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In adults with HIV on ART who have diarrhea not caused by an infection



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Mytesi (crofelemer):

- Is the **only** medicine FDA-approved to relieve diarrhea in people with HIV
- **Treats diarrhea differently** by normalizing the flow of water in the GI tract
- Has the same or fewer side effects as placebo in clinical studies
- Comes from a tree sustainably harvested in the Amazon Rainforest

What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Important Safety Information

Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

**For Copay Savings Card and
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Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

NP-390-32

Mytesi[®]
(crofelemer) 125 mg
delayed-release tablets

RELIEF, PURE AND SIMPLE

IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

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

What Is Mytesi?

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

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

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

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

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

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

Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

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

A Nursing Mother?

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

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

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

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi

With Other Medicines?

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

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.



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

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PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP
20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS
Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

MEMBER OF
Michigan Press Association
National LGBT Media Association
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber
Q Syndicate



EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 12
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 24
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Senior News Editor

Kate Opalewski, 734.293.7200 x 10
kate@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers

Emell Derra Adolphus, Todd A. Heywood,
Jiquanda Johnson, Eve Kucharski, Ellen
Knoppow, Jason Michael, David Ryals

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown,
Mikey Rox, Dan Woog, D'Anne Witkowski
Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter
Alexander Godin

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 22
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 13
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 16
donelle@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

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Trump at Anti-LGBT Summit: 'The Times Are Changing Back Again'

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

President Trump took the opportunity Oct. 13 of speaking at an anti-LGBT summit to express pleasure in his administration's actions reversing the legacy of the Obama years, citing among other things recent "religious freedom" guidance seen to enable anti-LGBT discrimination.

Entering the stage at the 2017 Values Voter Summit to chants of "USA! USA! USA!" Trump sought to connect with an audience of social conservatives, who were largely responsible for his win in the 2016 presidential election.

"The American Founders invoked our Creator four times in the Declaration of Independence – four times," Trump said. "How times have changed. But you know what, now they're changing back again. Just remember that."

Those words weren't in direct reference to LGBT issues, but could apply to any number of actions in the Trump administration reversing LGBT achievements under Obama. Among them are his ban on transgender people in the military, undoing action in Obama years allowing them to serve, or his Justice Department advocating against LGBT non-discrimination protections after the previous administration enforced civil rights laws to protect LGBT people.

Trump's speech covered a range of actions made in his administration, including the appointment of U.S. Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, ending the birth control mandate under Obamacare and military advances against the Islamic State of Iraq & Syria.

But Trump also maintained his commitment to "religious freedom," citing his executive order on the issue in May that resulted subsequent guidance from U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

"Just last week, based on this executive action, the Department of Justice issued a new guidance to all federal agencies to ensure that no religious group is ever targeted under my administration," Trump said. "It won't happen."



President Donald Trump speaks at the 2017 Values Voter Summit. (Washington Blade photo by Michael Key)

he guidance is seen to green light discrimination against LGBT people in the name of religious freedom. For example, a Social Security administrator charged with processing benefits applications could see an application for same-sex spousal benefits and refuse to process that application for religious reasons.

Religious freedom was major point in Trump's address, which was delivered to many evangelical Christians. As evidence of America's commitment to faith, Trump cited the inclusion of the words "one nation under God" in the pledge of allegiance.

"I pledged that, in a Trump administration, our nation's religious heritage would be cherished, protected, and defended like you have never seen before," Trump said. "That's what's happening. That's what's happening. You see it every day. You're reading it."

Trump also issued a call for unity at the event, recalling recent tragedies affecting the nation, such as the mass shooting at Las Vegas, the wildfire claiming lives in California and devastation caused by hurricanes along the Gulf Coast, in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. (Trump has faced criticism for inadequate response to Puerto Rico, which is still 84 percent without electrical power.)

"When America is unified, no force on Earth can break us apart," Trump said.

"We love our families. We love our neighbors. We love our country. Everyone here today is brought together by the same shared and timeless values. We cherish the sacred dignity of every human life."

Trump's speech marked the first time a sitting U.S. president spoke at the Values Voter Summit, which is hosted by the anti-LGBT Family Research Council. But Trump has delivered remarks before at the annual event. Last year, Trump addressed the anti-LGBT confab when he was the Republican presidential nominee.

At one point, Trump made a strange joke asking Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, for permission to skip next year's event. Looking to Perkins on stage, Trump later said, "He's saying – they're saying no."

The exchange intended as amusing aside, but demonstrates the coziness between anti-LGBT groups like the Family Research Council and the White House since the start of the Trump administration.

In the end, Trump offered a triumphant view of America overcoming the many challenges it faces, but emphasized the centralized of faith in achieving that goal before an audience that known to use religious freedom as an excuse to discriminate against LGBT people.

"We will defeat every evil, overcome every threat, and meet every single challenge," Trump said. "We will defend our faith and protect our traditions. We will find the best in each other and in ourselves. We will pass on the blessings of liberty, and the glories of God, to our children. Our values will endure, our nation will thrive, our citizens will flourish, and our freedom will triumph."

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

Lawsuit Against Mississippi Anti-LGBT Law Reaches Supreme Court

BY CHRIS JOHNSON,

On the same day a Mississippi "religious freedom" law enabling anti-LGBT discrimination went into effect, an LGBT legal team litigating against the statute petitioned the Supreme Court to review the decision throwing out their challenge to the law.

In a 43-page filing, the legal team in case of Barber v. Bryant urges the Supreme Court to reverse the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals decision that determined plaintiffs lacked standing to challenge the anti-LGBT on the basis of either the Establishment or the Equal Protections Clauses.

"The court's decision is wrong on the merits; it conflicts with the decision of other courts of appeals; and it has staggering implications," the petition says. "Under the court's reasoning, a state could enact a statute establishing Christianity – or any other religion – as the official religion of the state, and no plaintiff would have standing to challenge that statute."

Representing plaintiffs in the case – LGBT people, Mississippi ministers and the Joshua Generation Metropolitan Community Church – are Lambda Legal, Mississippi civil rights attorney Rob McDuff and the Mississippi Center for Justice.

McDuff said in a statement the legal team is seeking Supreme Court review of the Mississippi anti-LGBT law "because it is unfair and unconstitutional."

"These laws are wolves in sheep's clothing – it is LGBT discrimination disguised as religious freedom," McDuff said. "By promoting discrimination in the name of religion, HB 1523 violates both the First and the Fourteenth Amendments."

Beth Orlansky, advocacy director for the Mississippi Center for Justice, said in a statement the Fifth Circuit's decision is imposing harm on LGBT people in Mississippi.

"Standing is not about who wins and who loses, but who has access to justice," Orlansky said. "HB 1523 goes into effect today, but our clients have been experiencing the ill effects of the law since it passed. The Fifth Circuit's decision is out of step with decisions in many other circuits and we are hopeful that the Supreme Court will grant review and provide clarity on this issue."

The law, House Bill 1523, prohibits the state from

“These laws are wolves in sheep’s clothing – it is LGBT discrimination disguised as religious freedom. By promoting discrimination in the name of religion, HB 1523 violates both the First and the Fourteenth Amendments.”

- Mississippi civil rights attorney Rob McDuff

taking action against religious organizations that decline employment, housing or services to same-sex couples; families who’ve adopted a foster child and wish to act in opposition to same-sex marriage and individuals who offer wedding services and decline to facilitate a same-sex wedding.

Additionally, the bill allows individuals working in medical services to decline a transgender person’s request for gender reassignment surgery. The bill also allows state government employees who facilitate marriages the option to opt out of issuing licenses to same-sex couples, but the person must issue prior written notice to the state government and a clerk’s office must not delay the issuance of licenses.

Last month, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals refused to reconsider “en banc” before the full court an earlier decision by a three-judge panel to throw out the lawsuit. That decision overturned a ruling from a district court that found HB 1523 violated the Establishment Clause.

The petition presents two questions for the Supreme Court: 1) If plaintiffs in the case have standing to challenge the law on the basis that it violates the Establishment Clause; and 2) If plaintiffs have standing to challenge on the basis that it challenges the Equal Protection Clause.

Making the case the anti-LGBT law violates the Establishment Clause, the petition argues the statute amount state-sanctioned discrimination in support of one particular religious views.

“If anything, HB 1523 inflicts a much more concrete injury than any religious display,” the petition says. “Enshrining particular religious beliefs in a state statute is the most emphatic endorsement the state can make — it represents the State’s official and considered policy, and it is intended to govern all state citizens.”

On the issue of whether the law violates the Equal Protection Clause, the petition says the anti-LGBT law “leaves a disfavored group of people with no recourse” if they’re denied services under the statute.

“That is the definition of unequal treatment under the law,” the petition says. “HB 1523 establishes an unequal legal regime, both creating a favored class of people and allowing them to deny with impunity a range of services to another, disfavored, class of people.”

Although the Supreme Court has already agreed to hear a case on “religious freedom” and LGBT rights – the Masterpiece Cakeshop case involving a Colorado baker seeking to deny wedding cakes to same-sex couples – the petition insists consideration of the Mississippi is still necessary.

“[W]hichever way the court rules in Masterpiece Cakeshop, its decision is likely to make the questions presented here even more important, by spurring more state enactments like Mississippi’s,” the petition says. “If the court rejects the baker’s claim and concludes that the challenged application of Colorado’s public accommodations law does not violate the First Amendment, states will be more likely to pass laws like HB 1523.”

The names of the attorneys on the petition include heavy-hitters joining as co-counsel in the case. Among them is Paul Smith, the D.C.-based attorney who in 2003 successfully argued before the Supreme Court against state bans on same-sex relations in *Lawrence v. Texas*. Also on the list is Donald Verrilli, a former U.S. solicitor general under the Obama administration assisted in litigation before the Supreme Court seeking marriage equality.

Susan Sommer, director of constitutional litigation and associate legal director at Lambda Legal, compared the Mississippi anti-LGBT law to state bans on sodomy struck down in the 2003 *Lawrence v. Texas*.

“The Supreme Court again needs to safeguard equality for LGBT Mississippians and LGBT people across the country who are experiencing another dangerous attack on their rights,” Sommer said. “We are hopeful that the Supreme Court will grant review and that its ruling will shut down other anti-LGBT state lawmakers emboldened not only by the wave of discriminatory laws like HB 1523, but also by an administration in Washington rolling back LGBT civil rights and providing a roadmap to discriminate.”

The Barber case is but one of two legal challenges to the anti-LGBT Mississippi law rejected by the Fifth Circuit. The other was filed by New York attorney Roberta Kaplan on behalf of the Campaign of Southern Equality.

A spokesperson for the Campaign for Southern Equality said the LGBT group intends to follow up with its own petition seeking Supreme Court of the Mississippi anti-LGBT law.



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WHAT IS GENVOYA®?

GENVOYA is a 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older who weigh at least 77 pounds. It can either be used in people who are starting HIV-1 treatment and have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements. These include having an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) for 6 months or more on their current HIV-1 treatment. GENVOYA combines 4 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day with food. GENVOYA is a complete HIV-1 treatment and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking GENVOYA. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about GENVOYA?

GENVOYA may cause serious side effects:

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

Who should not take GENVOYA?

Do not take GENVOYA if you take:

- **Certain prescription medicines for other conditions.** It is important to ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA. Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.
- **The herbal supplement St. John's wort.**
- **Any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection.**

What are the other possible side effects of GENVOYA?

Serious side effects of GENVOYA may also include:

- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking GENVOYA.

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

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

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking GENVOYA?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how GENVOYA works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take GENVOYA with all of your other medicines.
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take GENVOYA.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if GENVOYA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking GENVOYA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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


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

Ask your healthcare provider if GENVOYA is right for you.

GENVOYA does not
cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

SHOW YOUR POWER

Take care of what matters most—you. GENVOYA is a **1-pill, once-a-day complete HIV-1 treatment** for people who are either new to treatment or people whose healthcare provider determines they can replace their current HIV-1 medicines with GENVOYA.

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MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GENVOYA

GENVOYA may cause serious side effects, including:

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

ABOUT GENVOYA

- GENVOYA is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older who weigh at least 77 pounds and have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. GENVOYA can also be used to replace current HIV-1 medicines for some people who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL of virus in their blood), and have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months and have never failed HIV-1 treatment, and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements.
- **GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

Do NOT take GENVOYA if you:

- Take a medicine that contains: alfuzosin (Uroxatral®), carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®), cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®), dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®), lurasidone (Latuda®), methylergonovine (Ergotrate®, Methergine®), midazolam (when taken by mouth), phenobarbital (Luminal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®), pimozone (Orap®), rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®), sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®), or triazolam (Halcion®).
- Take the herbal supplement St. John's wort.
- Take any other HIV-1 medicines at the same time.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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

IMPORTANT FACTS

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF GENVOYA

GENVOYA can cause serious side effects, including:

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

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

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

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

BEFORE TAKING GENVOYA

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

HOW TO TAKE GENVOYA

- GENVOYA is a complete one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine.
- Take GENVOYA with food.



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Lawmakers Seek Proof Pentagon Advised Trump on Trans Military Ban

BY KAREN OCAMB

Virginia Rep. A. Donald McEachin is spearheading a call for all correspondence and documentation from the Pentagon to show the process that informed President Trump's directive to institute a ban on all transgender military service.

In a letter to Defense Sec. Jim Mattis dated Oct. 10 and signed by 114 members of Congress, including many from California, McEachin writes: "We request information about what discussions or correspondence between the White House and the Pentagon, if any, led President Trump to make his assertion. If senior military or Department of Defense personnel asked that the president ban transgender individuals from military service, we request access to any letters, e-mails, telephone transcripts, meeting logs and minutes or other materials that document such requests."

"We seek information to discover the proof of where and when the Pentagon advised the President that this was the best idea for our country," McEachin said in a press release. "If there is proof then we can evaluate that, if there is no proof then the president lied to the American people once again."

"President Trump clearly has no appreciation for the courage it takes not just serve the country, but to own your identity knowing there are people who will not accept you. He is using terms like 'military readiness' and 'unit cohesion' to hide the abject cruelty and naked bigotry of his action against transgendered servicemembers," out Rep. Mark Takano, the vice ranking member on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, tells the Los Angeles Blade. "This letter is just part of our effort to illuminate the true motivation for his trans ban and restore the respect and dignity that the entire trans community deserves."

As the Blade has previously reported, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff said they were blindsided by Trump's July 26 tweets announcing a reversal of the current military policy allowing open transgender service. In fact, as part of a year-long study of trans service, the RAND Corporation found that open service by transgender individuals would have "no significant impact on unit cohesion or operational readiness." The study moved then-Defense Sec. Ash Carter to lift the ban on trans service, allowing training of all members of the Armed Services to proceed, with only the accessions policy needing final adjustment -- before Trump ordered the whole policy scrapped.



U.S. Rep. Mark Takano (D-Calif.) is among the more than 100 members of Congress who are seeking proof from the Trump administration that indicates the Pentagon advised it on banning transgender people from the U.S. military. Washington Blade photo by Michael Key

Trump infamously tweeted: "After consultation with my generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow... Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military. Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming... victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail. Thank you."

The Blade's sources indicate that much of the initial discussion for reinstating the trans military ban actually occurred in person and telephonically: Republican Reps. Duncan Hunter and Vicky Hartzler to Freedom Caucus chair Mark Meadows to Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council and the Heritage Action to members of Vice President Pence's office and then from Pence to Trump aboard Air Force One.

Since Hartzler got her erroneous information about the cost of healthcare for transgender service members from the Family Research Council and FRC's executive vice president is retired Army Lt. Gen. Jerry Boykin, there is some speculation Trump's generals and military experts could be from FRC, as well as the list of former military officers Heritage provided during Hartzler's failed legislative

attempt to prohibit healthcare for trans service members. Such exchanges may be between White House officials and anti-LGBT activists -- to which the Pentagon did not receive access.

Presumably, the signatories to the congressional letter will make the distinction between false information from anti-advocacy groups and the experience of the real Armed Forces.

The day after the tweets, on July 27, Military.com quoted Joint Chiefs Chair Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford saying that thousands of currently serving transgender troops would serve "indefinitely" until the Pentagon received Trump's proposed ban and studies how to implement it. "There will be no modifications to the current policy until the President's direction has been received by the Secretary of Defense [Jim Mattis] and the Secretary has issued implementation guidance," Dunford said in a memo to the service chiefs and senior enlisted advisers.

Last month, Dunford said he opposes the proposed ban. "I believe that any individual who meets the physical and mental standards ... should be afforded the opportunity to continue to serve," Dunford told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee during his reappointment hearing. He also said that he had already given that advice privately to

administration officials. It is unclear if those private conversations are also subject to the congressional request.

