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Jones Implores Freedom House Crowd To 'Keep On Fighting!'

BY JAN STEVENSON

DETROIT – A sold out crowd was brought to their feet by an inspiring message of hope and perseverance from keynote speaker Cleve Jones at the annual Freedom House Dinner Oct. 26. “There were so many times in my life when I thought it was all over,” said the legendary gay rights activist, co-founder of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, founder of The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt and union leader with UNITE HERE. “But I want you to know that I am 63 years old. I am healthy, I am happy and I am ready to keep on fighting for as long it takes! Bring it on, Trump! Bring it on!”

Jones chronicled a number of times in his life when he believed it was the end of everything, including the horrific moment he found the body of his boss and mentor, Harvey Milk, on Nov. 27, 1978 after he had been gunned down in his office by fellow San Francisco City Supervisor, Dan White. “All I could think to myself was it’s over now. It’s all over now. He was our leader, he was my friend. He was the first in our community to be elected in California. It was all over,” said Jones. “Then the sun went down. And people began to gather on Castro Street - gay and straight, black and brown and white, immigrants and native born and we lit our candles and we marched in silence - 50,000 of us down Market Street. I remember being there amidst all these weeping people standing there in the cold autumn night and knowing that I was wrong. It was not over! It was just beginning.”

Jones said he was honored to support Freedom House Detroit because he knows what it means to not only survive but to thrive when it seems that all the cards are lined up against you.

Freedom House Detroit, a temporary home for survivors of persecution from around the



Legendary LGBT activist Cleve Jones, second from right, spoke at the annual Freedom House Dinner at the Atheneum Hotel in Detroit. To his right is Deborah Drennan, executive director of Freedom House. They are with former Freedom House residents Nadia Nijimbere and Hamissi Mamba who fled political persecution in Burundi. They now own a new East African restaurant in Detroit. BTL photos: Jan Stevenson

world who are seeking asylum in the United States and Canada, provides critical legal and social services to people and families who have fled from political strife, war and brutal discrimination, including LGBT people who had to run for their lives from anti-LGBT death squads. Residents arrive at Freedom House with little more than the clothes on their backs. Freedom House staffers help them begin rebuilding their new lives in this land so unfamiliar to them.

There are now more displaced persons in the world than at any time since World War II, and the anti-immigrant political sentiment that’s swept across the U.S. and western Europe is exacerbating the suffering of refugees and asylum seekers.

“Do you remember America? We used to call it a nation of immigrants,” said Barbara McQuade, the former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan and current University of Michigan law professor, as she accepted the Voice of Freedom Award. “In these dark days in America I thank God for organizations like Freedom House. It gives me hope that Freedom House can lead us out of the darkness and once again Lady Liberty will shine her light on the Golden Door.”

The Community Partner Award was presented to ProsperUs Detroit, an entrepreneurial training and small business lending program for Detroit residents designed to empower low

Cleve Jones chronicled a number of times in his life when he believed it was the end of everything, including the horrific moment he found the body of his boss and mentor, Harvey Milk, on Nov. 27, 1978 after he had been gunned down in his office by fellow San Francisco City Supervisor, Dan White.

and moderate income, immigrant and minority individuals and neighborhoods. Hector Hernandez, executive director of ProsperUs, received the award from Nadia Nijimbere and Hamissi Mamba, a wife and husband team that came to Freedom House a few years ago after fleeing political persecution in Burundi. The ProsperUs program has helped them to realize their dream of opening Baobab Fare, an East African restaurant in Detroit. “People sometimes say that immigrants take American jobs,” said Mamba. “But we are creating new jobs here in Detroit.”



A number of LGBT people attended the annual Freedom House dinner including (l to r) Biaohua Yu, Stephan Bobalik, Steve Quintart and Tom Wilczak



Howard Israel, Henry Grix, Suzanne Wait and Michelle Walters.



Marcus Thompson, Isaiah Forte, Lilianna Reyes and Ahya Simone. Simone, a harpist and singer, performed during the VIP reception.



Marcus Turner, Cleve Jones and TJ Rogers, program manager at Freedom House.

INFO

Freedom House Detroit

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Freedom House is unique in its comprehensive approach to assisting those who seek asylum in the United States and Canada. We provide housing, food, clothing, legal aid, medical care, mental health care, English as a Second Language classes, education, job training, recreation, transportation, and offsite housing after asylum is gained.

Walled Lake City Council Candidate Called Out for Hate Speech

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A religious extremist running for city council in Walled Lake is creating controversy on the internet. Dan Lauffer, also known as Carson Lauffer and Carson Daniel, has attacked gays, transgender individuals, women, Muslims, Jews and African Americans in a series of Facebook posts and comments and other social media messages dating back several years.

A greatest hits of Lauffer's offensive zingers, as reported by the opposition website, www.danlauffer.com, include the following claims:

"Even developmentally disabled people know that transvestites or crossdressers or whatever they call themselves are not quite right in the head;" "Those who understand that most blacks do not act fit to be in a civil society may be correct;" "Reforming an Obama supporter is like trying to pick up a turd by its clean end;" "The homosexual activists devised a wonderful plan to convince the Western world that the church is evil and moral perversion is actually a gift from God. Disney World has a gay pride day. What about an alcoholics day? Pedophile day? How [about] Abortionists day? Bestiality day anyone?" and "Matthew Shepard's murder was over a drug deal and robbery and had nothing to do with a hate crime against homosexuals. He was a scumbag."

The opposition website goes on to claim that the candidate, whose campaign manager identified him as a "retired Christian minister with a traditional Biblical view of homosexuality," was actually forced out of the clergy by Bishop Jonathan D. Keaton, the former episcopal leader of the Illinois area of the United Methodist Church, for "behavior which undermines the ministry of another pastor" while Lauffer was living in Joliet, Illinois.

In Michigan, Lauffer unsuccessfully ran for the Michigan House in the 38th District in 2014. A solidly Republican district, Lauffer lost the election to a less extreme candidate. Despite his bold views, Lauffer's campaign for city council has received little media attention. In a WJBK-Fox 2 news story on Oct. 25, reporter Ericka Erickson confronted Lauffer about some of his more disturbing quotes. Lauffer denied saying some of them and said he "might have" said some others. He told the reporter he was running for city council because "well, I'm retired and I was bored."

Nathan Triplett, director of public policy and political action for Equality Michigan, said that Lauffer's views disqualify him from public service.

"It's very clear that Mr. Lauffer's repeated

use of racist, sexist and homophobic language clearly indicates that he cannot be entrusted with the responsibility of serving on a local legislative body and treating all citizens and visitors to his community with the respect and dignity that they deserve and are entitled to under the law," Triplett said. "Free speech is not the issue here. No one contests Mr. Lauffer's right to believe and to say what he likes. The issue is whether someone who holds those beliefs is capable of providing equal protection under the law. It is patently obvious that Mr. Lauffer could not do that should he be elected to the Walled Lake City Council and it is my hope that after being presented with this evidence his residents will strongly reject the hateful language that he has used by not electing him to serve in public office."

Lauffer will run for a city council seat in November with other candidates Gabriel



Dan Lauffer

Nathan Triplett, director of public policy and political action for Equality Michigan, said that Lauffer's views disqualify him from public service.

Costanzo, Bennett Lublin, Chris Orick, John Owsinek and Robert Robertson.

A group of concerned citizens started a Change.org petition and have collected more than 130 signatures so far.

Information regarding the city of Walled Lake's November election can be found at <http://walledlake.us/index.php/election-voter-information>.

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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, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

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

We're open, not unprepared.

We know who we are. And we make choices that fit our lives.


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 or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



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Gender and Sexuality Center Shapes Campus Culture at OU

BY DREW HOWARD

Oakland University today is recognized as one of the most welcoming and inclusive campuses in the state for LGBTQ individuals. In August, OU earned the no. 1 slot on the 2017 Campus Pride Index, which ranks colleges and universities according to LGBTQ-friendliness.

But backtrack 13-odd years into the campus's history, and what you'll find is a university that's hardly recognizable compared to what you see today. You might say the community was under the radar on campus until 2004, when OU began implementing LGBT-friendly training modules for its staff. This was the same year a group of students took it upon themselves to petition for a space on campus geared specifically toward welcoming all identities.

The petition resulted in the creation of the Gender and Sexuality Center in 2005, a space that has helped mold OU into the LGBTQ-friendly establishment it is today. But when the center first began operations, the space was little more than, well, a space.

"When we started out it was just a space for people to hang out," said Grace Wojcik, Coordinator at the Gender and Sexuality Center. "We didn't build much long-term programming or work that assessed the needs of the students."

This didn't stop the volunteers from laying important groundwork for future work. In 2008, the center established the university's and state's first LGBT peer-mentoring program. The program facilitates one-on-one mentoring relationships for new LGBT students who seek a smooth transition into college. And in 2009, OU changed the phrasing in its equal opportunity policy to include "gender identity" and "gender expression."

The center's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/GSCatOU/) includes a list of "milestones," one of them being the addition of Wojcik to the team in 2011. Dubbing the new hire a milestone feels fitting when you consider all the programs implemented since Wojcik started.

In her time as the center coordinator, Wojcik and her team have made strides in raising awareness of the LGBT community through a variety of events. This includes OU's first Pride Week, the creation of a promotional campaign titled "Out on Campus," guest speaker events from the likes of Laverne Cox and Ryan Sallans, as well as a continuing series of graduation celebrations designed for



Grace Wojcik, Coordinator at the Gender and Sexuality Center is in back row last on the right. She is celebrating with Students during Lavendar Graduation. Photo courtesy of OU Gender and Sexuality Center.

LGBT students.

Out of all the programs offered by the center, Wojcik said Lavender Graduation has to be her favorite. The event was created to celebrate the achievements of LGBTQ undergraduate seniors, graduate, and medical students.

"It's become more of a thing people hope to participate in," Wojcik said. "We ask students where they're headed in the future and let them give words of advice to folks who are still here. It's grown tremendously. It's really being able to celebrate the achievements of students that's so special."

