All the while, we keep hearing from our brides how much they'd love to watch a show about us. Ultimately, we decided to self-produce our series, so that we can maintain the highest standards of integrity and honesty."

Amanda and Amy are ready to launch their first few episodes now and will then release new episodes every other week.

"So much of what we do is about connection and creating a beautiful memory," said Amanda. "Lots of stores sell dresses, but no one goes to the extreme like we do to make sure that every curvy woman who visits us, leaves feeling worthy, loved, and beautiful, an experience she doesn't get many places, if anywhere. It is our mission to empower and uplift every woman we meet, and our series has turned out to be a perfect, feel-good reflection of this."

Bombshell Bridal is located at 27887 Harper Ave. in St. Clair Shores. Follow the lovely ladies on their website www.bombshellbridal.boutique, on Facebook, on Instagram or on Twitter @bows_b4_bro.



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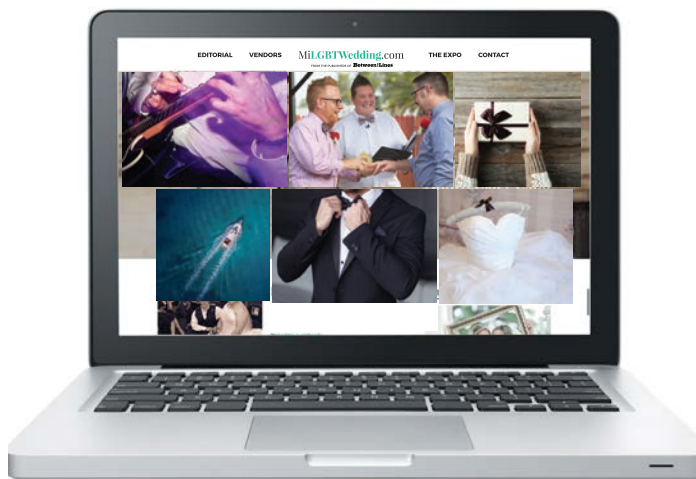


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Protestors picketing the Masterpiece Cakeshop in Colorado. This fall, the Supreme Court will hear the case of a Colorado baker who refused to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple based on his religious beliefs. Facebook photos

Most Americans Oppose Allowing Wedding Vendors to Deny Service to LGBT Couples on Religious Grounds

BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON — Ahead of the landmark Supreme Court case *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, a new PRRI survey finds a majority (53 percent) of the public oppose allowing businesses that provide wedding services—such as catering, flowers, and wedding cakes—to refuse services to same-sex couples. Roughly four in ten (41 percent) favor allowing wedding-related businesses to refuse to serve same-sex couples on religious grounds.

The survey was conducted by PRRI, a nonpartisan research organization, among 2,024 adults between Aug. 2-8. The survey gauges attitudes on a number of issues impacting the LGBT community, such as non-discrimination laws, same-sex marriage, transgender military service, and

religiously based refusals to serve same-sex couples—the crux of the upcoming Supreme Court case.

“While the same-sex marriage wedding services debate is often cast as a divide between religious and non-religious Americans, there is in fact only one major religious group in the country—white evangelical Protestants—in which a majority supports allowing wedding-related businesses to refuse service to same-sex couples on religious grounds,” said PRRI CEO Robert P. Jones. “Notably, a majority of African American Protestants, who are divided on the question of same-sex marriage, oppose allowing these religiously based refusals to serve gay and lesbian people.”

Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of white evangelical Protestants and nearly half (49 percent) of white mainline Protestants believe businesses that provide wedding

services should be allowed to refuse services to same-sex couples on religious grounds. A majority of white Catholics (55 percent), black Protestants (56 percent), members of non-Christian religious groups (64 percent), unaffiliated Americans (65 percent), and Hispanic Catholics (73 percent) believe that such businesses should provide the same services to same-sex couples as they would to anyone else.

Among the findings, support for same-sex marriage continues to rise among the general public. Nearly two-thirds (66 percent) of Americans favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally, while fewer than one-third (28 percent) oppose. Even a majority (55 percent) of seniors (age 65 or older) support the legality of same-sex marriage today.

Read the full report online at <http://gaybe.am/pt>.

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Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs at a news conference on July 11, 1973 in New York, before their "Battle of the Sexes" match at the Houston Astrodome. Photo: AP

Billie Jean King, Emma Stone and Andrea Riseborough on King's Landmark Tennis Win for Women and LGBT Rights

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Lesbian sports pioneer Billie Jean King would, in due course, take her victory beyond the tennis court, to the front lines of equality for women and LGBT people alike. But first, there was her legendary face-off with her much older, goonish opponent, Bobby Riggs.

Famously coined "Battle of the Sexes," the game transcended the court, marking a milestone in the fight for equality as it blazed an important trail for minorities in sports, after King crushed her sexist rival during the nationally televised match in 1973 at the Houston Astrodome.

If it sounds like the stuff of big-screen moviemaking magic, well, now it is. After 2001's Goldie Hawn-produced TV movie starring Holly Hunter as King, named "When Billie Beat Bobby," Oscar winner Emma Stone steps into the tennis champ's sneakers to remind chauvinist pigs like Riggs to kindly take a seat. "Battle of the Sexes," starring a perfectly-cast Steve Carell as Riggs, is as much a time capsule as it is a timely gender-equity statement, a sentiment not lost on Stone.

"Billie Jean is a social activist and she was always wired for social change, and she knew that from a young age," Stone, seated next to King, recently told a group of journalists at the W Hotel in Westwood, California. "She was

also great at tennis, and this was gonna be an amazing platform, if she could be the best, to change the world."

King did, of course. But for Stone, it started with realizing the "super empowering" effects of weightlifting, wherein "physical strength equals strength out in our country or in the conversation or to further equality." It wasn't just muscle the actress had to gain, however—Stone had to gain an understanding of King's history, both professionally and personally (and the latter's effect on her game). There was also, you know, the actual tennis.

"This story is about her personal journey and personal struggle, but had this been the Billie Jean tennis movie, I never would've

gotten it," Stone says, chuckling. "For a novice tennis player to become No. 1 in the world in three months, it was like, 'How?'"