It is also unclear if conversations, emails and other forms of documentation from outside advocates and individuals are subject to the request, as well. For instance, a source familiar with the machinations surrounding the ban indicate that advocates have strongly urged Mattis to recruit open transgender individuals with military or national security experience to sit on the panel that will study the issue and present him with recommendations. Would those emails exchanges be given the Congress -- and will any of the documentation be made public?

Since any calls to Trump or Air Force One are classified, it is unclear if any of the signatories to the letter than those with classified clearance, such as California Rep. Adam Schiff, would be able to hear the recordings or see transcripts of telephonic conversations, if recordings were even made. However, phone logs should indicate where and on what dates calls were made from and to whom.

"If the Department has records of any other

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LGBT, HIV Groups Pan Trump's Executive Order on Health Care

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

LGBT and HIV/AIDS groups are criticizing President Trump's executive order on health care, asserting the measure endangers people with pre-existing conditions who could be left out in the cold.

Trump signed the executive order Oct. 12 in the Oval Office in front of Vice President Pence, senior administration officials and Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.), who opposes Obamacare, but has threatened to vote "no" on legislative replacement plans.

"With these actions, we are moving toward lower costs and more options in the healthcare market and taking crucial steps towards saving the American people from the nightmare of Obamacare," Trump said.

LGBT groups, which predominantly were vocal opponents of Trumpcare in its legislative form, panned the executive order shortly after Trump signed it.

Carl Schmid, deputy director of the AIDS Institute, said the executive order sets up health care plans that don't provide essential health benefits – like prescription drugs or preventative care – which he said is "really important for people at risk of HIV or with HIV."

"I don't know what these plans have to cover," Schmid said. "They're not regulated by the insurance commissioners. We've been working so hard to get the insurance commissioners to look at problems in the insurance market; these plans don't even get regulated by the insurance regulators, so it seems like it's really substandard."

Schmid added the executive order will "also hurt the overall insurance market," which includes people with pre-existing conditions who may be forced to pay higher premiums and deductibles.

"The people who are sick will stay in those, and other people will go in these plans and people don't know when they're going to have HIV, or going to have cancer down the road, and that's what insurance does, it spreads it out," Schmid said.

The executive order contains three key portions, each of which the White House says is designed to curtail the escalating costs of health insurance and assist the estimated 1,500 counties that will be left with one provider in 2018:

* The order directs the Labor Department to consider expanding access to association health plans to allow employers to form groups across state lines to offer healthcare coverage



President Trump signs executive order for health care. (Image public domain)

to their employees. Employers participating in these associations cannot exclude any employee from joining the plan and cannot develop premiums based on health conditions.

* The order instructs the administration to consider expanding coverage through low cost short-term limited duration insurance — typically cheaper plans that under Obamacare were slated to last a maximum of three months, but not subject to the same requirements for pre-existing conditions.

* The order directs the administration to consider changes to Health Reimbursement Arrangements, employer-funded accounts that reimburse employees for healthcare expenses, such as deductibles and copayments.

David Stacy, government affairs director for the Human Rights Campaign, said the executive order amounts to assault on health coverage provided under the Affordable Care Act.

"Trump's executive order is nothing more than a cynical attempt to sabotage the Affordable Care Act," Stacy said. "Beyond undermining the ACA, President Trump's order will put LGBTQ Americans at risk through substandard health plans that exclude essential health benefits and protections for those with pre-existing conditions and increase premiums for those remaining in other plans."

Dan Bruner, senior director of policy for the D.C.-based Whitman-Walker Health, said the executive order has no immediate impact until U.S. agencies act, but nonetheless expressed concern.

"If you get healthy people, or people who

think they're healthy, to leave the regulated plans that are in ACA's health exchanges to sign up for this cheaper health insurance with less coverage than when you do is drive up the costs for the folks who need full health insurance because the risk pool gets skewed more and more towards people with high medical costs," Bruner said.

Bruner added that could "really harm people with HIV or other high-cost medical conditions" as well as LGBT people.

"Although lots of folks don't realize this, there are an awful of folks in the LGBT community who are low-income who potentially would be harmed by this as well," Bruner said.

According to a March report from the Center for American Progress, the rate of low- and middle-income LGBT people who are uninsured has dropped by 35 percent since before the Affordable Care Act's coverage reforms took effect in 2013.

Asked whether the Trump executive order would hamper Whitman-Walker's ability to administer care, Bruner replied, "We certainly hope not and, of course, we're committed to serving everyone regardless of their ability to pay."

"The concern is that if folks have less insurance coverage that is less generous, or covers fewer conditions, or has much deductibles, then when they come to get the health care they need, either from us or from someone else, they're going to be hit with much higher out-of-pocket costs that insurance won't cover," Bruner said. "One real concern

is folks in that situation will just not get the care they need."

Also speaking out against the executive order was Stephen Boswell, CEO of the Massachusetts-based LGBT organization Fenway Health.

"Today's executive order is a significant step backwards for the nation's health. Weakening the mandate to ensure that all health insurance plans offer essential health benefits means that core health services such as HIV/STI screening and prescription medications will become more costly and less accessible," Boswell said. "Health insurance costs for people living with HIV will likely increase significantly, and insurance markets will become destabilized."

Trump signed the executive order after repeated attempts in Congress to make good on Republican campaign pledges to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Although the U.S. House passed a version of Trumpcare, the U.S. Senate has been unable to reach an agreement on legislation.

Gregory Angelo, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, in contrast to other LGBT groups said the executive order is "a step in the right direction."

"The goal of President Trump's executive order on healthcare is to provide Americans — particularly middle-income Americans — with more affordable healthcare choices and to allow Americans to exercise greater control over their healthcare decisions," Angelo said. "These are principles that all Americans should get behind, especially those who have been impacted directly by Obamacare's ongoing collapse."

Unlike other LGBT groups, Log Cabin has joined with other Republican groups in calling for repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

Sarah Kate Ellis, CEO of GLAAD, also condemned Trump's executive order in a statement as an attempt to sabotage coverage for the more than 20 million people who receive coverage under Obamacare.

"President Trump is working to sabotage the Affordable Care Act in any way possible; showing complete disregard for the health and well-being of millions of Americans, including many in the LGBTQ community, who rely on the ACA for coverage," Ellis said. "Health care is a human right and now more than ever we must keep fighting to protect our care and demand the inclusive and affordable healthcare that the LGBTQ community, and all Americans, deserve to live and thrive."

► Military Ban

Continued from p. 9

discussions that might have justified the president's claim, we request to see those materials, as well," the Congressional letter says. "We seek access to these materials in order to determine whether the president, his national security team, and military leaders are actively coordinating policy with one another, or whether the president's transgender ban announcement reflected a breakdown in communication."

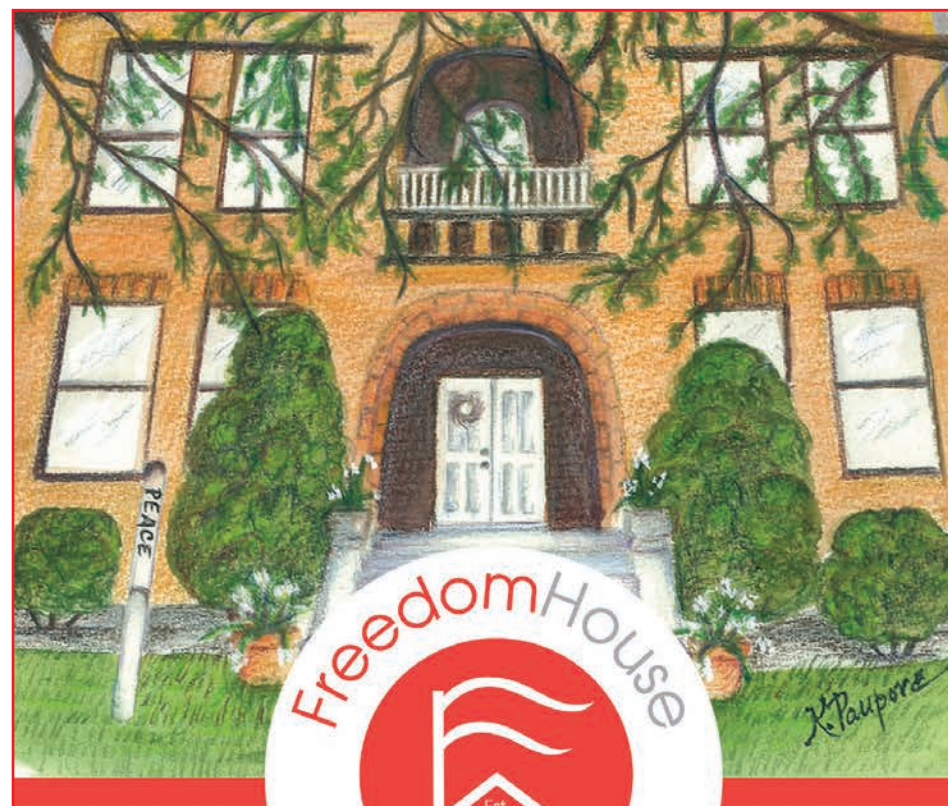
"Decades ago senior military leadership and Members of Congress tried to say that a group of people, African-Americans, were not fit to serve and would run at the sight of a battle. I cannot believe that we are here today facing similar discrimination against transgender individuals," McEachin said in his press release. "Transgender individuals are already bravely serving our country and do not need this discriminatory distraction."

"Today, Representative McEachin is standing up for both military personnel and the LGBT community by demanding accountability," said Matthew Thorn, executive director of OutServe-SLDN. "We applaud Representative McEachin for

continuing to pursue answers and details of the President's actions. We too will not stop in our legal fight and we look forward to working with Rep. McEachin and all our congressional allies in preventing this ban from coming to fruition."

There are currently four lawsuits against Trump, Mattis and the proposed ban. "The President's abrupt decision to override the military's carefully considered policy on transgender service members showed a shocking disregard not only for the thousands of currently serving transgender troops, including those deployed overseas, but also for the experience and expertise of military leaders," said NCLR Legal Director Shannon Minter and GLAD Transgender Rights Project Director Jennifer Levi, who have filed suit with Equality California to stop the ban from moving forward. "We commend the more than 100 Members of Congress who are demanding answers about why the President reversed military policy without input from military advisers. The President's blatant disregard for military judgment destabilizes military operations and weakens our Armed Forces."

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



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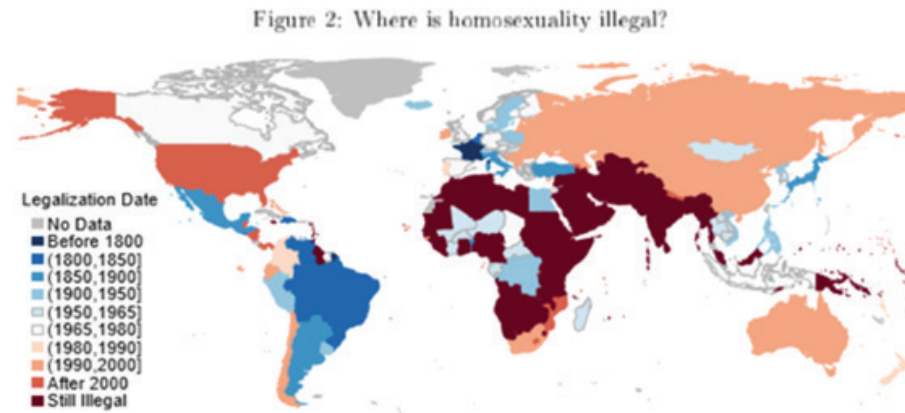
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New Study: Social Attitudes Toward Gays and Lesbians Rapidly Changing in Developing World

WASHINGTON, DC – Center for Global Development Senior Fellow Charles Kenny and Researcher Dev Patel released a new study Oct. 13 that finds that as social attitudes toward gays and lesbians have changed rapidly in the developed world, these attitudes are also changing in the developing world. The study also suggests that the changes in social attitudes often follow and are caused by changes in government policy toward gays and lesbians.

The study, “Norms and Reform: Legalizing Homosexuality Improves Attitudes” uses public opinion data on this issue from the Gallup World Poll and the World Values Survey and matches changes in attitudes over time with the timeline of laws concerning same-sex decriminalization. The study also includes data visualizations that show legal trends over time and geography.

“Improving rights for gays and lesbians is a critical human rights issue. In some countries, people are still imprisoned and even killed because of their sexual orientation. Even where it is not illegal, gays and lesbians face violence, discrimination, and social stigma,”



said Charles Kenny. “But our research makes clear that in the developing world as a whole, both laws and attitudes are changing for the better. And legal change is not only a positive step in itself, it can also help shift attitudes.”

The study finds:

* As of May 2017, there were 124 countries without any legal penalties for homosexuality, compared to 72 countries that criminalize same-sex sexual activity.

* In the last three decades the proportion of the world that report they do not want to live next to a gay or lesbian individual has dropped by about ten percentage points.

* International social norms influenced social norms in developing nations. For example, looking at Eastern European Block nations, eyeing admission into the European Union and the international community, attitudes changed quickly to match the EU

consensus on gay and lesbian equality.

* When examining differing colonial origins of developing nations, former British colonies lag behind in legalizing homosexuality. Fifty-six percent of countries where homosexuality is illegal are former British colonies, and 71 percent of former British colonies criminalize homosexuality.

* As law changes so do social attitudes and norms. That means that those advocating for policy changes are playing an enormous role - changing not just laws but attitudes as well across the globe.

“A number of developing countries were decades ahead of the United States in legalizing homosexual sex and ensuring gay marriage rights, but they aren’t given much credit,” said Kenny. “While there are still disastrous human-rights violating policies in countries like Zimbabwe and Uganda that demand our attention, they are - thankfully - increasingly the exception.”

Read the full study at www.cgdev.org/publication/norms-and-reform-legalizing-homosexuality-improves-attitudes

Viewpoint

No Deal with the Devil, Not this Time!

What we need is a CLEAN Dream Act



BY GLENN MAGPANTAY

Congressional lawmaking is often likened to making sausage - stuffing casing with a mix of the real thing and mystery meat. Horse-trading and unrelated

riders onerous to those who would support a good bill is a time-honored tradition. The result is that Americans often pay a high price when laws are made. This time, the President has beat Congress to the punch.

On Sunday night Oct. 8, it was widely reported that President Trump sent a letter to Congressional leaders offering a Deal with the Devil. He would have us protect the lives of 800,000 youth brought to this country as minors, so - called Dreamers, from deportation

in a draconian exchange of restrictions.

There are an estimated 267,000 LGBT undocumented immigrants in the U.S. and 169,000 Asian Pacific Islanders (APIs) are eligible for DACA. Without the DACA program, many LGBT and API youth could be deported to countries that criminalize homosexuality, some even calling for the death penalty. To keep them safe a clean DREAM Act without additional enforcements is a necessity.

Yet Trump seeks to trade on this immense vulnerability by straddling new DACA/Dream ACT legislation with a wish list of severe measures including:

* Money to build a wall along the Mexican border

* Changes to deportation laws making it easier to send undocumented immigrants, including unaccompanied children, back to their home countries

- * Crackdowns on sanctuary cities
- * An end to “chain” migration, facilitating sponsorship of extended family members
- * Creating a “merit”-based immigration system cutting down on the entry of unskilled workers
- * Obstructing a path to citizenship for DACA recipients.

In other words, trading lives in exchange for comprehensive anti-immigration legislation. NO! Not this time! People across the country, including LGBTQ Asian Pacific Island communities, demand that Congress pass legislation which definitively protects all Childhood Arrivals.

In September, our communities were struck a blow when Trump called for an end to DACA. Since then, he flip-flopped on support for undocumented youth, cynically played Democratic leaders against the Republican Congress and challenged them to pass a new Dream Act. Now he proposes adding restriction upon restriction to the already tainted sausage mix.

Undocumented youth deserve to live, work, and study in the US without fear of deportation and without the nation paying an unconscionable price for those liberties.

What’s Next?

When Trump announced the canceling of DACA he opened the door wide to partisan game playing and opportunity for unacceptable riders. Not in our wildest dreams did we think he would attach such draconian provisos to the passage of such a bill.

Is it grandstanding, bullying or a real threat? Trump has not said he would veto a bill that did not include these provisos, but the game of threatening Congress and the public is too dangerous to add to the playbook of creating legislation.

Canceling DACA puts the lives of 800,000 undocumented young people at risk of deportation. NQAPIA demands a clean DREAM Act without any enforcement provisions. The DREAM Act and DACA are already a compromise for so many people in our communities. We need immediate full-throated Congressional support.

Glenn Magpantay is the executive director of National Queer Asian Pacific Island Alliance. NQAPIA is asking the public to contact congress calling for a Clean DACA. Phone banking is ongoing and NQAPIA is asking all to join and put pressure on Congress for a clean DREAM Act. Visit the website www.nqapia.org to learn more.

