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**Gretchen Whitmer**  
On Showing Up for One Another



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# Gretchen Whitmer on LGBTQ Issues



BY KATE OPALEWSKI

No stranger to duking it out, Democratic gubernatorial frontrunner Gretchen Whitmer is showing up for the LGBTQ fight.

“That’s one of the first and most important things to do is show up,” says Whitmer. “I don’t mean to just oversimplify the art of a successful campaign, but showing up is half the battle. When we show up for one another’s fights, we quickly find that we are the majority in Michigan and we inspire people to come out and vote,” she says.

Whitmer has shown up in various ways by leading negotiations for Democrats to expand Medicaid. She told her own story of surviving sexual assault to fight back against “Rape Insurance,” she led the 12,000-person “Right to Work” protest, and introduced the Michigan 2020 plan in 2012 to

give every high school student free tuition at one of the state’s public universities or community colleges through a grant that would have been paid for by closing tax loopholes.

Whitmer has been a proven fighter for the LGBTQ community. The former State Senate Minority Leader championed an anti-bullying law to make sure children are not tormented for who they are – and when some politicians tried to insert a religious exemption, she fought them and won. Whitmer’s work has helped schools and student groups across Michigan get proactive in how to handle – and prevent – the bullying of LGBTQ students both in and out of the classroom.

Whitmer led the efforts prior to the marriage equality ruling to provide benefits to same-sex partners of public employees and stood with the countless Michigan residents in outrage when Governor Rick Snyder banned them.

Whitmer was a leading voice against Attorney General Bill Schuette’s decision to waste millions of taxpayer dollars on his crusade to stop marriage equality in the courts. She sponsored legislation to expand Michigan’s Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity and said she will prioritize that as governor.

Whitmer was awarded the Catalyst Award by Equality Michigan in 2012 for her unwavering support of Michigan’s LGBTQ community and served as the Grand Marshall for the Motor City Pride Parade.

In the latest general election poll, Whitmer is in a dead heat with presumptive Republican candidate Bill Schuette at 37-37. In all public primary polling, Whitmer is well ahead of all other candidates – Whitmer 27, Bill Cobbs 8, Abdul El-Sayed 4, Shri Thanedar 3.

Whitmer talks with BTL about tackling the list of long-standing LGBTQ issues and her idea of a Michigan where everyone can get ahead, where everyone is protected and respected and where everyone has opportunity.

“That’s the Michigan I’m fighting for. It’s why I jumped in this race,” she says. “We deserve better. It’s been a long time since Michiganders have had someone in their corner.”

## What role(s) do you see for LGBTQ Michiganders in any future administration and other appointments if you were to win?

Every community across our state needs to have a seat at the table. I will be the kind of governor whose always going to ensure that I have a cabinet that is diverse and representative of the population of our state. That means the LGBTQ community as well, obviously. But that also extends to appointments to commissions, to the bench, in every way that we can use the power of the executive office to lift people up and make sure that everyone’s

got a voice. I am eager to do that. I’ve always done that in terms of leadership offices that I’ve held and the campaign that I’m running

## Do you support the voluntary guidance approved last year by the State Board of Education to assist schools in creating environments where LGBTQ students can live, learn and thrive?

It is imperative that we as a state are ensuring that every child in every school district has the support they need to be successful - no matter how they identify

or what their sexual orientation is. It matters not. The education of our children is the backbone of our economy and our society so that’s why as a Democratic leader I went to the microphone to push anti-bullying protections for kids in our schools. I made the tough arguments that need to be made. It’s incumbent on our leaders to fight for the children of our state. That means every child.

## MOSS PAC Event Gains Support for Pro-Equality Candidates

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

“It will be unsafe to be an LGBTQ Michigander if Bill Schuette is the next governor of the state.”

That’s what State Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) told around 30 people on Sunday afternoon during a MOSS PAC event hosted by Michael Rowady and Eric Mahoney at their home in Pleasant Ridge.

“We’re trying to build this up to support other candidates that carry a pro-equality message that we are going to need to be out there because we’re combating some really dark forces next year,” said Moss.

He applauded some of those candidates holding the line on key LGBTQ issues who attended the event – Democratic gubernatorial candidate Gretchen Whitmer; State Senator Steve Bieda (D-Warren); State Rep. Robert Wittenberg (D-Oak Park); City of Pleasant Ridge Commissioner Bret Scott; Ricardo White, who is running for Michigan’s 6th State House District; Jordan Acker, candidate for the University of Michigan Board of Regents; LGBTQ elected officials Mayor of Southfield Ken Siver and Mayor of Ferndale Dave Coulter; and Thom Ivy, who is considering a run in Detroit’s District 4.

Moss launched the Making Our State Stronger Political Action Committee in 2016 while running unopposed in District 10.

“People wanted to support me and it would be so disingenuous to tell people to write a check to my campaign when I didn’t need that support,” he said. “Last year I raised almost \$20,000 and turned around almost \$20,000 to support other candidates.”

Moss couldn’t stress enough why this is so important to do. He reiterates that LGBTQ people can be fired from their jobs or evicted from their homes and there are no protections in the state. Moss said he fought hard against the state’s controversial bill passed in Lansing in 2015 that lets faith-based adoption agencies say no to prospective LGBTQ parents if saying yes violates the group’s religious or moral beliefs.

“It’s really bad stuff – some of the farthest away from pro-equality rights as any state in the nation. We’re competitive with states like Alabama and Mississippi,” he said, “We are going to hear a lot of noise about our community on the campaign trail next year, not only from the top leader in the White House, but we’re going to be used as a political punching bag.”

As the second openly gay member of the House, he said, “It makes a difference. When you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu. They’re talking about

See Whitmer Interview, page 13



State Senator Steve Bieda (D-Warren), Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate Gretchen Whitmer and State Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) at the MOSS PAC event in Pleasant Ridge on Sunday. BTL Photo: Alex Godin

“When you’re not at the table, they put you on the menu.”

us and we need to be there to shape and shift the message.”

On the other end of the ideological spectrum is Whitmer, who Moss said, “is going to bat for us every single day. She has a history of going to bat for us and is the only Democratic candidate that can win in November of 2018. There is no question in my mind. We’ve suffered enough losses as Democrats and we need to put up our strongest, most effective candidates on the campaign trail.”

Whitmer, the former State Senate Minority Leader, has done more than just talk about supporting the LGBTQ community; she’s fought alongside the community during their toughest fights.

“Running for governor is not for wussies,” she said. “I’m putting in 15 hours a day already and Bill Schuette’s already got online ads attacking me and I know that they are going to spend \$40 million telling people in the state that I love and call home what a horrible person I am. They are going to drag me through the mud and beat me up and try to punish me and my family for leading on these issues, but it’s the right thing to do and I know it’s what the people of our state feel too.”

Steph White, executive director of Equality Michigan was there to let members of the

community know what they can do now to continue the LGBTQ movement forward.

One way, she said, is to support candidates like Moss and Whitmer, among others, who are brave enough to put themselves out there to make connections and build relationships with some Republican legislators who believe LGBTQ people don’t exist and don’t need special rights.

“We really have to keep putting our money into these candidates. That’s how we build power and further progress,” said White. “And talk to people. Be real, true and honest...Our allies are out there. They’re not with us yet. We don’t have enough allies. We need to build those relationships...Meet with lawmakers and support politicians who need your help to get their message out by volunteering and making phone calls. It sounds scary, but it’s not. By showing up and being our authentic selves, that’s how we can build the future that we can all believe in and we’re all proud of.”

Contributions can be made to the MOSS PAC at 18405 Melrose Ave., Southfield, MI 48075 or online <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/mosspac>. Visit [www.gretchenwhitmer.com](http://www.gretchenwhitmer.com) to support Gretchen Whitmer for Michigan governor.



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## What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

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

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

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

#### Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

#### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

#### TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

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

## Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

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

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

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## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

### TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

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

## ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

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

### Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

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

## HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

## IMPORTANT FACTS

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

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

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

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

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

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

## BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

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

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

## HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

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

## GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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# Stabenow Tours REC, Followed by LGBTQ Donor Gathering



Mark LaChey, chair, and Roland Leggett, vice-chair, of the LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party organized a tour of the Ruth Ellis Center by U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow. Pictured (l to r) are REC's board chair Sabrina Gujral and former board chair and co-founder John Allen, Peterson, Stabenow, McMillan, LaChey and Leggett. BTL photo: Jan Stevenson

BY JAN STEVENSON

**DETROIT** – On Sunday, Michigan's senior U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D) toured the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park, the nationally recognized youth services and healthcare facility that targets the needs of LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness.

Later that afternoon she met with dozens of LGBTQ donors at a reception in Detroit. Both events were organized by Mark LaChey, chair, and Roland Leggett, vice-chair, of the LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party. Leggett also serves on the board of REC.

Leading the REC tour was executive director Jerry Peterson, director of development and advancement, Mark Erwin-McCormick, board chair Sabrina Gujral and former board chair and co-founder John Allen. Stabenow was engaged, asking lots of questions about the center, its programs, mission and plans for the future. At the end of the tour she sat down with the leadership team for a robust conversation about their plans to build a 45-unit housing facility for homeless LGBTQ youth in Detroit.

The donor event later that day for Stabenow's reelection campaign was at the riverside condo of David Lilly. Despite fighting a cold that left



David Lilly, left, opened his beautiful Detroit riverside condo to almost 50 LGBTQ donors to the Stabenow reelection campaign. Pictured are Lilly, Stabenow, Susan Grettenberger, vice-chair, and Mark LaChey, chair, of the LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party. BTL photo: Jan Stevenson

her almost voiceless, Stabenow told attendees she appreciates – and urgently needs – their strong support in her 2018 bid for a fourth term in the Senate.

“Steve Bannon has identified me as one of four Democratic Senators he wants to take out in 2018,” Stabenow said, referring to the former White House senior advisor and

“Some think that writing letters, calling legislators and visiting their offices doesn't make a difference. Nothing is further from the truth. It was all those voices that stopped the Obamacare repeals. That's what we have to keep doing on all the issues.”

– U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow

Breitbart News Network mogul who recently “declared war” on any politician who does not support President Trump's legislative agenda.

Stabenow was crystal clear that Trump's agenda is nothing she could ever support. “Healthcare is a big issue for me, and has been since the beginning of my career,” she said. “He wants to dismantle the whole healthcare system. Democrats believe healthcare is a basic right, the Republicans think it's a privilege.”

She said that on Nov. 4, right after the election, she expected Republicans to move quickly to repeal Obamacare, cut taxes, and pass a myriad of legislation advancing conservative social issues. But, she said, the solidity of the Democratic congressional caucus and the strong reaction from the public thwarted Trump's effort to deliver on his promise to repeal Obamacare.

“Some think that writing letters, calling legislators and visiting their offices doesn't make a difference. Nothing is further from the truth. It was all those voices that stopped the Obamacare repeals. That's what we have to keep doing on all the issues.”

Stabenow said she understands how scary it must be for LGBTQ community members under the Trump administration. “I get it. I and the rest of the Democratic caucus are committed to staying unified in our protests to his administrative actions, and the legislative moves by Republicans in Congress, and to keep LGBTQ progress moving forward, not backward.”

Stabenow said, though, it is not easy because Democrats are in the minority and therefore cannot set a legislative agenda. She stressed that the only thing that will influence Republicans to move away from Trump is if they see tangible losses, such as losing seats in the 2018 mid-term election. “Nobody likes Trump on the Hill, but the Republicans are afraid of him. But if they lose seats, they will run from him as fast as they can,” she said.

# ELECTION 2017: Jim McClurken On 'Why I'm the Better Candidate' for Lansing City Council Seat

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

As Nov. 7 creeps closer on the calendar, Lansing prepares for an overhaul of its political system with a slew of new candidates running for a variety of city positions. One such new candidate is Jim McClurken who is running for the 4th ward city council seat. Although he has had 30 years of experience in the city's politics through social and political activism, along with a stint on the city's park board, this will be his first official foray into city council. McClurken is also an openly gay candidate. He sat down with *Between the Lines* to touch base about how his campaign has changed since we last spoke in July when he was endorsed by the Victory Fund.

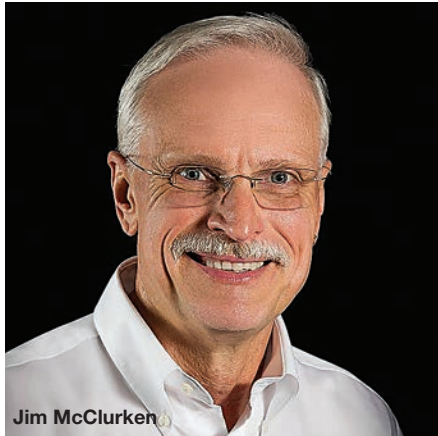
First, he said he wants to make clear that his top three priorities: economy, transparency and livability have not changed and neither has his approach.

"On economic development, I look forward to working with a crew of developers who have ideas for making Lansing livable, walkable and a better place to work where you live, instead of going out to suburbs. That's happening in Lansing, it's happening big time," McClurken said. "If you look at the most recent Lansing Business Monthly, you'll see that there's between a \$1 billion and \$2 billion worth of development going into Lansing right now, and all of that is going to developing buildings with mixed-use income housing and that's going to make Lansing far better to live in."

McClurken's efforts to reach out to locals has also left him determined to crack down on crime rates. He said he recognizes that Lansing's loss of 100 police officers since Mayor Virg Bernero took office is unacceptable.

"I've knocked on thousands of doors in the last five months, and I can tell you now what the interests of the people in my ward are. The biggest issue is public safety," McClurken said. "The FBI released crime statistics for Lansing just a week ago. The murder rate is up 33 percent, robberies are up 28 percent, personal assaults are up 19 percent and rape is up 22 percent – in one year. People are concerned about that."

McClurken admits that he can't do much to improve the lack of transparency between the executive branch of local government and city council, but he said he was confident



that the change in current leadership will give the city council a fresher outlook overall.

"[Virg Bernero] has a standard set of five votes who backed him on that, they were quite beholden to him. More than half of those people will not be returning to the city council. That will allow for public debate on issues," McClurken said.

McClurken himself wholeheartedly supports mayoral candidate Andy Schor, who is running against Judi Brown Clarke. McClurken said that he respects the length of time he has worked on city issues, and his breadth of knowledge overall.