Flavia DiStefano is one of the three peer mentors at the GSC. She describes the peer mentor's role as a sort of guide who helps students navigate both their academic and social life.

"It was important for me to join the program because I wanted to offer the same kind of support and welcoming environment I had been given when I first came to Oakland University," DiStefano said. "I want the students to be as comfortable and safe as they can be around campus, and I think the GSC mentoring program is a big part of that. It helps the students grow and develop new interests and skills

while being themselves."

The GSC also facilitates OU's Pride Week every first week of April. This year's celebration featured the 14th annual drag show, the "Slam for Solidarity" evening of poetry, spoken word and story-telling, as well as a Pride Prom.

Such events and programs helped earn the four-and-a-half star rating out five on the Campus Pride Index, a half-point jump from 2016.

Jo Reger, director of the Women and Gender studies program, said she's seen OU evolve significantly in its attitude toward the LGBTQ community since she joined the university.

"I came in 2001 and there was one LGBTQ orientated student group – no faculty or staff groups and no Gender and Sexuality Center," Reger said. "I have seen the university become exponentially more welcoming over time. In part, this was due to students and faculty who were out on campus and allies who worked with them to gain LGBTQ visibility and educate the rest of campus."

Wojcik said she's seen more departments and their staff take on additional responsibility in their work for the LGBTQ community, rather than directing all matters toward the GSC. She's also seen the reputation of the GSC change dramatically over the years, saying

the center is now seen as the "go-to resource" on campus.

"What makes us unique is that we received the highest score on the campus pride assessment in Michigan, yet we only have one professional staff member," Wojcik said. "We don't have an extraordinary budget, but we build bridges across campus."

Despite working on a small budget, Wojcik still has big plans for the center down the road. She said she hopes to soon expand OU's Pride Week celebration into a Pride Month. She's also looking to grow the GSC's staff in an effort to heighten the center's impact on campus.

"The Gender and Sexuality Center may be geared at students but its existence changes the culture of OU for everyone here, including faculty, staff, administrators, LGBTQ individuals and allies," Reger said. "It is a centerpiece of campus."

If you'd like to learn more about OU's Gender and Sexuality Center, please visit Oakland.edu/gsc/ for additional information. Support the GSC Peer Mentoring Program at <https://oaklandbookstore.ignitex.com/GSC2017>.

Clinton, Harris Urge HRC Supporters to 'Rise' Against Trump

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

It wasn't the Human Rights Campaign National Dinner that attendees anticipated a year ago.

Hopes were high that Hillary Clinton would be elected president and lead the way on advancing LGBT rights in the United States and around the world. Instead, Donald Trump is president and LGBT rights supporters are seeking to oppose his administration's efforts to compromise rights for the LGBT community.

But the atmosphere Oct. 28 at the 21st annual Human Rights Campaign National Dinner was far from depressed. In fact, the dinner's theme of "rise," projected on screen during the dinner and blasted in neon colors in the lobby, captured a sense of purpose and urgency given the new challenges facing LGBT people.

Fiery in her remarks before the estimated 3,600 people at the Washington Convention Center in attendance was Clinton, who lambasted Trump for his anti-LGBT policies and urged push back.

"Whether or not we are willing to accept this bigotry and hatred speaks volume about who we are as a country," Clinton said.

Expressing concern that LGBT rights are "nowhere near as secure as we hoped," Clinton ran through a litany of Trump administration actions harming LGBT people, including Trump's announcement via Twitter that transgender people would no longer be able to serve in the U.S. armed forces.

"I was outraged when I read on Twitter of all places that the president wanted to ban transgender people serving in the the military," Clinton said. "You know and he knows transgender people have fought and died for this country. They are serving in uniform with distinction right now. The suggestion that transgender Americans are unfit to serve is insulting and wrong."

Making a reference to the Masterpiece Cakeshop case before the U.S. Supreme Court, Clinton said "it's just wrong" in 2017 LGBT people can lose their homes, be evicted from their homes or "if this administration get its way, be denied a wedding cake simply because of who you are or who you love."

Clinton also decried a U.S. delegation vote at the United Nations against a resolution condemning the death penalty, which included a provision against its use as a punishment for homosexual acts.

"When I saw that, I thought maybe I had read it wrong, that maybe I'd somehow got a double-negative mixed up, but, no, that's



Hillary Clinton speaks at the Human Rights Campaign National Dinner on Oct. 28. (Washington Blade photo by Tom Hausman)

“It does strike me that in the last few days at least Fox News seems to think that’s where I live in the White House because they spend a disproportionate amount of their time impeaching me.”

- Hilary Clinton joking about the continued fixation on her in conservative media.

exactly what our country voted against: A resolution to condemn the use of the death penalty for consensual same-sex relationships," Clinton said.

The Trump administration insisted the vote was about the U.S. position on the death penalty in general, not its application to same-sex relations. Clinton said the State Department was "forced to clarify" that vote "after outcry from the Human Rights Campaign and many others."

"But the fact remains the United States should not be shirking our responsibility to defend the human rights of LGBT people around the globe," Clinton said.

Clinton also lodged complaints with the Trump administration and the Republican-controlled Congress for non-LGBT issues, criticizing their tax reform package for seeking to finance tax cuts with cuts to entitlement programs.

"Embedded in this horrible, irresponsible, cruel and mean-spirited giveaway to the richest of Americans called tax reform is a \$500 billion cut in Medicare and a \$1 trillion cut in Medicaid," Clinton said.

When the audience boomed in response, Clinton replied, "That is exactly the appropriate response. And don't boo, tell the Congress and tell them you will not stand for that."

Introduced at the dinner as a "she-ro" by lesbian tennis legend Billie Jean King, Clinton was well-received by audience members, who stood for a standing ovation as she took the stage. At one point someone at the rear of the room shouted, "We love you!" prompting Clinton to respond, "It's mutual."

Arriving on stage, Clinton said the dinner "feels a bit like a family reunion," telling attendees at the Human Rights Campaign

event, "There is no one I'd rather share my initials with than you."

Clinton said she'd "have much preferred to come to the dinner tonight from a slightly closer residence."

Joking about the continued fixation on her in conservative media, Clinton said, "It does strike me that in the last few days at least Fox News seems to think that's where I live in the White House because they spend a disproportionate amount of their time impeaching me."

"If they'd be willing to make a trade, I'd be willing," Clinton concluded.

If Clinton represented a look to the past at the dinner and what could have been, another speaker, Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), represented what could be the future.

Introducing her was Proposition 8 plaintiffs Kris Perry and Sandy Stier, whom Harris married in 2013 after the U.S. Supreme Court restored marriage equality to California.

Harris said the Trump administration marks "an inflection point in the history of our country."

"I believe this is a moment when our country is witnessing an assault on our deepest

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values and ideals, where people don't trust over government, its institutions or leaders," Harris said.

Harris decried social injustices throughout the country, including people of color being denied the right to vote and undocumented immigrants fearing a knock at the door taking them away, citing examples of anti-LGBT discrimination.

"From the United States Congress to the United States Census, LGBT rights are under attack," Harris said. "Under attack by a Justice Department that now stands on the side of discrimination instead of equality, under attack by a Senate nominee who thinks homosexuality should be illegal and a judicial nominee who says transgender children are proof of Satan's plan and under attack by a commander-in-chief who wants to ban transgender troops who are willing to sacrifice their lives to defend our country."

Harris, who's become an LGBT favorite among potential 2020 presidential candidates, touted a long history of support for LGBT people, recalling a time in the 1990s working as a district attorney with transgender people of color, whom she said she were "ostracized, self-medicating and even some self-mutilating."

The main theme of Harris' speech was solidarity. At one point, she said, "Fighting

for everyone's civil rights is in our common interest and is in our self-interest."

"Despite the forces of hate and division that are trying to tear us apart, Americans have so much more in common than what separates us," Harris said.

Also speaking at the dinner was Gold Star father Khazir Khan, who rose to prominence last year after his speech at the Democratic National Convention and he became the target of criticism from Trump.

Expressing a sense of solidarity between the Muslim and LGBT communities, Khan told the audience his "LGBTQ family has given us courage to continue the fight."

Khan also paid tribute to transgender service members and veterans as Trump seeks to keep them out of the U.S. armed forces.

"A majority of America stands with you, supports you and is grateful for your service," Khan said.

Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, urged attendees to continue the fight.

"They want us to stop paying attention... long enough to implement their bigoted blueprint, but we can't give in," he said. "We can't grow complacent. We can't back down, and together, we got to hold Donald Trump's tiny little hands to the fire every single day."

Outside the convention center, around 100 demonstrators affiliated with No Justice No Pride circled the convention center in protest over the Human Rights Campaign taking contributions from Wells Fargo bank, which the protesters criticized for helping finance private prisons.

Shortly before the dinner began, the protesters blocked the doors of the convention center, forcing attendees to enter at a side entrance. Many of the protesters were wearing makeup making them resemble zombies, which the organization says was intended to represent the horrors of the Wells Fargo contributions.

"Under a blatant white-supremacist administration, those of us who claim to want justice for the LGBT community at large have to be as clear as those who oppose us," Aaryn Lang, movement building & campaign manager of GetEqual, said in a statement. "HRC choosing to celebrate Wells Fargo, who finances private prisons and immigration detention centers alike, sends a scary message: that the struggles of immigrants, people of color and low-income communities are not the struggles of LGBT people."

Protesters shouted as they marched around the convention center, "You can't corporatize our Pride!" Another chant consisted of

"Transphobia! Shut it down! Corporate greed! Shut it down!"

At one point, the protester leading the chant asked, "Who thinks we're having more fun than the suited-up cis gay men attending this gala?" His fellow protesters cheered in response.

High-profile LGBT people present at the dinner included former Army Secretary Eric Fanning, Maryland gubernatorial candidate Rich Madeleno, Virginia State Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-Alexandria), former Democratic National Committee CEO Jess O'Connell, former U.S. Export-Import CEO Fred Hochberg, D.C. transgender advocate Ruby Corado and Jim Obergefell.