To get Stone primed for her role, King joined the "La La Land" actress on the court, where King tossed her some balls. Additionally, Stone pored over historical footage and ample news coverage on the landmark match. Intimate conversations with King were important too, because Stone needed to engender the spirit of King at a radically different time in her life—and in the world.

Now, Stone says, "(King) is fully informed and is able to talk about all of this with closure and hindsight and she can just see it more clearly than she might have been able to at age 29."

Then, before King entered into a relationship with fellow tennis pro Ilana Kloss, her partner for the past 30 years, the tennis legend came to know herself thanks to an affair with her secretary, the more sexually evolved Marilyn Barnett, which began in the early '70s. Barnett had been King's hairstylist for several months before they became romantic and "embodies the free spirit and hope and liberation of the early '70s," says British actress Andrea Riseborough later that afternoon, during our exclusive interview. Known for gracefully inhabiting a bevy of real-life personas, including Wallis Simpson (in the 2011 Madonna-directed film "W.E.") and Margaret Thatcher, Riseborough didn't have access to Barnett – in fact, she didn't consult King either, perhaps because King's relationship with Barnett was far more toxic than "Battle of the Sexes" wants to admit.

In 1981, Barnett sued King, alleging their seven-year relationship entitled her to half of King's earnings, but King's counsel fought the case (and won), noting that "palimony law" did not protect gay and lesbian couples.

"Billie has gone on to have a much greater love story with Ilana," says Riseborough. "But it was an important time in her life. A stressful

time, and a wonderful time."

She continues: "I really have just treated her as a human being in that, if she offers something up to me, that's wonderful. But this whole process has been difficult for her, as you can imagine, watching her own life at the most pivotal point of your life."

Much to Riseborough's surprise, King praised Riseborough's Barnett as realistic despite her ex-lover's mostly-undocumented life. Instead, select videos and a few photographs featuring a background-positioned Barnett informed Riseborough's acting. And of course there was the script, written by husband-wife team and "Little Miss Sunshine" filmmakers Valerie Faris and Jonathan Dayton.

"It was a collective effort of us all knowing how instrumental she was in the film as the catalyst of change," Riseborough says, "from Billie feeling her body is a machine to her feeling like a sensual, beautiful thing

to be explored in a healthy way."

King's husband at the time, attorney Larry King, would discover his wife's secret, but insisted she focus on shattering the glass ceiling, as "Larry and I always talked about

“ Billie has gone on to have a much greater love story with Ilana. But it was an important time in her life. A stressful time, and a wonderful time. **”**

—Andrea Riseborough

Continued on page 20



Emma Stone, as Billie Jean King, with co-star Steve Carell, who plays Bobby Riggs. Photo: Fox Searchlight

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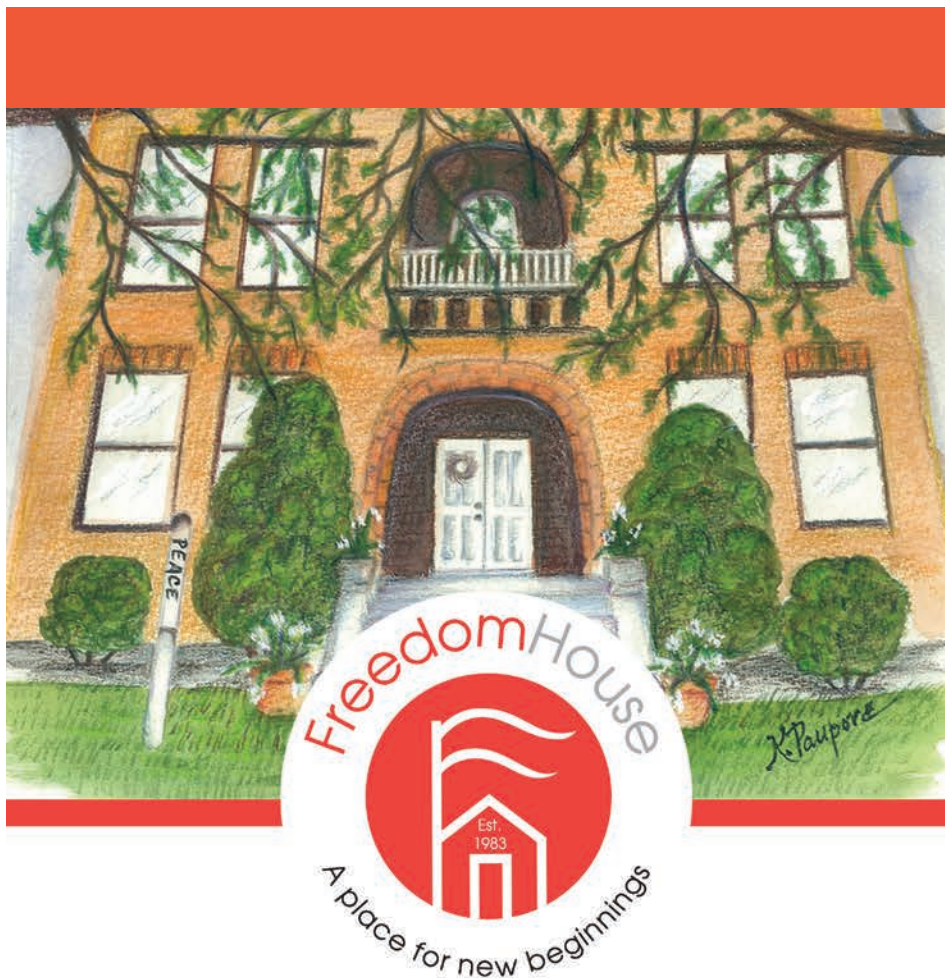
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Andrea Riseborough plays Marilyn Barnett, the lover of Billie Jean King (Emma Stone). Photo: Fox Searchlight

► Battle of the Sexes

Continued from p. 19

changing the tennis world” to be more inclusive.

“We were very much in it together,” she remembers, though the pair would ultimately divorce in 1987.

Repressed sexual feelings, paired with the pressure of her newfound role as a feminist torchbearer, put King in a precarious place, as she struggled to be openly gay during a time when it was especially taboo to be out as a public sports figure.

“The LGBTQ community suffers a lot, especially our young kids, so that’s why it’s so important to embrace everyone,” she says now, reflecting on her own self-discovery. “You want people to be their unique self, their authentic self. It’s so important that we all encourage (that).”