"Andy has a talent for reaching out to people and helping to educate them on the issues," McClurken said. "He's a bright, talented person who has a talent for seeing large pictures and understanding the operation of politics and society at the same time. He has a winning personality that respects everybody, including his opponents. And because he's done that, he's been very successful as our house representative for our district. He's been at this now for nearly two decades. He understands all of the local issues, the state issues, the national issues and he knows how to work for his constituents in all of those settings."

McClurken too said that he is doing his best to run a clean campaign. He said he can't say the same for his opponent, Brian T. Jackson a Lansing and 4th ward native, who has garnered much support as a fresh face running for the same council seat.

"I'm not going to let him get by with saying he's running a clean campaign – he's not," McClurken said. "She [Jessica Yorko, former 4th ward city councilperson] has not either. In this way, a lot of progressive votes say that we're going to vote for this young guy because he's Jessica's candidate and

he's going to learn fast. I can't say about learning fast, but being Jessica's candidate is not a helpful thing."

McClurken is referring to Yorko's assessment that McClurken was detached from local issues, calling him a "pissy, white rich guy," claiming that he would finance his campaign out of his own pocket. McClurken said that fundraisers are the source of his campaign's income.

He does reside in the Potter House, a 15,000-square foot mansion which is home to his Native American consultancy business, a studio and Blue Griffin Recording. The home is frequently used for fundraising events for a variety of political causes, as well as nonprofit organizations.

Still, McClurken asserts that even with opposition, he is the better candidate because he understands the complexity of local issues more deeply. He said also that his experience with discrimination has left him attuned to social issues also.

"He's 33 years old and I've been in Lansing for 30 years and active. So, I don't see that being born someplace makes you a better candidate, or better qualified to deal with the issues," McClurken said. "Discrimination against LGBTQ people is universal. It's from a wide range of the community. I don't think that he grew up with a great deal of discrimination. He grew up in the neighborhood where I live currently and I doubt that he faced much at all. But, to the extent that he did, when I came out I can say it was far more discriminatory to be an openly gay person than in any other classification."

Right now, McClurken said he is doing his best to make sure his "voice is amplified at the front of the room," to include the voices of others, maintain transparency and garner support until the election.

"I think that I'm the better candidate because I have more experience, I know how city government works and I have 30 years with dealing with the City of Lansing and he has none – and admits that," McClurken said. "If you look at my endorsement, particularly the one in City Pulse, there's a video on my Facebook page of that interview. You'll see that there's some substance behind my words."

Follow Jim McClurken for Lansing City Council  
[www.jimforlansing.com](http://www.jimforlansing.com)

## Three out of 11 Michigan Cities Score 100 on HRC MEI

BY BTL STAFF

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's LGBTQ civil rights organization, in partnership with the Equality Federation Institute, released its sixth annual Municipal Equality Index, the only nationwide rating system of LGBTQ inclusion in municipal law, policy and services.

The 2017 MEI reveals new heights in municipal LGBTQ equality in nearly every regard. A record 68 cities earned perfect scores for advancing LGBTQ-inclusive policies and practices – up from 60 in 2016, 47 in 2015 and 11 in 2012, the first year of the MEI. And in the current political reality, welcoming cities are more important than ever.

"This year's MEI paints a vivid picture: cities big and small, in red and blue states alike, are continuing our progress toward full equality, regardless of the political drama unfolding in Washington, D.C., and in state legislatures across the country," said HRC President Chad Griffin. "Today, the MEI serves as a vital tool for business leaders and municipal officials alike when it comes to economic development. CEOs know that in order to attract and retain the best employees, they must grow their companies in places that protect LGBTQ citizens from discrimination and actively open their doors to all communities. The MEI is the best tool to help these businesses make crucial evaluations about the welcoming - or unwelcoming - nature of towns and cities across the nation."

Since the MEI's debut in 2012, the number of cities earning perfect scores has increased by more than sixfold, and today at least 24 million people live in cities that have more comprehensive, transgender-inclusive non-discrimination laws

“CEOs know that in order to attract and retain the best employees, they must grow their companies in places that protect LGBTQ citizens from discrimination and actively open their doors to all communities.”

– HRC President Chad Griffin

**the Municipal Equality Index assesses each city on 44 criteria covering citywide nondiscrimination protections, policies for municipal employees, city services, law enforcement, and city leadership's relationship with the LGBTQ community.**

than their state.

Progress on transgender equality has been particularly noteworthy in cities across America this year, continuing a positive trend that the MEI has tracked – and encouraged – since 2012. Transgender-inclusive healthcare benefits are offered to employees of 111 municipalities this year – up from 86 in 2016, 66 in 2015 and just five in 2012.

The MEI's Issue Brief on Transgender-Inclusive Health Benefits is available here <http://gaybe.am/ZR>.

“Our movement is stronger and more united than ever, and we stand in resistance to the unprecedented attacks on all our communities,” said Rebecca Isaacs, Executive Director of the Equality Federation Institute. “This report is a proven, powerful tool for local advocates to leverage in their efforts to win full equality at the local level, and serves as a reminder that we aren't going back, despite a most hostile federal administration and organized opposition.”

The MEI rated 506 cities including the 50 state capitals, the 200 largest cities in the U.S., the five largest cities or municipalities in each state, the cities home to the state's two largest public universities, municipalities that have high proportions of same-sex couples and 98 cities selected by HRC and Equality Federation state group members and supporters.

It assesses each city on 44 criteria covering citywide nondiscrimination protections, policies for municipal employees, city services, law enforcement, and city leadership's relationship with the LGBTQ community. Starting in 2018, the MEI will introduce new criteria including protecting youth from “conversion therapy” and will deduct points for religious exemptions that allow discrimination by singling out LGBTQ people.

**Michigan Results**

Ann Arbor, Detroit and East Lansing scored a 100. Ferndale scored a 94, with points deducted in the areas of Municipality as Employer and Municipal Services. This is the section where a majority of Michigan cities are lacking in addition to the area of Law Enforcement. Traverse City scored an 86. Grand Rapids scored a 76. Kalamazoo and Lansing both scored a 65. Pleasant Ridge scored a 56. Sterling Heights scored a 28 and Warren scored a 14.

Municipality as Employer means the city offers equivalent benefits and protections to LGBTQ employees, and by awarding contracts to fair-minded businesses, municipalities commit themselves to treating LGBTQ employees equally. The Municipal Services section assesses the efforts of the city to ensure LGBTQ constituents are included

in city services and programs. Fair enforcement of the law includes responsible reporting of hate crimes and engaging with the LGBTQ community in a thoughtful and respectful way.

**Other Key Findings**

86 cities from states without comprehensive non-discrimination laws protecting LGBTQ people scored above the overall nationwide average of 57 points. These cities averaged 84-point scores; 28 scored a perfect 100.

Cities continue to excel even in the absence of inclusive state laws: 41 “All Star” cities in states lacking comprehensive non-discrimination laws scored above 85 points, up from 37 last year, 31 in 2016, 15 in 2014, eight in 2013, and just two in 2012.

The national city score average increased from 55 to 57 points. 68 cities scored 100 points; 25 percent scored over 79 points; 50 percent scored over 59 points; 25 percent scored less than 35; and 11 cities scored zero points.

**Starting in 2018, the MEI will introduce new criteria including protecting youth from “conversion therapy” and will deduct points for religious exemptions that allow discrimination by singling out LGBTQ people.**

*The full report, including detailed scorecards for every city, as well as a searchable database, is available online at [www.hrc.org/mei](http://www.hrc.org/mei).*

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# PFLAG Detroit Hosts Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton

BY BTL STAFF

PFLAG Detroit has invited Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton to speak at 4 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the Lutheran Church of the Master, 3333 Coolidge Highway in Troy.

Bishop Gumbleton became a hero in the LGBTQ community when one of his siblings revealed that he was gay. He was confronted with his own

homophobia. His struggle with this issue has given him new insights and enabled him to respond to the needs of the LGBT community with care and understanding.

He has become a strong advocate

for LGBTQ rights within the Catholic community.

According to a PFLAG Detroit release: “For more than 40 years Bishop Gumbleton has been a prophetic voice on the world stage. His words have reached far beyond the Catholic community and inspired people of many faiths and traditions. Like most prophets, his message has not always been welcomed by those in power. However, he continues to speak with courage and conviction, bringing good news to those who are poor, oppressed and excluded. Bishop Gumbleton has worked tirelessly for peace and justice and has collaborated with others to address the pressing need of those who are poor and oppressed across the world.”

The non-profit organization will see that all tax-deductible donations go to help fight bigotry, violence and hate through supporting LGBTQ people and their families, educating the public to dispel myths and misinformation and advocating for equality by calling for equal human and civil rights.

Visit the PFLAG Detroit at [www.pflagdetroit.org](http://www.pflagdetroit.org) for more information.



Ferndale’s Mayor David Coulter led the Rainbow Flag Raising ceremony in the city’s council chambers. Pictured (l to r) are City Councilman Greg Pawlica, Coulter, Jan Stevenson, Susan Erspamer, Michael Lary, Julia Music, Ann Heler, Stephanie White and Madeline LeBlanc. Inset – LaBlanc, a sophomore at Ferndale High School and president of the GSA, proudly marched the flag into the chamber.

# Rainbow Flag Enshrined By Ferndale City Council

BY BTL STAFF

FERNDALE – It was all smiles and celebration at the Ferndale City Council meeting last night as an ebullient Mayor David Coulter led a rainbow flag raising ceremony in the Council’s official chamber. The large rainbow flag was marched in and installed by Madeline LeBlanc, a sophomore at Ferndale High School and president of the school’s Gay Straight Alliance.

“Together we’ve made history,” said Coulter. “From Affirmations and commitment ceremonies to PrideFest and a human rights ordinance, every step we’ve taken together has helped move Ferndale forward. And now, it’s time for our community to acknowledge that progress with this important symbolic but meaningful act.”

Coulter then invited a group of LGBTQ activists to join him on the dais as the flag was raised, including Jan Stevenson, founding executive director of Affirmations, Affirmations current executive director Susan Erspamer, Michael Lary who in 1991 produced the first PrideFest in Royal Oak that later moved to Ferndale and evolved into both Ferndale Pride and Motor City Pride, Ferndale Pride organizer Julia Music, long-

“From Affirmations and commitment ceremonies to PrideFest and a human rights ordinance, every step we’ve taken together has helped move Ferndale forward. And now, it’s time for our community to acknowledge that progress with this important symbolic but meaningful act.”

– Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter

time Ferndale activist Ann Heler, and Equality Michigan executive director Stephanie White. Coulter also recognized the other openly gay man on Ferndale’s City Council, Greg Pawlica.

“I remember attending a Ferndale City



Council meeting in 1992,” said Stevenson. “Council members then made it perfectly clear that gays were not welcome in Ferndale or at the Council meeting. My, how times have changed!” she said. She congratulated Coulter and the council for raising the flag and for their supportive governance in Ferndale.

“At Equality Michigan our goal is to work with municipalities all over the state to make them more like Ferndale,” said White.

LeBlanc, who dreams of someday becoming a dermatologist, was joined by her beaming father and the faculty advisor of Ferndale High School’s GSA. The audience included about 20 LGBTQ Ferndale residents and allies.

“Tonight, the LGBT Pride Flag will be installed in our City Council chambers, where it will hang alongside flags of the United States, the State of Michigan, Oakland County, the City of Ferndale and POW-MIAs. Not for a week, or a month, or during a special event – but permanently, making Ferndale among the first municipalities in the nation to do so,” said Coulter.

## ► Whitmer Interview

Continued from p. 4

**Do you support LGBTQ-inclusive sex education curriculum, including frank discussions on how to avoid HIV infection beyond just abstinence?**

Unequivocally, yes.

**Are you willing to fight at the state level to allow students to use bathroom and sports facilities that concur with their gender identity?**

It's the mom in me. All I care about is whether or not you wash your hands.

**What would you do in your role as governor to help support GSAs in Michigan schools?**

We've got to make it a priority that organizations can form and that they have the support from the people at the top. My daughters are in a Gender Equity Club at their high school. They've had conversations and have thought leaders and it's empowering for students of every walk of life and I think that's a really important part of education. As a freshman and a sophomore, the kind of dialogue they're engaged in with their peers gives me such hope for our future. That when our young people are empowered to engage in such a thoughtful way, it's really encouraging.

**What's your view on term limits (which impact our current and future LGBTQ legislators plus the dramatic drop in women in Lansing) and how do we fix it?**

We have to amend our constitution and we need to. In every other walk of life, experience is something that's valued. You never go in to have brain surgery and request the freshest surgeon out of medical school. Experience is really important and relationships are important. When we have amazing legislators like Representative [Jeremy] Moss or Representative [Jon] Hoadley – of course there are many others that are examples – it should be up to their constituents whether or not they continue serving, not some arbitrary term limit law. We're paying a big price for that right now in Michigan because our relationships are harder to form and because of that, people don't have expertise and I think that you get debates that are ideological and not really based on fact and forward looking policy.

**How will you expand non-religious based adoption options for LGBTQ couples?**

First, we need to stop all the attacks. That means being a governor who is strong enough to use the veto pen when the legislature sends ideological legislation to hurt us. Second, it is about really pushing and being advocates to ensure that our laws make it easier for couples to adopt and are protected. That our



Democratic Candidate for Governor Gretchen Whitmer at Michigan Pride in Lansing in June.

tax dollars are not being misused to push someone's ideological agenda and that we really are connecting kids with loving homes.

As a mom, a former prosecutor and legislator, I am committed to doing everything in my power to ensure that children in need of a safe, loving home can get connected to a home environment where they can thrive. It is unconscionable to deny a child access to a safe and loving home based on the gender or sexual orientation of the parents.

**Beyond changing "License to Discriminate" laws, what do you think can be done to close the chasm between the LGBTQ community and some religious communities?**

There are a lot of people of faith who are also very active in the LGBTQ community. We need to get to a place where we're talking about what's important and that's the welfare of the child. Getting the child out of a system and into a home where they've got support and can thrive. That should be the core around which we can all find common ground, and I think it can be. It takes leadership. It takes a leader who is unafraid to make that the centerpiece of the discussion and to keep people focused on that being the centerpiece of the discussion. I see so many ideological debates happening that miss the core goal, which should be the education

**“It's the mom in me. All I care about is whether or not you wash your hands.”**

– Gretchen Whitmer when asked, “Are you willing to fight at the state level to allow students to use bathroom and sports facilities that concur with their gender identity?”

of our children or the safety of our kids or ensuring that every child has opportunity. That should be what we're focused on.