Awarded the Human Rights Campaign National Equality Award was Jeff Bezos. Awarded the Ally for Equality award was Uzo Aduba, famed for her role as "Crazy Eyes" on the Netflix hit "Orange Is the New Black."

Also present was CEO of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Vanita Gupta, former second lady Tipper Gore, Center for American Progress CEO Neera Tanden and U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va.) and Voto Latino President Maria Teresa Kuma.

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

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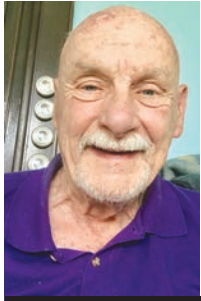
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Memories of a Near-Forgotten Past Pt.2 Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

At 19, I went to my first gay bar on Halloween: the Silver Slipper, a dyke bar on Grand River, near downtown Detroit. I used borrowed ID, was escorted authoritatively by two stone butch regulars, Speedy and Draino.

Lesbians sat in an upstairs balcony space. Gays and “tourists,” downstairs. Tourists came to gawk at the queers.

Entertainer was porkulent Chi Chi LaTrine, aka Benjamin Ernest Franklin. He wore wide, be-ribboned picture hats, sang songs with lyrics of questionable OB-GYN soundness. (“Douche yourself with kerosene. Light it with a match. You will be the only queen with a blow torch for a snatch.”)

Chi Chi’s comedy routines closed with his trademark insertion of a champagne glass into his ample facial cheeks and mouth. (Sidebar: Franklin had a sociology M.A., and in the early 60s was the first gay person to speak to Wayne State University psych classes.)

With teenagers friends Gary and Richard, I also hit the Scenic Bar in Toledo, Ohio. Soon our little circle – “Claudia,” (Richard) “Margo,” (Gary) and (groan) myself, “Crystal” – took our sing-along road show to Cleveland, staying at the Y-M-C-A!

For those who could pass for straight, problems were few – vice cops, crabs, VD, job firing, shock therapy, excommunication, incarceration, media exposes – if you kept your “she this” and “she that” to yourself.

I met Marcus, who took me home, played Maria Callas arias from Verdi’s La Traviata, fed me a wonderful breakfast. It was magic – until I learned to my over-stuffed chagrin that my gourmet cook was yet another crossdresser. Two that summer!

Next came Big Apple week. Our threesome took the New York Central train – playing gin rummy for 6 hours – and booked into the notorious Sloan House Y. It was mid-July. No air conditioning. Heat 90-plus. Sweat soaked outdoors in

minutes. So, we slept at day; partied at night.

I had no sooner unpacked my things when the room phone rang. “Hi! I’m Jerry. I saw you in the lobby. Can I take you to dinner?” He left two days later. Ever faithful at 19, I thought of Jerry for 36.5 hours, 36 seconds. (Jerry, who?)

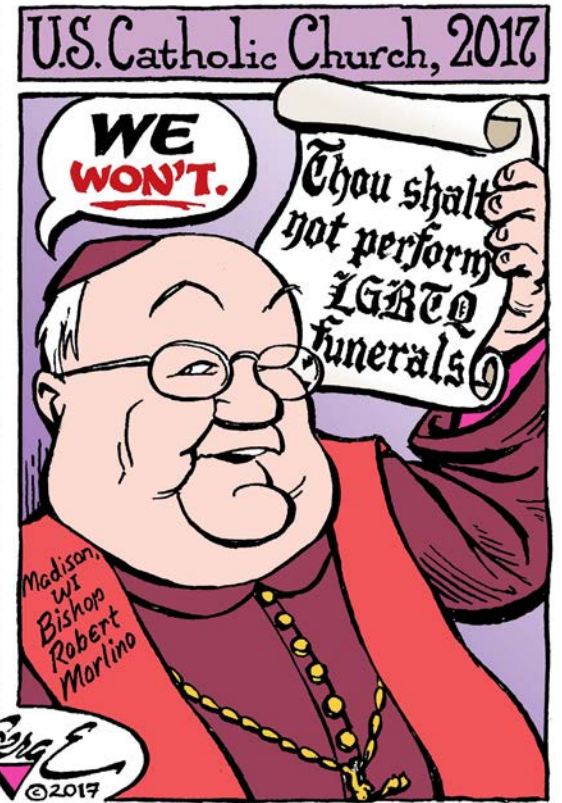
Our trio went to a Greenwich Village downstairs bar, the Sans Souci. “Cry Me a River,” sung by Roberta Sherwood was the jukebox hit. Bar ambiance was intimate and discreet. I met a bona fide actor there: Gunther Wilde. He had a bit part in *Midsummer Night’s Dream*. (Gunther, who?)

Richard reeled in two good-looking, mid-30s Italians who invited us to Fire Island. We took the train to Babylon – three hours – and a ferry boat to Cherry Grove.

“Truman Capote’s there,” they lied. I experienced a toothache, a sunburn, no sleep, a sore back. (It was worth it.)

In 1956, we had no ‘out’ role models. We suspected certain movie stars. (Tab Hunter, Barbara Stanwyck, newcomer James Dean). All wishful thinking. These Senator McCarthy witch-hunting years were terror for

See Parting Glances, next page



Viewpoint



BY ANGIE PERONE

Navigating Nursing Home Violations, Dwindling Protections, and Potential Solutions for LGBT Older Adults

Local media recently reported that nearly a quarter of Michigan’s nursing homes have been cited for serious health and safety violations. This coverage garnered attention from Congresswoman Debbie Dingell who expressed outrage of such treatment at facilities that “serve our most vulnerable.” LGBT older adults are particularly vulnerable to abuse and neglect given a lack of training among many providers, failure to create and enforce inclusive agency-level caregiving policies, and a resurgence in religious exceptions in anti-discrimination and healthcare law.

Lifetime experiences of discrimination have created unique caregiving experiences for many LGBT older adults that increase their likelihood of living in a nursing home. Many LGBT older adults came of age when homosexuality and gender transgressions were routinely associated with pedophilia. Biological or adopted children was unthinkable for same-sex couples who were unable to disclose their relationship status for fear of harsh repercussions including jail, job loss, eviction, and hospitalization. As such, LGBT older

adults are less likely to have children to care for them as they age. Instead, they often rely on families of choice within their same age-cohort, which can dwindle possible caregivers as LGBT older adults age together. Years of accumulated discrimination further render LGBT older adults more vulnerable to health issues, which may contribute to earlier and more frequent nursing home usage.

A survey completed by six LGBT organizations (Justice in Aging, 2015) indicated that many LGBT older adults fear disclosing their sexual orientation and/or gender identity because of negative experiences with service providers and/or fear of discrimination. In this survey, caregivers, older adults, and service providers reported instances where formal caregivers refused to bathe a gay man for sixteen days, prevented a transgender resident from eating, talking, and socializing with other residents, and failed to provide proper medical care such that one resident needed to visit the Emergency Department (Justice in Aging, 2015).

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► Perone: Nursing Homes

Continued from p. 13

Currently, residents can file complaints with a long-term care ombudsman who is empowered to advocate for residents and resolve problems. However, ombudsmen training may not necessarily include content on some of the unique needs and concerns of LGBT older adults. Without assurance that an advocate has familiarity and experience serving LGBT people, LGBT older adults may be reticent to file complaints. This may be especially pronounced for transgender older adults and LGB older adults of color who report higher rates of health disparity, discrimination, and denial of care.

Nursing home residents can also file a civil claim in court. But this right may disappear soon. The Trump Administration proposed eliminating an Obama Administration rule that prohibits binding arbitration agreements. Many nursing home contracts require people to sign a mandatory arbitration agreement that precludes them from filing a complaint in court. Because arbitration uses different evidentiary rules than court, lacks a jury, and often favors repeat players (like businesses that repeatedly pay to use arbitration), many consumers and civil rights attorneys abhor mandatory binding arbitration clauses.

While CMS received an overwhelming number of negative comments in response to this proposed rule by the Aug. 7 deadline, the Trump administration has not yet stated when it will release a decision. In a world where LGBT people already lack many protections under the law, this legislative limbo creates one more reason for LGBT older adults to decide not to complain about abuse, neglect, or health and safety violations.

The Trump administration has further suggested eroding legal protections for LGBT nursing home residents through the Affordable Care Act's nondiscrimination provision. Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act prohibits discrimination in health care services based on sex. Under the Obama Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services clarified that the prohibition of sex discrimination could also bar various forms of discrimination against LGBT people.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 12

“known homosexuals.”

We had no choice but the familiar closet. (By the way: Tab Hunter's 86 this year. Tab who?)

For those who could pass for straight, problems were few – vice cops, crabs, VD, job firing, shock therapy, excommunication, incarceration, media exposes – if you kept your “she this” and “she that” to yourself.

Travel was a revelation. We gradually realized we weren't alone. We were everywhere:

The Trump Administration has threatened to change these federal regulations, and in a recent court filing in Franciscan Alliance v. Burwell, the Trump Administration indicated that it was currently vetting a draft of proposed regulatory changes to Section 1557.

Despite these obstacles, short-term and long-term solutions exist. Long-term care providers can obtain training and policy guidance from organizations like SAGE Metro Detroit to better prepare their staff on how to best serve LGBT older adults. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission could also interpret the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act prohibition on sex to include protections for LGBT people, similar to other state and federal agency interpretations. Last month, the Commission denied the opportunity to issue this clarification, but the Commission could reconsider its decision. State or local policymakers could also pass an LGBT-specific long-term care bill of rights to mirror a law signed by the California governor earlier this month. With increasing attention on nursing home safety and health violations, such efforts could make great strides in better protecting LGBT older adults, a population particularly at-risk for abuse and neglect in nursing homes.

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Angie Perone is the Director of SAGE Metro Detroit and a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Michigan in social work and sociology. She previously served as a civil rights attorney at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, where she oversaw its LGBT Elder Law Project.

doctors, stevedores, actors, professors, cops, nurses, Indian chiefs, average Joes, exceptional Jills. Gaydar was a godsend.