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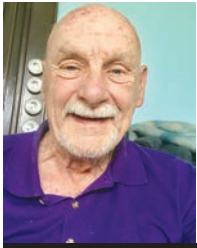


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Once Upon a Sleeping Beauty

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

"I'm burning my candle at both ends. It will not last the night. But, oh, my foes, and, ah, my friends. It gives a lovely light!"

These words are by poet Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950), the subject of the fascinating best-selling biography of Millay, "Savage Beauty," by Nancy Milford (Random House). Her poetry – touching, independent, light, feminist, sardonic – is once again reaching new, younger, audiences, many LGBT.

My acquaintance with her poetic gifts began with the sonnets. When I was getting over my first "big affair" I memorized Millay's "Time does not bring relief/ All you have lied who told me time would ease me of my pain./ I miss him in the weeping of the rain/ I want him in the shrinking of the tide."

Pain indeed. I was 23 and into my third year of a rewarding affair when I was dumped by my partner Ernie for a soldier on leave he met named Joe. As a keepsake memento Ernie gave me a two-record LP recording of Tchiakovsky's "Sleeping Beauty Ballet." I never played it.

Soon I met new friends at the Woodward Bar: Tom, Paul and Jonya, each of whom I found out was a bona fide candle queen. My first dinner in their company was midsummer. It could just as well have been Christmas for all the flickering-fairy, highlighted enchantment that welcomed me.

I think I counted three dozen candles of varying sizes, shapes, scents in strategic places of the living room. The effect was wonderful, but I began to worry. Was a group seduction planned? Was all this flicker and flame-flutter to enhance the taste of mediocre food? (Another potato-chip tuna casserole!) We're we going to have a special rosary?

The simple truth was that these guys loved candles. Jonya, who was Dutch, took pride in a family heirloom, once hidden during the Nazi occupation of his country. He called the silver candle holder a "SHANdalabra," which made his lover Paul smile indulgently. (Jonya was also given to saying, "Vell, Paul, I yust jurn for you.")

I think I saw Jonya genuflect as he lit the candles gracing the dining table. A carpenter by trade, his rough hands lovingly arranged flowers as well, of which there was also an abundance that festive night.

Tom, who was with Paul before Jonya (and the son of a Detroit precinct police captain) took pleasure in an elaborate dime store-bought fountain placed near the apartment entrance. He called it "Miss Trevi." Lady T held plants, glass beads, ice cubes, gold fish. The color of the water varied from day to day, frequently augmented by leftover Manhattans and red pitless cherries.

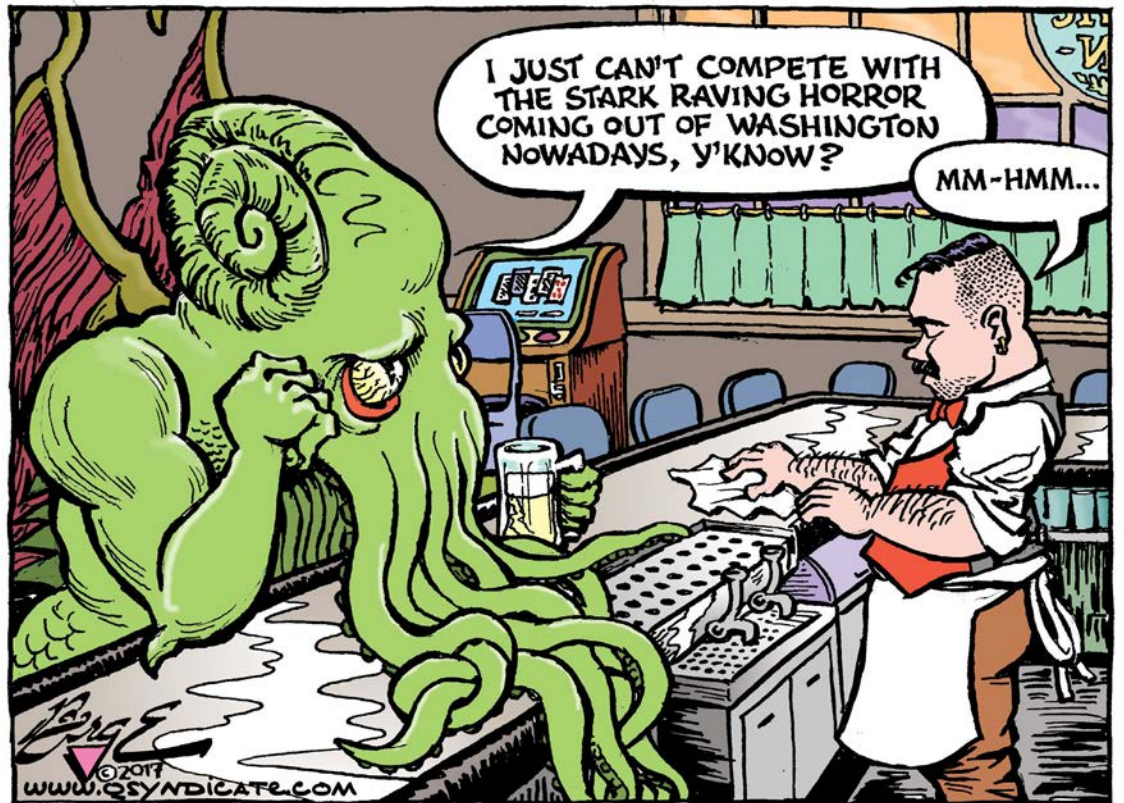
Little wonder that Miss Trevi gurgled and occasionally burped and wheezed. Compliments given to this bubbling contraption usually resulted in amply free-poured drinks by proud-owner, would-be bartender Tom.

Alone in my cluttered art studio these days I often light a candle and watch the shadows dance softly, perhaps sadly, on my wall. Images of the past appear, wink at me and vanish. 60 years ago.

Ernie lives in Florida. Paul has been married for 50 years to Susan, "an understanding wife." Jonya died of a heart attack aboard ship during a return visit to Amsterdam decades ago. Tom, who in 1972 was told that because he had an abused pancreas his next drink would "be it" sadly ignored the warning. (This PG is my votive candle.)

Me? I'm still burning my own votive candle at both ends. It still gives a lovely light. Of sorts. But, if you really must know the honest truth, well, my wick has somehow grown shorter.

Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist (700-plus columns) and as a well-known LGBT community artist (1000 Face Book images). He is a Spirit of Detroit Award recipient and an Affirmations LGBT CENTER Jan Stevenson awardee. Connect with him at Charles@pridesource.com.



Viewpoint



Is LGBT Support for Broad Social-Justice Issues a New Thing?

BY JOHN KNOEBEL

The LGBT History Project

Are American LGBT activists becoming more engaged in wider "social-justice" issues than they have been in many years? I am hearing more about this trend and applaud it strongly.

From new groups like "Gays Against Guns" to the proud appearance of rainbow flags at anti-Nazi rallies following the incident in Charlottesville, LGBT activists are reaching out to support many progressive causes outside of traditional, narrowly defined core LGBT agendas.

Certainly the widespread horrors of the Trump presidency have inspired many to broaden their activism. But I also sense a growing wave of moral maturity within a new generation of LGBT youth who have personally benefited from the progress of the last 50 years. They know they are people of value. Their feet are firmly planted in a belief in human justice and they want to reach out to improve the world.

Today's multi-issue activists will be pleased to learn that the modern LGBT movement began with much the same sense of involvement in a broad range of social-justice causes. Although spurred by the rebellion at Stonewall in June of 1969, the activists who founded the pioneering Gay Liberation Front in New York City only three weeks later came from a wide variety of that era's progressive movements – women's liberation, the anti-war movement, the new left and the black civil-

rights movement, among others – and they gave vocal support to the Black Panthers, Young Lords and other radical organizations of those years.

Like Gay Liberation itself, I was a child of the '60s. When I joined GLF in New York in late 1969, I'd already been active in the anti-war movement at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I'd experienced more than my share of leafletting, street actions, tear gas and sit-ins. I'd protested the presidential campaign of Gov. George Wallace when he appeared in Wisconsin. I'd joined more than 10,000 UW students and faculty marching to the State Capital Building following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This was the same shared background of most of the young gay and lesbian activists I came to know so well in my two years as a core member of GLF. No surprise then that, when GLF sprang onto the New York scene as the first gay and lesbian organization of the modern LGBT-rights era, none of us abandoned our passion for the groups we came from.

Yes, with our iconic slogan, "Out of the closets and into the streets," GLF took immediate aim at the specific antigay forces that surrounded us. Within the first few months, GLF protested against police raids on mafia-owned bars, picketed negative media,

See next page

railed against church and psychiatric bigotry and began publishing our pioneering radical newspaper, “Come Out!” And before the first year was out, we achieved what was probably our most important accomplishment – creating an all-new “out and proud” gay and lesbian community that had not existed before us. We did this through our continual protests and public presence, Sunday night meetings, all-gay and women’s dances, consciousness-raising groups, gay living collectives and through our central role in organizing the first Gay Pride March in June of 1970

Nonetheless, from the very start, GLF also reached out to other causes. We defined ourselves as part of the progressive revolution dedicated to transforming American life in the 1960s and ’70s. Diversity was a hallmark of GLF membership and from the beginning we counted among us male, female, white, black, Latino, Asian and trans members. We proudly carried our GLF banners at many peace marches on the streets of Manhattan. We bussed to attend large anti-Vietnam War moratorium events in Washington, D.C. In November 1969, GLF voted to donate meager organization cash to support the “Free the Black Panther 21” appeal. In May of 1970, lesbians from GLF pulled off the famous “Lavender Menace” action challenging the homophobia of the National Organization for Women. Groups of GLF members joined the socialist-inspired Venceremos Brigade, and travelled to Cuba to help agricultural workers cut sugar cane. We attended the first Earth Day celebration on April 22, 1970.

For my own part, in August 1970 I was among several GLF members who met with Huey Newton to discuss joint demonstrations between GLF and the Black Panthers. Later that year, I joined more than 100 GLF members and participated in sessions of the Black Panther Party’s “Revolutionary People’s Constitutional Convention” held in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., where members of our black and third-world alliance group presented a multi-point program of LGBT inclusiveness. Subsequently, I joined several other gay men in the creation of the Effeminist movement – dedicating several years to supporting feminist goals to oppose sexism and male supremacy summarized in our much-republished position document, “The Effeminist Manifesto.”

These alliances did not always lead to concrete achievements, but they effectively expressed the intentions of GLF members towards a just and humanistic world vision. Sometimes this diverse program was controversial. Despite their own sympathies with civil rights and other causes, some early GLF members felt that our support for other progressive groups was a distraction to achieving central LGBT goals. After GLF’s November 1969 cash donation to the “Free the Panther 21” appeal, some GLF men were so opposed that they left GLF and formed the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), with the express purpose of concentrating only on specific gay-related actions. GAA went on to many important achievements, campaigning

Today’s multi-issue activists will be pleased to learn that the modern LGBT movement began with much the same sense of involvement in a broad range of social-justice causes.

publicly for gay-rights issues within both the city and state of New York. They founded a very successful gay community center at a Firehouse in lower Manhattan. However, they consistently maintained a policy of gay-only politics and generally refrained from joint demonstrations with non-gay groups or causes. In many ways, GAA set the tone for other early LGBT groups that followed in the late 1970s, including the National Gay Task Force and the Gay Rights National Lobby.

While for tactical reasons, some of these gay-only organizations played important roles in agitating for gay and lesbian visibility and rights, I always felt a frustration in their narrow focus. Why could we not reach out to be a part of other progressive causes, maintaining strong alliances with other agents of social change? The broad political agenda of GLF had not seemed to interfere with its solid achievements of formulating a new politics around LGBT oppression and inspiring the formation of hundreds of additional gay-rights groups in the U.S and Europe within the following two years.

When GLF disbanded as a functioning group in early 1972, I think its demise had less to do with any failure on its part, but rather was a result of its success. As an almost archetypal “umbrella organization,” it had attracted participants from every stripe of LGBT identity and interest. It then acted as a centrifugal force, spinning off a rainbow of successor organizations, including GAA, Radical Lesbians, Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), the Effeminists, the Black and Third World Caucus and others that went on to influence the next 50 years of LGBT activism.

Today’s concept of “intersectionality” would be no stranger to early GLF activists. Despite the abuses that can occur – and I am talking about the reprehensible expulsion of Jewish lesbians from the recent Chicago Dyke March – I am still cheered by the broader social-justice agenda re-emerging in today’s LGBT activist movement. And I am proud to have played a part in the early LGBT organization that embraced that same philosophy.

For over 45 years, John Knoebel made significant contributions to LGBT history, first as a pioneer gay activist in New York City from 1969-1976 and then during his 33-year career as a senior executive with The Advocate, OUT and other LGBT magazines from 1979-2012. Knoebel is currently writing a memoir of his lifelong involvement with LGBT politics and publishing.

Creep of the Week

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

Donald Trump & Mike Pence

The Trump Presidency has truly redefined “breaking news” in the most literal way. Every day there is a new harm, a new insult, a new degradation heaped onto the American people. If you feel exhausted, disgusted, and helpless, well then, know that they’re getting to you. All is working as planned.

Trump is the “chaos” president, after all. It is hard to focus, hard to organize, hard to cope during times of chaos. It is easy to sew fear, spread resentment, and abandon truth altogether when everyone is running around distracted and confused. Tuning out the chaos is often the only coping mechanism that seems possible. Unfortunately, that means letting the chaos win.

If you’re a straight, white male then this chaos may be working to your advantage, assuming that you don’t give a rip for the rights of minorities and women (and, considering that white males voted overwhelmingly for Trump, the answer is pretty clear). But for everyone else, these are pretty terrifying times.

Trump, who actually claimed that he’d be great for the gays, has decidedly not been great for the gays. From his cabinet members to the extremist judges he’s been nominating, Trump has managed to assemble an anti-LGBTQ dream team.

And the MVP of this team is clearly Mike Pence. From the moment Trump announced his VP pick, anyone who’d been deluding themselves into thinking that Trump would be or could be a friend to LGBTQ people should have woken up. Pence has a long history of working against equality for LGBTQ people. He opposes marriage equality and discrimination protections for LGBTQ people. He believes in harmful reparative therapy and, in fact, while he was Indiana governor, sought to use HIV/AIDS prevention money for gay “cure” therapy instead. This attitude, coupled with an anti-science rejection of needle exchanges and a slash and burn approach to health funding led to an HIV outbreak in Indiana.

Anyway, Pence’s horrible awfulness is well documented. You can Google it.

The new layer of this shit sandwich is that Trump apparently thinks Pence’s hatred of LGBTQ people is totally hilarious.

The fact that the President of the United States cares so little for the LGBTQ people of this country that the premise of our summary execution is fodder for a joke is beyond alarming.

In Jane Mayer’s New Yorker piece titled “The Danger of President Pence,” there’s a description of a meeting, attended by both Trump and Pence, where LGBTQ rights comes up. According to the article, Trump took the opportunity to try his hand at stand-up comedy material. “Don’t ask that guy,” Trump joked, pointing at Pence, “he wants to hang them all!”

Ha. Ha. Ha. Get it? Because Pence hates gays so much he would like to literally murder them like they do in countries with the Sharia law Pence pretends to have nightmares about except he basically wants the same kind of rule in the U.S. only with white Christian dominion? So funny. What a laff riot. I cannot wait to tell this joke at the dinner table and explain to my son why the Vice President thinks his moms should be killed and how the President thinks that’s funny.

Now, you might say, it’s not like Pence literally wants to lynch LGBTQ people. So no harm, no foul, right? Wrong. The fact that the President of the United States cares so little for the LGBTQ people of this country that the premise of our summary execution is fodder for a joke is beyond alarming. What this signals is that the anti-LGBTQ policies that Pence wants to see enacted will face no resistance from Trump. Granted, they never did. Trump will rubber stamp any and all moves to demean and dehumanize LGBTQ people.

As George Takei put it, “Not sure what’s more disturbing, that Donald would joke about such a thing or that he would pick a man with these views as his number 2.”

More disturbing still, is that millions of Americans voted for this hateful shit show. And nobody is going to get out of this mess squeaky clean.



Executive Director of Equality Michigan, Steph White and LGBT Detroit, Curtis Lipscomb will co-host the weekly show on 910 AM.

Broadcasting Equality

Michigan's New LGBT Radio Segment

BY JONATHAN W. THURSTON

Beginning Monday, there will be a weekly radio segment on a large commercial station in Michigan dedicated to LGBT conversations. Indeed, the 910 AM Superstation will start broadcasting this first-of-its-kind segment on LGBT issues Oct. 23 and every Monday after that from 8-8:15 p.m. with likely time extensions as the program grows in popularity.