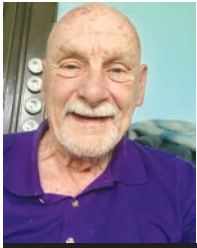
**Would you support the decriminalization of HIV status? More specifically, State Rep. Jon Hoadley's (D-Kalamazoo) legislation that would repeal Michigan's HIV specific felony law and replace it?**

When it comes to any public health issue, my priority is that we get people the treatment they need, prevent transmission, and keep people safe. Michigan's current HIV law does not fulfill those goals. Instead, the law criminalizes people for having a disease while not actually fixing the problem, and it needs to be reevaluated, which is why I support Rep. Hoadley's initiative that would modernize the law and still retain the tools we need to prosecute those who knowingly harm others.

Visit [www.gretchenwhitmer.com](http://www.gretchenwhitmer.com) to support Gretchen Whitmer for Michigan governor.

**During a Democratic Gubernatorial Forum on LGBTQ and Women's Issues in July, the other candidates for governor took questions from over 15 statewide organizations and nonprofits co-sponsoring the event hosted by Stonewall for Revolution [www.facebook.com/Stonewall4Revolution](http://www.facebook.com/Stonewall4Revolution). The forum was a one-of-a-kind opportunity for voters to hear from the candidates in the 2018 race for Michigan governor. The event, moderated by Between The Lines, is available to watch online <http://gaybe.am/JK>.**

## Memories of a Near-Forgotten Past. Pt. 1



### Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Detroit's ancient, seven-story Cass Technical High School was replaced with a new \$127 million structure five years ago; and an era of excellence in education and art – 21st Century post modern – began.

The original building dated to 1918, and was linked by a third-storey bridge to an adjoining Commerce High School that is also no longer there. In the 1950s the CT commercial art program was among the finest in the country.

I was fortunate to study commercial art there, and to play cello in a string class offered by the school's music department.

With a CT portfolio a student was almost guaranteed admission to any American fine arts undergraduate school. (Three of my classmates went on to achieve fame: Carol Wald, with a Time magazine cover; Alvin Loving, one of Detroit's well-known Black artists, and Bernard Johnson, Josephine Baker Troupe dancer, and Broadway costume designer.)

Too-long-neglected Black artist LeRoy Foster was also a CT graduate. And, of course, Lily Tomlin, with whom I had my picture taken last month

**It was a simple equation: If they're gay (or might be) and are respected members of the community (aren't all teachers?) well, then maybe there's a chance at our future respectability too.**

at a fundraiser for Ruth Ellis House. She was the honored award recipient.

When I attended CT the commercial art and music departments were located on the sixth floor. We "creative" students were allowed a great deal of latitude. After all: everyone knows artists are eccentric (and just possibly, er, you know, "that way").

My homeroom and English teacher was Mr. Lawrence T.

Ray. (I suspect he passed me – a "sensitive" but indifferent student – because I wrote gender ambiguous poetry. After three years he probably guessed I was a bud on the "family" tree.)

Mr. Ray had close-cropped, snow-white hair. His patrician features were offset by black horn-rimmed glasses that he used to dramatically punctuate his lessons. "All right, class. Take dictation," he'd insist, with a searching squint and a provocative jab stage center.

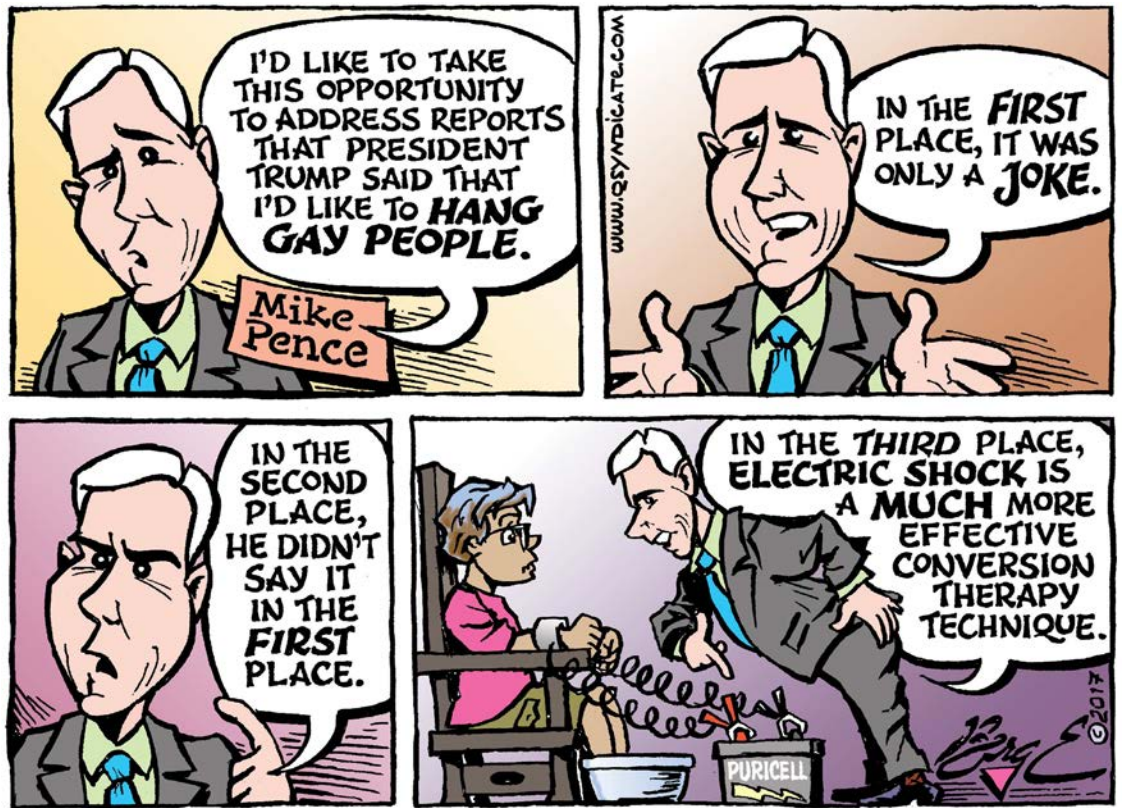
Heaven help any student who was not prepared to discuss gerunds, split infinitives, or predicate nominatives. To my lanky friend Joan McGonagle, who usually stammered her answers, he prodded, "Come on, Joanie. Crank it all out."

I kept mental notes on Mr. Ray. I knew he commuted weekends to Torch Lake; that he was known on occasion to drop into a nearby Third Avenue bar for a nip; that he had been a chorus boy in the 1920s, dancing in Broadway musicals with debonair screen actor Clifton Webb, whom he carbon copied in speech and manner. (Mr. Ray even designed the CT/Commerce bridge.)

I overheard both my theater arts teacher, Miss Bea Cooper, and an uppity school secretary, Mrs. Rohrs, call him a "grand old fag" behind his back. Of course there was no way of knowing. It was all speculation. Outside of class, he was cordial and dropped no hint of private proclivities.

Those of us CT seniors – about a half dozen – who were gay played an on-going guessing game. We "knew" why Miss Bates of Pen & Ink, Wash Drawing couldn't make it with good-looking, perennial bachelor

See Parting Glances, next page



## Viewpoint

Having our community represented in the decision making process matters. And we need to do a better job reflecting the diversity of our community's experience. In Michigan, legislation to improve the quality of life for LGBTQ people languishes in committees because of partisan games and gerrymandering.



### Why Visibility Matters

BY JON HOADLEY

This month, people across Michigan celebrated National Coming Out Day and Spirit Day. When Robert Eichberg and Jean O'Leary started the first National Coming Out Day, it was built around the premise that most people know an LGBTQ person – they just don't realize it. When Brittany McMillan started Spirit Day, she wanted to remember those young people who lost their lives to suicide or suffer through bullying.

Both days bring visibility to the lives and experiences

of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people. Both days continue to be relevant in 2017, 2018 and beyond. While amazing progress has been made since the first National Coming Out Day in 1988, that progress is still under attack. The administration occupying 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue has a long history of demeaning and attacking LGBT folks, and a more recent track record of bringing that bias to new policies in 2017.

See next page

## ► Hoadley: Why Visibility Matters

Continued from p. 15

Most folks remember the disastrous “License to Discriminate” law that then governor and now Vice President Pence signed into law in Indiana. The 2015 Indiana law gave free passes to medical providers, businesses, various social services providers working with children, and governments to refuse services to LGBT folks based on their personal beliefs. The law turned the Constitutional shield to practice the free exercise of religion into a sword to damage the lives of others.

The law was a huge disgrace but, as with many instances of attacks on LGBT folks, earned Gov. Pence a promotion. The Trump administration has tried to ban transgender service members, supported legal arguments to allow religiously-based discrimination, and has nominated a slew of anti-equality judges.

When adults are given the legal green light to discriminate, it is no wonder that young people still think bullying is acceptable. According to GLAAD, over 85 percent of LGBTQ students report being verbally harassed. Over three out of five students report hearing homophobic remarks from teachers and/or staff because of their gender expression. And, sadly as a result, over half of LGBTQ students do not report harassment because they doubted intervention to solve the problem.

Visibility matters. Having our community represented in the decision making process matters. And we need to do a better job reflecting the diversity of our community’s experience. In Michigan, legislation to improve the quality of life for LGBTQ people languishes in committees because of partisan games and gerrymandering.

We need good people to run for office – all levels of office – across the state. It is time our state elected an out lesbian woman to

**If you aren’t in a position to run for office, help someone who is. Talking to voters, writing checks to candidates you support, pooling your finances in a pro-equality Political Action**

the state Legislature. We need to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of the LGBT caucus in Michigan. We need to build a bench of out officials in every corner of our state, not only to prove the original premise of National Coming Out Day, but to hold decision makers accountable for when they attack our community or refuse to act in support of our lives, liberties, or pursuit of happiness.

If you aren’t in a position to run for office, help someone who is. Talking to voters, writing checks to candidates you support, pooling your finances in a pro-equality Political Action Committee like AZO PAC, sharing social media posts, and even putting up a yard sign are all ways you can do something to help. National Coming Out Day and Spirit Day may have passed for 2017, but our work continues.

*Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) serves as the State Representative for House District 60. He is one of three openly gay members of the legislature. You can follow him on Facebook and Twitter @jonhoadley*

## ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 14

Donald Thrall of Graphic Design Four.

We thought we knew why Mr. Shuholtz (who lived into his mid-90s) of Art History spent his free time sunning in Windsor’s Dieppe Park. We thought we knew why certain lazy students got passing grades in Biology from swishy Mr. Rau, and we knew “all about” the rather butch Home Ec department head.

The truth is we didn’t know diddly. But it was important that we somehow forged allies, real or imagined. “Gay osmosis,” so to speak.

It was a simple equation: If they’re gay (or might be) and are respected members of the community (aren’t all teachers?) well,

then maybe there’s a chance at our future respectability too.

With no one to get advice from or firsthand experience – no role models – we had to make do with “queer say,” luck, and a few well-placed hard knocks.

Most important: we were resilient. Young. Marketable. And talented!

*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.*

# Creep of the Week

## Rick Wiles

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI



**Wiles is convinced that homosexual death squads are responsible for the massacre in Las Vegas on Oct. 1 and that the leader of said Nazi death squads is... Ellen DeGeneres?**

**A** partial list of things LGBTQ people have been blamed for:

- Making people gay
- Making themselves gay
- Destruction of marriage
- Destruction of the family
- Destruction of Disney
- Pedophilia
- Hurricanes
- Floods
- Earthquakes
- Tsunamis
- Drought
- Satanism
- Suicide
- Nazis
- The Holocaust (see above)
- 9-11
- Threatening human dignity and the future of humanity
- Using razor blade “handshake rings” to spread AIDS
- Dead birds falling from the sky
- Stealing the rainbow

And now we can add the horrific mass shooting in Las Vegas to the list because, wouldn’t you know it, the gays were behind it all with their shadow government Nazi death squads (coming soon to a town near you!).

If this sounds like a claim only a crazy person who shouldn’t be taken seriously or given any kind of platform to spout such nonsense would make, you are right! But this is America, and that means Rick Wiles does indeed have an audience for his so-called “Trunews” project (spoiler alert: Trunews is neither true, nor news). He calls himself “a citizen reporter who decided to take on the Big News Media.” In reality he’s a nut with a website who thinks Jesus talks to him through his fillings or something.

Anywho, Wiles is convinced that

homosexual death squads are responsible for the massacre in Las Vegas on Oct. 1 and that the leader of said Nazi death squads is... Ellen DeGeneres?

Why, yes. See, Jesus Campos, a Mandalay Bay security guard who was shot by the gunman in Vegas, appeared on the Ellen show. Which is proof of a “gay/lesbian Nazi regime.”

“America has become a Nazi state. The deep state is a Nazi state,” Wiles says on his show. “That is why Campos appeared on a daytime talk show hosted by a fast-talking, dancing comedienne, and, let me add, a lesbian, because this Nazi regime is a gay/lesbian Nazi regime, just like Nazis in Hitler’s day. Hitler was a bisexual, the top Nazi leaders of the Nazi party were homosexuals. The Nazi takeover of Germany was a militant homosexual fascist takeover; that is what is taking place in America today.”

Got all that? Note that Wiles is not the first person to claim that Hitler and the Nazis were homos. After all, if you hate gays so much that you believe nothing could possibly be worse, then “gay Nazis” really helps to bolster your hate.

Also, Wiles’ claim is confusing given that we have literal Nazis in the highest reaches of government and the public sphere right now. The very president is celebrated by white nationalists. Perhaps to Wiles the gay/lesbian Nazis are the bad ones and the Trump-loving ones are the good ones.

Of course, the gay/lesbian Nazis are the pretend ones and the Trump-loving ones are very, very real.

There’s enough real shit to be scared of (men with unlimited access to guns, for example) in this world. People like Wiles are literally, and figuratively, making it worse.

# Michiganders Fighting for LGBTQ Equality Honored at EQMI Fall Reception



“It’s an honor to receive this award, and I’m proud to stand behind those everyday heroes and continue to advocate for fairness and equality for the LGBTQ community.”