Question: With Grindr, who needs gaydar these days?

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

Donald Trump

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



We desperately need to elect Democrats to act as a real check on Trump's insanity. Because Republicans sure as hell aren't going to do anything.

When the Trump era is written about in history books, assuming we survive that long, if there are any heroes in this sordid story those heroes will be federal judges.

You may recall that in July Trump Tweeted out that “the United States Government will not accept or allow transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military,” without even consulting the Defense Department.

And now a judge has told him, “Nope. You don't get to decree major policy shifts while sitting on the toilet playing with Twitter.” (Note: the judge did not use these exact words.)

On Oct. 30 on Halloween eve (or “Devil's Night” as we in the Detroit area call it), Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, a district judge in Washington D.C., blocked the Trump administration's ban on transgender service members. Because of her ruling, the trans troop ban is dead and unless it comes back to life (as many of the Trump administration's terrible policies tend to do after defeat), “openly trans people could begin joining the military on Jan. 1,” according to NPR.

“This is a complete victory for our plaintiffs and all transgender service members, who are now once again able to serve on equal terms and without the threat of being discharged,” Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said in a statement.

But before you get too excited, let's not forget who is currently appointing federal judges: Donald Trump. And that does not bode well for our future. The people he is appointing are extreme in the extreme. And these are lifetime appointments. We're talking decades of right-wing rule. The likelihood of these judges acting as a check on abuse of power by fellow right-wingers? Nil.

Peter Montgomery, a Senior Fellow at People For the American Way, writing for Huffington Post puts it this way, “In the past, when elected or appointed officials have abused the power of their

office to impose their religious beliefs on others in ways that harm them, we have counted on the federal courts to uphold constitutional principles. That's why it is so potentially damaging to have the Senate approve judicial nominees who see the courts, as right-wing activists do, as an instrument for imposing their religious and political views about morality and the Constitution.”

In other words, we're at the mercy of the U.S. Senate to respect the rule of law enough not to approve these picks. And as you'll recall, the Senate Majority Leader is Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky), the same guy who literally stole a Supreme Court pick from President Obama. In other other words, we're fucked.

Right now the only thing saving us is Trump's sheer incompetence.

According to Ian Millhiser of Think Progress, “Trump keeps losing in court because he's a bumbling goon.”

This, of course, should comfort no one.

We desperately need to elect Democrats to act as a real check on Trump's insanity. Because Republicans sure as hell aren't going to do anything.

Case in point: Alabama senate candidate Roy Moore has called for Judge Kollar-Kotelly to “be impeached by the House of Representatives for unlawful usurpation of power.” This coming from a guy who used to be the Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court but was given the boot when he refused to remove a ten commandments monument.

Moore is perhaps the most extreme candidate currently running, but he's hardly an outlier with today's Republican party.

Just another in a long list of why voting matters. Elections have far reaching consequences, and we don't even know how long the reach of Trump will be, but we know he will grab as much power as he can, along with other words that begin with P that he has no business touching.

Voting is literally self-defense in Trump's America. So go kick some ass.

Key LGBTQ Supporters File Amicus Briefs in Masterpiece Cakeshop SCOTUS Case

BY DREW HOWARD

National business leaders, Congress members and civil rights leaders have raised their voice in support of a same-sex couple who was denied service by a Colorado bakery due to their sexuality.

The ACLU held a teleconference Monday highlighting supporters of the same-sex couple who have filed amicus briefs with the Supreme Court in the Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission case. The list includes more than 35 national business leaders, hundreds of celebrity chefs and restaurateurs, more than 200 members of Congress, leading legal scholars, and the nation's leading LGBT advocacy organizations, among others.

Among the speakers on Monday's conference call was University of Pennsylvania Law School Professor Tobias Wolff, who argued that anti-discrimination laws are not a violation of free speech.

"Anti-discrimination laws applied to businesses in commercial marketplace have never been found to violate the First Amendment," Wolff said. "When objecting businesses say they don't want to serve people like that [Craig and Mullins], the Supreme Court says you can hold those beliefs. However, when you sell commercial goods you are not engaged in your own acts of expression."

In 2012, Charlie Craig and Dave Mullins visited Masterpiece Cakeshop in Lakewood, Colorado to purchase a cake for their wedding reception. The bakery's owner denied service to the men after discovering they were a couple, saying he only made cakes for heterosexual weddings. The bakery was found to have violated Colorado law after Craig and Mullins filed a complaint with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. The baker's argument that he has a constitutional right to discriminate against homosexual couples based on religious and free speech grounds was rejected by the Colorado state courts. The case will be brought to the Supreme Court on Dec. 5 where it will hear oral arguments.

Many of Monday's speakers echoed the idea that this case is about much more than just a cake or a wedding. Iman Jodeh, executive director of Meet the Middle East (Denver), said that an outcome allowing businesses to refuse service to a gay couple could open the doors to even more discrimination.

"It's becoming increasingly easy to replace the bakery with grocery stores, schools, restaurants or any other public service or space, or to replace our gay couple with muslims or jews or DACA students," Jodeh said. "The list goes on, and the reality is that this must stop."

Sarah Warbelow, legal director of the Human Rights Campaign said, "The key message here is businesses that are open to the public should be open to everyone, and should not discriminate based on an individual's identity. While it takes incredible amounts of talent, skill and artistry to prepare food including wedding cakes, it doesn't mean businesses can discriminate. These should be available to anyone able to purchase."

Civil rights leader and Congressman John Lewis also spoke during the teleconference, comparing the struggles of the LGBT community to that of African Americans during the Civil Rights Movement.

"We still have a distance to go," Lewis said. "No American should have to endure the humiliation Craig and Mullins experienced. The world is changing - we cannot and must not and will not roll back."

John Paul Schnapper-Casteras, special counsel for appellate and Supreme Court advocacy with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, references the Piggie Park case from the '60s when a restaurant owner tried to deny service to three African Americans due to religious beliefs.

"We've been here before. Cases like Piggie

Park are stories of progress that should guide the Supreme Court. The wisdom of that court's ruling was accepted and helped moved the country forward, and the same should apply here."

Craig and Mullins will be represented in court by the ACLU when oral arguments will be heard on Dec. 5.

DOJ Seeks Time to Argue for Anti-Gay Baker

Monday's teleconference follows a decision by the U.S. Justice Department under U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions to seek a time slot of 10 minutes before the U.S. Supreme Court to argue on behalf of a Colorado baker who wishes to refuse the sale of make wedding cakes for same-sex couples.

The Washington Blade reports the U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco filed the two-page request Oct. 25 before the Supreme Court, which says the Justice Department "has a substantial interest" in the case because the U.S. government has an interest in "the preservation of federal constitutional rights of free expression."

Jack Phillips, the Colorado baker, bases the argument that he can defy Colorado's non-discrimination law and refuse wedding cakes to same-sex couples based on the First Amendment right to freedom of expression. The request also argues the U.S. government has an interest in the case because the scope of Colorado non-discrimination law, which bars anti-gay discrimination in public accommodations, is similar to Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

As noted in the request, the Justice Department has already filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the case arguing that baking a wedding cake is inherently an act of expression protected under the First Amendment. Therefore, the ability of a baker to deny a wedding cake to same-sex couples for religious reasons should trump any state non-discrimination law.

More information about the Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission case, including a full list of briefs filed on Monday can be found at <https://www.aclu.org/cases/charlie-craig-and-david-mullins-v-masterpiece-cakeshop>.

Judge Opens New Path to Challenge Mississippi Anti-LGBT Law

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

In the aftermath of a higher court overturning his decision, a federal judge who ruled against a Mississippi "religious freedom" law enabling sweeping anti-LGBT law has opened up to a new path for a legal challenge to the statute.

U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves, an Obama appointee, issued the order Friday in the case against Mississippi's HB 1523 filed by the Campaign for Southern Equality and two same-sex couples in the state.

The order lifts a stay in the case, allowing up to five written interrogatories to identify which of the 82 clerk's offices in Mississippi have sought to recuse themselves from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples under the law and the process by which they intend to handle those recusals.

Additionally, the order grants the state until Nov. 13, or a time until the parties may agree, to respond or object to the written interrogatories.

If a Mississippi clerk was found to have recused themselves from issuing marriage licenses or if any such recusal impaired the ability of a same-sex couple to obtain a marriage license, that could form the basis

for a new challenge to HB 1523.

The law, signed by Gov. Phil Bryant last year, allows state government employees who facilitate marriages the option to opt out of issuing licenses to same-sex couples, but the person must issue prior written notice to the state government and a clerk's office must not delay the issuance of licenses.

But the law isn't limited to clerks. It prohibits the state from taking action against religious organizations that decline employment, housing or services to same-sex couples; families who've adopted a foster child and wish to act in opposition to same-sex marriage and individuals who offer wedding services and decline to facilitate a same-sex wedding.

Additionally, the law allows individuals working in medical services to decline a transgender person's request for gender reassignment surgery.

Reeves last year issued a preliminary injunction enjoining enforcement of the "religious freedom" law on the basis that it violated the Establishment Clause, which prohibits the government from aligning itself with a particular religion. In this case, Reeves determined HB 1523 endorsed one particular religious view on LGBT people,

thus was unconstitutional.

But a three-judge panel U.S. Fifth Circuit of Appeals overturned that decision on the basis that plaintiffs lacked standing to challenge the lawsuit. Despite a request from plaintiffs for a "en banc" rehearing before the full court, the Fifth Circuit refused to hear the case. As a result, the law took effect earlier this month.

The Campaign for Southern Equality lawsuit was consolidated with a separate lawsuit filed by LGBT people, a dozen Mississippi ministers and the Joshua Metropolitan Community Church. Lambda Legal, which is representing plaintiffs in that lawsuit, sought relief after the Fifth Circuit ruling rejecting their challenge by filing a petition of certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court. The high court has yet to act on the petition.

As of earlier this month, the Campaign for Southern Equality had also stated a plan to take its challenge up to the Supreme Court. It wasn't immediately clear the organization still plans to pursue that course of action in the aftermath of the judge's order.