Kevin Adell, the owner of the 910 AM Superstation, is excited about the new program. When asked about what inspired him to start this program, he had much to say about the inclusive nature of the station: "Wanted to make sure that 910 AM Superstation is [a] platform for all voices in the community ... and that we represent everybody." Adell seems quite aware of suppression of minority voices in the media currently, and he strives to combat that, at least on his platform. He seeks to represent "all voices that haven't [had] the opportunity to speak on radio media platform[s] ... and not exclude anybody."

Public radio stations in the past have given voice to the LGBT community. In 2013, WDET hosted a series about the landmark radio program from the early '70s, "Gayly Speaking," which has been preserved in SoundCloud. Similarly, David Meitzler has been uploading podcasts of recordings of "Closets Are For Clothes" and "Radio Q," programs produced by the Gay Radio Collective for the University of Michigan campus radio station from the late '70s to the early 2000s.

To host his new program, Adell has hired the executive director of LGBT Detroit, Curtis Lipscomb, and the executive director of Equality Michigan, Steph White. "Kevin Adell started asking around about how to add an LGBT show to his line up," White says. "He works with Mort Meisner, who is the uncle of Andy Meisner, Oakland County's Treasurer. Andy reached out to me and the conversation flowed from there."

White asked Lipscomb to join as her co-host "to make the show more representative of our community and to strengthen the show's ability to include his grasp of Detroit history and current culture. Besides, he's fun and funny, which is always good on the radio," she said.

Each of the three members of the program has very specific goals in mind for the future of the segment. "My goal," Adell says, "would be [to] increase the listening audience. And

make the station more popular. Prior to my purchase of 910 AM from Disney no one had heard of it."

That's right: before 910 AM Superstation was to be the host of an LGBT segment, it was a station for kids' music. However, maybe the new changes will keep the segment just as educational, if not moreso.

Lipscomb himself has community-oriented goals: "I hope this opportunity helps to increase the visibility of Michigan and Detroit's dynamic LGBT culture." A big part of this visibility relies on opening up discourses on current issues. He adds, "I hope we educate the public on issues that impact same-gender-loving people. Lastly, it would be an honor to share the experiences of our community and welcome those who fight for freedom and safety."

And White wants to dispel some of the myths about LGBT people in Michigan, too. "I want to increase basic public education of our lives," she says. "When we show up, reveal the realities of our lives, demonstrate our commonality, we can combat the myths and reduce the amount of hostility our community faces, as well as pave the way for expanded legal protections."

Seeing how these political questions - huge issues to unpack - plays out over a fifteen-minute period will be interesting, and, hopefully, it will spark as many questions and discussions for listeners as it does answers. Many of the topics we can expect to hear about in this program are centered around current affairs in Michigan but also across the country. "Steph and I are eager to to share stories and commentary around arts and entertainment, politics, social justice and health and wellness," Lipscomb says. "Listeners could also hear about our personal and professional perspectives on the movement. We would invite our professional partners and shared work. Through various social media platforms, we can respond to the inquiries of the public."

White adds that they will also discuss "some of the economic impacts and endeavors of our community."

Tune in to 910 AM Superstation every Monday from 8-8:15 p.m. to hear what Steph White and Curtis Lipscomb have to say. Listen to the show streaming live online at www.910amsuperstation.com. Podcasts will also be available for download.

Change of Leadership at UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

Bill VanHemert Resigns as President and CEO for New Position at Desert AIDS Project in California

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond announced Monday that President and CEO William VanHemert is leaving to take a new position with an agency in California. The news marks the second executive level defection in recent months. Jimena Loveluck, UHHB's vice president of community research and innovation, left in July to become the deputy health director for the Washtenaw County Health Department.

VanHemert has a history with UHHB that dates back some 20 years.

"I started as a volunteer when it was Wellness Networks in Ferndale and moved from volunteer to being president and CEO," VanHemert said. "I'm really going to miss the staff at Unified, just the connections that I've had here and the committed staff."

Wellness Networks, Inc. was founded in 1983 and later became AIDS Partnership Michigan, the state's oldest AIDS service organization. In 2015, APM merged with the HIV/AIDS Resource Center and became UNIFIED – HIV Health and Beyond. The merger brought together more than 60 years of experience and made UHHB the largest AIDS Service Provider in the state. UHHB has offices in Detroit, Jackson and Ypsilanti and serves 10 counties in Southeast Michigan.

VanHemert served as director of prevention and education services for AIDS Partnership Michigan from 1993-1996 before moving to Arizona and, later, San Francisco. He returned to Michigan and AIDS Partnership Michigan in 2009 becoming the agency's community mobilization/development director. In 2013 VanHemert became APM's executive director when longtime ED Barbara Murray retired. By this time, APM was having strategic restructuring discussion with HARC. Following the merger of the two agencies, which was finalized in 2015, VanHemert became president and CEO of the new combined agency.

Now, VanHemert plans to relocate to Palm Springs to become the director of grants for the Desert AIDS Project.

"It's bittersweet," said VanHemert. "I am totally committed to what Unified is doing and the direction the agency is going in."

But VanHemert was scouted and the position in Palm Springs proved to be too good to turn down.

"Desert AIDS Project is really a leader in the field of HIV and AIDS," he said. "They were recognized by the White House for their state of the art services. Plus I previously lived in San Francisco so just moving back to the west coast is comfortable for me."

According to a statement, the UHHB board is now planning to conduct a search for VanHemert's replacement.

"While the Board conducts a search for the new UHHB President and CEO, we have appointed Angelique (Angel) Tomsic to be Interim UHHB President and CEO," said Laura Marble, UHHB's board chair. "Akilah Benton was named the Interim Vice President of Community Research and Advocacy, reporting to Angel. Angel has been with UHHB since 2007. She will also continue in her role as Vice President of Operations."

Tomsic, however, only joined the executive leadership team last year and Benton only became the community mobilization and research manager following Loveluck's departure. So from outward appearances it looks like VanHemert's departure might leave the agency with a gap in leadership experience.

"I don't see it as a gap," VanHemert said. "There will be leadership within the agency

“While the Board conducts a search for the new UHHB President and CEO, we have appointed Angelique (Angel) Tomsic to be Interim UHHB President and CEO.”

- Laura Marble, UHHB's board chair.

and the board is very committed to moving the agency forward.”

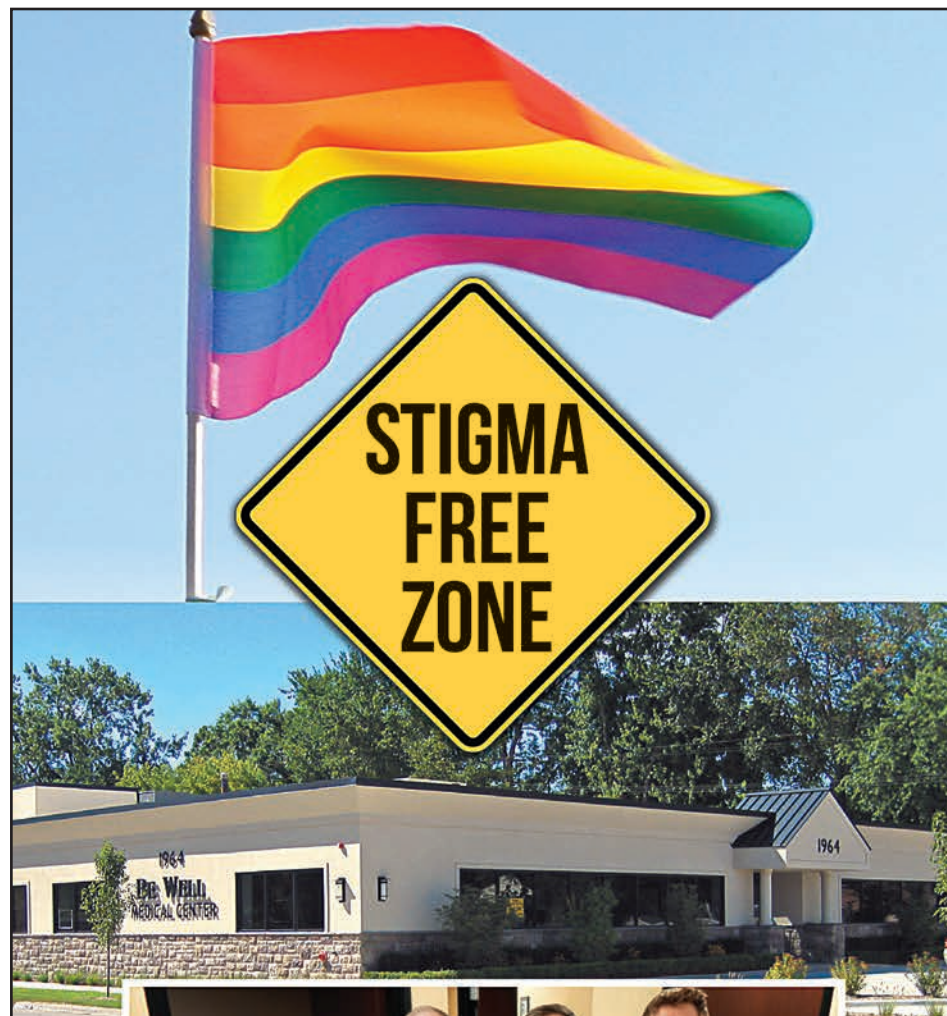
For his part, VanHemert is committed to moving forward as well, and said he is excited about joining the Desert AIDS Project's team.

"I'm looking forward to becoming a part of their team and assisting them in my position as director of grants to continue their growth," VanHemert said. "They became a federally qualified health center during the transition when the affordable care act came onboard. So they have really blossomed and grown and I look forward to becoming a part of that team and expanding my opportunities as well."

Stay up to date with UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond happenings at www.miunified.org/Home.



Jimena Loveluck (left), who left the UNIFIED executive leadership team in July with Bill VanHemert (center) who has resigned. Angel Tomsic (right) will step in as interim president and CEO of the agency. BTL Photo: Jason A. Michael



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Accidental Activist

A Community Organizer's Life of Leading by Example

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

Like most gay men in Detroit during the 1980s AIDS epidemic, Cornelius Wilson feared how his sexuality would change the course of his future. Around him, the virus was extinguishing young lives at a rapid pace. But Wilson no longer could stifle living in his truth.

"Things were happening which were bringing this gay lifestyle more to light and in focus," he remembers.

Wilson was in his mid-30s at the time, afrod and handsome enough to have done "some modeling." Opportunities to travel and meet other LGBT people helped him see that there were many different types of gay people, and he didn't have to stereotype himself to fit in.

"It was basically a realization, if you will, after a series of experiences," Wilson says. "When I came out, it was not a formal process by any means."

He started with his mother.

"Her response was: 'So, what? You're still my son. I still love you. What do you want a medal?'" Wilson laughs about it now, wondering how he thought she would respond otherwise. His brothers matched his mother's support. "Once (my mom) told me that, I'm like, I can care less than a damn what anybody else thinks."

A supportive family was rare during the AIDS epidemic and a relief, Wilson explains. Young gay men were being turned away from their homes as quickly as they were diagnosed. For him, support was only half the battle. "There was still a fear because folks were dying left and right and the medications were assisting in that matter," says Wilson. When he was diagnosed in 1987, he had been working with C-HAG (Community Health Awareness Group) for several months, first as a volunteer then as an employee.

"During all of this time, I was unaware of



Cornelius Wilson. Photo: Alex Godin

my own positivity. But I kind of suspected something," he says. While doing some volunteer counseling, he ran into a former lover who was recently diagnosed as HIV positive. "When we finally talked, he thought I'd be upset and blame him. But, as I explained to him, he may have been one of my first, but he definitely wasn't my last. So, I wasn't sure if I was infected through sexual contact or through the numerous needle sticks I endured during my tenure as a phlebotomist at the plasma donor center."

As Wilson got more involved in HIV counseling, he noticed that most black men were on the receiving end of services and dying. "There were a lot of men who came in that I met that were found to be positive but were in relationships with women, either married or what have you," he remembers. "It was those experiences and those foundations that helped strengthen my resolve for who I was."

Wilson founded Men of Color Motivational Group to help better engage the black community about HIV awareness. His leadership didn't go unnoticed among gay men. Soon he was recognized as a community organizer and respected as an activist.

"I don't view myself as all that. I do what I do because it's part of who I am and, in large part, because a lot of it was for me," he says. "I needed to know that there were services out there that I may need. I needed to know that

there were people out there that, if needed, I could connect with. So I did it for somewhat selfish reasons. But as I found that I didn't need the services, there were people all around me that did and they benefitted."

Last summer, Wilson was received a Lifetime Achievement Award from SAGE (services and advocacy for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender elders) Metro Detroit for his work bringing awareness to LGBT older adults in isolation.

In addition to his work with SAGE, Wilson serves as board member and finance committee co-chair for the Detroit planning body of the Southeast Michigan HIV/AIDS Council (SEMHAC). He is also the committee chairman for planning the annual SAGE Metro Detroit LGBTQ Older Adult Summit and the Hotter Than July LGBTQ Annual Gathering conference.

He has served as a project director for the supportive housing agency, Travelers Aid Society of Metropolitan Detroit (TASMD). He's worked as a senior case manager at Target Population Services (TaPS, Inc.) for persons in recovery seeking recovery support services. And he's been a program director for Guiding Light Sober Living, Inc., an agency established to provide for the special needs of housing and recovery management, as well as other supportive services, for men living with and/or at high risk of contracting HIV.

Social work doesn't come without its

challenges, explains Wilson. With so many organizations, overlapping causes and agendas, it can be difficult to get everyone on the same page. But Wilson's natural-born willingness to speak his mind put him at the forefront.

"When some things did come up from the broader community, I challenged them. I took them head on," he says. Still, he doesn't view himself as any type of activist.

"Still don't," he says. "No. I am just another black man out here who happens to be gay who happens to be living his life a certain way. And I like helping people. That's part of my passion. Helping myself is helping people. Helping people is helping myself."

"Everything I do has a selfish aspect to it," Wilson explains. "I get involved for dual reasons. The cause may be beneficial to what I may need at the time. But it's also something that I like to do. Since I got involved with organizing, activism, whatever you want to call it, I enjoy it. It keeps the mind working. Has kept me busy."

Now at 60, Wilson has taken on the challenges of getting older with the same matter-of-factness he brings to his work in the community.

"Once I learn what the deal is, then I find the resolve and the solution," he says, about getting older and staying healthy. "It's like, I got to get over it because I have a life to live."

This story is one of 50 in the BTL "50 Shades of Gray" Aging Series, dedicated to sharing the stories of LGBT older adults in Metro Detroit.

Report: Trump Joked Pence ‘Wants to Hang’ All Gay People

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

The anti-LGBT history of Vice President Mike Pence apparently isn't lost on President Trump, who once joked his No. 2 in office “wants to hang” all the gay people, according to a recent article in the New Yorker.

The lengthy profile piece on Mike Pence contains significant details about his long career in politics starting as a U.S. House member, then Indiana governor and now vice president -- highlighting Pence's ties to the corporate right, including the Koch brothers, and the social conservative movement. (Recalling Pence's time as a member of Congress, a former Republican staff member is quoted as saying Pence “was as far right as you could go without falling off the earth.”)

Although Pence has aided Trump is serving a liaison to Congress and administration officials, the article says Trump likes to “let Pence know who's boss.” Citing two sources familiar with a meeting Trump and Pence had with a legal scholar, the article says Trump mocked his vice

president's views.

The legal scholar reportedly said if the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, many states would legalize abortion on their own, prompting Trump to say to Pence, “You see? You've wasted all this time and energy on it, and it's not going to end abortion anyway.”

When the discussion at the meeting turned to gay rights, Trump motioned toward Pence and joked, “Don't ask that guy – he wants to hang them all!”

Pence has a long anti-LGBT history that consists of voting against LGBT rights in Congress, including support for a U.S. constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage nationwide as well as opposition to the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, hate crimes legislation and “Don't Ask, Don't Tell” repeal.

In 2000, Pence's campaign material indicated he thinks funding for HIV programs should be contingent upon directing resources to “institutions which provide assistance to those seeking to change their sexual behavior.” Many have interpreted that to mean Pence supports widely

discredited “ex-gay” conversion therapy, although a Pence spokesperson has said he never supports it.

Amid the enactment of anti-LGBT policy over the course of the administration, many have suspected Pence has facilitated that change based on history. In fact, sources have told the Los Angeles Blade the vice president is leading on those action, although Pence denied taking an active role in that.

The Washington Blade has placed a request in with the White House seeking comment on why Trump would make that joke and whether he thinks the death penalty for homosexual acts is a human rights violation. (The Trump administration came out strongly against foreign laws condemning gay people to death in a statement after the United States voted “no” on a controversial death penalty resolution at the United Nations.)