Dayton and Faris’ film examines King’s own internal torment in a moving scene where Stone breaks down sobbing in the locker room after her Riggs defeat, uncertain about her future as a gay athlete. “She was on four hours of sleep every night, (and there was) all this going on with Marilyn and Larry,” Stone says. “I was thinking about that moment in all other scenes of the film because I think she had such strength, and because she holds it together, but it’s all just right under the surface for most of the film, that sort of breaking point.”

The scene portrayed “exactly how I felt,” says King, now 73. “It was so touching when I saw it, and so authentic (to) what was in my heart at the time.”

After organizing and launching the Women’s Tennis Association in 1973, King continued to level the playing field a year later, founding the Women’s Sports Foundation. Seventy-nine cents from each ticket sold during the film’s opening weekend will be donated to the foundation via 21st Century Fox, which King finds “so meaningful.”

Certainly, King’s accomplishments are immense, both on and off the court. In 2009, she became the first female athlete to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, which President Barack Obama awarded her in 2009 for her work with women’s advocacy and LGBTQ initiatives.

“When you’re around Billie for a certain period of life, you go back into your life being reinvigorated,” Riseborough says. “You’re sort of ready to fight for justice.”

On September 9, Stone attended the U.S. Open with King, and together they reveled at Sloane Stephens’ victory. “A woman of color,” King says. “And that’s one of the things we were trying to do (in 1973) as well.”

“Watching that moment was pretty unbelievable,” Stone adds. “And Billie Jean has said, ‘This is what (we) were fighting for.’ They were fighting for the next generation, and onward.”

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).



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HOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

In Bed with Alan Cumming

'Battle of the Sexes' Star Talks Billie Jean King in the Time of Trump

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Alan Cumming is chill as can be in a hotel bed in Los Angeles, where he's tugging on his crotch, illustrating to me the surprisingly flirty exchange he just had with tennis great and LGBT pioneer Billie Jean King.

"She just made a joke about my dick in the corridor," Cumming says, amused. "I'm like, 'Billie Jean!'"

King's quip was a reaction to the loose nether-regions fabric of Cumming's drop-crotch pants, which had the sports icon asking, "What are you packing down there?"

"I was like, 'No complaints so far, Billie Jean.'"

Cumming obviously knows King fairly well, as the two met before he was offered a role in "Battle of the Sexes," the film centered on her legendary win in 1973 against boastful chauvinist Bobby Riggs (Steve Carell plays Riggs, while Emma Stone depicts King). The Scottish actor portrays Ted Tinling, a designer who fashioned dresses for many female pro tennis players, including King's outfit for her match against Riggs, and who was also a British intelligence spy during World War II.

Recently, Cumming told me I could keep my shoes on as I lay beside him in his king-size bed to talk about gay spies, King's obsession with "The Good Wife" and why he feels like Emma Stone's "big brother."

Having known Billie Jean King for a while now, what do you admire most about her?

I mean, I think she's a legend. She's amazing, when you consider what she's done and what she's lived through and how she's paved the way for so many people, both as a woman and as a gay woman.

She really was a critical stepping stone in queer and women's liberation.



Photo: Fox Searchlight.

I think if she had lost this match it would've put the cause back years. And it's hard because it's so kind of show-business-y and frothy in the way it was presented. It really was a huge thing in terms of the women's movement. It's crazy.

What's it been like to get to know her while making this film?

I knew her quite well. She came to my house for dinner right before I got the part. I did something for her foundation, but we also met over the years at this Amazon thing – and so I'd see her regularly. And she's also such a sort of geek. She loved "The Good Wife." She's obsessed with "The Good Wife," and she'd totally geek out to me about that, which was so hilarious.

But she's such a darling, and she talks a lot about what she had to deal with. But the "Battle of the Sexes" thing – it wasn't till after I got the part that I actually started to talk to her about it and also her relationship with Ted, which was so lovely, and he was

obviously very beloved by her and all the (tennis) girls. There were a lot of them last night (at the premiere) – the other girls, the real people, and they were all sort of cooing about Ted.

He passed away in 1990, so did you learn about Ted through Billie Jean?

You can look things up on YouTube, but he's not there very much. For example, he was a spy and, like, how am I going to get that into this (movie)?

There could be an entire biopic about every person in this film.

Yeah, they're all fascinating. But basically, he's there in the story to provide some sort of humor, but also to show the audience that (Billie Jean) has an ally to guide her, and then to deliver the big message at the end.

Your last scene with Emma really resonated with me as a gay man. It was really special.

It's beautiful, isn't it?

What was it like to shoot that scene with Emma?

It was lovely. The great thing about the film was it kept changing. It was actually really fluid, rewriting all the time, and in a very positive way. Everyone had ideas and things were being shifted and the way they shot it was very kind of fluid and not rigid. Often I didn't even know we'd been covered in the scenes. It was like, "OK, we're moving on," and I'd be like, "What? Am I not in the scene?" "Oh, we got you."

Did you feel how emotionally powerful that scene was while shooting it?

Yeah. I love Emma, and I do feel a bit like her big brother. When she was doing "Cabaret" on Broadway with me, she was a little nervous and I was kind of the old soul, so I think it made sense for that sort of dynamic between us (in this movie) and also it felt like, "This is a big moment in the film."

Do you hope this movie speaks to new generations of queers who may not be familiar with Billie Jean, and how so?

On so many levels, oh my god. Just attacks on women and gay people again and massive persecution and hate crimes going up since Trump, and that's what's interesting. Obviously, when we made it, it was before all that. It felt like we were telling this really great story, but now it's even more pertinent because a lot of the themes and a lot of the things that Bobby stands for are back in our society again and being endorsed by the highest officer in the land, which is horrible.

You are portraying a gay ex-CIA agent on CBS's forthcoming drama "Instinct." Do you feel playing gay characters in film and TV right now is a political resistance of sorts?

I do. And gay spies – that's my new thing. I definitely feel like...

More of a call to action?