- Derek Dobies, Jackson Mayoral Candidate and recipient of the Changemaker Award

Equality Michigan’s Executive Director Stephanie White (center) presents Nikki Joly (left) and Derek Dobies (right) with the 2017 Changemaker Award at the “Building Brides” Fall Reception on Oct. 20 at DTE Headquarters in Detroit. BTL Photos: Andrew Cohen

BY BTL STAFF

More than 300 people – leaders from the community, the business and political worlds – came together on Oct. 20 for Equality Michigan’s “Building Bridges” Fall Reception at DTE Headquarters in Detroit.

“It’s always a joy to pause from the day-to-day struggle for justice and come together with our allies from across the state and with people from the full breadth of our movement to celebrate,” said Steph White, executive director of EQMI.

The keynote speaker was Ana Navarro, political contributor to CNN, ABC News, Telemundo and The View, who said she was “so happy to be speak at the LGBTQ Equality Michigan gala...because love is love is love.”

White said, “It was great to hear Ana Navarro speak out so strongly in favor of our equality from a conservative, Catholic perspective. Her strength will give support to our other conservative allies to keep standing up against discrimination and keep working with us to update ELCRA.”

Dozens of elected officials including U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell enjoyed food, drink and music provided by Grammy-nominated Brandon Williams and his jazz trio.

EQMI presented five awards to Michiganders who are fighting for LGBTQ equality in the state.



Henry Messer Youth Award recipient Ka’ Juan Hill



Catalyst Award recipients April and Jayne DeBoer-Rowse

Nikki Joly, a key leader in the efforts for the city of Jackson’s non-discrimination ordinance and the executive director of the newly-founded Jackson Pride Center received the Changemaker Award.

“It’s an honor to be selected by Equality Michigan for this award,” said Joly. “It really goes to my community. Without the awesome community and awesome community leadership, changes would not have been

possible.”

One of those Jackson leaders, Derek Dobies, also received a Changemaker Award. Dobies, a mayoral candidate in Jackson’s November race, authored and spearheaded the final passage of Jackson’s NDO.

“Our victory with the non-discrimination ordinance would not have been possible without the solidarity of the community and business leaders who dedicated themselves

to building a more tolerant and inclusive community in the face of great adversity,” he said. “During public comments, many people shared data and personal stories, for others it was their first time coming out - an act that underscored the importance of this law. It was those people – their love, their compassion – that got the NDO passed. It’s an honor to receive this award, and I’m proud to stand behind those everyday heroes and continue to



advocate for fairness and equality for the LGBTQ community.”

The Bridge Builder Award was given to attorney John Pirich, for his legal help in the fight for the Jackson NDO.

Two Michigan nurses, April and Jayne DeBoer-Rowse, helped alter the course of history for same-sex couples across the U.S. when their case made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court and same-sex marriage became legal on June 26, 2015. For that, they received the Catalyst Award.

Lilianna Angel Reyes, MPA, CPS, program services director at Affirmations in Ferndale received the Heather MacAllister Activist Award for her work with many civil rights organizations and as the founding mother and board member for the Trans Sistas of Color Project.

“This award means so much to me because it speaks to recognition of my work,” she said. “I have built my personal life and career in working to advance LGBTQ people, specifically trans women of color and uplifting their voices. For Michigan’s leading LGBTQ policy based organization to recognize a trans Latina, speaks volumes. I stand tall with all those before me to pave a way for girls like me.”

Nationally-recognized social media enthusiast, Ka’Juan Hill, was given the Henry Messer Youth Award for his work addressing issues that affect LGBTQ communities of



EQMI's Executive Director Stephanie White with the Bridge Builder Award recipient John Pirich

color. He uses his platform – the “Let’s Talk About It” show – to reach and empower fellow youth with safe sex-positive messages.

“I feel so empowered. To be recognized on such a large scale, I hope that another young person is inspired by me. I hope me receiving this award lights a fire in young people in the community to understand we control our lives and we can be the difference we want to see in the world,” said Hill. “Henry was a man that made a difference and stood up for what he believed in. Much like him, I stand for my community...This award that I am so humbled



Heather MacAllister Activist Award recipient Lilianna Angel Reyes

by encourages me to work harder and to take my platform to a new level. I dedicate it to my supporters. Without them none of this could have happened. I love them so much.”

White gives her staff a lot of credit for a “top-notch event they worked hard to bring to fruition” and praised the EQMI’s board of directors for their outreach this year to both their corporate sponsors and the community at large.

“We had a 50 percent bigger audience than last year and about two times the corporate and organizational supporters. I think lots of us recognize that in this political climate, the work of EQMI is more important than ever.”

Read more about the work Equality Michigan is doing on their website [www.equalitymi.org](http://www.equalitymi.org) or on their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/equalitymichigan](http://www.facebook.com/equalitymichigan).



## *The Joke is Mightier than the Sword* Bassem Youssef

Monday, November 6 // 7:30 pm  
Hill Auditorium

Dubbed the “Jon Stewart of the Arab World,” Bassem Youssef is the creator and host of the wildly popular TV show “Al-Bernameg” — the first political satire show in the Middle East. In *The Joke is Mightier than the Sword*, Youssef shares his personal story and his thoughts on the political climate that led to the Arab Spring, its parallels to the current state of American politics, and how propaganda lays the foundation for dictatorial regimes.

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## *Heart of a Soldier* Chanticleer

William Fred Scott, music director  
Friday, November 10 // 8 pm  
Hill Auditorium

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## PFAW Statement on Judicial Nominee Comments Regarding Nazi Germany

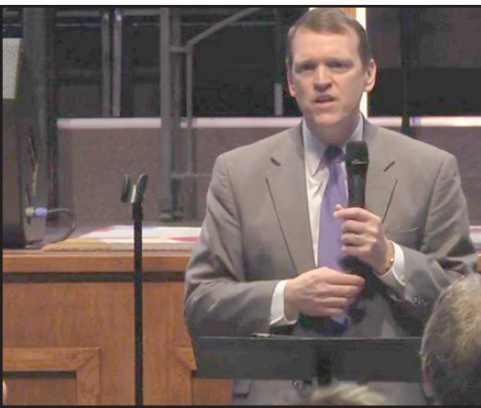
BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON – In response to reports that Jeff Mateer, Donald Trump’s nominee to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, has made a series of comments comparing policies including the contraception mandate at issue in the Hobby Lobby case to the policies of Nazi Germany, People For the American Way Executive Vice President Marge Baker issued the following statement:

“Even for Senate Republicans who have rubberstamped a series of Trump’s extreme and unqualified judicial nominees, Jeff Mateer’s record should be a bridge too far. To compare the Obama administration’s regulations allowing women to have access to birth control to the murderous regime of Hitler is sickening. No one with a record of that kind of inflammatory, offensive rhetoric should come within ten miles of serving on the federal bench. Senators of both parties should make clear that they won’t support such a nominee and that Mateer’s nomination should be withdrawn.”

The comments revealed come in addition to previously unearthed remarks by Mateer in which he argued that transgender people are part of “Satan’s plan” and his attendance at a “Kill the Gays” conference organized by radical anti-LGBTQ activist Kevin Swanson.

Last month People For the American Way unveiled digital ads calling on senators to demand that Mateer’s nomination be withdrawn.



Jeff Mateer, Donald Trump’s nominee to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

# Sessions Invokes Hate Crimes Law to Review Trans Murders

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

In a little noticed development, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions earlier this year ordered federal prosecutors and the FBI to review seven murders of transgender women in locations throughout the country and offered assistance to local authorities who were investigating the murders.

According to a report by the New York Times, Sessions took the action in response to a request in March by six members of the U.S. House of Representatives who urged him to look into the killings, the victims of whom were black trans women.

One of the cases took place in the small city of Burlington, Iowa, where a popular 16-year-old male high school student, Kedarie Johnson, who came out as gay but sometimes presented as a woman and occasionally wore women’s clothes, was found shot to death in an alley in March 2016.

In January of this year local authorities charged Jorge Luis Sanders-Galvez, 22, and Jaron Narelle Purham, 24, of Jennings, Mo., with first-degree murder in connection with Johnson’s death. But Burlington police have declined to say whether they uncovered a motive for the murder and insisted there was no evidence to indicate the murder was a hate crime.

With that as a backdrop, the New York Times reported on Sunday that at Sessions’ request, the Justice Department invoked the 2009 Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act to send a federal prosecutor to Iowa to look into whether Johnson’s murder was a hate crime.

The law, passed by Congress and signed by then-President Obama, gives the Justice Department authority to prosecute hate crimes targeting victims because of their gender identity, sexual orientation, race, religion and other factors. In the Iowa case, the two young men charged with Johnson’s murder could face the death penalty if prosecuted and convicted under federal law.

If the Justice Department decides to let the case continue as it began under Iowa law the two men charged would face a maximum penalty of life in prison if convicted.

“This spring the attorney general directed Civil Rights Division attorneys to dedicate themselves to proactively investigate a certain set of cases of individuals who were

murdered because they were transgender,” said Justice Department spokesperson Devin O’Malley in a statement this week.

“This is just one example of the attorney general’s commitment to enforcing the laws enacted by Congress and to protecting the civil rights of individuals,” O’Malley said.

While expressing support for the Justice Department’s assistance in investigating the trans murder cases, including the Iowa case, some LGBT rights advocates said Sessions had undermined the safety and rights of trans people earlier this month in a sweeping action.

They noted his decision to discontinue an Obama administration policy directing the Justice Department to protect trans people from employment discrimination under Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 would contribute to hostilities against trans people.

Activists also pointed to Sessions’ decision earlier this month to have the Justice Department argue in federal court against a lawsuit filed by civil rights groups calling for the court to rule that all LGBT people are protected under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

“One week after Jeff Sessions changed DOJ policy by refusing to protect transgender people under Title VII and launched a sweeping license to discriminate against LGBTQ people, he’s seeking credit for prosecuting a hate crime?” the Human Rights Campaign said in a statement on Sunday.

“We believe Americans deserve an attorney general willing to address systemic discrimination and enforce policies and laws that prevent hate violence in the first place,” the HRC statement says.

Log Cabin Republicans, the LGBT GOP group, praised Sessions for his decision to intervene in the Iowa case, saying it marked the first time the administration of a Republican president has assisted in pursuing anti-LGBT hate crime charges.

“Despite the protestations of liberal groups dubious of Mr. Sessions’ commitment to federal hate crimes statutes, the attorney general has proven himself to be a man of his word, dedicated to enforcing the laws of the land -- including anti-LGBT hate crimes legislation,” said Log Cabin Republicans President Gregory T. Angelo.

Local media outlets in Iowa first reported

in July of this year that federal prosecutors at the request of the Justice Department in Washington were considering filing federal charges against the two men arrested in Johnson’s murder.

But news of Sessions’ interest in the case and his monitoring of the murders of trans women in other places surfaced this week when New York Times and media outlets across the country reported that at Sessions’ request a Justice Department attorney knowledgeable in hate crimes, Christopher Perras, was dispatched to Burlington, Iowa, in May to help local authorities prosecute the two young men charged with Johnson’s murder.

Friends and family members of Johnson said he had come out as gay but identified as both male and female and sometimes went by the name Kandicee. Some who knew Johnson said he sometimes identified as trans.

A spokesperson for the Burlington Police Department said police, who have declined to disclose whether they uncovered a motive in the case, could find no evidence to indicate Johnson’s murder was a hate crime and they chose not listed it as a hate crime.

Although Sessions did not say so directly, he appeared to be invoking the Shepard-Byrd Hate Crimes Act, which gives the Justice Department authority to prosecute hate crimes in cases that had previously been reserved for state and local authorities.

As a Republican senator from Alabama at the time Congress passed the law, Sessions expressed opposition to it.

A coalition of LGBT advocacy organizations that pushed for passage of the law argued that state and local law enforcement authorities in a number of cases in the past had refused to prosecute anti-LGBT hate crimes or lacked the resources to adequately prosecute or investigate such cases.

In addition to giving the Justice Department authority to prosecute hate crimes when local and state authorities do not do so, the Shepard-Byrd Act also gives the department the option of helping local authorities investigate and prosecute hate crimes.

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

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Barack Obama (left) has selected gay artist Kehinde Wiley to paint his Smithsonian portrait. (Washington Blade photo of Obama by Michael Key; photo of Wiley by Kwaku Alston)

## Obama Selects Gay Artist Kehinde Wiley to Paint Smithsonian Portrait

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Former President Barack Obama has selected as the artist to paint his official portrait for the Smithsonian gay portrait painter Kehinde Wiley, the museum announced Oct. 17.

Known for his highly naturalistic paintings of black people in heroic poses, Wiley uses bold, vibrant colors in his work, which highlights the status of young black men in contemporary culture.

Although he identifies as gay, Wiley said in an interview with the New York Times in 2015 his sexual orientation “is not black and white.”

“I’m a gay man who has occasionally drifted,” Wiley said. “I am not bi. I’ve had perfectly pleasant romances with women, but they weren’t sustainable. My passion wasn’t there. I would always be looking at guys.”

Selected by former first lady Michelle Obama to paint her portrait is Amy Sherald, first-prize winner of the Portrait Gallery’s 2016 Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition.

Kim Sajet, director of the National Portrait Gallery, said in a statement the museum is “absolutely delighted” the artists agreed to paint the official portraits of the couple.

“Both have achieved enormous success as artists, but even more, they make art that reflects the power and potential of portraiture in the 21st century,” Sajet said.

According to the Smithsonian, both portraits will be unveiled at the museum in early 2018, then will be added to the Portrait Gallery’s permanent collection.

After each presidency, the museum work with the White House to commission one official portrait of the president, and another of his spouse. Two sets of official portraits are made: One for the White House and one for the National Portrait Gallery. The museum began this practice with former President George H.W. Bush.

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

## Bilingual YouTube Ads Promote LGBT Family Acceptance and Love

Asian, South Asian and Southeast Asian Communities

Share Video Stories to Educate Parents of LGBT Children

BY BTL STAFF

**NEW YORK** – Emotionally moving new videos of Asian parents of LGBT children appeared as popup ads on YouTube before viewers watch their favorite Chinese Soap Opera, Filipino comedy, Korean drama, Vietnamese talent show, or Bollywood movie.

This innovative effort launched on National Coming Out Day Oct. 11 to reach mainstream Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, and Muslim audiences will build more LGBT acceptance among America’s fastest growing racial minority group - Asian Americans – who are also the largest segment of new immigrants coming to the U.S. Many Asians are limited English proficient and conversant only their native languages.

The effort is spearheaded by the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) and Asian Pride Project (APP). Organizers hope to educate more Asian parents so that they will be supportive of their LGBT children, inspire more allies for the LGBT community, and change hearts and minds. Several of the ads feature parents of transgender and gender nonconforming youth.