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

Trump's Gay Nominee Facing Dem Opposition in Senate

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The first openly LGBT nominee of President Trump's administration is encountering opposition from Democrats, who are objecting to his history of sexist comments.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee narrowly voted to approve gay foreign policy expert Ric Grenell as U.S. ambassador to Germany on 11-10 party-line basis.

A Democratic aide said Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) spoke for Democrats on Grenell's nomination and expressed concern about his public commentary, including degrading comments about the appearance of women. Those remarks, Murphy reportedly said, could be a problem if Grenell becomes the U.S. representative to a country led by arguably the most powerful woman in the world.

During Grenell's confirmation hearing, Murphy raised concerns about Grenell's remarks on Twitter about the appearances of women. Grenell deleted those tweets and apologized for them in 2012 during his brief stint of two weeks on Mitt Romney's presidential campaign, which he noted during the hearing.

"Anybody who knows me knows that I am a very caring person and very sensitive – and I also appreciate good humor," Grenell said in response. "Unfortunately, there are times where what was intended to be humorous turned out to be not so humorous, and, again, that was never my intention and I regret that."

But Grenell has a history of making offensive comments about women long before the advent of social media. A 1995 Washington Post profile on Grenell quotes his fellow staffer in the 1992 Bush-Quayle re-election campaign as saying he once told a female colleague, "Didn't your mother ever tell you only whores and very small children wear red shoes?"

The narrow vote in committee could spell trouble for Grenell when his nomination comes to the Senate floor. If all Democrats vote against his nomination and at least three Republicans vote "no," his confirmation will be sunk.

The opposition to a gay nominee from Democrats marks a considerable contrast to years past when Republicans would be the voice against presidential gay appointments, citing objections to their sexual orientation. But Grenell's sexual orientation isn't the issue for Democrats.

Gregory Angelo, president of Log Cabin Republicans, criticized the Democratic opposition to Grenell's nomination.

"Clearly no Republican is immune from the



Democrats' unhinged opposition to anything and everything proposed by the Trump administration – even a highly qualified openly gay man appointed to represent our interests in a center-right nation that just realized marriage equality," Angelo said. "Pathetic, but not surprising."

Also receiving a 11-10 party-line pick was Sam Brownback, Trump's pick as U.S. ambassador at large for religious freedom, who also has an anti-LGBT record.

Prior to the vote, the Human Rights Campaign sent a letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee urging senators to reject the nomination.

"Over his long career in the U.S. Senate and as governor of Kansas, Gov. Brownback has consistently opposed basic civil and human rights for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender people and queer (LGBTQ) people," wrote Human Rights Campaign Governmental Affairs Director David Stacy. "These positions stand in contrast to longstanding policies of the U.S. State Department and could do severe damage to LGBTQ people living abroad."

During his confirmation hearing, Brownback refused to say under questioning from Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Kaine) that religious motivations aren't sufficient justification for foreign laws instituting the death penalty for homosexual acts.

Approved on a unanimous basis by the committee was former Rep. Pete Hoekstra for the position of U.S. ambassador to the Netherlands. Hoekstra had unanimous support despite an anti-gay history and objections to his nomination from a Dutch LGBT group based on his opposition to same-sex marriage.

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



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LGBTQ-Affirming Preventative Care Available for Lesbian and Bi Women, Trans Men **BODY & FITNESS**

BY NATASHA WILSON AND JENNIFER SCHWARTZ

Women's health has gained greater awareness in the last 20 years, in part due to political debate over reproductive rights, and growing understanding of women's experiences accessing healthcare. For women who identify as lesbians, however, these programs may continue to miss the mark. This population experiences a disproportionate risk for certain health concerns, as well as a lack of provider understanding and even stigma (Transgender and bisexual women also face unique healthcare challenges, albeit different from lesbians, that are worthy of further exploration in a future column).

In particular, lesbian women experience health disparities with regard to cancer risk. As with other LGBTQ individuals, this is due, in part, to an increased likelihood of smoking cigarettes and using other substances (this is a common method of coping for those facing family rejection, stigma, or violence due to their identities). Additionally, lesbians have a decreased likelihood of pregnancy (which can be a protective factor with regard to breast, cervical, and uterine cancer), a higher overall Body Mass Index (BMI), and may have a less robust support system than bisexual or heterosexual women. Finally, lesbian women are much less likely to seek preventative care

due to concerns about finances, meeting the demands of their own roles as caregivers, wishing to avoid provider rejection, and past negative experiences in healthcare settings. This can result in their health care concerns being more serious, and their treatment options more limited, by the time they access care.

Within the current healthcare system, the majority of patients receive health insurance through their employer or the employer of a spouse or parent. This structure places employment as a gateway to receiving access to healthcare. Unfortunately for lesbians and other LGBTQ people, discrimination in employment remains legal and may have serious healthcare-related consequences. Michigan is a state that does not offer consistent protections to its LGBTQ citizens, which means that if lesbian women and other LGBTQ people are targeted for discrimination in the workplace or are denied employment, they may be unable access to care, as a result.

Even for lesbian women who fall within the poverty guidelines that qualify a person for Medicaid or other assistance, there may be additional barriers to finding competent medical professionals. Assuming a patient is fortunate to have healthcare access, most medical students receive an average of only five hours of study related to the health needs of the LGBTQ population, the majority of

which is focused on

HIV prevention and treatment for cis gay men. Even more concerning are the findings of research surveying biases among medical professionals, against lesbians and other LGBTQ patients. A 2014 study – "Attitudes Toward LGBT Patients Among Students in the Health Professions: Influence of Demographics and Discipline" – revealed that, "respondents were more likely to endorse attitudes of tolerance rather than respect for their patients who are LGBT, with the majority of the sample (70 percent) rating themselves as having low self-efficacy for treating LGBT patients."

This gap in understanding and cultural competence has detrimental effects on the health outcomes of all LGBTQ patients and must be addressed.

That said, recent LGBTQ advocacy and Obama-era policies have helped steer grant funding and research toward addressing the unique healthcare needs of lesbians and other LGBTQ populations, including more support for lesbian fertility concerns. However, more research is needed to assess models of care that are effective for lesbians, and to establish the necessity of LGBTQ-inclusive sexual health education and cultural competency training for medical providers. Additionally, funding focused on the provision of LGBTQ-affirming

services – apart from HIV – can be difficult to access.

In light of the health risks faced by lesbians, as well as the barriers to competent care experienced by all LGBTQ patients, Corktown Health Clinic (CHC) is committed to providing access to vitally important cancer screenings. CHC, Michigan's first LGBTQ-focused health center, has partnered with the Tri-County Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCCP) to provide breast and cervical cancer screenings to uninsured and underinsured lesbian and bisexual women, and transgender men, as part of LGBTQ-affirming preventative care. CHC is also working with community partners to bring mobile mammography services on site for patients. Those interested in the cancer screening program, or seeking other medical services, can contact Corktown Health Center by calling 313-832-3300 to schedule an appointment. CHC is located at 1726 Howard Street in Detroit. Visit CHC online at corktownhealth.org.

Natasha Wilson, LMSW, LMT and Jennifer Schwartz, LMSW are the Behavioral Health Services Program Co-coordinators and Therapists at Health Emergency Lifeline Program/CHC in Detroit.



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Health Dept. Vaccinates Staff, Clients at Local Shelters for Hepatitis A

BY BTL STAFF

The Ingham County Health Department vaccinated staff and clientele at two local homeless shelters last week for hepatitis A following possible exposure and an increase in hepatitis A cases in the county.

Three Ingham County residents have been diagnosed with hepatitis A since August, and one of them has died. Although Southeast Michigan has been combating a large hepatitis A outbreak since 2016, the two outbreaks have not been directly linked at this time.

“In two months, we’ve seen the number of cases we typically expect to see over the course of a year,” said Ingham County Health Officer Linda S. Vail. “We are working diligently to stop the outbreak, especially in light of what has happened in Southeast Michigan. We don’t want to see an outbreak on that scale here in Ingham County.”

Hepatitis A is a vaccine-preventable, contagious liver disease. It is often spread through the ingestion of food or water contaminated with infected feces or oral contact with contaminated objects. Transmission can occur easily among household contacts and sexual partners. Risk factors in the Ingham County outbreak include: homelessness or use of transient housing, illicit drug use, incarceration, men who have sex with men, and sex workers and their clients.

The health department provided hepatitis A vaccine at no cost to people connected to the two shelters and is recommending the vaccine to people in high risk occupations. This includes hospital workers employed in the emergency room, the environmental health or sanitation department, and the food service department.

Illness generally occurs two to six weeks after exposure to the hepatitis A virus and includes fatigue, abdominal pain, yellow skin (jaundice), dark urine and pale stool. It can range from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious illness lasting several months. Some people have no symptoms. Vaccination and thorough hand washing can prevent infection.

People who believe they have been exposed to hepatitis A or who have symptoms should contact their health care provider immediately. Anyone who wants to be vaccinated should contact their health care provider or the Ingham County Immunization Clinic at 517-887-4316.



Detroit HealthLink Project Awarded Grant to Research LGBTQ Cancer Disparities

BY DREW HOWARD

A program purposed with addressing cancer-related needs in Metro Detroit has received additional funding that will go toward researching cancer disparities within the LGBTQ community.

Launched in 2016 by Dr. Hayley S. Thompson, the Detroit HealthLink for Equity in Cancer Care program brings community members and cancer researchers together to develop research ideas as well as educational and service-based programs. The program is run through several Cancer Action Councils that are composed of cancer survivors, caretakers, loved ones, as well as interested advocates and community partners.

Dr. Thompson was recently awarded \$250,000 from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to expand her research into the LGBTQ community. Thompson’s grant submission, titled “Partnering with Sexual and Gender Minority Communities to Address Cancer Disparities in Detroit,” promises to give a voice to members of the LGBTQ community affected by cancer.