Absolutely. The fact is, it's fun. I solve murders and blah, blah. But it's the first-ever network drama to have a gay character in a leading role – that's huge in this country, that's massive. And I love the fact that his gayness is the fourth thing about him. I mean, he has a good relationship with a guy and it's not angst-ridden. It's just, also, he happens to be gay. We need more and more and more things like that, so the fact that CBS has decided to do this now makes me really grateful.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

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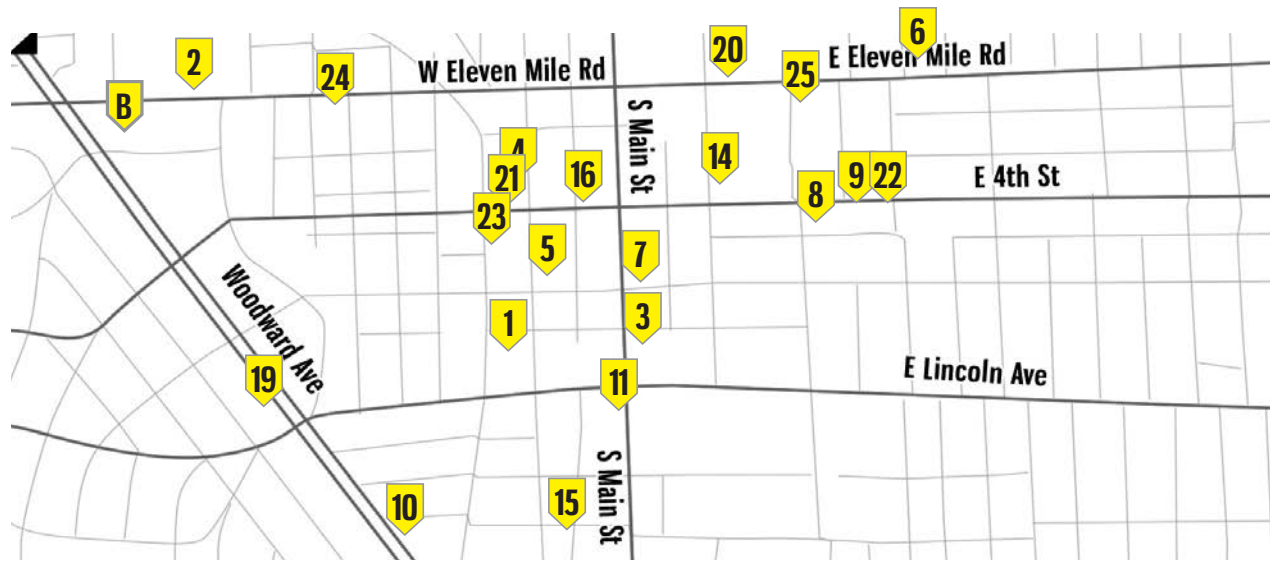


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Royal Oak Mayor Michael "Mike" Fournier was appointed from the Commission to the Mayor's Seat earlier this year when former Mayor Jim Ellison left to serve as State Representative. Now Fournier is up for election as Mayor, and he is being challenged for the seat by Mike Skinner.

Fournier was first elected to the Commission in 2011. He's also served on the Library Board and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and been a volunteer in his children's schools. He works in sales for a Tier 1 automotive company.

Originally appeared in the Oakland County Times. Listen to what Mayor Fournier has to say about why people should vote for him online at <http://oaklandcounty115.com/2017/09/18/2017-candidate-interview-royal-oak-mayor-mike-fournier>.

Enjoy the Sounds of the Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra

More than 60 volunteer musicians will perform classical masterworks as well as contemporary selections during the Royal Oak Symphony Orchestra concert program at 8 p.m. on Oct. 27 at Royal Oak Middle School Dondero Auditorium, 709 N. Washington Ave. in Royal Oak. ROSO provides a quality cultural experience for Royal Oak and surrounding communities as well as providing opportunities for music education and appreciation to people of all ages. For the 2017-2018 season, concerts will be presented by John McLaughlin Williams. For more information, visit www.royaloakorchestra.org.

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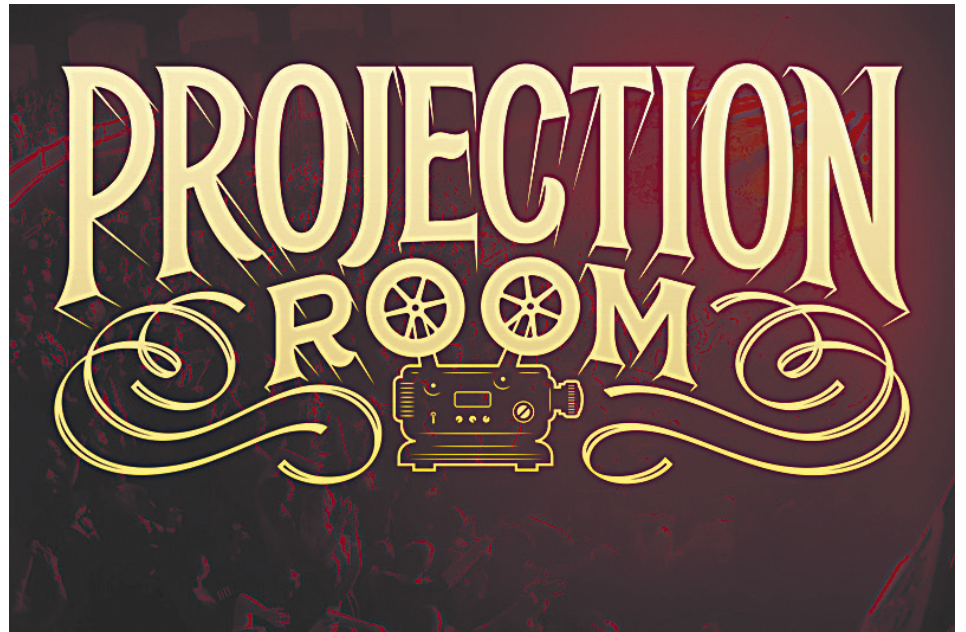
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Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Sept. 28

2017 Equality Lobby Day 8:30 a.m. Welcome and training; Lunch is provided Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Ave., **Lansing**. <http://bit.ly/eqlobbyday>

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

Friday, Sept. 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, Sept. 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