“Our country is so divided now. Countless LGBT people feel unsafe and we need the security of our families now more than ever. We fight hate with love.” said Glenn Magpantay, Executive Director of NQAPIA.

The ads played on YouTube in seven languages - Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese Tagalog, Hindi. The popup ads are part of a comprehensive Asian Family Acceptance Campaign, entitled “Family Is Still Family,” which features: live workshops of API parents of LGBT children in a cities across the country, translated leaflets dispelling common myths and misconception about being LGBT in 25 Asian, Pacific, and Muslim languages and

scripts, and commercials on major Asian ethnic TV channels.

Last year, NQAPIA placed ads on Asian international channels (Sinovision, Television Korea, Zee TV) that reached 23 million Asian households across the nation.

Asian and South Asian LGBT youth face unique obstacles to coming out, including the fear of shaming and dishonoring their parents and ancestors. These cultural obstacles often lead to self-loathing, depression and suicide. This revolutionary multilingual “Family Is Still Family” campaign removes the specter of shame, silence and guilt by having parents open the closet door for their kids, offering unconditional love and acceptance.

“For generations, a culture of shame and misinformation has kept Asian American youth in the closet,” continued Glenn Magpantay, Executive Director of NQAPIA. “Our new Asian Family Acceptance Campaign will break this cycle of shame and suicide by helping API parents, many who are immigrants and bilingual, to open the door to unconditional love and acceptance for their LGBT children.”

“We debut this Family is Still Family PSA Campaign at a crucial time in the LGBTQ movement,” said Aries Liao, co-founder of Asian Pride Project. “These videos not only honor the courage of family members speaking out about their love for their children, but raise awareness more broadly of the essential role that families - no matter how defined - can play in nurturing acceptance within the Asian American community.”

*This effort was made possible with the generous support of the CJ Huang Foundation, Walter & Evelyn Haas, Jr. Fund, Arcus Foundation, and Project By Project.*

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# ACLU, Colorado File Briefs for Gay Couple in Masterpiece Cakeshop Case

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Lawyers advocating for the gay couple who insist they should be able to purchase a wedding cake from a baker under Colorado law – whether the baker has religious objections or not – fired their opening salvo before the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday.

In the Masterpiece Cakeshop case, a pair of opening briefs was submitted by Colorado Civil Rights Commission, which argues the court should uphold lower court decisions for Colorado’s Anti-Discrimination Law, and the American Civil Liberties Union, which is representing the same-sex couple in the lawsuit, Charlie Craig and David Mullins.

Both briefs argue the Supreme Court should reject the claim by Jack Phillips, the Christian baker who owns Masterpiece Cakeshop and says he can refuse a wedding cake to same-sex couples because the making of the cake is inherently an act of expression protected under the First Amendment.

The 70-page brief from the ACLU makes the case Phillip cannot be free to discriminate on the basis of his religious views because the

Colorado non-discrimination law is generally applicable to all businesses.

“The bakery is not the first business to claim a First Amendment right to violate an anti-discrimination law because of its sincerely held religious or moral beliefs,” the brief says. “This court has never accepted that premise, and has, instead, affirmed repeatedly the government’s ability to prohibit discriminatory conduct over the freedom of expression, association, and religion objections of entities ranging from law firms, and labor unions; to private schools, and universities; to membership organizations open to the public; to restaurants, and newspapers. Retail bakeries should fare no differently.”

The brief also argues a ruling in favor of Masterpiece Cakeshop would lead to a slippery-slope of discrimination other than against same-sex couples and in capacities other than wedding cakes.

“If the First Amendment bars a state from applying an anti-discrimination law to the sale of wedding cakes because they involve artistry, then bakeries could refuse to provide

cakes for an interracial or interfaith couple’s wedding, a Jewish boy’s bar mitzvah, an African-American child’s birthday, or a woman’s business school graduation party,” the brief says.

Mark Silverstein, legal director for the ACLU of Colorado, said in a statement a ruling in upholding Colorado’s non-discrimination law is essential.

“As a nation and as a state, we decided decades ago that businesses that are open to the public should be open to everyone on the same terms,” Silverstein said. “A ruling allowing discrimination in this case would have implications far beyond LGBT people. It would put in jeopardy longstanding protections against discrimination here in Colorado and across the country.”

“A ruling allowing discrimination in this case would have implications far beyond LGBT



people. It would put in jeopardy longstanding protections against discrimination here in Colorado and across the country.”

The other 75-page brief filed by Colorado Civil Rights Commission, which determined Phillips violated the state law, asserts state laws like Colorado’s have prohibited discrimination in the United States for more than 150 years.

“Phillips demands respect for his religious beliefs, and that respect is secured by the Constitution,” the brief says. “But under that same Constitution, a religious belief is no justification for a State – or a business open to the general public – to treat a class of people as inferior simply because of who they are.”

Oral arguments will be held in the case on Dec. 5.

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

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# First Cruise Line Offers Legal Same-Sex Marriages at Sea

Celebrity Cruises announced on National Coming Out Day that all same-sex marriages performed onboard are now legally recognized.

Lisa Lutloff-Perlo, the line's president and CEO, made the surprise announcement during an industry event in Australia where the population is voting in a national government survey to determine whether same-sex couples should be allowed to marry.

"Celebrity Cruises has a long history of supporting the LGBTQ+ community and I cannot think of a more important time in our history than right now to support inclusion. This is one for the history books," Lutloff-Perlo said, noting captains will be able to officiate same-sex weddings while in international waters.

The parliament of Malta, the Mediterranean nation where most of the company's fleet is registered, voted 66-1 to allow same-sex couples to wed in July. This allows for these unions to be performed in international waters – and for captains to officiate the ceremonies.

Celebrity, a subsidiary of parent company Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., had already hosted same-sex weddings in the U.S., Mexico and the Caribbean, where they're legal. Bermuda-registered ships on some other cruise lines – Princess, Cunard and P&O Cruises UK – are due to offer same-sex marriages from next year.

For more information, visit [www.celebritycruises.com](http://www.celebritycruises.com).

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# Jennifer Tilly

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Photo: Universal Pictures

## Queer-Film Icon Dishes on Chucky's LGBT Identity and Her Legendary Lesbian Neo-Noir 'Bound'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Chucky, with his fiery red hair and frighteningly loyal pledge to be “your friend till the end,” was never gay by design. But in 1998, four films into the “Child’s Play” franchise, the undying slasher flicks centered on a ghastly ’80s-era talking doll took a campy, gay turn with the sequel “Bride of Chucky.”

We have out Chucky creator Don Mancini to hail for the queering of Chucky, who fathered a gender-fluid child named Glen / Glenda with goth-turned-glam lady doll Tiffany Valentine in 2004’s “Seed of Chucky,” notably featuring filth king John Waters and a Britney Spears look-alike (Chucky’s reaction to running her off the road? “Oops, I did it again”).

Doubling as Tiffany and herself is lesbian fave and voice of the plastic assassin Jennifer Tilly, who returns for the Good Guy doll’s

seventh film, “Cult of Chucky,” to wreak havoc on the patients and staff at a mental institution, among them a gay nurse named Carlos (Zak Santiago). Chucky is scary again, as “Cult” begins where his reentry into straight-up, decamped horror via 2013’s “Curse of Chucky” left off.

Tilly, gay-adored star of screen and stage (and also an Oscar nominee for her memorable role in Woody Allen’s 1994 black comedy “Bullets Over Broadway”), spoke with her trademark kid-like cadence about the extreme gayness of the Chucky movie and the latest film’s clever homages to her groundbreaking lesbian classic “Bound.” The star looked back on that 1996 landmark movie in LGBT cinema, reflecting on how she and onscreen lover, co-star Gina Gershon, helped each other look flawless on camera and why she thinks sibling filmmaking power duo, Lily and Lana Wachowski, before they came out as male-to-

female, created one of the most iconic lesbian love stories.

### Chucky’s LGBT following

I haven’t seen the first three – I shouldn’t say that! – but “Bride of Chucky” was the first time (Don) had a positive gay character, which is my best friend (in the movie). Then, “Seed of Chucky,” obviously, was really balls to the wall. But Don created the Chucky movies, and he’s gay himself and definitely has that sensibility. Also, “Seed of Chucky” had the first transgender kid doll in the history of movies, which was Glen / Glenda, who was, I guess you could say, gender confused. And there are always positive gay characters in the Chucky movies and there’s also Jennifer Tilly / Tiffany, this sort of drag queen-y gay icon.

### ‘Seed of Chucky’: ahead of its time

It really was, but we didn’t really think of it much that way. But in gay and lesbian parades, there was a lot of chatting about Glen / Glenda, and then we realized that it was. “Seed of Chucky” was where Don Mancini delightfully threw everything in that we ever loved in the movies, including John Waters. It was really the campiest movie ever.

Actually, Universal said, “It’s too funny, it’s too gay, and there’s too much Jennifer Tilly.” How could there ever be too much Jennifer Tilly? (Laughs) They said that about the first draft of the script, though. But Don just basically had a carnival of fun with that movie. I mean, even at the end of the movie with the kids’ birthday party, it’s very reminiscent of “Mommie Dearest.” My character turned into,



like, Joan Crawford.

## Tilly's kiss with actress Fiona Dourif in "Cult of Chucky"

Don called me up and he goes, "I'm very excited. I wrote you a new part in the new Chucky movie. You're gonna be very excited. And you're hot in the movie! I wrote you a hot scene!" At this point in my life I literally am going out for the parts of grandmas, so I was like, "Ohh, 'hot' – I kind of like that idea!" Then I got the script and thought it was absolutely genius. You know, Don is a huge fan of "Bound," so it's a bit of an homage to "Bound," especially how they drive off together.

It was deliberate, you know. And he actually made some "Bound" references in "Seed of Chucky" also. I think Fiona Dourif is a brilliant actress... and she's really hot! (Laughs) But the funny thing is, when (Fiona) came out of that building and she was possessed by Chucky, she looked like her dad (Brad Dourif, who has voiced Chucky since the original "Child's Play" in 1988) and she looked like Chucky the way she was walking and moving and everything. And it was even hotter than the feminine Fiona Dourif! Fiona Dourif as a man trapped in a woman's body – got a little bit of transgender, gender-fluid energy going on there.

Don wanted Tiffany more like Tippi Hedren in this movie. She wants to be a movie star like Cate Blanchett in "Carol," all elegant and vintage. He thinks these things out! Like, who sits at night and thinks, "What does a plastic doll that has gone into a movie star's body want?" These are the questions that keep him awake at night.

## Looking ahead to the next (maybe lesbian-ish) Chucky movie

I'm really excited, and I hope less time elapses between this one and the next. I have no idea where this is going, but I'm just really happy that I drove off with Fiona because I'm pretty sure I'll be in the next movie. I really hope that when we make the next one I'll still be hot enough to have some hot sex with Fiona – that's what we all live for!

## 'Bound' to Corky: challenging the Wachowskis for the role

When I went and auditioned for "Bound" I really wanted the part of Corky. I did not want the part of Violet. When I came in and read for it, I read for Corky. Linda Hamilton was set to play Violet, so Corky was the only part available. I was like, "Ohh, Linda Hamilton! I'd love to work with Linda Hamilton!" But then she fell out and Violet was available and the Wachowskis were like, "What about Jennifer for Violet?" I wanted to be the badass and the Wachowskis got upset. They were like, "All the girls want to play Corky! Violet is the better part."

So we found this girl, Gina Gershon. I hadn't heard of her. She was in "Showgirls," but it hadn't come out yet. But they were like, "We think you guys would be great together." And they're brilliant filmmakers – they really are –

and I was in Canada filming a movie. I said, "Don't even bother to come out if you're gonna try to talk me into playing Violet. I only wanna play Corky," and they're like, "Well, we think you guys would be good together. She wants to play Corky, but she says she's open to playing either." But they were just really being master manipulators.

She came out and right away I was annoyed because apparently nobody

had told her she was gonna be playing Violet, and she just started talking about how she was gonna do Corky and how she already got her ears pierced. I was like, "Oh my god, this girl is really eager to take this role." (Laughs) I was thinking that I was gonna play Corky, but then when I met her we got along so well on the set. We had such a good time, and we'd sit in our trailer and we'd make the craft service person go and get donuts. We'd torture, torment,

## 'Bound' sex scene with Gina Gershon: 'Cover up the cellulite on my thigh'

With the sex scene, it was really fantastic because with a guy you're always kind of trying to show off your tits and bits to your best advantage. But with a girl, we'd be like, "Oh, can you put your hand here to cover up the cellulite on my thigh?" or "Can you prop my breast up a little bit to make it look plumper?" And the thing about Gina is, she's

“With the sex scene, it was really fantastic because with a guy you're always kind of trying to show off your tits and bits to your best advantage. But with a girl, we'd be like, 'Oh, can you put your hand here to cover up the cellulite on my thigh?'”