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

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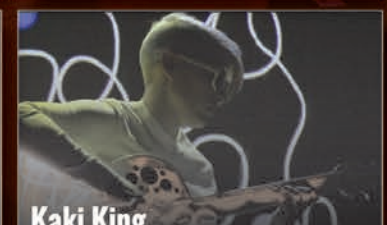
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Civil-Rights Icon Congressman John Lewis on LGBT Equality, Social Justice

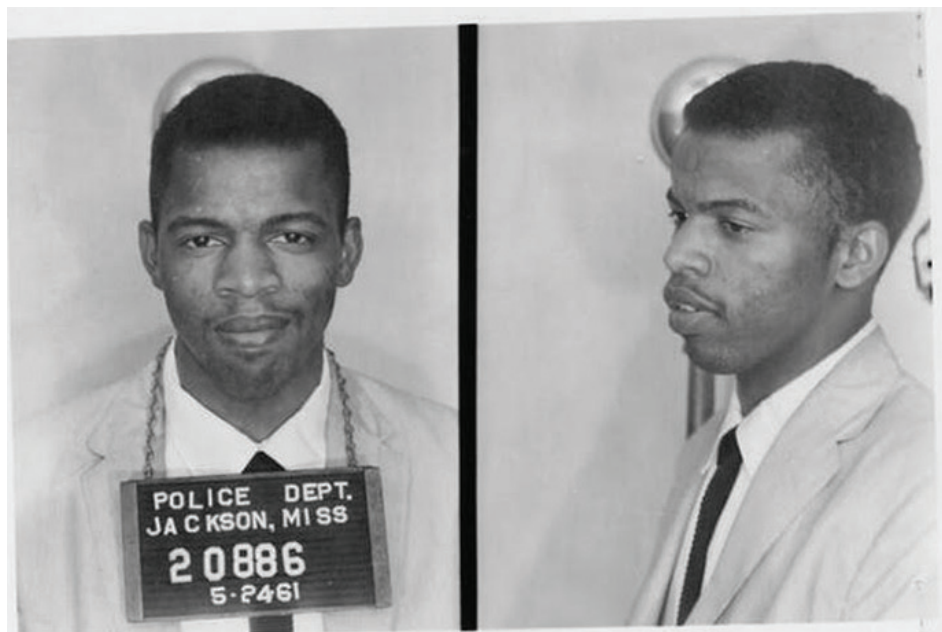
BY JEN COLLETTA, THE LGBT HISTORY PROJECT

When President Barack Obama linked Selma, Seneca Falls and Stonewall in his second Inaugural Address, it was a connection that hit home for Congressman John Lewis. For more than six decades, Lewis has been on the front lines of the fight for social justice — whether it's racial equality, the women's movement or LGBT rights. Lewis began his work in the civil-rights movement in the 1950s, and quickly became a national leader. He was the youngest of the "Big Six" — a national group of movement leaders, alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who organized the 1963 March on Washington — and an original Freedom Rider. Lewis led hundreds of civil-rights marchers into Selma, Ala., in 1965, in a demonstration that would come to be known as "Bloody Sunday," as protestors were beaten and tear-gassed by police; Lewis still bears the scars of a skull fracture suffered that day.

Lewis parlayed his protests into politics, rising from a City Council member in Atlanta to a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, a role he has held for more than 30 years. During that time, Lewis has been a constant ally to and advocate for LGBT causes. The Philadelphia Gay News sat down with the Congressman to explore his view of the evolution of American equality.

You led a congressional sit-in following last summer's shooting at an LGBT nightclub in Orlando. What did that accomplish, and do you think something like that would be effective again, given the events in Las Vegas?

Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "The time is always right to protest for what is right." We have had too much gun violence, lost too many people. After Orlando, and after the sit-in on the House floor, we thought we'd see some action on the part of the House and the Senate, but we have not seen any action. We have not moved. Even now, with what happened in Las Vegas, people are saying, "It's too early to do something." We have to do something. As I said on the steps of the Capitol today, we lost too many mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers, too many of our friends. The time is right for action. We will be engaged in some form of non-violent protest at the Capitol or in some building because we cannot wait. We cannot see more and more people being murdered at a concert, a dance hall, in a school, in a church, a mosque, a temple. We are determined to put control of the proliferation of gun violence on the Congressional agenda. The American people are demanding it. They want us to act, to do something. People say, "We have



Above, a 1961 mugshot of John Lewis after he was arrested for using a "Whites Only" restroom. Bottom from right, President Obama presenting Lewis with the 2010 Presidential Medal of Freedom and left, Lewis speaking at the 1963 March on Washington

to wait, we have to be patient." Before the March on Washington, they told us to wait, to be patient. We cannot wait. We cannot be patient. We want freedom, and we want it now. We want gun control now.

Switching gears, you have degrees in religious studies. What do you think can be done to close the chasm between the LGBT community and some religious communities?

I think it's important for members of religious communities to understand and know that members of the gay community are part of the human family. I grew up in a Baptist Church. I attended churches of all kind in Atlanta, in Nashville. People shouldn't discriminate against someone who is gay or



put someone down. Many of the members in our churches, in our religious institutions, are gay. The church is supposed to preach the gospel of love, the gospel of peace, the gospel of sisterhood and brotherhood, that we are one family — that we all live in the same house, not just an American house but a world house. As Dr. King said, "Learn to live together as brothers as sisters. If not, we'll perish as fools." The church needs to learn and understand that there is not any room in our society — or any society — to discriminate against someone because of sexual orientation.

You've been fighting for civil rights, particularly racial justice, for decades. What are your thoughts on the current state of race relations in this country, compared to 60 years ago when you started this work? What's changed and what hasn't?

We've come a distance and made a lot of

progress. When I was growing up and getting involved in the movement, you would see signs: "White men" and "Colored men," "White women" and "Colored women." In 1961, the year President Obama was born, blacks and whites couldn't be seated together on a bus leaving Washington, D.C., and traveling through the South. We were arrested. We were jailed. We were beaten. But today, the signs are gone and the only places we see those signs are in a book, on video or in a museum. So we have come a distance. We made progress. People who say we haven't, I feel like saying to them, "Come walk in my shoes." People can register to vote now where during the 1950s and '60s they were beaten, arrested, jailed. Some people were murdered when they attempted to register to vote or encouraged others to register. There are folks who are trying to make it harder, to undo the progress we've made. What happened in [Charlottesville] Virginia a few weeks ago traumatized this country more than anything in recent years. The scars, the stains of racism and bigotry are still deeply embedded in American society. It's a constant struggle for us to redeem the soul of America — during the movement, we called it "a beloved community." I believe we will get there. I think many members of the gay community today are playing a major role in helping us get there, along with women's groups, young people, children. I believe our finality will be the young — middle school, elementary school, high school, college. They will help us get there, to lay down the burden of sexism, bigotry, hate, anti-Semitism. We will get there. I'm very optimistic.

What do you say to those who don't share that optimism, in light of the current administration?

I say over and over to people — young people and not so young — that, in spite of everything that has happened, you must be hopeful. You must be optimistic. If you lose hope and you lose optimism, it's like you don't exist, like you are dead. You cannot afford to lose it. Right after the election, people would come up to me and say, "Congressman, I'm so down, so down." They'd walk up and say, "I need a hug." I said, "I need a hug too," and we all hugged. But we have to get up — keep picking up and putting down and keep saying, "I'm going to keep the faith, keep moving, keep hoping and keep building that sense of community for the common good."

Jen Colletta is the editor of Philadelphia Gay News. Visit their website at <http://www.epgn.com>.

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Ford GLOBE celebrates National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11 at Ford World Headquarters in Dearborn. BTL Photo: Kate Opalewski

Ford GLOBE Builds Relationships with Allies on the Job

LGBTQ Employee Resource Group Creates Ally Engagement Team to Strengthen Movement Toward Workplace Equality

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

During Ford GLOBE's National Coming Out Day event on Oct. 11 at the Ford World Headquarters in Dearborn, the LGBTQ employee resource group announced the GLOBE ally engagement project.

The goal is to elevate Ford Motor Company's LGBTQ ERG to the next level so they have greater influence and effectiveness beyond inclusive policies, training and diversity initiatives.

"In the last few months we've been talking

about how we can turn the uninformed into allies then turn the allies into active allies," said Andrew Massaro, a representative of the ally engagement team, who addressed 40 or so employees at this first formal meeting of the group.

He pointed to some of the reasons why being an LGBTQ ally at work matters, which are listed on the Ford GLOBE website under the new "Ally" tab.

- When 62 percent of LGBTQ people hear LGBTQ jokes in the workplace, this kind of message of marginalization leads people to

feel unwelcome, and that is not a One Ford behavior.

- Other minority or marginalized groups can see how well represented they are in an office setting. But LGBTQ people or allies cannot be identified from appearance alone, so the feeling of isolation is usually greater.

- Nearly one in 10 LGBTQ people have left a job because they found the workplace to unwelcoming and in 2015, roughly 50 percent of LGBTQ people were not out in the workplace.


- LGBTQ people can still be fired in 28

states. Michigan offers limited protection to municipal employees. So a private company could legally fire an LGBTQ colleague without legal ramifications.

"It takes a lot of time and effort to be in the closet in the workforce. What can we do? Primarily the idea is one of awareness. We are trying to educate people," he said. "This is a good opportunity to engage people who want to have conversations, but might not be sure about how to start them."

Massaro said so far, the team has created a

See Ford Globe, page 24



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visual identifier like the GLOBE ally sticker that can be placed on a desk or door, for example, and a digital identifier to add to the bottom of email signatures.

“This is wonderful to see. I’m excited to see this happening,” said Bill Peters, GLOBE board chairman, who began this brainstorm with GLOBE members when he heard about ally engagement initiatives happening at other companies.

“A lot of ERGs that have been established for years in LGBTQ spaces are asking the questions ‘What is our next step?’ ‘What is another piece we can add?’ ‘How can we engage more allies?’” he said, noting that without allies, GLOBE would not exist.

Alice McKeage, co-founded Ford GLOBE back in 1994 with Rob Matras. They wrote a letter to the vice president of employee relations with a copy sent to the Ford Motor Company CEO Alex Trotman to start a dialog on gay, lesbian and bisexual workplace issues.

GLOBE became an official ERG in 1995 for salaried, hourly and retired employees of Ford Motor Company, its subsidiaries and agency personnel who are LGBTQ and their allies who support an inclusive and safe workplace for all employees. GLOBE has expanded to more than 480 members with chapters as far

reaching as Mexico, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Ford Motor Company has scored a 100 on the Human Rights Campaign’s Corporate Equality Index every year since 2004 which is attractive to employees like Lynn Keiser. She started working with the company in September 2015 and transitioned while at work in February 2016. Her story, “Transitioning at Work Doesn’t Have to Be a Nightmare,” was printed in The Advocate.

She wrote that GLOBE helped connect her with LGBTQ employees and allies across the world for mentoring and support, and she was able to have conversations with other trans women working for the company.

Keiser said in the article that, “Everyone has accepted me and made me feel very comfortable as I made my transition. Not only do my coworkers accept me, but even a couple of Ford’s top executives have asked me how I’m doing and expressed interest in learning about my experience as a trans woman at work.”

GLOBE has been a part of the remarkable history in the development and the evolution of the Ruth Ellis Center since 2006. Employees volunteered their time to help prepare the Second Stories Drop-In Center at the youth social services agency which provides short-

and long-term residential safe space and support services for runaway, homeless, and at-risk LGBTQ youth in Highland Park and Detroit. GLOBE has also held numerous fundraising events to raise funds for the Center.

Mark Erwin-McCormick, director of development and advancement at the Center, was invited to speak at the event. He talked about allies who often times pave the way for LGBTQ young people.

“Allies are incredibly important because we can only preach to the choir for so long, right? I need allies to be able to tell the story. I need allies to get rid of that stigma. I need allies to create a space so that I can be my authentic self when I come to work...If I have allies around me, creating that safe space for me, then I get to be me and the next person who comes in behind me gets to be themselves too,” he said, noting that the LGBTQ community should operate from a strength-based approach.

“We have to meet individuals where they are,” he said. “The fact that they are willing to learn and to engage and to be supportive means that we except their limitations of current knowledge on LGBTQ cultural competency and give them a pass to make mistakes as we are offering them opportunities to learn more.”

For example, he said, “If someone misgenders somebody else, but automatically

corrects themselves and apologizes and tries to work at it and get better then we should not fault that individual. We should praise that individual for making that effort.”

During the panel discussion moderated by Holly Lashbrook, LGBTQ and ally employees spoke about their experiences being out and why it is important to be their authentic selves at work.

“Since I’ve been here at Ford, I’ve had nothing but positive experiences with coworkers, with managers,” said Matthew Gray. “I got married about a year and a half ago and my whole department came together, bought us a big bottle of champagne, threw a little party for the two of us. It’s really nice being able to just be yourself in this environment and be respected for the contributions you can make to the company regardless of whether or not you happen to like the person I go home to in the evenings.”

For Tracy Mitchell she was intentional about her choice to work in a place like Ford Motor Company where she can be out.

“I want people to know who I am. It makes me a better worker and people can’t know who I am if they don’t know I have a wife,” she said. “Being an authentic person also makes me a better worker and a better person.”

For more information, visit www.fordglobe.org.

Ford GLOBE Suggests Five Ways to be an LGBTQ Ally in the Workplace

- 1 Let LGBTQ voices be heard:** As allies, we can empathize and advocate for the LGBTQ community, but we cannot speak directly for them. Accordingly, it is important that we center our efforts on how we can be most helpful.
- 2 Send gentle signals:** Showing and sharing your acceptance and support can be very easy. Many people often don’t realize that LGBT people keep watch for signs from their friends, family and acquaintances about whether it is safe to be open with them. It can be as subtle as having an LGBT-themed book on your coffee table.
- 3 Speak up:** Anti-LGBT comments and jokes are harmful and it’s important to let your friends, family and co-workers know that you find them offensive. A simple and non-confrontational statement can go a long way to taking a stand against LGBTQ discrimination.
- 4 Question heteronormity and challenge stereotypes:** In today’s society, we generally assume that everyone is straight and gender-normative. We assume that everyone is cisgender (identifying as the gender that matches the sex one was assigned at birth). As result, people often hide who they are. This creates a lot of stress and thereby health disparities.
- 5 Remember that you’re human:** Nobody knows everything. Don’t be afraid to admit what you don’t know! Allow yourself to make mistakes and learn from them. Give yourself time to learn, ask questions, and explore your own personal feelings. Curiosity is healthy and can lead you to understanding others better through respectful dialogue.





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Auto-Themed Attractions for Michigan Car Lovers

THE AUTO GUIDE



Ford Rouge Factory in Dearborn

BY BTL STAFF

Detroit has a rich automotive history that car enthusiasts can enjoy beyond the annual North American International Auto Show in January. Here is a list of some Michigan favorites.

The Henry Ford and Ford Rouge Factory

Located in Dearborn, the Henry Ford holds one of the finest automotive history collections in the country, featuring almost 300 vehicles and an extensive collection of automotive product literature. The Ford Rouge Factory Tour, located within the museum, offers a five-part experience that includes watching the assembly of the Ford F-150 truck from an elevated walkway. Learn more at www.thehenryford.org.

Greenfield Village

1.6 million visitors a year visit Greenfield Village, making it one of Michigan's major attractions known for the 1896 Ford Quadricycle, the first 1965 Ford Mustang, the bus on which Rosa Parks was arrested and everyone's favorite exhibit: the 1950s-era Oscar Mayer Wienermobile. Learn more at www.thehenryford.org/visit/greenfield-village.

The Henry Ford and Ford Rouge Factory and Greenfield Village are both located at 20900 Oakwood Boulevard in Dearborn. Call 313-982-6001 or 800-835-5237 for more information.

Automotive Hall of Fame

Next door to the Henry Ford is the Automotive Hall of Fame featuring a mix of vehicles and narratives about the people who contributed to the American auto industry. The museum features include a 65-foot-long mural celebrating the impact of the motor vehicle on the world's culture and a full-size replica of the world's first gasoline-powered automobile. Get a close-up view of Edison's first battery-powered electric car, antique cars, a design showroom with modern vehicles, and motorsports memorabilia. The Automotive Hall of Fame is located at 21400 Oakwood in Dearborn. Call 313-240-4000 for more information or visit www.automotivehalloffame.org.



The Honda S800 RSC at the Automotive Hall of Fame in Dearborn. Photo courtesy of Cars In Depth

GM Renaissance Center and Showroom Tour

Visitors will be guided through Detroit's landmark GM Renaissance Center on a one-hour public tour outlining the rich history that General Motors shares with the city of Detroit. The popular GM Showroom is a 40,000 square-foot display space offering an interactive look at GM's Buick, Chevrolet, Cadillac and GMC brands. The tour hosted by the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy occurs five days a week until Dec. 30. The complimentary tours are offered twice daily, Monday-Friday (except holidays) at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. on a first-come basis. For more information (including blackout dates), visit the GM Ren Cen website -<http://gmrencen.com> or the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy at <http://gaybe.am/mw>.