Detroit Wine Stroll 1 p.m. Tickets: \$45 in advance, \$55 at the door. Detroit Area Art Deco Society, 1565 Broadway, **Detroit**. 248-582-3326. info@DAADS.org <https://michtix.com/events/detroit-wine-stroll-2017>

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

Monday, Oct. 2

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

jimtoycenter.org/

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

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

Tuesday, Oct. 3

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

Because We Are Worth It (Sex Addicts Anonymous LGBTQ Meeting) 6:30 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. www.jimtoycenter.org

Meet Jocelyn Benson 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15, \$40 for the series. The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, **Birmingham**. 248-644-5832. program@communityhouse.com <http://gaybe.am/ig>

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

LGBTQ in Uniform Support Group 7 p.m. Meets the first Tuesday of every month. Open to current and former police, fire, emergency medical personnel and

military. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Men's Group Meeting 7 p.m. Perceptions, 123 N. Michigan Ave., **Saginaw**. www.perceptionsmi.org/

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

Support Group for Parents of Transgender Youth 7 p.m. Facilitated by Lisa Goyette, social worker, trans activist and ally, and proud parent of a trans teen son. Stand with Trans, 2515 Joslyn Court, **Lake Orion**. 248-330-8493. Lisa@standwithtrans.org www.standwithtrans.org

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

Young Adult Group 7 p.m. For young

people ages 18-24 Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. www.grpride.org

Wednesday, Oct. 4

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

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

Dykes on Bikes 6:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

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, 25 Sheldon Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. www.grpride.org

Thursday, Oct. 5

LGBTQ Networking Group 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

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

Editor's Pick

Detroit Wine Stroll

Enjoy art, architecture and great wines during the Detroit Wine Stroll presented by the Detroit Area Art Deco Society from 1-5 p.m. on Sept. 30. Check out several architecturally significant buildings while sipping on select wines paired with an appetizer at each of eight unique participating venues. Tickets are \$45 in advance, \$55 at the door and can be purchased online at <https://michtix.com/events/detroit-wine-stroll-2017>. Check in at Angelina's Italian Bistro, 1565 Broadway in Detroit. Call 248-582-3326 or email info@DAADS.org for more information.



Editor's Pick

Meet Jocelyn Benson

The Community House announces the Women of Influence Lecture Series featuring the women shaping Michigan's cultural and societal landscape. At 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 3, meet Jocelyn Benson CEO, Ross Initiative in Sports for Equality (RISE); Former Dean, Wayne State University Law School. The series runs through Nov. 1 at The Community House, 380 South Bates Street in Birmingham. Purchase tickets online <http://gaybe.com/lg> for \$15, \$40 for the series. Call 248-644-5832 or email program@communityhouse.com for more information.



outcenter.org

Transgender Support Group 7 p.m. Perceptions, 815 N. Grant, Bay City. www.perceptionsmi.org/

Friday, Oct. 6

LGBTQ Disco Party 7 p.m. RSVP by phone or via the website. Suggested donation \$5. 18+ Theme is disco fever. OutFront Kalamazoo, 2747 S. 11th St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234. www.eventbrite.com/e/outgoing-disco-party-free-event-tickets-36757764463

Saturday, Oct. 7

Bark for Life Kalamazoo 2017 9 a.m. A benefit for the American Cancer Society. Admission free for people, dogs are \$15. Bark for Life Kalamazoo County, 900 S. 8th St., Kalamazoo. 269-249-8719. <http://gaybe.com/LA>

3rd Annual Trans Youth Empowerment Workshop 10 a.m. For ages 12-22. NEW this year: All Day Parent Workshop, Activities for transgender/gender expansive children ages 6-11 Stand with Trans, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. roz@standwithtrans.org <http://standwithtrans.org/2017-workshop-registration/>

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

Open Ports, Open Arms 2 p.m. A ride, party and raffle to benefit for Freedom House Detroit Detroit's MCR, Ypsi's NoNo's, and Southeast Michigan's Femme Pedals, 517 W. Cross St., Ypsilanti. <http://gaybe.com/hv>

LGBTQ with HPV 6 p.m. Support, discussion and activity group for anyone with HSV1/2 and HPV. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

Lesbian Euchre 6:30 p.m. Please arrive early to register. \$5 donation to Affirmations. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. lsbdani@outcenter.org www.goaffirmations.org

Fall Fling 2017 7 p.m. Celebrate 10 years in the Affirmations building with entertainment, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, desserts, raffle and silent auction. Purchase tickets online. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-677-7227. kkocho@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org/fall-fling-2017

Sunday, Oct. 8

Walk to End Alzheimers 10:30 a.m. Alzheimers Association - Michigan Great Lakes Chapter, 4800 E. Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor. 7343692716. mgbibbons@alz.org <http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2017/MI-MichiganGreatLakes?fr>

id=10507&pg=entry

Rainbow Book Club 4:30 p.m. Rainbow Book Club, 319 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. www.jimtoycenter.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, Oct. 9

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/

Trans Youth and Family Support Groups 6:30 p.m. Penny Hader, LMSW will facilitate the parent support group and Stephanie Lange, LMSW, will facilitate the youth support group. Contact Lange for more information. Stand with Trans, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2872. slange@cvs.k12.mi.us www.standwithtrans.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

Tuesday, Oct. 10

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

Wednesday, Oct. 11

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

Transcend 6:30 p.m. For transgender and gender non-conforming individuals OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., Kalamazoo. 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

FIM 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. FIM Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. ftmdetroit@gmail.com

Thursday, Oct. 12

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

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

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, Oct. 13

Ann Arbor Dog Walking Academy 9 a.m. An intensive 3-day workshop leading to professional dog walking certification. Admission: \$850. dog*tec, 30847 Flynn Dr., Romulus. 510-525-2547. info@dogtec.org

Working with Transgender Youth in the Juvenile Justice System (12 Social Work CE's) 9 a.m. NASW members: \$325. Non-members: \$390. NASW student, retired, gold, unemployed, and transitional members: \$165. Non-member student: \$325. National Association of Social Workers - Michigan Chapter, 1679 Broadway St., Ann Arbor. 517-487-1548. tmccarthy@nasw-michigan.org www.nasw-michigan.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1004305&group=