“In the LGBTQ community, there’s emerging evidence that there are big disparities,” Thompson said. “We want

According to the National LGBT Cancer Network, LGBT people carry a “disproportionate” cancer burden. The organization states that tobacco and alcohol use in the community are much higher than in the general population, and that gay and bisexual men have anal cancer rates 44 times the national average.

to increase their voice and advocate that this population be included in cancer research.”

A 2015 study estimates that there are more than one million LGBTQ individuals living with cancer in the U.S. Thompson’s proposal cites several studies revealing disparities among LGBTQ people in regard to lung cancer, breast cancer, anal cancer, and HIV-related cancers.

Detroit HealthLink will establish two new CACs specializing in the LGBTQ community at the Detroit-based non-profit LGBT Detroit. Applications to become a CAC member are now being accepted.

Danny Inman, program coordinator at LGBT Detroit, said CAC members will go through an 18-month program to increase community engagement in research and build research capacity. Council members will learn different elements of

community research as well as identifying and prioritizing needs in the LGBTQ community. Members will meet up once a month to go over a new lesson module.

“Members who go through these modules will be able to help lead focus groups,” Inman said. “With those focus groups, we hope to understand more about how cancer impacts the LGBTQ community and have research projects that come out of it.”

Focus groups are a new element of the Detroit HealthLink project. Thompson’s proposal promises a series of six focus groups that will address barriers to medical care among LGBTQ people and evaluate the community’s general attitude toward cancer care.

See **LGBT Cancer Disparities**, page 20



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BODY & FITNESS

Corktown Health Center Puts Detroit on the Map for Advances in LGBTQ Health



BY PATRICK YANKEE

The opening of Corktown Health Center (CHC) as Michigan's first nonprofit focused on delivering health care services to the LGBTQ community is an incredible milestone for Metropolitan Detroit and founding organization, Health Emergency Lifeline Programs (HELP). Delivering HIV services since 1986, HELP's leaders first envisioned the health center about five years ago. Since then, they have focused on researching, planning and transforming 25,000 square feet of warehouse space into a modern medical facility in the neighborhood where they have operated for over a decade. It has been a team effort for the staff, board and agency sponsors. CEO, Anthony Williams and COO, Teresa Roscoe, demonstrated leadership, engagement and persistence as the challenging work unfolded. Early this year, I was honored to join them in bringing together the resources to open the doors and to start developing new health programs at CHC.

An LGBTQ health center is hardly a new idea. Major cities have had them

An LGBTQ health center is hardly a new idea. Major cities have had them for years, and they play significant roles in the healthcare safety net in their communities

for years, and they play significant roles in the healthcare safety net in their communities. Around the country, we also see a growing number of HIV programs integrating onsite medical care as part of deliberate efforts towards accomplishing the goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy. After thirty years administering HIV funds, I have never seen such widespread reinvention of programs as I have recently followed in cities like Portland, Cleveland, New Orleans, and Washington D.C. Now we are putting Detroit on the map for advances in LGBTQ health.

Corktown Health Center launched patient care in August with a clinical team comprised of the Medical Director, Latonya Riddle-Jones, M.D., Nurse Practitioner, Patrice Wade-Olson, DNP and talented support staff. Additional capacity will be added soon thanks to funds from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Ryan White Program administered by the Detroit Health Department to expand HIV treatment access and establish a new PrEP program linked to the clinic.

A major collaborator in the development of the LGBTQ-centric health center is Wayne State University School of Medicine and its University Physicians Group. Dr. Riddle-Jones serves as Associate Professor of Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine and

has been developing LGBTQ training opportunities with leaders and colleagues at the School of Medicine and Graduate Medical Education programs. Under Dr. Riddle-Jones' leadership, CHC has already expanded access to breast and cervical cancer screening for uninsured and underinsured patients through a new affiliation with the Tri-County Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (BCCCP) (see related article, pg. 16).

While many have played important roles in helping Corktown Health Center reach this point, special acknowledgements must go to the Harold & Carolyn Robison Foundation, the Metro Health Foundation and individual donors who have supported our work. We are still in the early stages of striving to achieve the full vision created for Corktown Health Center. I hope you will take a moment to visit www.corktownhealth.org to learn more about the services available and how you can support its work. More announcements, updates and opportunities to engage with CHC are coming soon. After all one milestone leads to the next.

Patrick Yankee is the chief development officer at Corktown Health Center, 1726 Howard Street in Detroit. Call 313-832-3300 or email info@corktownhealth.org for more information.

► LGBT Cancer Disparities

Continued from p. 18

Thompson said the focus groups are especially important as there's little research in existence today about sexual and gender minorities and cancer.

"There's still little known about what LGBTQ individuals think about cancer, including their biggest concerns," Thompson said. "There's a focus around health issues and violence and HIV, but there's not a focus on cancer."

According to the National LGBT Cancer Network, LGBT people carry a "disproportionate" cancer burden. The

organization states that tobacco and alcohol use in the community are much higher than in the general population, and that gay and bisexual men have anal cancer rates 44 times the national average.

The organization also reports that one out of five transgender patients has been denied service by a health care provider, which could be linked back to a lack of training in medical school.

"For trans folks, their doctors might not know how to approach the situation," Inman said. "This stuff is difficult for doctors to explore and patients to talk about. That gets really thorny with people."

LGBT Detroit executive director Curtis Lipscomb said there is one element of the project that sets it apart from other research initiatives.

"I don't know of anything like this that exists in Detroit," Lipscomb said. "Our big focus is building research capacity in communities. I think the unique thing about this is that community members will be involved in every level."

For more information about Detroit HealthLink for Equity in Cancer Care, including how to register to become a CAC member, please visit detroithealthlink.org.

Support the T Raises Money for Transition-Related Expenses

Clothing Line Creates, Sells Custom Made Merchandise to Help Trans and Non-Binary Community

BY DAVID RYALS

In January 2016 Liam Vella founded Support the T – his own clothing company that specifically caters to transgender people. Its inception was inspired by a culmination of different things and after a short period of fundraising it came to life. Vella says, “I was seeing an influx of GoFundMe-type pages popping up on my social media feeds. There were so many trans people who needed help raising the funds for their transitions who didn’t feel like they had any other options. I wanted to give them an option that could raise money while also being able to give something back because I know many people are against asking for help without being able to offer something in return. I had the means to create something of value that they could give back while also pursuing my passion of creating LGBTQ-centered shirts and eventually other merchandise.”

It is a way for Vella to give back to the community and help other people achieve



their transition goals. Since its inception it has grown exponentially.

“I am incredibly happy and in total awe of how much we’ve grown since our start less

than two years ago. We are well over 3,000 followers on Facebook and we are starting to see our shirts and buttons pop up in LGBTQ spaces, which never gets old,” said Vella.

Vella attributes their online growth to binder giveaways. Binding is a technique used to minimize the appearance of a person’s breasts. Some transgender men or gender-nonconforming individuals use binders (compression undergarments) to bind the breasts to the body, creating a flatter chest.

“I’ve lost count of how many brand new binders we’ve been able to giveaway and each time we host a giveaway our audience online grows as well, which opens more opportunities for growth each time,” he said. “Seeing how a binder can impact someone who needs one is another feeling that never gets old.”

Vendor events have also contributed to their growth. This summer, Support the T did six different events across southeast Michigan.

“Being out at vendor events is one of my favorite parts of running Support the T,” said Vella. “We get to go out and display all

our products, connect with people attending the events as well as other vendors and the outreach we have is amazing at events. I also think events are one of the best ways for people to support us, as we have a wider reach to people who may not be trans themselves but want to support the cause for family and friends. The person-to-person interaction is truly something special that we can’t get by selling online.”

Support the T stands apart from other clothing lines, even other LGBTQ clothing lines in that almost one hundred percent of shirt sales go to fundraising partners. They are run much more like a non-profit than a business.

“This allows us to also take on more than one fundraising partner at a time which was also important to me,” said Vella. “Don’t get me wrong, I absolutely love what some of those other companies are doing. I just wanted to be sure we were doing something to set ourselves apart. Something that sets us apart

See Support T, page 24

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Tips for LGBTQ People Struggling with Eating Disorders and Body Image Issues

BY MARK THIESMEYER, MS, MPH, RD

The stereotype of gay men being obsessed with our appearance aside, it's a sad fact that LGBTQ people as a whole are at greater risk for eating disorders. LGBTQ individuals are also more likely to experience body dysmorphic disorder (BDD).

And as we all know, the gym is one of the first stops people make when we're trying to improve the way we feel about our bodies. But while some fitness centers and gyms certainly help clients recover from these issues, others can actually make the problem worse – and some places even promote unhealthy approaches to fitness.

Fortunately, once you know what to look for it's fairly easy to determine whether any given fitness center is going to be helpful or hurtful. Here are some tips to help, whether you want to evaluate your current gym or you're in the market for a new fitness center: Where's the scale? I once worked out in a fitness center that had a huge scale right in the middle of the workout room. Checking your weight there was practically a public event. Scale

placement isn't just a matter of protecting clients' privacy – it can also tell you a lot about whether weight loss for its own sake is a high priority at a given gym.

Look at what the staff members are wearing. If the men are all in muscle shirts and the women are wearing nothing but tights and sports bras, that may be a sign that this fitness center is focused on achieving the kind of supposedly ideal body that most of us will never have.

How many mirrors are there? This factor can be a bit tricky to evaluate, because correctly-placed mirrors are essential for helping people check for proper form as they exercise. If there are so many mirrors that you feel like you're in a clothing store fitting room, though, that could indicate that the business is focused more on your appearance than your health.

Pay attention to how the fitness center talks about itself and its clients. Is the gym's website all about creating six-pack abs? Does the fitness center offer classes designed to promote overall health – including things like cardio fitness, strength, balance, and flexibility – or are many, or even most, of the sessions entirely

At the same time, LGBTQ people in particular are more at risk for putting an unhealthy emphasis on the scale, our pants size, or both. In our quest to take the best possible care of our bodies, we need gyms to be part of the solution – not to contribute to the problem.

focused on weight loss? Are the trainers open to whatever a clients' individual goals may be, or does this gym encourage all of its members to measure their progress solely in terms of their measurements?