Ford Piquette Avenue Plant in Detroit

Ford Piquette Avenue Plant

The recently restored Piquette Avenue Plant in Detroit's mid-town area was built in 1904 and is the first manufacturing facility owned by Ford Motor Company. Visitors will enjoy touring this birthplace of the historic Model T and the manufacturing site for earlier Ford "Alphabet cars." The Ford Piquette Avenue Plant is located at 461 Piquette St. in Detroit. For more information, call 313-872-8759 or visit <http://fordpiquetteavenueplant.or>.

Detroit Historical Museum

The Detroit Historical Museum's signature exhibition "America's Motor City" tells the fascinating stories of how cars built metro Detroit and how metro Detroit built cars, as well as why Detroit became the Motor City. This new exhibit incorporates the popular "Automotive Showplace," featuring cars from the museum's collection. The Detroit Historical Museum is located at 5401 Woodward in Detroit. For more information, call 313-833-1805 or visit <http://detroithistorical.org>.

See Auto Attractions, page 28



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"The Detroit Industry" fresco cycle, Diego Rivera, 1932-1933

► Auto Attractions

Continued from p. 26

'Detroit Industry' at the Detroit Institute of Arts

The famed "Detroit Industry" fresco cycle is located inside the Rivera Court at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The twenty-seven panel work depicting an automobile assembly line was conceived by Mexican muralist Diego Rivera as a tribute to the city's manufacturing base and labor force of the 1930s. It is considered the finest example of Mexican mural art in the United States, and the artist thought it the best work of his career. The DIA is located at 5200 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. Call 313-833-7900 or visit www.dia.org/art/rivera-court.

Pasteiner's Auto Zone Hobbies

Pasteiner's Auto Zone Hobbies, established by the Pasteiner family in 1988, features metro Detroit's largest selection of automotive automobilia including more than 150 current automotive magazines from around the globe as well as vintage magazines from the '50s and '60s, hundreds of automotive book titles from American Motors to Zagato (including technical, historical, and racing), hundreds of finely detailed diecast model cars from 1/87th scale to 1/8th scale, original artwork, posters, signs and plastic model kits and hobby supplies. Pasteiner's Auto Zone Hobbies is located at 33202 Woodward Ave. in Birmingham. For more information, call 248-646-2886 or visit www.pasteiners.com/catalog.

Vinsetta Garage

The popular Vinsetta Garage just outside of Detroit is a local favorite. It's the kind of place that made a name for itself on Woodward Avenue by delivering the deepest kind of care to car owners and auto lovers one wrench turn at a time. Today, the oldest garage east of the Mississippi carries a different kind of torch but the cause remains the same: make it honest, make it legit and make it as good as you know how. Chef Aaron Cozadd's menu is built on the kind of custom Detroit eats - burgers, Union Mac & Cheese, noodle bowls, coal-fired pies - that the mechanics and techs would have called their own back in the day. Vinsetta Garage is located at 27799 Woodward Ave. in Berkley. Call 248-548-7711 for more information or visit <http://vinsettagarage.com>.



Gilmore Car Museum

Gilmore Car Museum

The Mission of the Gilmore Car Museum is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret the history of transportation in America; to connect people with the heritage and social impact of the automobile; and to provide an understanding of the past, embrace the present, and imagine the future. The collection includes

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Visit the Ford Family Home

The Edsel and Eleanor Ford Home in Grosse Pointe Shores tells the story of the home life of a prominent American family. The Fords were cultural, social and economic leaders in an era of great optimism, as well as a turbulent time of economic depression and world war.

Hours for the home vary with the seasons. Tours are scheduled twice daily Tuesday through Friday, and every four hour 12-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. House tour prices range from \$12-15 for adults with discounted prices for kids and seniors. The Edsel and Eleanor Ford Home is located at 1100 Lake Shore Road. Call 313-884-4222 or visit www.fordhouse.org/about/the-henry-ford-estate for more information.

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DON'T BE STUPID,
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SHANIA LOVES YOU

Shania Twain Talks Being 'Inspired by the Spirit' of the LGBTQ Community

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Contrary to popular belief, some things *do* impress Shania Twain. The country-pop icon and paragon of leopard print has great admiration for her LGBTQ fans, who she says have become guiding lights in her own life.

Twain's inspiring story is one of survival, from her childhood hardships while growing up in the small town of Timmins, Ontario, where she raised her three younger siblings after her parents died in a car accident in 1987, to her 2009 divorce from Robert "Mutt" Lange, producer of Twain's 1997

crossover behemoth "Come on Over." The best-selling country album of all time was a game-changer with an impressive track record – 40 million copies sold globally, 50 weeks atop the Billboard country charts over three years, 11 singles released – that Twain still champions in the female-artist arena.

Fifteen years after dropping her last juggernaut, 2002's "Up!," Twain, 52, is again demonstrating slay status to her legions of loyal, boot-stompin' queer fans. Even a neurological voice disorder called dysphonia couldn't keep the genre subverter, who once thought she'd never sing again, from recording her long-overdue fifth LP,

"Now." Released in September, Twain wrote every song, and her shiny résumé got even shinier when the album instantly seized the No. 1 spot on the Billboard albums and country charts.

Country-pop's comeback queen was an open book during our recent conversation, speaking passionately and candidly about her LGBTQ activism at the onset of her country career in 1993, having to "agree to disagree" with those who aren't pro-gay, and bringing drag queens and Bud-guzzlin' bros together with "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!"

But, also, you don't get Shania Twain on the phone without reminiscing on 1998's

"VH1 Divas," when Twain shared the stage with an epic mix of icons – Aretha Franklin, Mariah Carey, Celine Dion and Gloria Estefan – for one of the most legendary, gay-loved nights in diva (and hair) history.

Do you have enough leopard print gloves to go around for all the gays to partake in celebrating your comeback?

(Laughs) I should make them, right? What do you think would be the preferred fabric? Silk or...?

Velour.

Yeah, like, velvet.

INFO

Shania Twain

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We need a million of those by tomorrow. But first, Shania, after all these years, how do you explain your connection to the LGBTQ community?

I can't really explain my connection in any sort of theoretical way to anyone. But I would say my intentions are to inspire and connect with people, to be relatable then and now. I think that it is what resonates – we relate to one another, we relate to struggle, and then surviving struggle and celebrating who we are and what we are and appreciating that as a community of people regardless of what it is. Just celebrating together to the anthemic nature of some of those songs, and on this new album there are several like that as well.

Is there something specific you hope to convey to LGBTQ audiences with this album?

Surviving against the odds. A song like "I'm Alright" – just that statement there and telling yourself, "I'm alright. I've made it through. I've survived." And with a fist-in-the-air attitude, with conviction.

What was your introduction to the gay community?

I work with a lot of gay people and they're just a part of my almost daily family world. So, they're just part of my friends and my community. I guess more when I started to become successful, I was really surrounded by more creative people, and there are so many creative people in this industry who are gay, both men and women. It just becomes the norm.

During some of your rough patches, did you get any sage advice from your gay friends?

Oh, I get good advice from gay friends all the time! (Laughs) I think more than anything I'm inspired by the spirit of where the gay community is right now and that conviction to be who you are. I love standing up for that. It's just so important to be transparent and open about who you are and to not hide behind fear.

Have you clung to that sentiment as a way to push past your own personal pain?

Completely! I mean, my whole transition into where I am now in this moment has been facing fears and taking that leap of faith myself, and that would be my advice to anyone out there. A gay person who has been living behind their fears and then makes that courageous decision to start living as who they really are and stop pretending and

embrace it – it takes a lot of courage.

For me, I've just learned that there's no time to waste. You need to take that leap and be who you are, and we're in a society now that is making it easier. We still have a long way to go, but there are a lot more outlets.

But the gay community – and minority communities in general – are always fighting. I have a song on the album called "Swingin' with My Eyes Closed" and it's a fun party song, but the true depth of the song is about even when you can't see what is in front of you, you still have to move forward. You can't move backwards; you gotta keep moving forward and fighting for that freedom to exercise independence and courage.

There couldn't be a better time for a song like that. In 2013, you tweeted about the Supreme Court overturning the Defense of Marriage Act, saying, "Congrats to everyone celebrating equality today in the U.S. #loveislove." Why is it important for you to take a stand on gay rights and other LGBTQ issues?

I just feel very saddened by any kind of oppression in our society in today's day and age. I mean, it's so negative. Equality should be a no-brainer, automatic, all the way around. We need to have mutual respect all the way around. Supremacy of any sort is just poison. I just feel like we're not above each other in any way and mutual respect and an admiration for an individual's abilities, talents, heart, commitment – I mean, what does that have to do with any minority status that we might be labeled with today, whatever that may be? Certainly, I know that gays feel that.

How does it feel knowing that your songs "Forever and For Always" and "From this Moment On" have probably been the first dance at a number of same-sex marriages?

Awww! That's lovely. It's so lovely. But love is beautiful, and music is very much a part of our lives and monumental moments of our lives.

Because country music has long been deemed conservative in its views, could we speak as openly as we are now about LGBTQ issues at the beginning of your career?

I mean, I did. You know what this is really about? This is about pro-equality, this is about pro-mutual respect. And if you're really for those things in life, then why would there be any boundaries? Why would you side where there are? Why would you draw a line there?

In the country community, I think it comes down to the fear of potentially alienating conservative fans.

I think everybody has the right to their opinion, and that I would never argue with. That is a huge part of freedom of speech and mutual respect, having the right to your own

Continued on next page

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► Shania Twain

Continued from p. 31

opinion. If you're not pro-gay, then you're not pro-gay, and we just have to agree to disagree. I would never get into a fist fight with somebody who didn't agree. I just think that would be counterproductive. So, I think we all have to respect each other's opinions on these issues.

But, listen, with a song like "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!" – and this is, what, 20 years ago? – I'm over that come a long time ago. A lot of straight men sing "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!" just for the sheer entertainment of it. So, I think songs like that have been great, maybe, contributors to bringing us together, if not for anything than just for the common denominator of music and owning that for whatever it means to them, and that breaks down barriers.

How do you reflect on your gender-bending style, when you donned menswear, in that video?

I like to have a sense of humor about everything, especially things that can have a lot of tension. A song like "Man! I Feel Like a Woman!" just smacks it dead for me. The audience issue is not something I worry about. I'm respectful to my audience and I appreciate them for relating to my music regardless of their point of view on whatever it is, whether it's politics or social issues. I'm not here to judge.

Tell me about the first time you encountered a Shania drag queen.

I went to an imposter show in Las Vegas and it was incredible. You brought up the country world and maybe how that might be more conservative, but it's funny, three of the artists that were in the show were myself, Reba McEntire and Dolly Parton. I thought that was so wonderful. It's like, "OK, we're country artists, and we're in there!" Any artist that is, on a visual level, very expressive would make a great imposter night subject!

What is the one thing a queen cannot go without if they truly want to feel like Shania Twain?

Probably something leopard print, and I would say a top hat. The boots, for sure!

For gay men everywhere, 1998 was one of the best years as it was the inaugural "VH1 Divas," the best and most iconic. It doesn't get any better than you, Mariah Carey, Gloria Estefan, Celine Dion, Aretha Franklin and guest performer Carole King. Of them, who are you still in touch with?

Mariah Carey. Celine Dion. We still cross paths – it's great. I always like to catch Mariah when she is live, and Celine too. It was such a wonderful group of ladies, really terrific.

Who most lived up to the diva title during the show?

I think Mariah had the biggest hair, so probably her. (Laughs)

You were second, I think.

I was! I said, "OK, I gotta look at Mariah's hair. I want to try for it to be as big as hers," because she has this naturally big, amazing hair. So I'm like, "Come on, let's go for it. I know Mariah's gonna have bigger hair than me, so I'm gonna go for it and have fun with it." She has that hair that I want, that naturally big hair with this gorgeous wave and those ringlets.

When you all performed "Natural Woman" as your encore, I wasn't sure who was stealing the spotlight: Mariah's hair or Aretha.

(Laughs) I know! Nobody can kill Aretha's spotlight.

If you did another "Divas," what other diva would you want to sing alongside?

Rihanna, for sure. She's just so awesome. I love her voice; I never get tired of it. Never, never. And we hear it so much on the radio, right? She's every second song on the radio and I just never get tired of it. Even with "Love on the Brain" – I mean, it just doesn't get better than that. So, she'd definitely be on my list.

I'm hoping for you and Taylor to team up – our two country-gone-pop queens.

Taylor would be a good one. She'd be a must on "Divas," for sure. She's awesome. She's such a great creative person and a super songwriter and really uses her brain, so it's lovely to watch her.

Lastly, how many costume changes can gay audiences look forward to when you hit the road?

(Laughs) How many would a gay audience find ideal, do you think?

At least 15.

(Laughs) Whoa. OK, that is a friggin' high demand. I'd have to change every two songs!

As long as you bring out the iconic ensembles, no harm, no foul.

Gotta have a little flashback moment here and there, yeah!

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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Jill Soloway on the set of "Transparent." Photo courtesy of Amazon Prime Video

Stuck In Transit: 'Transparent' Creator Talks

BY LAWRENCE FERBER

"Transparent" won't be winding down anytime soon. A fifth season of the multiple Emmy and Golden Globe-winning series about a transgender female who began a gender transition late in life and her family's subsequent self-revelations, began pre-production even before season four's Sept. 22 premiere on Amazon Prime Video.

This season, the Jewish-American Pfefferman clan ends up in Israel, where patriarch-turned-transgender-matriarch Maura (Jeffrey Tambor), ex-wife Shelly (Judith Light), and their children Ali (Gaby Hoffman), Sarah (Amy Landecker), and Josh (Mark Duplass) unearth more secrets and discoveries about their family line, sexualities/relationships, and identities, while set against the Israel-Palestinian conflict and Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Jesus Christ Superstar" soundtrack.

Having based the character Maura on a

transgender parent who came out in their 70s, creator/director/writer Jill Soloway has evolved along with "Transparent"'s Pfeffermans and currently identifies as gender non-binary (and goes by "they" pronouns). Via telephone, Soloway elaborated on season four, the show's other transgender characters, and of course season five (and no, Soloway isn't leaving the show despite recent, misleading press reports).

What did season four allow you to do that's different from the last season?

We realized how much we love it when the Pfefferman family is together. Normally in a show when you start to give people things to do, you create love interests for them and new characters. Ali has a crush on lesbian Syd (Carrie Brownstein), Josh is in love with Rabbi Raquel (Kathryn Hahn), and Sarah is choosing between Tammy (Melora Hardin) and Len (Ron Huebel). But what we wanted to do this season is let the characters turn

toward each other and have that comedy and love of being in a family.

What were some of the biggest issues hashed out in the writers' room for season four?

Well, the family goes to Israel, so we wanted to tell that story in a way that resonated differently for each member. A lot of the season has a "Jesus Christ Superstar" rock opera kind of, your memories of being a child, and whatever you thought it meant to live in Jesus' time and come down with Messiah Complex – those are the kinds of broad, funny stories. But we also wanted to tell the real stories of what's actually happening right now in the world. For queer people, trans people, for identity. Intersectionality. The question of having to choose between your queerness and your Jewishness, your Jewishness and your trans-ness. You're being asked to choose, but not really able to.

Is there a Dana International cameo?

(laughs) No. In fact I heard of her but didn't know enough about her to work her into the season.

Did anyone in Israel recognize the cast while shooting?

We actually didn't go to Israel. We shot in Los Angeles. We got some B-roll, but we didn't bring the actors there. It's a camera trick. We had a fake Dead Sea at Universal Studios and a fake Wailing Wall at Paramount.

I understand that Maura's HIV-positive mentor and friend, Davina, played by transgender actress Alexandra Billings, has a spotlight episode this season.

Yes. Davina is an amazing, really important part of the show. What we do is tell the story of how she got there. The experience is really different for trans women who come up through the gay world and those who come up through the heterosexual cross-dressing world. There are really two different paths

on this gender journey, and for trans women who came up through the gay world, the drag world, the pageant world, their story is one of Stonewall, of HIV and AIDS, of moving from the gay world into the straight world. So we really tell that story.

What about new transgender or non-binary characters this season?

Well, we start to tell the stories about Ali Pfefferman's relationship with their own gender identity. We do Davina's history, of the women she knew as she was coming up in the trans world. And there are other trans people, actors and characters, that are part of Maura's world.

Have any ideas proved too loopy or insane and got shot down so far?