Department of Victim Services

Open Office Hours 2 p.m. Contact Serena Johnson, lead advocate, for more information or to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins welcome. Equality Michigan, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, Grand Rapids. 313-537-7000 Ext 115. sjohnson@equalitymi.org www.grpride.org

Artworks Detroit 2017 7 p.m. ArtWorks proceeds helps support the diverse Matrix family of programs that are focused around educating children, supporting families and rebuilding neighborhoods in Detroit. Matrix Human Services, 460 W. Baltimore, Detroit. <http://gaybe.com/Q8>

MUSIC & MORE

First Presbyterian Church of Farmington "Classical Piano Concert - Francesco Attesti" . First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, 26165 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. 4 p.m. Oct. 8. 248-474-6170. farmington-pres.org

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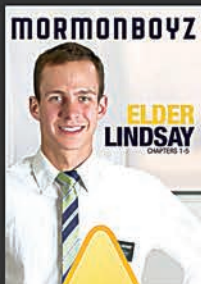
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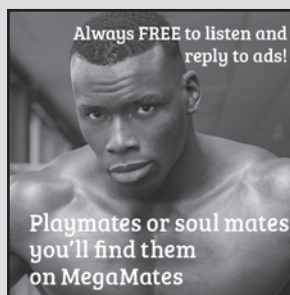
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7 Things to Live For (Literally) This Fall The Frivolist

BY MIKEY ROX

From a hilariously new gay doll Instagram to the blitz of award-worthy films slated for release, there's plenty to love about the pumpkin-spiciest season of all. Here's what to pay attention to this fall.

1. The L.A. Basics

Since the The L.A. Basics Instagram account arrived on Aug. 25 with its first tongue-in-cheek post parodying SoCal scene queens while backhandedly reading them for filth (it applies to homos everywhere though; that's the real beauty of it), it's garnered nearly 40,000 followers at press time and climbing. While you'll get a kick out of the creator's irreverent observations regarding our community's holy commitment to Sunday Funday and passion for "frose" – among dozens of other gay clichés – there's one overarching question I ask myself every time I peep a new post: Why does this remind me of Colton Haynes? Judge for yourself @the_la_basics on IG.

2. National Suicide Prevention Month

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, the annual campaign for which will be wrapping up by the time you read this. Mental health issues, depression, and our own dedication to providing support and resources to those in our lives who may need it, however, should not be confined to a month of promoted awareness. If someone in your life is exhibiting signs that may require professional help or medical

intervention, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or visit suicidepreventionlifeline.org. If you're personally having trouble coping, dealing with your emotions or any other of life's problems, rest assured that you are not alone, someone is available to listen, and someone *will* help you. You belong *here*.

3. The return of "Will & Grace"

Season nine of seminal LGBT sitcom "Will & Grace" returns to the NBC Thursday night lineup at 9/8c Sept. 28, and we're eagerly awaiting to see what the codependent pals are up to 11 years after they left us. The series will be retconned to eliminate the eponymous characters' children who were introduced in the 2006 finale, which is really neither here nor there because we're only coming back for Jack and Karen anyway.

4. Hallo-queen

If you're a fan of gay Christmas a.k.a. Halloween, you've probably had this year's getup locked down for months. If you still need inspiration for a look that's both bag-of-dicks queer with a touch of topicality – like "Closet-Case Trump Bro" or "Viral Hula-Hooper" – keep an eye out for my annual Gayest Halloween Costumes roundup coming soon to an LGBT publication near you.

5. Cool-weather weekends with your boo

Picnic lunches at local farms. Bonfires in the backyard. Naked cuddles and binge sessions of "Stranger Things" season two (available on Netflix Oct. 27). These are just some of the fall activities I'm

looking forward to with my boo.

6. National Coming Out Day

Whether you've been out and proud for years – or you've just recently worked up the courage to reveal your truth – we all stand together in solidarity and support on National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11. No pressure though. Only you know when the time is right, and there's nothing wrong with concealing your sexual orientation if that's what's best for you. Your journey is yours and yours alone. No judgment.

7. Academy Award-worthy cinema

Film studios hoping for Oscar gold save their most promising films for end-of-year release, and this year's buzzed-about contenders include several LGBT-sensible flicks, including "Battle of the Sexes," about out tennis pro Billie Jean King's wild-ride tennis match against loud-mouthed hustler Bobby Riggs; "Call Me By Your Name" (Nov. 24), starring Armie Hammer as a 24-year-old Jewish-American scholar who falls for a 17-year-old boy in 1980s Italy (a movie that skeeze ball James Woods will *not* be seeing, by the way); and "God's Own Country," a British film that has drawn comparison to "Brokeback Mountain," but hasn't yet received distribution in the United States.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.

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Charles Alexander's 'Art and Autograph' Exhibition and Book Signing

BTL STAFF

DETROIT – Charles Alexander's "Art and Autograph" exhibition begins Oct. 6 with a book signing and reception from 5-9 p.m. in the Scarab Club Second Floor Lounge Art Gallery.

There will be music, refreshments and surprise guests in attendance. "Art by Charles Alexander," a 150-page book, featuring Alexander's art, writing, poetry will be offered for sale with proceeds benefiting the Scarab Club's "We know Detroit by Art," second-century kick-off theme celebration. The exhibit runs through Nov. 11 during regular gallery hours.

Alexander – a Spirit of Detroit awardee, a volunteer curator of the Affirmations Pittman-Puckett Art Gallery for eight years and a Jan Stevenson Award recipient — has exhibited at the Detroit Artist Market, the Birmingham/Bloomfield Art Gallery, Scarab Club, and has twice been a demonstrating artist at the Detroit Institute of Art.

His art has been featured in the Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, Ann Arbor News, Metro Times, Between The Lines. Five BTL covers were for World AIDS DAY. His Facebook pages since 2010 have carried over 1,000 of his art images. His popular BTL Parting Glances columns number over 650. His designs are used by ArtWear Detroit for clothing, furniture, and wearing apparel by fortunate Hollywood stars.

The Scarab Club is located on John R. Road and Farnsworth Street, across from the the Detroit Institute of Arts. For more information, call 313-831-1250 or visit <http://scarabclub.org/>.