**Steph White**

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See Jennifer Tilly, page 39

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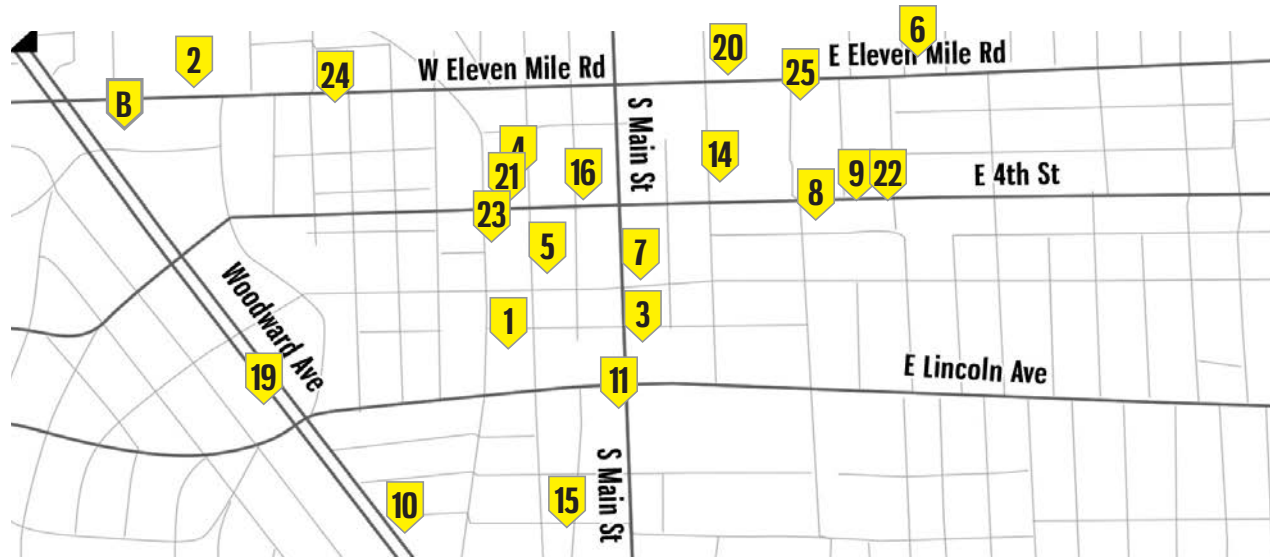


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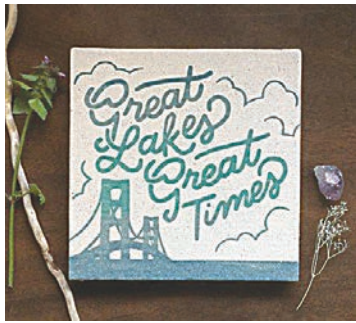

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Come join Made In The Mitten on Small Business Saturday, along with crafters, vendors, Michigan businesses and food trucks for the shopping experience of the year. Take a load off on Nov. 25 from 5-11 p.m. and enjoy the live holiday music and great deals. Made In The Mitten is a Michigan artist inspired marketplace, showcasing the work of Michigan artists from all over and their craft. The store primarily focuses on gifts that represent the state pride. The shopping concept was inspired by other local businesses encouraging our fellow neighbors to shop local when it comes to gifts and art. Admission is \$2 for adults and is free for kids 10 and under. Made In The Mitten is located at 706 S. Washington, on the corner of 7th and Washington streets in Royal Oak. For more information and regular business hours, check out [www.MadeInTheMittenStore.com](http://www.MadeInTheMittenStore.com).



Marcy Davy Great Lakes Great Times Print, \$20

## Royal Oak Hosts 'Spooktacular' Halloween Event

Downtown Royal Oak presents the 34th Annual Spooktacular event, featuring plenty of spooky fun for the whole family. The event kickoffs on the morning of Oct. 29 with the first annual Spooktacular Dash featuring a Monster Mash 1 Mile, a 5 Kill-O-Meters Run/Walk and a 1/4 Trick or Trot Kids Run. The fun continues with trick-or-treating at local businesses, pumpkin bowling, bounce houses, gigantic family games, a hay maze, live entertainment, a vendor village and more. Entry is free and all ages are welcome. A full schedule of events from 12-6 p.m. are available online at [www.royaloakspooktacular.com](http://www.royaloakspooktacular.com).



Lena Younger, played by Rosalind Sample, dreams of moving her family from the South Side of Chicago to a better neighborhood in "A Raisin in the Sun," presented by Stagecrafters at the Baldwin Theatre in Royal Oak.

## Stagecrafters Presents 'A Raisin in the Sun'

BY BTL STAFF

*"What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun?"*  
- Langston Hughes

Stagecrafters presents "A Raisin in the Sun" by Lorraine Hansberry Nov. 3-5, 9-12 and 16-18 at the Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave. in Royal Oak.


Mama Lena dreams of moving her family from the South side of Chicago

to a better neighborhood. But son Walter and daughter Beneatha have other plans. Three generations of the Younger family become embroiled in conflict as internal and societal pressures threaten their dreams and test the bonds of family. A timeless classic that speaks to the American experience.

In a release, director of the play Jerry Haines said, "The story and themes are timeless. I want the audience leaving the theater understanding that this is a story of an American family. And

although this is an African-American family, this could happen to any family whose dreams are not fulfilled or realized due to circumstances imposed by an oppressive society and lack of opportunity."

The play runs about two hours and is rated PG. Tickets which start around \$23 are available online at [stagecrafters.org](http://stagecrafters.org) and can also be purchased by phone at 248-541-6430. Tickets are also available at the box office an hour before the performance.




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## Wall Behind the Curtain: Star Choreographer Comes to East Lansing

BY JONATHAN W. THURSTON

**L**osing the love of your life is never easy. How can anyone recover from that? And how can anyone find their muse after that?

After the Curtain is a brand-new dance show that is coming to the Wharton Center in East Lansing on Nov. 1, and it strives to answer these questions. Marketed to a predominantly LGBTQ audience, this show will inspire hope in those who have lost it and remind all watchers of the importance of expressing oneself in a world that isn't always forgiving.

And who heads this great show? Travis Wall himself. Most renowned perhaps from his prolific work on "So You Think You Can Dance," Wall and his dance team, Shaping Sound, have excelled with their show, "Dance Reimagined," in the past.

Usually, Wall's followers refer to themselves

as SuperFans and will be coming from all over the state to see this spectacular show. While much of the SuperFans are made up of teenage girls, families often come, and anyone who's ever danced or had an interest in dancing can benefit from the show. With the heavy LGBTQ theme of this latest show, everyone in the local community can feel welcome here.

Wall himself felt a lot of personal connection with the themes in the show. "I really wanted to add a piece of myself and a piece of my soul into this show," says Wall. "And that's why I created a love story between two men."

Regarding the reception of the themes of the show, Wall speaks proudly of his plans. "It's bold, and it's brave, and there's multiple levels to this relationship, and I thought what was something that was really hard to do growing up was coming out. That is very hard to come to terms with it, to understand how to put that into words." However, Wall

excels by not having to put this into words, but into motion, telling the story through body language and dance.

While the story deals with very relevant themes, the setting is a bit distant. "I set the show in the 1940s," Wall says. "Just to think about how easy I had it compared to them, how hard it must have been for someone back then, and how they probably never did come out, and they probably went to their grave with the secret, and that's something that kills me." That strong sense of mortality paralleled with morality factors heavily into this show.

Wall will be playing a character in this show, the heroic Vincent. Paired against him as Vincent's alter ego is the character Jude, who will be played by Michael Dameski. Dameski was the 2014 winner of the Australian "So You Think You Can Dance" show, and has been touring with Wall since March of this year with "After the Curtain"'s premier. Joining

them in the cast is another "So You Think You Can Dance" winner, Nick Lazzarini (from season 1).

Wall himself has choreographed for "So You Think You Can Dance," "Dancing with the Stars," Carrie Underwood's "Something in the Water" music video, stage shows for Justin Bieber and Demi Lovato, and the 82nd Academy Awards. His choreography has received an Emmy and CMT Awards already, an impressive feat for the renowned dancer.

So, make sure to come and watch these talented visual musicians when they come to MSU's Wharton Center on Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$35, and there are student and group discounts available.

*For information on purchasing tickets, go to [whartoncenter.com](http://whartoncenter.com), and for more information on Travis and Shaping Sound, visit [www.shapingsoundco.com](http://www.shapingsoundco.com).*

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# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### 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](http://www.freedomhousedetroit.org)

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

programs-services/support-discussion-groups

### 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, music. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [iunger@goaffirmations.org](mailto:iunger@goaffirmations.org) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

### Saturday, Oct. 28

**Smear'd 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](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

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

**Gender Boo-lender** 9 p.m. One of the biggest gatherings of trans and queer people and their allies in Metro Detroit. Enjoy raffles, prizes, a costume contest (best couple/group, funniest, scariest)

and music by DJ UnDcided and DJ Bass Sick Bitch. FtM Detroit, 5440 Cass Ave., **Detroit**. [www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/](http://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/)

### 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](http://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](mailto:gaysubtext@gmail.com) [www.tcpolestar.org/](http://www.tcpolestar.org/)

### Monday, Oct. 30

**4th Annual Angels Night Bash** 5 p.m. All kids skate free. Face painting, candy bags and costume giveaways. New Era Detroit, 2130 Schaefer, **Detroit**. <https://www.facebook.com/NewEraDetroit/>

### Wednesday, Nov. 1

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

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

### Thursday, Nov. 2

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

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

**Transgender Support Group** 7 p.m. Perceptions, 815 N. Grant, **Bay City**. [www.perceptionsmi.org/](http://www.perceptionsmi.org/)

**Andy Cohen - Up Close & Personal** 8 p.m. Dive into the life and career of one of TV's biggest Personalities. Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., **Detroit**. 866-782-9622. [www.motorcitycasino.com](http://www.motorcitycasino.com)

### Friday, Nov. 3

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

### Saturday, Nov. 4

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

**Coming Out Over Coffee** 10:30 a.m.

A casual discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

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

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

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

**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](mailto:haymer@goaffirmations.org) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

**Lesbian Euchre** 6:30 p.m. Please arrive early to register. \$5 donation to Affirmations. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [lsbdanii@aol.com](mailto:lsbdanii@aol.com) [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

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

### Sunday, Nov. 5

**LGBTQ Support Group** 5 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6726 Center

## Editor's Pick

### Angels Night Bash

New Era Detroit presents their 4th annual Angels Night Bash from 5-8 p.m. on Oct. 30 for youth. All kids skate free at the RollerCade Skating Rink, 2130 Schaefer in Detroit. There will be costume giveaways, face painting, candy bags, free food and more at the event sponsored by Negash King Apparel and Footwear and Chedda Cheese Promotions. The first 30 kids will receive a free pair of Negash's all the way up to 5Y. For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/NewEraDetroit>.





# Editor's Pick



## Halloween Gender BOO-lender

Join FtM Detroit at Common Pub in Midtown Detroit for the Gender BOO-lender at 9 p.m. on Oct. 28. This event is one of the biggest regular gatherings of trans and queer people and their allies. FtM Detroit's Gender Blender is a great way to meet new people, listen to great music provided by DJ UnDcided and DJ Bass Sick Bitch and win raffle prizes. Costumes are encouraged for which prizes will be awarded. There is no cover for the event, but for \$3, you can play drinking games and win raffle tickets for more chances to win prizes. Common Pub is located at 5440 Cass Ave. in Detroit. Visit [www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/](http://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/) for more details.

Road, **Traverse City**. [www.tcpolestar.org/](http://www.tcpolestar.org/)

**Pride AA Weekly Meeting** 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**Pride NA Weekly Meeting** 7 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

### Monday, Nov. 6

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

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

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

**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](mailto:stefany@thebrooklyninstitute.com) <https://thebrooklyninstitute.com/items/courses/what-is-romanticism/>

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

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

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

### Tuesday, Nov. 7

**Support for Queer, Transgender, and GNC Community Members** 3:30 p.m. Group is free and meets every Tuesday. Mid-Michigan Recovery Services, Inc., 913 W Holmes Rd Ste 200, **Lansing**. 517-887-0226. [nickh@mmsrinc.org](http://nickh@mmsrinc.org) [mmsrinc.org](http://mmsrinc.org)

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

**LGBTQ in Uniform Support Group** 7 p.m. Meets the first Tuesday of every month. Open to current and former police, fire, emergency medical personnel and military. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org)

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

### Wednesday, Nov. 8

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

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

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

## MUSIC & MORE

**313 Presents** "Janet Jackson State of The World Tour" Global music icon, Janet Jackson, makes a stop in Detroit on her 4-month North American Tour. Little Caesar's Arena, 2645 Woodward Avenue, **Detroit**. 8 p.m. Oct. 29. 3134716611. [www.313presents.com](http://www.313presents.com)

**Broadway In Detroit** "Gobsmacked!" The amazing a cappella & beatboxing show! Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., **Detroit**. Nov. 3 - Nov. 5. 313-872-1000. [www.BroadwayInDetroit.com](http://www.BroadwayInDetroit.com)

**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](http://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](http://www.mccdetroit.org)

**Michigan Opera Theatre** "Ballet Hispanico" When Ballet Hispanico's dancers take the stage, watch out! Their joy is infectious! Celebrating the rich Latino cultural heritage. Michigan Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., **Detroit**. Oct. 28 - Oct. 29. 313-237-SING. [www.michiganopera.org](http://www.michiganopera.org)

**Michigan State Wharton Center** "Travis Wall's Shaping Sound After the Curtain" Through his Emmy Award-winning work, Travis Wall has become one of America's favorite choreographers. Heart-wrenching, breath-taking, ultimately uplifting, this is one dance show that audiences will remember forever! Performance contains mature content and themes. May not be suitable for younger audiences. Wharton Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan State University, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 1. 800-WHARTON. [www.whartoncenter.com](http://www.whartoncenter.com)

**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](http://www.theberman.org/dsq)

### Benefits/Social Events

**Sing Out Detroit Chorus** "Karaoke Bowling Fundraiser" \$20 per person bowling. Universal Lanes, 2101 E 12 Mile Rd, Warren. 3 p.m. Oct. 29. 248-943-2411. [www.singoutdetroit.org](http://www.singoutdetroit.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

See Happenings, page 35



Photo: Douglas Foulke

# Kathleen Battle in Recital

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\*free post show event.