Well, when Ali is at the women's music festival (in season two) and has a hallucination and sees Tante Gittel (a transgender character who lived in 1930s Berlin at the Hirschfeld Sex Institute, played by transgender actress Hari Nef) in this modern dance confrontation with the Nazis, at one point that was actually going to be a musical number with singing and dancing. I'm glad we got rid of the actual lyrics. My sister Faith loved musicals, so we are still trying to get a musical aspect in. I just don't think we necessarily needed to connect it with the Holocaust.

There has been some news about a new showrunner for the fifth season. Can you clarify this, and how the show might be different?

OK, so there is not a new showrunner. I'm going crazy trying to fix this problematic press issue. I've always been the creator of the show, but somebody else has been running the show ever since season two. There is a show runner named Jill Gordon. For the past couple of years we had a show runner named Bridget Bedard. I'm not leaving the show, I'm not working any less hard. I direct all the time, I still write all the time. I'm going to be directing a lot of the fifth season and in the writer's room. The narrative that I'm stepping down and somebody is taking

over is bit of a PR blunder we're working on fixing. Jill Soloway is not stepping down.

What is the most surprising feedback you've received about the show so far?

That's a good question. The shocking thing is I meet people who say they came out (as transgender) because of the show. They didn't think they could before, but watching the show allowed them to realize they could be trans and be accepted. They use the show to come out to their families, they tell them to watch the show first and then give them a call. They look at the conviviality of the fact they remain family. A show where the trans person is part of the fabric really normalizes trans-ness in a way where coming out doesn't mean losing your family. That's a huge effect of the show that I didn't really prepare for.

Are you familiar with 9-year-old drag queen Lactacia and this trend of adolescents who use social media, like 15-year-old Instagram makeup tutorial diva Jake Warden, to share and celebrate their own style of gender bending, queerness, and fabulousness?

Yeah, I think that's fantastic and so glad those people are out there.

Would you give any of them an opportunity to do a "Transparent" walk-on?

I love that idea. Yeah. I think social media is a great place to look for all the up-and-coming trans talent, and I'll definitely check out who's doing tutorials on Instagram and see if we can find our next star.

Finally, do you have an endgame for Maura?

No. I need to keep everyone in the family slightly unhappy so that we have more story. I feel the same about Maura as all of the kids and people in the family. Keep frustrated, keep searching, keep dreaming, and trying to become.



A scene from "Transparent." Photo courtesy of Amazon Prime Video



Detroit Hosts Women's Convention

Organizers from the Women's March chose Detroit for the Women's Convention because it "is a beautiful city, full of historical and political significance, and a multitude of lived experiences – a perfect setting for women, femmes and our allies seeking to strengthen our growing, intersectional movement." The three-day event happens Oct. 27-29 at the Cobo Center in Downtown Detroit. Registration information is available online at www.womensconvention.com.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, Oct. 19

MERGE Out & Equal G-Party 5:30 p.m. Contact Kevin Heard for details. DTE Power of Pride ERQ, 76 W. Adams Ave., **Detroit**. 313-673-3001. info@detroitgbtchamber.com

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

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

Friday, Oct. 20

2017 Fall Reception 5:30 p.m. Special Guest: Anna Navarro, Political contributor to CNN & ABC News. Live jazz, valet parking. Equality Michigan, 1 Energy Plaza, **Detroit**. 313-537-7000 x105. pbrewis@equalitymi.org www.equalitymi.org/tickets

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

Saturday, Oct. 21

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

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

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

Sunday, Oct. 22

Walk in the Woods 12 p.m. Sign up online for this free event. Donation suggested during lunch. Carpools available upon request. MCC Detroit, 3325 Franklin Rd., **Bloomfield Hills**. www.mccdetroit.org/walk.html

Transcend 4 p.m. For transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

Zoo Boo 5:30 p.m. Tickets: \$9. A "merry-not-scary" celebration. Children's Hospital of Michigan, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, **Royal Oak**. 248-541-5717. www.detroitzoo.org

Monday, Oct. 23

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

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

What is Romanticism? Fall Class at The Brooklyn Institute for Social

Research 6:30 p.m. This a four-week course. Prices are offered on a sliding scale from \$25-\$75. Scholarships readily available for those who cant afford the fee. Register online. The Brooklyn Institute for Social Research, 1450 McKinstry Street, **Detroit**. 313-236-9271. stefany@thebrooklyninstitute.com <https://thebrooklyninstitute.com/items/courses/what-is-romanticism/>

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

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. 24

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

In the Doctors Office: Recovery Friend or Foe? 7:30 p.m. By Mark Weiner, MD, D-FASAM; and Matt Statman, LMSW, CAADC. Learn how people in recovery from addiction and health providers can be allies. Free. Dawn Farm, 5305 Elliott Drive, **Ypsilanti**. 734-485-8725. info@dawnfarm.org www.dawnfarm.org/

programs/education-series

Wednesday, Oct. 25

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

Thursday, Oct. 26

2017 Voices of Freedom 5 p.m. Annual Dinner & Auction featuring Cleve Jones, Author & Organizer. Tickets start at \$100. Freedom House Detroit, 1000 Brush Street, **Detroit**. www.freedomhousedetroit.org

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

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

Red Umbrella Support Group 7:30 p.m. For individuals involved in the erotic labor industry. Sex Workers Outreach Project Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

Friday, Oct. 27

A Nightmare on Queer Street 6 p.m. FREE for youth ages 13-20; Come in costume or come as you are! Costume contest for best costume. Food, snacks,

Editor's Pick

Cleve Jones to Keynote Freedom Event in Detroit

Cleve Jones will keynote the Freedom House annual fundraiser at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 26 at The Atheneum Suite Hotel, 1000 Brush St. in Detroit. Freedom House is a temporary home for survivors of persecution from around the world who are seeking asylum in the U.S. and Canada. Jones joined the gay liberation movement in the early '70s and was mentored by pioneer LGBT activist Harvey Milk. He worked in Milk's City Hall office as a student intern until Milk's assassination in 1978. Jones co-founded the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in 1983 and founded The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in 1987. Tickets start at \$100. Visit www.freedomhousedetroit.org to purchase tickets and for more information.



Women's March National Co-Chairs Carmen Perez, Bob Bland, Tamika D. Mallory, and Linda Sarsour. Photo: Dimitrios Kambouris/Getty Images for TIME

Editor's Pick

Ms. Jackson Uses Her Art, Show to Have a Voice

In a time when stories of racial divisiveness, fascism, xenophobia, transphobia, police brutality, gun violence and violence against women are a constant fixture in the 24-hour news cycle, Janet Jackson wants to use her State of the World tour to make a statement. "The intent was to use her art and her catalog of music to touch upon what is going on," Gil Duldulao, Jackson's long-time creative director, told the Los Angeles Times. Her tour stops in Detroit at 8 p.m. on Oct. 29 at Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave. Visit www.313presents.com for tickets, which range in price from \$29.50-125.



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

Saturday, Oct. 28

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

Coming Out Over Coffee 10:30 a.m. A casual discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, Oct. 29

The Women's Convention 9 a.m. Tickets: \$295 per person. Youth and student rate: \$125 per person. Women's March, 1 Washington Blvd., **Detroit**. www.womensconvention.com

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

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

MUSIC & MORE

Cabaret 313 "Kyle Riabko - Bacharach Reimagined" Kyle Riabko, star and creator of the hit West End and Off-Broadway show Close to You: Bacharach Reimagined, brings his fresh, extraordinary Bacharach arrangements to life again in a tour-de-force solo concert. Seat Pricing: \$125 Preferred \$60 General; Contact for Pre-show dinner information. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Oct. 28 - Oct. 28. 313-405-5061. www.cabaret313.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Salsa Dance Party" Arrive early for a dance lesson and stay for the open dance floor, live music set from LL7 Latin Jazz, plus food and drink specials! Salsa Dance Lesson 9pm/Live DJ + Live Music 10pm - 1am. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 9 p.m. Oct. 28. 3135765111. <http://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4689&prod=4688>

Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit "Broadway From the Inside Out" A sermon & worship series focused on finding our place and influence in the world. Contact for dates and times. Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit (MCC), 2441 Pinecrest Dr., Ferndale. Oct. 15 - Oct. 29. 248-399-7741. www.mccdetroit.org

Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series "Penny Arcade Longing Lasts Longer" Penny Arcade is an internationally respected performance artist, actress, poet, and theater maker. Her work is a cultural critique on class, race, and identity that has always focused on the other and the outsider. Wasserman Projects, 3434 Russell St, #502, Detroit. 7 p.m. Oct. 21. 7347639275. https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/penny_arcade

Static Network "CAT MANIA! A cat variety show!" A celebration of cats variety show! A night of music, art, burlesque and vendors capturing the feline frenzy for local cat rescues! Care-Rescue.com and Hater Kitty Rescue Army! 18 & over are welcome. \$8 suggested donation. Raffle with fab prizes from our vendors and other local shops! Tangent Gallery, 715 E. Milwaukee, Detroit. 8 p.m. Oct. 20. 313-961-4668. <https://www.facebook.com/events/688294131363894/>

The Berman "Dallas String Quartet Electric" DSQ Electric an international music sensation is coming to The Berman! A fusion of classical and contemporary music on both traditional and electric strings. Tickets \$23-\$38. Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. 8 p.m. Oct. 28. 248-661-1900. www.theberman.org/dsq

University Musical Society "Ragamala Dance Company" "Written in Water" explores the concept of spiritual ascension. Power Center for the Performing Arts, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Oct. 20. 734-764-2538. <https://ums.org>

Concerts

Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Cube "Jamison Ross" Ticket information available online. Max M. Fisher Music Center, Music Box, 3711 Woodward Ave, Detroit. 10 p.m. Oct. 20. 3135765111. www.cubedetroit.org

Film & Video

DATC and Friends of the Alger "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" Free and open to the public. Participation bags are \$5. Seating is limited. DATC and Friends of the Alger, 1021 Manistique St., Detroit. Oct. 27 - Oct. 30. www.thedatc.org

Other

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Om @ The Max Season Kick-Off" Practice yoga to live music. Admission \$25 Student, General Admission \$20, VIP Experience \$39. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 10:30 a.m. Oct. 21. 313-576-5111. www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4691&prod=4690

The Society of Canary & Finch Breeders of MI "Bird Show" Exhibitor sale birds, silent auction, raffle, 50/50 & concessions. Non-exhibitor show admission \$4.00. Livonia Elks Lodge 2246, 31117 Plymouth Road, Livonia. 10 a.m. Oct. 21. www.scfbmichigan.com

Shows

Detroit Masonic Temple "Formal Masquerade Gala & Theatre Bizarre" Theatre Bizarre is proud to present legendary psycho-spook masters MESSER CHUPS. Costumes are mandatory. Tickets: \$95. Detroit Masonic Temple, 500 Temple Ave., Detroit. Oct. 13 - Oct. 21. <http://theatrebizarre.com/choose-your-fate/>

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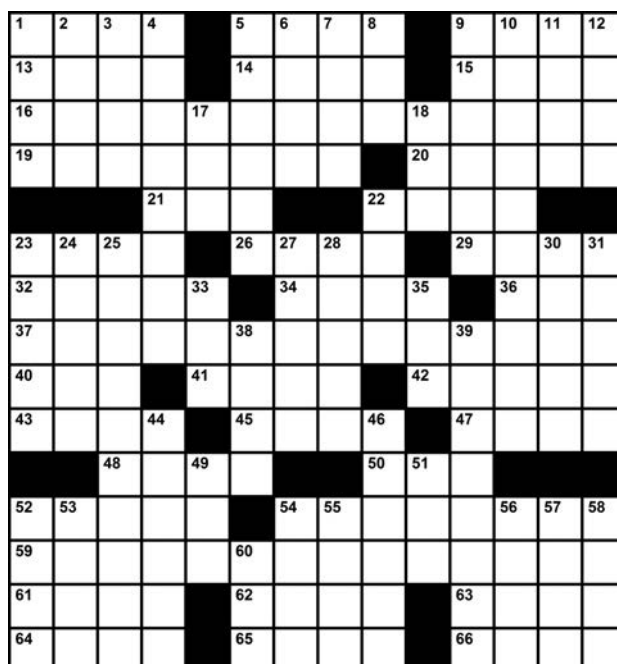
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- 19 Oz city shades

- 20 Prudential alternative
- 21 Bridal bio word
- 22 Boot attachment for Jack Twist
- 23 Bottomless
- 26 Boat for Gomer?
- 29 The number of people who like it hot
- 32 Halliwell's partner
- 34 Neeson of "Kinsey"
- 36 Neighbor of Kan.

- 37 "Love, Zena Beth" author
- 40 Frat boys tap it
- 41 There is nothing like one in "South Pacific"
- 42 Item from Ted Casablanca
- 43 Mapa of "Switched at Birth"
- 45 MGM cofounder
- 47 Decent chap
- 48 Ellen, for one
- 50 Sixth word of Abe's address
- 52 Words of compassion
- 54 Like the number of an LGBT hotline
- 59 "Ferocious Romance: What My Encounters With the Right Taught Me About Sex, God, and Fury" author
- 61 Locale of valuable stones
- 62 "The African Queen" author
- 63 On ____ with
- 64 Poet Gidlow
- 65 Hairy Wall Street pessimist?
- 66 Pro follower

Down

- 1 Aerosmith's "____ (Looks Like a Lady)"
- 2 "Exotica" director Egoyan
- 3 Internally pink
- 4 "Our Town" writer Wilder
- 5 Judd of "Frida"
- 6 "Gay Priest" author Malcolm
- 7 Antigay prejudice, e.g.
- 8 "I Could Have Danced ____ Night"
- 9 Foucault's farewells
- 10 Ted Allen, for example

- 11 "8 Women" director Francoise
- 12 Rowlands of "An Early Frost"
- 17 ____ kwon do
- 18 Race unit
- 22 Navratilova, for one
- 23 Drink of Nureyev's land
- 24 Plath poetry collection
- 25 Some Broadway employees
- 27 You must remember this
- 28 ____ Coyote
- 30 "Chicago" producer Neil
- 31 "Your Movie Sucks" author Roger
- 33 Composer Rorem
- 35 Mardi Gras mo., often
- 38 Highsmith title condiment
- 39 Contest for sweaty guys
- 44 Eye bank donation
- 46 Karen of "Will & Grace"
- 49 Cruising locale
- 51 Shine, in ad-speak
- 52 "Spamalot" writer Eric
- 53 Unresponsive to a come-on
- 54 Buster Brown's bulldog
- 55 Top draft level
- 56 Talk show cohost Kelly
- 57 Coup target, to Cocteau
- 58 Pound of verse
- 60 Queen in "Romeo and Juliet"

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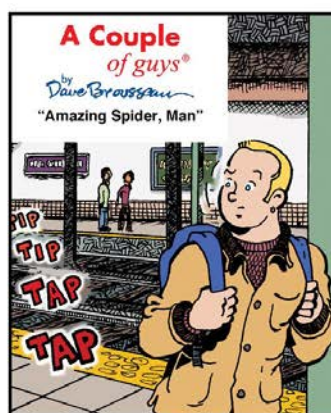


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Editor's Pick

Nightmare on Queer Street

Join Affirmations for a scary celebration, "Nightmare on Queer Street," from 6-9 p.m. on Oct. 27 at 290 W. 9 Mile Rd. in Ferndale. Come to this dance party with DJ Tone in costume or come as you are. There will be a contest for best costume. Ages 13-20 are welcome. For more information about this event, contact Ian Unger at iunger@goaffirmations.org.