Finally, take a look at the other clients. Do you see people of diverse ages and body types, or do you feel like you've walked into a Baywatch rerun? A diverse membership is a good sign that you've found a fitness center

that's focused on people's health, not just their waistlines.

It's important to note that weight loss can be a legitimate, important goal on the way to greater health and fitness. It's also not necessarily, or always, a bad thing to hit the gym because you want to be able to tighten your belt another notch or two.

At the same time, LGBTQ people in particular are more at risk for putting an unhealthy emphasis on the scale, our pants size, or both. In our quest to take the best possible care of our bodies, we need gyms to be part of the solution – not to contribute to the problem.

Mark Thiesmeyer Hook, MS, MPH, RD is an author, exercise physiologist and registered dietitian and the owner of the Better Living Fitness Center, which offers personal training, nutrition counseling, Yoga, and cardio classes. Mark lives with his husband, Matt, in Ann Arbor. Contact: mark@betterlivingfitness.com or 734-747-0123.

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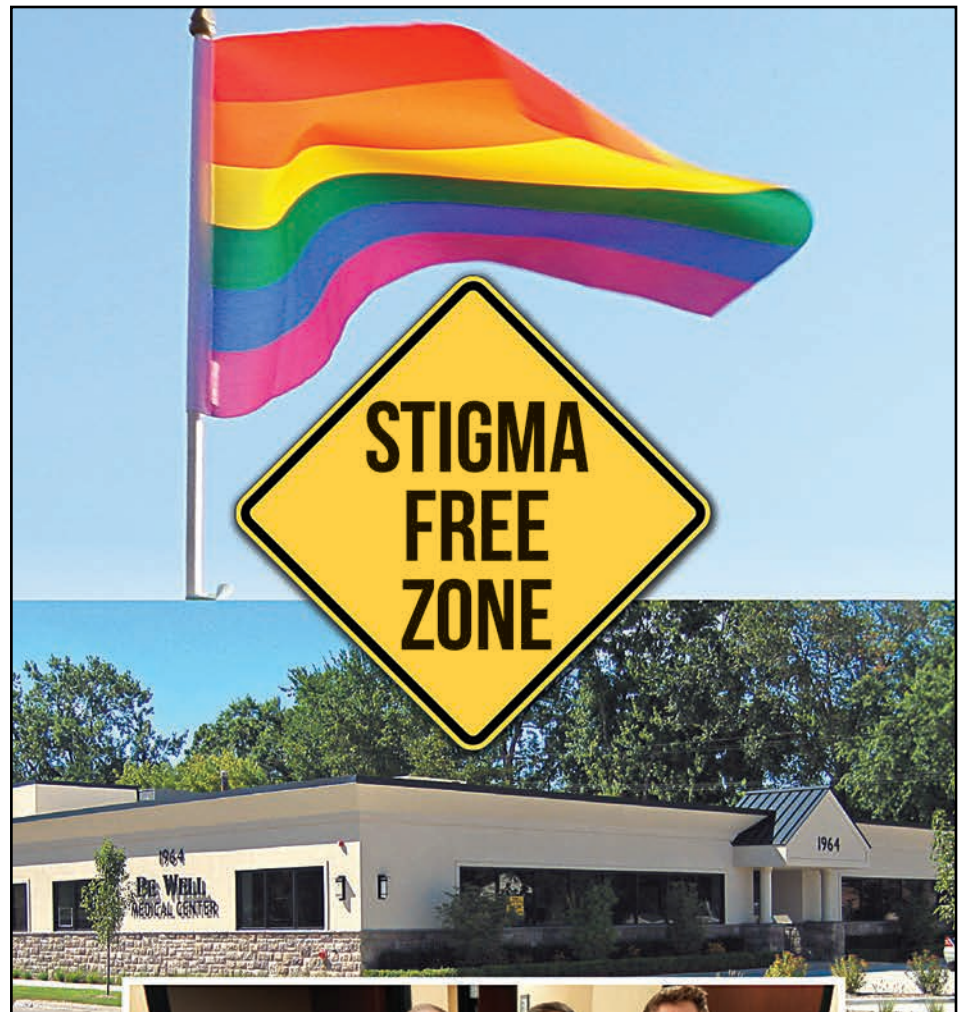
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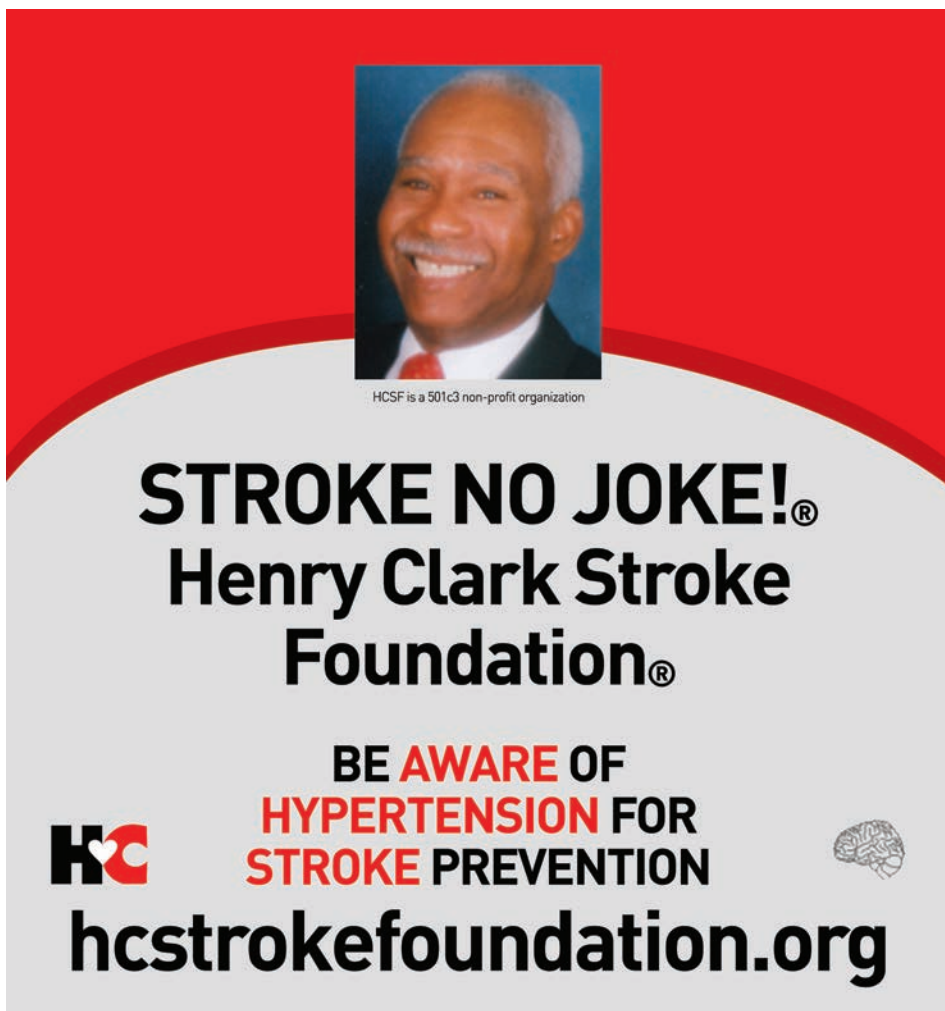
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► Support T

Continued from p. 21

from most clothing brands in general is that we are completely handmade. Support the T is completely trans-owned and run. All of our volunteers identify as LGBTQ in some way or another. We don't sell anything we can't make ourselves."

Support the T has impacted lives in the LGBTQ community in real, life changing ways.

"So far, we have helped 12 people fundraise for their transitions," said Vella. "The amount we've raised has varied from person to person, but there has definitely been steady growth and I'm able to see what works best to help guide our future fundraising partners in the right direction as well. With each of our products I hope to make a small impact, helping someone show their identity and pride through a shirt, or helping them express which pronouns they use with a button. Those are things that matter to people, especially when queer representation isn't a priority in our society."

When asked what he has planned for Support the T in the future Vella said, "I want our merchandise to empower people, to make them feel pride in what they're wearing and how they're presenting themselves. On a larger scale I want to keep growing so we can continue raising money. I want to widen the horizon of who we help, how we help, and how much we are able to help."

Looking ahead, Vella and his team have a wide array of goals set out to achieve.

"Our most immediate goal is to move into a bigger and better production space. Support the T was started and is still run out of a one bedroom apartment with two people living in it. We are looking to move into a bigger space which will help immensely with production and future growth. I am constantly brainstorming what I can do to make Support the T better and where we can go next, so saying exactly what we are up to is hard," he said.

"I could go on for days. Really I'm just optimistic and open to whatever the future holds. I'm always open to new ideas,



collaborations with other queer brands, and whatever else comes my way. I take pride in the fact that everything we sell is 100 percent handmade here in our studio by queer people so I'm constantly trying to find new things that we are able to produce that our supporters might like to buy."

Vella has stayed true to his original aim. Currently he is enjoying the perks of being a small and intimate company and plans on continuing down the path he has paved saying, "From the beginning I've been excited to see where Support the T would go. While I have plenty of ideas and plans, I'm also open to seeing where it goes organically. That's the great thing about being such a small organization is I can take it in the direction I feel is best at the time in



“ I want our merchandise to empower people, to make them feel pride in what they're wearing and how they're presenting themselves. On a larger scale I want to keep growing so we can continue raising money. I want to widen the horizon of who we help, how we help, and how much we are able to help. ”

- Liam Vella founder Support the T

whatever situation arises. I'm excited to see what opportunities arise and where they will lead."

Find Support the T on Facebook <http://gaybe.am/60> or Instagram www.instagram.com/supportthet. Visit the online store <http://supportthet.storenvy.com> or email STT.project@mail.com.