'Empty the Closet' Fundraiser to Benefit 'Not In My House'

BY BTL STAFF

BLOOMFIELD HILLS – National Coming Out Day is an important day to celebrate the LGBTQ community and those who make the important decision to leave the closet and come out. This year, Kristi Faulkner Dance is hosting an "Empty the Closet" fundraiser from 6-9 p.m. on Oct. 11 to benefit "Not in My House" – a collaboration with the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park to engage and inspire LGBTQ youth through performance and storytelling. "Not in My House" is an original dance production representing the authentic voices and

coming out stories of the Center youth and Detroit-based professional dancers who identify as LGBTQ.

The "Empty the Closet" fundraiser, at Fred Astaire Studio, 2172 Franklin Road in Bloomfield Hills, will include food, drinks, and an open salsa dance lesson with professional teachers from Fred Astaire Studio. Party-goers who donate a bag of gently used or new clothing or new toiletries at the door will be entered into a prize raffle. Attendees will have an opportunity to learn more about the Center and their exciting collaboration with Kristi Faulkner Dance. Also, to participate in a live auction to sponsor dancers.

"Not in My House" is supported in part by an award from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and through a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, as part of its Knight Arts Challenge. The Knight Arts Challenge funds the best ideas for engaging and enriching Detroit through the arts. Through this fundraiser, Kristi Faulkner Dance hopes to complete the rest of their \$30,000 match as part of the Knight Arts Challenge.

Tickets must be purchased online at www.KristiFaulknerDance.com by Oct. 1. Tax-deductible donations can be made to support this effort in lieu of attendance.

Artists Showcase Boosts Up and Coming Talent Miz Korona Set to Relaunch 'The Sleepover' in October

"The Sleepover" is a monthly event created by artist, event host and actress Miz Korona (8 Mile, Beef, Say My Name, Detroit Diamond). This artists showcase elevates talented artists, producers, DJs and poets throughout Michigan that don't always get the same opportunities as the more seasoned artists and performers in their communities. The event places undiscovered as well as discovered artists on an equal platform.

"This gives the future stars of our

musical generation a chance to network and perform alongside artists who are more established," said Korona, adding that demand from within the community to bring back this event inspired her to relaunch it on Oct. 19 from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. at Bob's Classic Kicks, 4717 Woodward Ave. in Detroit.

The showcase has brought in many key figures in the Hip Hop industry such as Freeway (Roc-A-Fella Records), Finally Famous, Burn Rubber (Owners), DSE

Grand Owner, Interscope Records A & R's, International graffiti artist's Shades 313, D12, Trick Trick as well as Universal and Def Jam recording artists.

There is also the Feed a Family charity event chapter of this showcase that happens during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

For more information as plans develop, visit Miz Korona on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/mizkorona>.



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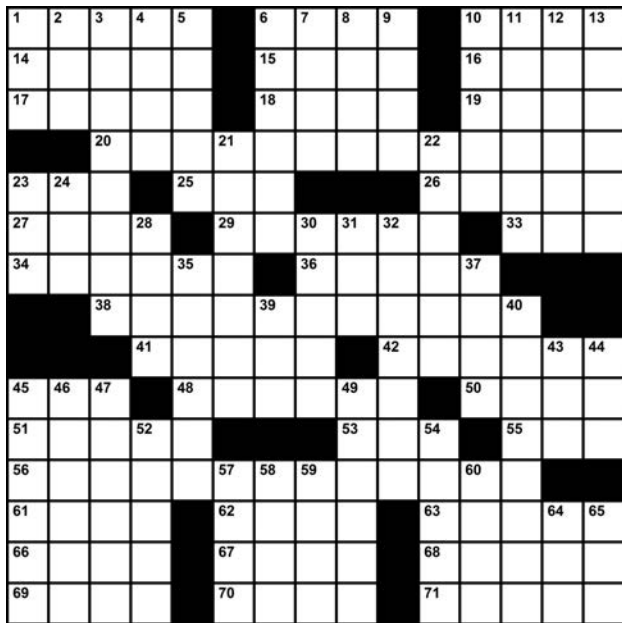
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Q Puzzle



- 48 Behind with the bucks
 50 Angelina Jolie's " ____ Interrupted"
 51 Greek philosophical type
 53 Brit. word ref
 55 Coral isle
 56 What 20-Across said about 38-Across
 61 Kind of hall
 62 Shakespeare's foot
 63 Promised to be wife and wife, e.g.
 66 Sheltered, at sea
 67 Caesar's "See!"
 68 Remove a slip, perhaps
 69 Kristy McNichol sitcom "Empty ____"
 70 Enjoy E. Lynn Harris
 71 Like pinker meat
- 21 Feeling of contempt
 22 Old ____ (Book of Practical Cats_ name)
 23 Where you might see R.E.M.
 24 Brother of Curly and Shemp
 28 Go down
 30 "Corydon" author Gide
 31 "Poppycock!"
 32 "A Room with a View" author
 35 Opera tenor Caruso
 37 On-line 'zine
 39 Airport in Israel
 40 Intense competition at Barneys
 43 Sung syllable
 44 Like a cunning linguist
 45 Disney lyricist Howard
 46 'Remington ____"
 47 Groups of manhunters
 49 Moved up and down
 52 Atlas blow-up
 54 Louganis, for one
 57 Opera house level
 58 Defensive spray
 59 Hit with hand motions
 60 Nickelodeon explorer
 64 Tongue ending
 65 Augsburg article