► Happenings

Continued from p. 37

moonlight night. Theatre & Dance at Wayne, Studio Theatre at The Hilberry, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Oct. 28. 313-577-2972. www.theatreanddanceatwayne.com

A2CT Presents Cabaret Tickets and information are available online at www.a2ct.org, through the A2CT office at 734-971-2228. NOTE: The show is recommended for those 18 and up, due to adult themes. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave, Ann Arbor. Oct. 26 - Oct. 29. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org/shows/cabaret

Detroit '67 It is the summer of 1967 in Detroit where a sister and brother, Michelle and Langston lives change forever, along with the life of their city. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre 2nd Stage, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. Oct. 13 - Oct. 22. 248-541-6430. www.stagecrafters.org

Love Never Dies The Phantom of the Opera Returns in a spellbinding sequel! Broadway in Detroit, Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Oct. 17 - Oct. 29. 313-872-1000. www.BroadwayInDetroit.com

Rigoletto A heartbreaking tale of love, lies and sacrifice. Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Oct. 14 - Oct. 22. 313-237-7464. www.michiganopera.org

Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street A 1979 musical thriller with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by Hugh Wheeler. Sweeney Todd was the victim of a ruthless judge who exiled him to Australia. Todd returns to seek revenge on the judge and others at his barbershop above a meat pie shop. Tickets \$27-\$35. Encore Musical Theatre Company, Encore Musical Theater Company, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through Oct. 22. 734-268-6200. www.theencoretheatre.org

The Bodyguard Based on the smash-hit film, the award-winning musical The Bodyguard will star Grammy Award nominee and R&B powerhouse Deborah Cox! There will be an AfterChat following Thursday's performance inside the Great Hall. Broadway at The Wharton Center, Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Oct. 17 - Oct. 22. 800-WHARTON. www.whartoncenter.com

The Rocky Horror Picture Show Through elaborate dances and rock songs, Frank-N-Furter unveils his latest creation: a muscular man named Rocky. The following props will

not be allowed in the theater: Rice/confetti; Water guns; Candles/lighters (flashlights are fine); Whole rolls of toilet paper; Hot dogs/prunes. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 10 p.m. Oct. 28. 734-668-8397. www.michtheater.org

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

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

Professional

Dark Ride Radio Hour Tickets: \$20. Roustabout Theatre Troupe, Trinity House Theatre, 38840 W. 6 Mile Rd., Livonia. 8 p.m. Oct. 21. 734-6810112. www.roustabouttheatre.com

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

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

Love Never Dies Broadway in Detroit, Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Oct. 17 - Oct. 29. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.com

Resisting by David Wells Tickets: \$20. Pay-What-You-Can tickets available. Based on a true story, a young black woman who begins to film an incident of police brutality is subjected to shocking treatment herself and becomes embroiled in a legal case that never should have been. Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron, Ann Arbor. Oct. 27 - Nov. 19. 734-635-8450. www.theatrenova.org

Resisting by David Wells Theatre NOVA, 410 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Oct. 27 - Nov. 19. 734-635-8450. www.theatrenova.org

The Laramie Project Tickets \$12 or \$16 to donate to The Matthew Shepard Foundation. Directed by Katie Cooper and Melissa Dane. Lakeland Players, CUMC, 3882 Highland Road, Waterford. Oct. 13 - Oct. 22. www.lakelandplayers.net/tickets

The Taming Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through Oct. 22. 517-6557469. www.williamstontheatre.org

ART 'N' AROUND

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

Flint Institute of Arts "The Art of Containment" 50 plus Vessels from Bloomfield Hills resident Sidney Swidler's Collection, curated & amassed over 30 years! Tickets: Adults \$7, Kids \$5, Senior Citizens \$5, Free under 12, FREE SATURDAYS! Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Oct. 11 - March 18. 810-234-1695. [https://flintarts.org](http://flintarts.org)

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

Lawrence Street Gallery "Celebrate the Print '17" Opening reception Oct. 6 from 6 to 9 p.m. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. Oct. 4 - Oct. 27. 248-5440394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit "A Walk in the Woods" Following morning services, join us for a Walk in the Woods. Cost is free, but a donation is suggested for lunch. Johnson Nature Center, 3325 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Township. 12 p.m. Oct. 22. 248-399-7741. www.mccdetroit.org/walk.html

Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series "Presenting Kiki Smith: Copy Cat, Meandering Prints" Kiki Smith is known for her multidisciplinary practice relating to the human condition and the natural world. Smith uses a broad variety of materials, continuously expanding and evolving a body of work that includes sculpture, printmaking, photography, drawing, and textile. Michigan Theater, 525 S. State St, Ann Arbor. 5:10 p.m. Oct. 19. 7347643464. https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/kiki_smith

Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series "Jason Yates: Fast Friends Forever" Jason Yates, a Detroit native, currently lives and works in Los Angeles. Yates work focuses on a collaborative ethos and bridging the gap between various genres XX namely art, music, fashion, and design. UMMA, 525 S. State St, Ann Arbor. 5:30 p.m. Oct. 24. 7347643464. https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/jason_yates

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Russell Tovey is gay superhero The Ray for the CW

After Thanksgiving weekend is over and you've successfully shaken off your family until late December, the CW has a gift to soothe you back into comfortable queerness: Russell Tovey, the "Quantico"/"Looking" star with the cute ears, will be playing gay superhero The Ray for a CW "Arrow"-verse four-part crossover special. Oh, you don't know what "The Ray" is? OK, comic book lessons start now: The Ray is a part of DC's Justice League, and he's a man who got exposed to a genetic light bomb (not important to know what that is because we're shaky on the concept ourselves) and now has light-based superpowers, which allows him to fight criminals. Also, he's gay. Now you're caught up. Tovey will keep on being The Ray after this special, as well, because he's also voicing the character for CW Seed's upcoming animated series, "Freedom Fighters: The Ray." There's going to be so much gay Ray you won't know what to do with all of it. Tune in November 27 and 28 for a crash course in believing that a gay superhero can blind bad dudes with the power of justice. Something like that.

'Moonlight' writer McCraney takes on Disney's 'Cyrano'

Tarell Alvin McCraney, the Academy Award winning co-writer of "Moonlight," has a suitably high-profile project in the works, this time with Walt Disney Pictures. "Cyrano The Moor" is the title, and it's a musical mashup of Shakespeare's tragedy "Othello" and Edmond Rostand's comedy "Cyrano de Bergerac." The live-action musical will star David Oyelowo ("Selma") as Cyrano – good idea, as he's already played Othello to great acclaim on the stage – and be set in 19th-century England. And that's as far as the information goes at this point. No other co-stars yet, no director, no word on who's creating the music. But this one definitely has our interest and we're excited to see how McCraney will synthesize two seemingly opposing literary forces, all while putting a queer spin on the material.

Anna Paquin is the 'Bees' knees

There are only so many times you can watch "Carol," you know? Yes, we understand that it's perfect in pretty much every way, what with the impeccable 1950s period detail, Cate Blanchett's gorgeous outfits, Cate Blanchett's dom attitude, Cate Blanchett's... well, literally her everything. "And" it has a happy ending. So it's as if the movie-making goddesses heard our yearning for more of that and decided it



was time for another lesbian romance set in the 1950s. Which brings us to "Tell It To The Bees." Based on Fiona Shaw's 2009 novel, the currently-in-production drama stars Academy Award winner Anna Paquin as a doctor in a rural British village who falls in love with a young woman played by Holliday Grainger ("Tulip Fever"). Grainger's hetero romance has recently hit the rocks and the only cure is some lady doctoring, and that more than suits our requirements. Currently shooting in Scotland with director Annabel Jankel, it'll probably hit screens in 2018, even though we're ready for it now.

'George Michael: Freedom' coming soon to Showtime

In between Halloween parties later this month, be sure to sit down and have a moment of remembrance for the late great George Michael, when Showtime airs the documentary, "George Michael: Freedom." Co-directed by Michael and David Austin before the singer's death, it's a look into the making of his legendary album, "Listen Without Prejudice, Vol. 1." It also follows the British High Court battle Michael had with his record label and the death of Michael's partner, Anselmo Feleppa. The list of interviewees is lengthy for this one, understandably, and includes "Freedom 90" models Naomi Campbell, Christy Turlington, Tatjana Patitz, Cindy Crawford and Linda Evangelista, as well as fellow musicians Elton John, Nile Rodgers, Mark Ronson, Liam Gallagher, Mary J. Blige and Tony Bennett. We're glad this one was in Michael's hands and will be about significant events from his own perspective, rather than someone else's cash-in, tell-all, post-mortem. The film premieres October 21.

Romeo San Vicente's not planning on going solo.

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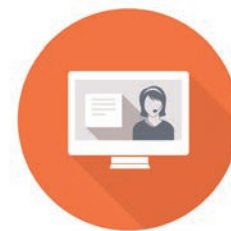
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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Suicide Prevention Conference to be Held in Plymouth

LGBT Suicide Risk Among the Topics at the 2nd Annual Kevin's Song Event Nov. 9-11

BY BTL STAFF

PLYMOUTH – The 2nd annual Kevin's Song conference on suicide, "The Silent Epidemic: A Conference on Suicide," is once again looking at the suicide epidemic from a wide range of angles – including the risk of suicide in the LGBT community.

This year's conference, which runs from Nov. 9-11 at the Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile Road in Plymouth, will offer two presentations directly related to the LGBT community: Dr. Joe Kort's session on "Sexual Orientation and Suicide Risk," and "Transgender 101," presented by Nicole Law, Psy.D., of Wentworth & Associates, P.C.

In addition to topics directly related to the LGBT community, this year's key themes include "Research and Therapeutic Modalities," "Youth and Education," "Veterans and Active Military."

According to Kort, a Royal Oak therapist who specializes in working with sexual minorities, the Kevin's Song conference is a valuable event because it, "... [raises] awareness and gives voice to something no one wants to talk about. Those who are suicidal often don't have a voice and if so people don't take them seriously. We need good and accurate information out there to prevent suicidality."

This is particularly true of the LGBT community. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness online fact sheet about LGBTQ issues, "LGBTQ youth are four times more likely and questioning youth are three times more likely to attempt suicide, experience suicidal thoughts or engage in self-harm than straight people. Between 38-65 percent of transgender individuals experience suicidal ideation," mainly because of the anti-LGBT stigma still prevalent in American society.

Relative local havens like Ferndale and Ann Arbor aside, Kort said that the situation for LGBT individuals in metro Detroit isn't all that much better than it is nationally.

"...we are a smaller and conservative community, and more spread out, [and the] stress of living around prejudice and having to continue to hide takes its toll," he said.



Kevin Urso

In addition to Kort and Law, the Kevin's Song conference will feature speakers from a wide range of mental health-related disciplines including Dr. Thomas Joiner, Ph.D of Florida State University, experts from the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Program at the University of Michigan, and Dr. Jodi Jacobson Frey, associate professor at the University of Maryland School of Social Work and principal investigator of the Healthy Men Michigan campaign's research project.

Legendary singer/songwriter Judy Collins, who lost her son Clark to suicide in 1992, is among the featured keynote presenters during "Surviving Suicide: A Journey of Healing and Hope". Collins will also perform a benefit concert for Kevin's Song, "Songs of the Heart," at the Inn at St. John's during the evening of Nov. 10. Veteran performer, singer, songwriter

and former WDET personality Matt Watroba will act as emcee and Master of Ceremonies for the event. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the concert begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$150 per person and include an open bar, hearty hors d'oeuvres, and coffee and dessert after the event.

Entry to the full conference is \$300, with two-day and single-day admissions available. Kevin's Song sponsors include The Dolores and Paul Lavins Foundation, the Henry Ford Health System, and Wentworth & Associates, P.C. For more information and to register, visit <http://kevinssong.org/conference>.

Support Kevin's Song

Kevin's Song is one of the featured charities during the 2017 Give Detroit Challenge sponsored by Hour Detroit Magazine, which runs through Nov. 6. Give Detroit Challenge donations to Kevin's Song will be used to help keep the event affordable for everyone from mental health professionals to people whose lives have been affected by suicide. Kevin's Song was founded in 2014 by John and Gail Urso of Grosse Pointe Park after they lost their son, Kevin, to suicide in 2013.

Donations can be made at <http://bit.ly/2xspS0q>.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Sanders to Speak at Inaugural Women's Convention

BY BTL STAFF

The Women's March announced Oct. 12 that U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT) will be a featured speaker at the Women's Convention, which will take place in Detroit from Friday, Oct. 27-29. Sen. Sanders will speak during a Friday evening plenary session on how the progressive movement can move forward and achieve its priorities.

"I'm honored to join the women at the front lines of our struggle for economic, social, racial and environmental justice. In January, millions of women came out in an extraordinary and unprecedented display of power and resistance. Now more than ever, we must support the leadership of women across the country and fight together to advance our progressive agenda," said Sen. Bernie Sanders.

Piper Perabo (actress and activist), Sally Kohn (Political Commentator and Community Organizer) and Lilianna Angel Reyes (Activist), Nomiki Konst (Investigative Reporter, The Young Turks), Leah Greenberg (Co-Executive



Director, The Indivisible Project) also join the growing roster of speakers.

"Senator Sanders has been a fierce champion of women's rights and bolstering female voices throughout his career of public service," said Tamika Mallory, Women's March Co-President. "We are honored that he will be joining us at the Convention to lend his voice in support of women leaders from across the country who will be converging in Detroit. We look forward to hearing from him on how he plans progressive policies that will empower and protect the most marginalized among us."

The convention aims to have participants leave inspired and motivated, with new connections, skills and strategies for working

towards collective liberation for women of all races, ethnicities, ages, abilities, sexual identities, gender expressions, immigration statuses, religious faiths, and economic statuses.

Additional speakers include: Angela Rye, Amber Tamblyn, Symone Sanders, Stacey Abrams, Nina Turner, US Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA), Stephanie Schriock, Ai-jen

Poo, Aida Hurtado, Lenore Anderson, US Representative Brenda Lawrence (D-MI), Stephanie Chang, Raquel Castañeda Lopez, Melissa Mark-Viverito, Sarah Eagle Heart, Rashida Tlaib, Brittney Packnett, Nomiki Konst, Winnie Wong, Stosh Cotler, Leah Greenberg, and the Women's March co-chairs Bob Bland, Carmen Perez, Linda Sarsour and Tamika Mallory.

With the official theme of "Reclaiming Our Time," the Women's Convention is just the beginning of a political groundswell, showing that the rise of the woman IS the rise of the nation.

For more information, please visit www.womensconvention.com or contact wmconvention@infusedpr.com.

Vote Now for the 'Best of' in Ferndale

BY BTL STAFF

The Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce is accepting votes not through Oct. 28 for their annual "Best of Ferndale" awards ceremony set to take place Nov. 2 at The Twisted Tavern, 22901 Woodward Ave. in Ferndale.

Join them for an exceptional evening to honor Ferndale Area businesses at the biggest Chamber event of the year. Help them celebrate local business owners, entrepreneurs and their staffs who dedicate their lives to growing the economy and creating a more prosperous and vibrant community.

The celebration program includes a food-tasting showcasing the best Ferndale restaurants, the "Best of the Best" ceremony, a cash bar and live music entertainment. There will be a silent auction featuring a great variety of products and services generously donated by Ferndale Area Chamber of Commerce members. This gala also provides an opportunity to mingle with dignitaries, business leaders and active community members.

For more information, visit www.bestofferndale.com/. Vote online at <http://gaybe.am/63>.



MI Dems Official Logo (Dark Ash Adult Hooded Pullover Fleece), \$48

Michigan Democratic Party Launches Webstore

The Michigan Democratic Party announced the grand opening of the MDP webstore, where supporters can now purchase official MDP apparel and merchandise.

Every purchase made helps the MDP in their goal of getting Democrats elected throughout Michigan. From t-shirts, sweatshirts, and polos to coffee mugs, yard signs, and bumper stickers, the new webstore is a one-stop shop for all things officially MDP.

The MDP will be adding new products regularly.

MDP webstore online <https://store.michigandems.com/>.

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TUESDAY

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-7:30PM
Walk-In

WEDNESDAY

Affirmations
FERNDALE
5:30PM-8:30PM
Walk-In or Appointment
Mpowerment Detroit
MIDTOWN
11AM-7PM
Walk-In

THURSDAY

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-4:30PM
Walk-In

FRIDAY

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
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Walk-In
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Mpowerment Detroit
MIDTOWN
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DETROITHEALTHLINK.ORG

Questions? Contact Danny Inman, LGBT Detroit (313) 397-2127;
dannyinmanlgbtdetroit.org



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.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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](https://www.facebook.com/SAGEMetroDetroit)

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 Sistās of Color Project

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

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

77 Victor Street, Highland Park, MI 48203
info@ruthelliscenter.org
[Facebook: Ruth Ellis Center](https://www.facebook.com/RuthEllisCenter)
313-252-1950

Ozone House

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

Stand With Trans

Farmington, MI
www.standwithtrans.org
248-739-9254



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

Find these resources online

Adoption Services
AIDS/HIV Hotlines
AIDS/HIV Organizations
Alzheimer's Association
Animal Shelter
Anti-Violence
Archives/Collections
Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
Cancer Support Groups
Choruses
Community Centers
Employee Resource Groups
Families and Parents
Foster Care
Foundations and Funders
Hotlines & Switchboards
Labor Union
Legal Organizations
Museums
Music Groups
National Organizations
Political Organizations
Professional Organizations
Religious & Spiritual
Senior Living
Seniors
Social/Community Organizations
Sports
Substance Abuse
Transgender Groups/Services
Women's Health
Youth Services

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

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

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

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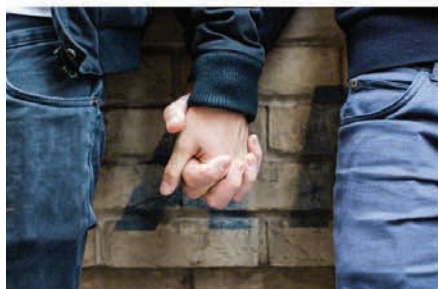
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