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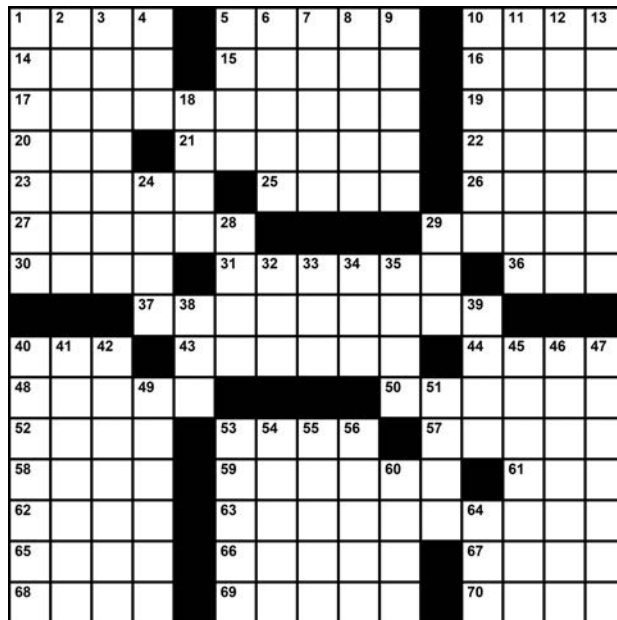
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## Q Puzzle



## Disney Princesses

### Across

- 1 Opponent of Caesar  
 5 Fruit container  
 10 Note to Tammy Baldwin's staff  
 14 Old Hebrew month  
 15 They reveal a drag queen's thighs  
 16 Star quality  
 17 Native American princess  
 19 Lacking manners

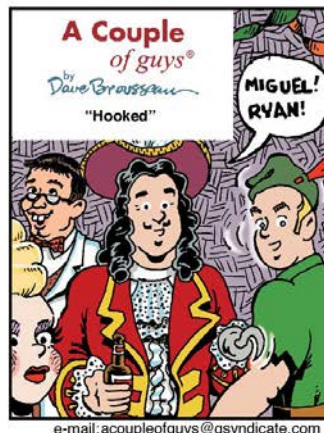
- 20 "Eeew!"  
 21 Word after search  
 22 Vows now legal for all  
 23 Bone just over a foot  
 25 Give the once-over  
 26 By \_\_\_\_ of (owing to)  
 27 Ukrainian seaport  
 29 "Wheel of Fortune" name  
 30 Site of valuable stones  
 31 Much ado about nothing  
 36 Long-snouted fish  
 37 Princess with 7 short friends

### Down

- 1 Where Tammy Baldwin works  
 2 Green fruit  
 3 Made Elmo giggle  
 4 Breeder need  
 5 "Get your rear in gear!"  
 6 Where boxers are visible  
 7 Playful trick  
 8 Frog-loving princess  
 9 City of Magnus Hirschfeld's land  
 10 "Brave" princess

- 11 Giving the slip to  
 12 "Erotica" singer  
 13 Like no-tell motels  
 18 Dame of the piano  
 24 Treats as a sexual object  
 28 "Hey, sailor!"  
 29 Winery container  
 32 Get behind  
 33 Night stalker  
 34 F-word start, for Socrates?  
 35 Italian beach resort  
 38 "Orange Is the \_\_\_\_ Black"  
 39 Steven's opening  
 40 Wickerwork materials  
 41 Shakespeare's jealous Moor  
 42 Too full for a Nick Malgieri pastry, e.g.  
 45 Magic 8 Balls, e.g.  
 46 "Romeo and Juliet" clan  
 47 "CHiPs" costar Erik  
 49 Princess aroused by a kiss  
 51 Docking site  
 53 Male equipment  
 54 Princess with fins  
 55 Unexpected help  
 56 Stop with  
 60 Drag queen \_\_\_\_ Pool  
 64 The Gay '90s, for one

Find solution to this puzzle at  
[www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)



## Editor's Pick

### Barbara McQuade Speaks at the Community House

Barbara McQuade, former U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of Michigan, will speak at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 1 at the Community House, 380 South Bates St. in Birmingham. This event is part of the Women of Influence Lecture Series featuring the women shaping Michigan's cultural and societal landscape. McQuade is now a professor of law at the University of Michigan Law School. Tickets for \$15 are available at <http://gaybe.am/ec>. Call 248-644-5832 or email [program@communityhouse.com](mailto:program@communityhouse.com) for more information.



### ▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 33

of the Alger, 1021 Manistique St., Detroit. Oct. 27 - Oct. 30. [www.thedatc.org](http://www.thedatc.org)

### Shows

**Broadway in Detroit** "Gobsmacked! The Amazing A Cappella and Beatboxing Show". Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Nov. 3 - Nov. 5. 313-872-1000. [www.broadwayindetroit.com](http://www.broadwayindetroit.com)

### THEATER

**A Midsummer Night's Dream** Shakespeare's most popular comedy where four young lovers find themselves in an enchanted forest. Comedy, love, and confusion collide on this magical moonlight night. Theatre & Dance at Wayne, Studio Theatre at The Hilberry, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Through Oct. 28. 313-577-2972. [www.theatreanddanceatwayne.com](http://www.theatreanddanceatwayne.com)

**A2CT Presents Cabaret** Tickets and information are available online at [www.a2ct.org](http://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](http://www.a2ct.org/shows/cabaret)

**Love Never Dies** The Phantom of the Opera Returns in a spellbinding sequel! Broadway In Detroit, Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Oct. 29. 313-872-1000. [www.BroadwayInDetroit.com](http://www.BroadwayInDetroit.com)

**Stagecrafters** "A Raisin in the Sun" Tickets are \$20-\$23.50. Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. Nov. 3 - Nov. 18. 2485418027. [www.stagecrafters.org](http://www.stagecrafters.org)

**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.thedatc.org)

### Professional

**A Bright Room Called Day** Unabashedly political, thought provoking, even a little scary and a good deal of theatrical fun! Contact for ticket info. The Theatre Company, The Marlene Boll Theatre, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. Nov. 3 - Nov. 19. 3139933270. [www.detroitmercyarts.com](http://www.detroitmercyarts.com)

**A Raisin in the Sun** Tickets are \$20-\$23.50. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. Nov. 3 - Nov. 18. 2485418027. [www.stagecrafters.org](http://www.stagecrafters.org)

**A Streetcard Named Desire** Tennessee Williams story of secrets and passion erupt under the New Orleans heat. Contact for ticket info. Theatre & Dance at Wayne, Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. Nov. 3 - Nov. 19. 313-577-2972. [www.theatreanddanceatwayne.com](http://www.theatreanddanceatwayne.com)

**Cabaret** The classic song & dance show comes to The Arthur Miller Theatre. Call for ticket info. University Musical Society, Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. Oct. 26 - Oct. 29. 734-971-2228. [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org)

**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](http://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](http://www.purplerosetheatre.org)

**Kinky Boots** Tickets: \$30. Olympia Entertainment, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 3 - Nov. 5. 313-471-6611. [www.olympiaentertainment.com](http://www.olympiaentertainment.com)

**Love Never Dies** Broadway in Detroit, Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Through Oct. 29. 313-872-1000. [www.broadwayindetroit.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.theatrenova.org)

[theatrenova.org](http://theatrenova.org)

**Swimming Upstream** Tickets: \$20. World Premiere by Rich Rubin, Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Nov. 3 - Dec. 23. 313-868-1347. [www.detroitreptheatre.com](http://www.detroitreptheatre.com)

### ART 'N' AROUND

**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>

**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](http://flintarts.org)

**Lawrence Street Gallery** "Face and Heart: Visions Behind Walls of Continuity" This is a two-woman show featuring internationally-acclaimed artists Nora Chapa Mendoza and Martha Ramirez-Oropeza. More information at [www.lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://www.lawrencestreetgallery.com). Opening reception: November 10 from 6-9 p.m. Closing reception: November 24 from 6-9 p.m. Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. Nov. 1 - Nov. 24. 248-544-0394. [www.lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://www.lawrencestreetgallery.com)

**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. 2485440394. [www.lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://www.lawrencestreetgallery.com)

**MDGS** "The Michigan Depression Glass Society 45th Annual Show" Featuring nearly two-dozen dealers. Will also offer glass repair. Free parking. Donation: \$5. Ford Community & Performing Arts Center, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Nov. 1 - Nov. 5. [www.Michigandepressionglass.com](http://www.Michigandepressionglass.com)

**Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series** "Morehshin Allahyari on Digital Colonialism, Re-figuring, and Monstrosity" Morehshin Allahyari is an Iranian media artist, activist, educator, and curator who uses computer modeling and digital fabrication techniques to explore the intersection of art and activism. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 5:10 p.m. Nov. 2. 7347643464. [https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/morehshin\\_allahyari](https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/morehshin_allahyari)

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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## We are ready to 'Love, Simon'

For moviegoing audiences in big cities, access to LGBT film festivals and their myriad coming out-themed movies can lead to a kind of jaded “seen it all before” mentality. But the fact is that queer-themed mainstream film, the kind that shows up in the neighborhood multiplex, is more rare a cinematic product than the latest installment of the “God’s Not Dead” franchise. So cheers to director Greg Berlanti and his upcoming project “Love, Simon,” a gay teen coming-of-age tale with some studio muscle behind it. Written by Isaac Aptaker and Elizabeth Berger (“This is Us”) and based on Becky Albertalli’s novel “Simon Vs The Homo Sapiens Agenda,” it stars Nick Robinson (“Jurassic World”) as a closeted boy who falls for an anonymous classmate online before he has a chance to explain his own identity to family and friends. Jennifer Garner, Josh Duhamel, Tony Hale (“Veep”) and Alexandra Shipp (“X-Men: Apocalypse”) co-star and it hits theaters in March of 2018. More of this, please; queer kids need love stories.



Greg Berlanti. Photo: Joe Seer

None,” but she did have a project set up at Showtime about a young black man having to raise a child alone. The pilot, however, didn’t go to series, and in Hollywood that usually means the whole thing is dead. But a reworked version called “The Chi,” executive produced by Common and starring “Straight Outta Compton”’s Jason Mitchell, is a go. It’s now the story of a young man whose life consists of friction between his career goals and family responsibilities, and shooting is already underway in Chicago. In a year when we’ve seen a lot of African-American TV projects get cancelled or come to an end, this is very good news, and it couldn’t happen to a cooler creator than Waithe. We’re impatient for it.

## 'Freaky Friday' now comes with singing

Depending on how old you were when the various incarnations passed your way, your favorite version of “Freaky Friday” is Mary Rodgers’ 1972 novel, or maybe the 1976 Jodie Foster film version, or maybe the 2003 Lindsay Lohan film version. But if you’re, say, 10 years old right about now, and maybe about to realize you’re queer, bets are that the latest musical version from Disney is the one that’s going to win your heart. The remake will star Heidi Blickenstaff, who played the mom role in the recent stage adaptation, and Cozi Zuehlsoff (“A Dolphin Tale”) as the argumentative mother and daughter who wish to switch places for a day. Magic happens and you know the rest. The musical features music and lyrics by the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning duo of Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey (“Next to Normal,” “If/Then”) and book by Bridget Carpenter. Get ready to hear a lot of this stuff on Radio Disney, parents.

Romeo San Vicente has no plans to switch out his perfect body with anyone.

## Dee Rees waging 'An Uncivil War'

Dee Rees, the lesbian director whose indie hit “Pariah” was met with critical acclaim, and whose latest, “Mudbound,” heads to Netflix in November, has another project on her plate, and it’s about the ERA. Now, maybe you’re young and don’t remember the Equal Rights Amendment, a sweeping and progressive piece of legislation that died a long, protracted death in the 1970s, but it was hugely divisive and it was fought against tooth and nail by the very people whose anti-woman, anti-queer social agendas led, eventually, to the election of people like Ronald Reagan and, ultimately, the current administration. But for a moment 40 years ago it looked like civil rights for all people was going to be a real thing in the United States, and it took feminist activists like Gloria Steinem and lawyer Flo Kennedy all they had to fight against anti-feminist Evangelical leaders like the late Phyllis Schlafly. Rees is reworking an original script by writer David Kukoff and Film Nation Entertainment is financing the entire project. No cast yet, but the story is too exciting – and ultimately infuriating – a history lesson to ignore, so we’ll be keeping track of this one.

## Lena Waithe's 'The Chi' finds new life at Showtime

Last time we told you about actor/writer Lena Waithe, she hadn’t won her Emmy for the “Thanksgiving” episode of “Master of

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# DIY Your Way to the **Gayest Halloween Costumes** of 2017

Dress up as this year's hottest memes, social media stars, and frightening fanatics with these more-for-less fight-night disguises

BY MIKEY ROX

It seems like every day is a new nightmare in America, but there's no substitute for the spooks and scares of Halloween (which is really just Christmas-come-early for you queens). This year, we were blessed with countless real-life jesters, jokers and fools to cop costume ideas from, and you'll save a bundle with these DIY tips to build the perfect getup the semi-homemade way. Take a look.



## Queen of Bushwig

Queens, New York's biggest drag festival turned out the glitz and gams in September with only the fiercest queens tour-de-forcing their way onto the Bushwig stage to lip-sync for their lives. Dozens of platform-heeled alt-goddesses death-dropped into infamy over the course of the weekend, and you can imitate many of your favorite looks by raiding your grandma's closet, adding splashes of color from the thrift store, and accessorizing at the nearest pop-up Spirit Halloween shop until Joan Rivers' ghost screams "Stop!" Check out Hornet App's slideshow of the event (which was originally founded in Bushwick, Brooklyn – hence the name) to duplicate your favorite diva.

## L.A. Basic

Just when you thought Instagram couldn't get any better than its bounty of ripe man-peaches (because, really, that's the only reason any of us are there), along came The L.A. Basics, an account that hilariously parodies our gay lifestyles via Ken Fashionistas dolls that have us all wondering if we're hashtag basic. After dozens of posts that are legit ripped straight from our own feeds (plus more than 40,000 followers within a month of its launch), the answer to that cosmic question is yaaaaas, kween! – and we might as well embrace it. Halloween Hallway

will get your costume started with its Vacuform wig (\$5.99, you guys!) while you peep @the\_la\_basics on IG to settle on a style. "Burning Man Gay" is an obvi go-to, but our loins like "Peach Cobbler Baker Gay" better.

## Viral Hula Hooper

What makes a video go viral? There's no perfect formula, but an undie-less peen swinging to and fro under a pair of gym shorts certainly fits into the equation. If you've got the bod (or just a low-hanging shutyomouth), free-ball it under a pair of trunk-style Under Armour's, pick up a plastic hoop from Target, and impress onlookers with your floppy ghost-in-a-shell. Instagram star Carlos Sáez did, and the world is happier for it. Original vid available @dearbra on IG. We'll wait.

## Backpack Kid

When 15-year-old Russell Horning hit the Saturday Night Live stage during Katy Perry's "Swish Swish" performance back in May – clad in street clothes and a backpack and showing off his oddly complicated-to-coordinate zip-quick stiff-arm moves – the LGBT community let out a collective "Werk, bitch!" from their living rooms. You already have everything you need to pay homage to the teen – even if there is a little wear

and tear (on your person, not the costume). Perfect your stunt dancing by watching the original vid on loop via YouTube.

## Try-Sexual

If you're not sure what a "try-sexual" looks like, search no further than former Trump campaign advisor Roger Stone. The political consultant and lobbyist – who's also the subject of the revealing Netflix documentary Get Me Roger Stone,



released this past spring – has been dogged by a sex scandal since his days on Bob Dole's campaign in 2008 that stemmed from personal ads placed in Local Swing Fever magazine (a real title, y'all) seeking "a hot, insatiable lady" and/or "muscular single men." At first denying the accusations, Stone has since admitted to being a try-sexual – "I've tried everything," he said in the doc – and you can embody this free-spirit by donning a pinstripe suit, flamboyant shirt and tie, black round glasses, and two opposite-sex hotties on each arm.