Down

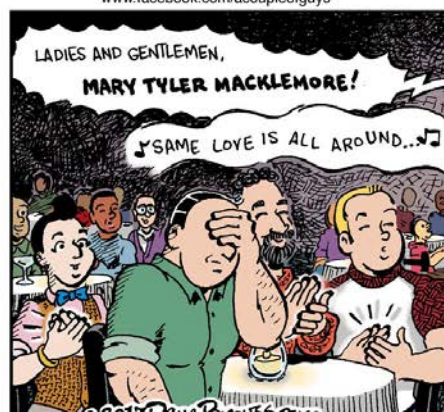
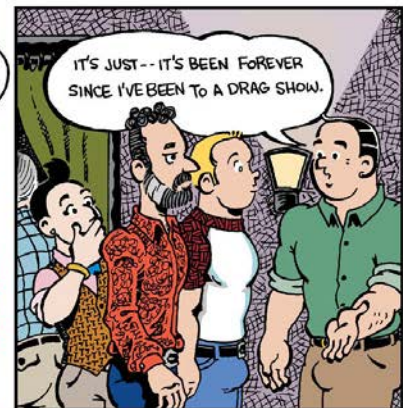
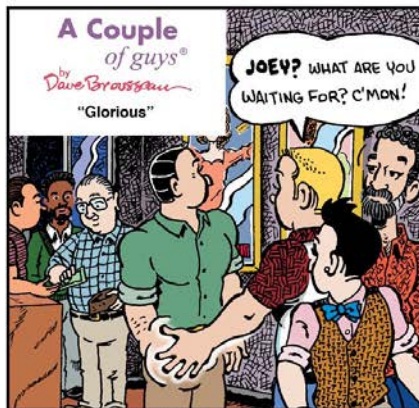
- 1 Brief endorsements
 2 Postcoital sigh
 3 Walked with the ball, to Sue Wicks
 4 Michael of "Six Feet Under"
 5 Put a head on cappuccino
 6 Song from _Flashdance_
 7 Doctors make you strip for it
 8 " ____ want is a room somewhere..."
 9 What you may call your life partner
 10 Rocket guy Wernher von ____
 11 Em, e.g.
 12 Top floors
 13 Stands out

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com

Politics Makes Strange Bedfellow

Across

- 1 Scout promises to be "morally straight"
 6 Samoan investigator Margaret
 10 Frat hazing sounds
 14 Solid gold measure
 15 Trucker's shaft
 16 Sex Dr.
 17 Oily rock
 18 Simba's Broadway love
 19 Start to climax
 20 Russian strange bedfellow
- 23 Colette's Mrs.
 25 "Mamma ____!"
 26 Not straight up
 27 Outed, for example, with "on"
 29 Boas for drag queens, e.g.
 33 Curve shape
 34 Didn't go straight
 36 It may slip over one's head
 38 American strange bedfellow
 41 Rap sheet item
 42 Contents of a good head
 45 It bit Cleopatra



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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

3011 W. Grand Blvd. Suite 230
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
313-537-7000
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@transgendermichigan.org
www.transgendermichigan.org
800-842-2954

Trans Sistas of Color Project

19641 W. 7 Mile Rd. in Detroit
313-537-7000 Ext 107
info@tscopdetroit.org
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.

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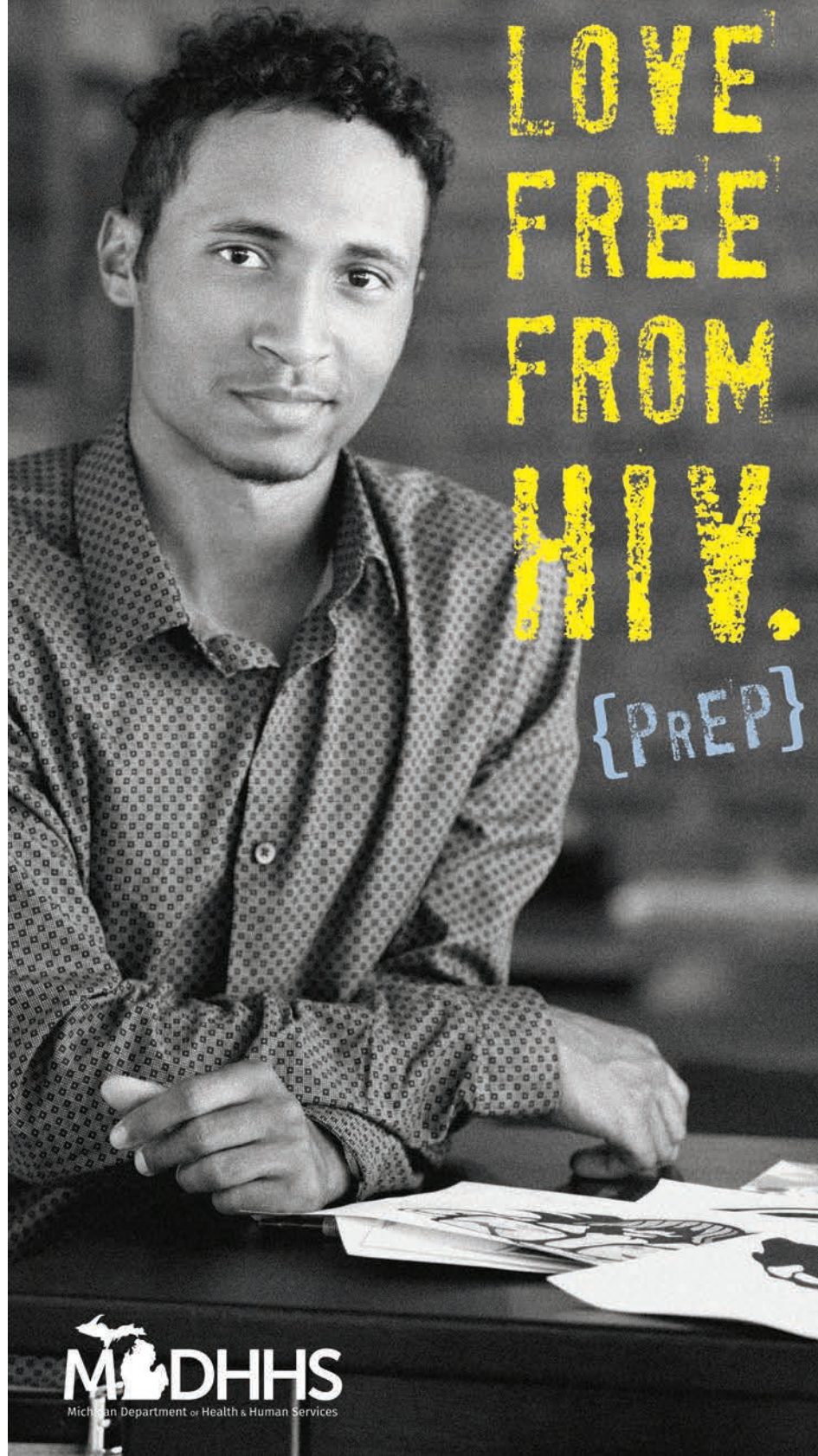


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