## Dad Bod

The Internet reached peak dad bod this year – though some of us have been partial to rubbing fuller bellies for years, decades even – but



if you want to see what your svelte physique will look like with packed-on pounds (before your waning metabolism does it for you), pull up your mid-calfs, crack open a Bud, and strap on the dad bag. But beware – of the mirror. You'll see every Red State voter staring back at you.

## Folsom Street Fairgoer

A little bit of leather goes a loooong way at San Francisco's famed Folsom Street Fair. Get kinky with your BDSM attire this Halloween by borrowing your freaky friend's assless chaps and leather Viking harness or hit eBay for more affordable options, like denim cod pieces and lacy mesh thongs.

## Tom of Finland Illustration

Tom of Finland drawings came to penis-pulsing life when body-painting demigod Michael Mejia used two mustachioed bromos as his canvas (photos of the bulge-tastic transformation are available on Mejia's Instagram @michaelmejiaart), and you can have left-of-similar results by hiring a talented artist through the Gigs section of Craigslist. Probably won't look as legit as this out-of-the-parker, but, hey, it's worth a shot. Review your hired gun's portfolio

before handing over any dough if you know what's good for you.

## The Benham Brothers

The bigots that just won't quit – aka the Benham Twins – have plenty to say about gay issues (they lost their HGTV show in 2014 because of their anti-LGBT views), which makes sense since they're both plagued with IPFMBF, known informally as 'I Probably Fuck My Brother' Face. Scare the bejesus out of your friends and



neighbors with a couple's costume of the dastardly duo, pulled off with boot-cut faded jeans, coordinating pastel Oxford shirts (untucked), TV Store Online's boy-next-door (who definitely does not want you fags to get married) wigs, matching tool belts, and well-beaten Bibles. If you have a couple female friends who look like middle-aged has-been cheerleaders – bam! – instant group costume.

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



► **Jennifer Tilly**

Continued from p. 25

very generous. She never ever says a bad word about any of her co-stars or any of the movies she's done, so if I had been working with someone who maybe was more difficult, it would've been a nightmare working so closely with her, so to speak, like totally nude.

But we just had so many laughs, like when we were doing that sex scene we were laughing so much the Wachowskis were like, "Girls, girls! Settle down! We're making a movie here!" But it was a great thing. It kind of makes sense now, because (at the time) everybody said, "How can two men write such great parts for women and be sensitive and compassionate about the way women think?" And after the movie was over, their mom was leaving the screening and she was saying, "Wow, that's such a beautiful love story between the two women," and then the Wachowskis went off and became female after that.

So, I really do think "Bound" – those were two of the greatest roles for women ever and the characters were really fantastic. I think that the Wachowskis had that sensibility right from the beginning. But we never thought – they were both very alpha males and brilliant, brilliant men who knew what drives people, and they were able to write such a sensitive, compassionate story about women.

It really is the classic film noir too. I never saw it as a sexploitation movie; I saw it as a beautiful example of film noir. It didn't really give me much pause playing a woman in a love scene with another woman, even though at that time – people don't remember, because every indie film has, like, women kissing women now, but back then it was a thing that you only saw in, like, "Red Shoe Diaries," or another sort of weirdly soft-porn thing. And now, it's sort of a given in film.

**Warner Bros.'s resistance to making 'Bound' a lesbian-led movie**

I'm always really happy when people come up to me and they say – a lot of women say, "That movie made me come out of the closet." You know, originally the Wachowskis did "Matrix" at Warner Bros. and Warner Bros. said they would give them \$15 or \$20 million to make the movie, but they would have to make Corky a man. They said, "But Corky is a woman."

They were just determined to make Corky and Violet running from the mob, and they ended up at (late film producer) Dino De Laurentiis's studio and they were really nervous because they'd been rejected a lot and they go, "It's a story about this girl Corky – she gets out of the prison and she meets this girl Violet and she falls in love," and Dino goes, "Wait a minute, wait a minute. Violet is a girl and Corky – she's also a girl?" And the Wachowskis go, "Mmmhmm." And he goes, "I love it! I'll give you \$3 million!" He was really great and supportive of the film, and Aaron Spelling was the co-producer. Aaron was the one who sent out all the copies for Oscar consideration because the studio couldn't afford to do that, or didn't want to.

So, it's really kind of amazing. You would never think that Aaron Spelling and Dino De Laurentiis would get together to create one of the seminal films in gay and lesbian cinematic history, but they did, like strange bedfellows.

*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](http://www.chris-azzopardi.com) and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).*

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## DATC Presents 'Rocky Horror Picture Show'

BY BTL STAFF

The Detroit Actors Theatre Company will present three free showings of the cult classic "Rocky Horror Picture Show." The DATC is proud to partner with Friends of the Alger for this project. The movie will be shown on Oct. 27-28, and Oct. 30 on Detroit's east side 1021 Manistique Street (formerly the St. Columbia church building). The DATC will be keeping with their annual tradition and present their famous shadow cast alongside the movie. A shadow cast mimics the actions of the actors on screen and encourages audience participation, bringing a new dimension to the experience. In this cult classic, sweethearts Brad and Janet, stuck with a flat tire during a storm, discover the eerie mansion of Dr. Frank-N-Furter, a transvestite scientist. As their innocence is lost, Brad and Janet meet a houseful of wild characters, including a rocking biker, a sexy house maid, her show stopping friend, a creepy butler, and a slew of dancing. Through elaborate dances and rock songs, Frank-N-Furter unveils his latest creation: a muscular man named "Rocky." This is the DATC's fourth year presenting "Rocky Horror Picture Show" in this fashion. Past performances have been seen in Ferndale at the Social Hall Theatre, Detroit's Campus Martius Park, and Olympus Theatre. Returning cast members include Michael Johns (Frank-N-Furter), Michael Cadotte (Criminologist), Jonathan Fitzgerald (Brad), Deanna Wesley (Janet) Kaitlin Fazio (Columbia), and new comers Shanon Grant (Magenta), and Mike Suchyta (Rocky). Friends of the Alger Theater (the Friends) are a volunteer driven, non-profit community-based organization comprised of neighborhood residents and businesses founded in 1983. The organization was formed to address the decay and deterioration encroaching the neighborhood and to respond to the historic significance of the Alger Theater located at 16451 E. Warren Avenue on Detroit's far east side. The DATC and Friends of the Alger are partnering to bring awareness and eventual live programming to Detroit's famed Alger Theatre. "Rocky Horror Picture Show" will be presented with its theatrical shadow cast on Oct. 27-28 and Oct. 30. All showings, which vary, are free and open to the public. Participation bags are available for \$5. Seating is limited. Audience members are encouraged to line up one hour prior to show to secure entry into the show. Doors will open 30 minutes before each showing.

For more information, visit [www.thedatc.org](http://www.thedatc.org).

# Turn Your Community Inside|Out with DIA Reproductions

## Museum Seeks Locations for Upcoming Year of Popular Street Art Program

BY BTL STAFF

The Detroit Institute of Arts is recruiting city representatives, downtown development authorities and arts organizations in communities interested in displaying high-quality reproductions of masterpieces from the DIA's collection in their cities as part of the museum's popular Inside|Out program. Now in its ninth year, Inside|Out shares the richness and diversity of the museum's extensive collection outside the museum walls in places where people live, work and play. Communities can choose April to July 2018 or August to October 2018 to host 12 reproductions to be clustered within walking or bike-riding distance of each other.

Cities and businesses that take part in Inside|Out will be featured on a map on the DIA's website and promoted on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. The museum will also assist community leaders in developing educational



Photo: Andrew Potter for Knight Foundation.

programs in conjunction with Inside|Out to engage people with the reproductions and inspire them to visit the museum to see the originals. Past events have included a wine-tasting bus tour, bike and walking tours, talks at local libraries and art galleries and art festivals.

Interested communities are asked to submit an application by November 17. An application does

not guarantee a slot but will help the museum determine locations for 2018. Preference will be given to communities in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and to those that have not participated before. Municipalities are chosen based on a variety of criteria including community interest, desired outcomes and location.

To request an application or for more information about Inside|Out, contact Jillian Reese at [jreese@dia.org](mailto:jreese@dia.org) or visit

## Call for Donations from LGBT Resource Center

The Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center at Grand Valley State University requests donations for an upcoming event in partnership with the Grand Rapids Trans Foundation.

Wear the Rainbow: A Trans and Genderqueer Clothing Swap is a free event from 2-5 p.m. on Nov. 11 at the GVSU Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium. This is a space for the trans and queer community to access clothing items and skills that align with their authentic selves. This

free clothing shop and workshop time creates access for trans and queer people who may not have the financial resources or who may not experience the physical and/or emotional safety to explore gender expressions across the spectrum. The trans and queer community has a rich history of sharing skills and resources. This event is in the spirit of access, inclusion and self-determination.

Items needed include clean and gently used clothing, shoes, larger

size heels, unopened makeup, lingerie, accessories, binders and business casual/professional clothing. Drop donations off now through Nov. 3 at the following locations: Career Services, 101B DeVos Center on Pew Campus in Grand Rapids and the LGBT Resource Center, 1161 Kirkhof Center in Allendale.

For more information contact Marla at [wickm@gvsu.edu](mailto:wickm@gvsu.edu) or call 616-331-2530. Visit <https://www.gvsu.edu/lgbtrc> or <http://gaybe.am/cK> for event details.



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# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

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

## AIDS/HIV

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

### AIDS Walk Detroit

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

### Macomb County STD Clinic

27690 Van Dyke  
Warren, MI 48093  
586-465-9217

<http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDSCounselingTesting>

### Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

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

### UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

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

## Advocacy

### Equality Michigan

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

## Campus

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

### U-M Ann Arbor

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

### Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

### Eastern Michigan University

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

### The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

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

### Wayne State JIGSAW

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

## Community Centers

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

### Jim Toy Community Center

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

### LGBT Detroit

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

## Affirmations

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

## Legal

### American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

### Fair Michigan

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

### Know Your Rights Project

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

## Older Adults

### SAGE Metro Detroit

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

## Political

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

[Facebook.com/TheLGBT-CaucusoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/TheLGBT-CaucusoftheMDP)

### Stonewall for Revolution

[www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution](https://www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution)

## Professional Groups

### Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

### Ties Like Me

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

## Suits And The City

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

## Transgender

### FtM Detroit

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

### FtM A2 Ypsi

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

### Transgender Michigan

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

### Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

## Youth

### Ruth Ellis Center

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

### Ozone House

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

### Stand With Trans

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



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

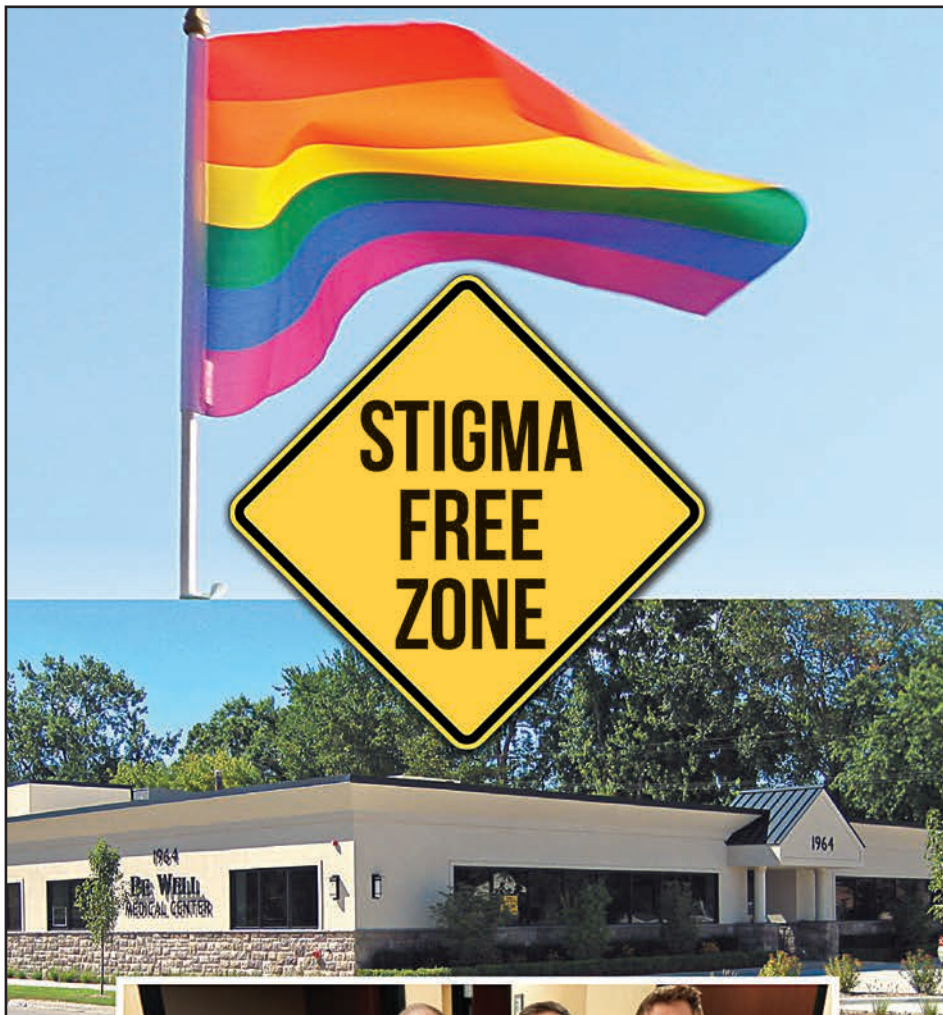
## Find these resources online

- Adoption Services
- AIDS/HIV Hotlines
- AIDS/HIV Organizations
- Alzheimer's Association
- Animal Shelter
- Anti-Violence
- Archives/Collections
- Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
- Cancer Support Groups
- Choruses
- Community Centers
- Employee Resource Groups
- Families and Parents
- Foster Care
- Foundations and Funders
- 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](http://www.PrideSource.com) and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information.

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



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[WOLVERINEHS.ORG](http://WOLVERINEHS.ORG)



## Every voice matters

In 1975, AT&T made a commitment to the LGBT community to foster an inclusive workplace. Today, we continue to keep that promise because we believe that when everyone works together to make a difference, innovation shines through.



*“At AT&T,  
inclusion is at  
the heart of  
innovation.”*

**Jim Murray**  
*President of  
AT&T Michigan  
and Chair of  
Equality Michigan*