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Mila Kunis and Kristen Bell Talk Gay Bar Shenanigans, 'Frozen' Drag & Waiting to Marry Until Their LGBT Friends Could Too

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

“Are there gays in Michigan? They made it all the way there?” deadpans Mila Kunis to native Michigander Kristen Bell, as if to jokingly say all the world’s queers migrated from her hometown of West Hollywood. Seated next to Kunis, 34, at a hotel conference room in The Peninsula Chicago, Bell, 37, replies plainly: “Well, yes.”

“I grew up with them in my theater community,” adds Bell, who was raised in suburban Detroit. “When I was there it wasn’t talked about, which, when I left, I felt very conflicted about. I hope that it’s a thriving community now.”

“You clearly did not grow up in West Hollywood!” Kunis retorts, after teasing Michigan gays that, “They should get out.”

Though Bell and Kunis come from varying places on the gay geographical grid, their queer-aligned acting catalogues – Bell’s roles in “Veronica Mars” and “Burlesque,”

alongside Cher, as well as “Frozen,” as the voice of Anna; Kunis’ red-hot sex scene with Natalie Portman in “Black Swan” and her role in 2007’s indie film “After Sex,” featuring Kunis getting fingered by actress Zoe Saldana – have certainly reached LGBTQ audiences from Michigan to West Hollywood, and beyond.

The night before our hilariously revealing sit-down, Bell and Kunis were reaching a less-gay demographic: 700-ish drunk moms. The occasion? An advance screening for “A Bad Moms Christmas,” the sequel to 2016’s “Bad Moms,” which also stars “Transparent” fave Kathryn Hahn. To make the yuletide even gayer, Cheryl Hines, Christine Baranski and Susan Sarandon join the moms-gone-wild gaggle, respectively playing the original trifecta’s mummies dearest.

To talk about their raunchy new romp – more specifically, that hot taint-waxing scene featuring “This Is Us” actor Justin Hartley in, to many gay men, a very familiar position

– LGBTQ allies Kunis and Bell met with me on a recent afternoon, looking more like glam moms than bad moms. But when the conversation turned to a diverse range of other topics – how Kunis wouldn’t be married to husband Ashton Kutcher if it weren’t for the legalization of same-sex marriage, and, for Bell, the satisfaction of knowing that queer Disney diehards dress up as Anna at gay parades – the bad-mom duo demonstrated what it means to be a good mom too.

Mila, as someone who grew up in West Hollywood, you’ve been immersed in the gay community for a long time.

Mila Kunis: I do love me some gays.

When’s the last time you went “bad mom” at a gay bar?

Kunis: Oh, it’s been a while. Micky’s (in West Hollywood) hadn’t burned down yet, and I used to go because I lived down the street, on Kings Road. I mean, Fubar, Micky’s, but

before Micky’s burned down. But then it became hip. It was weird. I used to go out to gay bars because I lived in West Hollywood and it was always really easy, like the Abbey. But then when the gays became popular and “in” and fashionable, so did the bars, and it became very hip to go to gay bars. That made me crazy, because I was like, “This is not my intent. I just wanna go and dance to some fucking Madonna. I don’t care that it’s gay.” But it became very hip in LA to be the girl at the gay bar.

Kristen Bell: You invented the girl at the gay bar!

Kristen, have you been the girl at the gay bar too?

Kunis: Every girl in LA has.

Bell: Yes, but not in a very long time – regrettably a *very* long. I went to college in New York and went to a ton of gay bars in college. The last time I remember (going to a gay bar) was when my best friend and

I, before I had kids – probably six years ago – were sitting on the couch one night. (“Veronica Mars” co-star) Ryan Hansen and his wife, Amy (Russell), and my husband (Dax Shepard) and I were so lame, like “What are we doing? Let’s go on a bar crawl!” We went to four different bars in one night, and I can’t even remember the name of the bar we ended up in, but what I specifically remember is that Amy and I were splitting a martini. It was very dangerous. (Laughs)

Kunis: Wow, you guys were so exciting.

Bell: But she didn’t drink any of it! She was pretending to drink it! And then the next day she was like, “I’m pregnant.” Such a lame story, oh my god.

Kunis: No, that was really cute.

Bell: As I was saying it I could feel how lame it was.

But still, you know: gays and pregnancy.

Kunis: Hey, if you’re transgender, it could happen.

You really are up on your LGBTQ-everything, Mila.

Kunis: LGBTQ and Q. I learned there’s a secondary Q.

Bell: What’s the second Q?

Kunis: Don’t ask me, but I know someone corrected me when I went LGBTQ, and they went, “and Q.” Ashton and I, when we saw a sign for LGBTQ, had a whole conversation. “What’s the Q for?” And he was like, “Queer.” And I was like, “You can’t say that.” And he goes, “I think it’s for queer.” And I go, “No, it would never be for queer. Queer is considered derogatory.” But it’s for fucking queer! I don’t even understand this! But I don’t know the second Q. (Kunis asks her assistant, seated nearby, to look up the second Q.)

Bell: My nieces are talking a lot about – is it pansexual? Shouldn’t they be adding a P?

Kunis: It’s too much. This is all becoming too much.

Kunis’ assistant: It’s questioning.

Kunis: See! LGBTQ...Q. Literally, it’s never-ending letters.

If you’ve worked with Cher and you’ve voiced a Disney princess, does that make you a gay icon?

Bell: You tell me.

Kunis: Yes!

Bell: I know better than to put myself in the position of claiming to know what the gay community respects and enjoys... but they seem to enjoy it. (Laughs)

Kunis: If you’re a costume at the gay parade, you’re an icon. You’re a costume at a gay parade, girl! You’re an icon.

What does it feel like knowing the LGBTQ community is dressing up as Anna at gay parades?

Bell: That someone is having a joyful experience and celebrating with an outfit that I somehow had a part in creating feels amazing. It feels like you’re spreading joy. To make anyone else happy feels wonderful.

And if someone will wear that costume and smile and feel like they can relate to that character, then I’ve done a good job on earth.

Mila, with “After Sex” and “Black Swan”...

Kunis: (Looks perplexed) I was like what’s “After Sex”? But yes. Correct. These are my two lesbian parts. Or pansexual. What’s the term?

Are we saying your role in “Black Swan” is lesbian now?

Kunis: We don’t know. Pansexual!

When did you know you had a following in the LGBTQ-and-now-P community?

Kunis: When I was, like, 12, because I lived in West Hollywood, so maybe I’m the wrong person to ask. Always, my whole life!

Bell: I was on Broadway when I was 21 and I had gone to musical-theater school, so you know, the gays love Broadway. Can you believe it? (Laughs)

Kunis: (Sarcastically) They like theater? Wow.

Bell: As do a lot of straight people and a lot of cool people and some nerds! It’s just a wonderful community. So, I think when I was working in New York on Broadway was when I was like, “This is a very chic group of people and they’re mostly gay guys and I love it.”

What did your gay friends think of the first “Bad Moms”?

Kunis: The gay community is so wonderful and has always been so amazing in empowering women, and I think the reason why you have the icons – be it Cher, be it Madonna, be it Britney Spears – is because the rest of the world will be like, “They’re such a bitch,” and the gay community is like, “Fuck yeah they are.” They embrace the powerful woman. Always have. That’s just the way the gays have been about it, and I’ve always loved that about them. Because anytime someone is like (pointing to herself), “She’s a bitch,” my roommate who was gay was always like, “Yeah, she is!” And he’d turn it around. So, I think the gays have always loved any woman on screen that represents power or strength or something that they have overcome – anything that’s positive. Because I feel like being gay is not fucking easy, and I say this because I was raised with the gays my entire life.

It’s always frustrated me when people are like, “It’s a choice.” I never think that people choose to live a life that’s hard. I do think being gay was a challenge for many decades. For our entire life history, being gay was always considered a challenge because, “You chose that, right?” That’s what the world said. And so, I think when they watch women on film who embrace imperfections and embrace challenges and overcome them, and empower themselves and do the opposite of what society tells them to do, they gravitate

See Bad Moms, page 28

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► Bad Moms

Continued from p. 27

toward that. To this day, my friends who are gay will always gravitate toward a woman who empowers her strengths and weaknesses.

You both have made major statements about the gay community throughout your career, and Kristen, you even went as far as to not marry Dax until same-sex marriage was legalized.

Bell: Bet your ass.

Kunis: (Looks to Bell, surprised)

Bell: Yeah, we didn't get married until same-sex marriage was legal.

Kunis: Neither did I!

Bell: You didn't?

Kunis: No, my dad talked about it on my wedding day. His whole speech was about when I was 14, I told my parents I'm never getting married and they were like, "OK, let's talk about this." I was like, "I'm not getting married because the gays can't get married, and so I'm never getting married." Never thinking that the gays were ever gonna get married! So, I was just like, "It is what it is."

Bell: It just felt gross. What are we gonna do? Have a party and be like, "Look at us celebrating this thing you can't do?" That's fucking putrid. Like, 90 percent of our friends are gay!

Kunis: I didn't have that much awareness at 14. I don't know what it was.

Bell: But you knew instinctually. You knew it felt gross, and it *did* feel gross.

Kunis: It just didn't feel equal, so why would I? It just didn't feel like it made sense to me. The concept of marriage didn't make sense to me because my friends couldn't do it, and I found nothing wrong with what they wanted. So, I was like, "Well, then it's not sacred, then it's not what it's supposed to be, so I don't want it."

Then when marriage became legal, the second that it happened I was doing a stunt in London. I was 35 feet in the air and I got a text from my roommate who was married to his husband now of 19 years in London. So they lived a life where they couldn't be together for six years because marriage wasn't technically legal, federally speaking, so they were a cross-continental couple. It was the saddest fucking story ever. So, I got a text that said it was legal, and I'm in the middle of a stunt and there's fire blowing everywhere, and I just start bawling – literally bawling. Because something that I thought was never gonna happen – ever! – happened. The next text was my husband and he was like, "Now what?" And I went, "OK."

"OK," as in we can get married now?

Kunis: Yes.

I didn't know that about you, Mila.

Kunis: I never said it, but then hearing that (about Kristen), I was like, "Fuck it. If you're saying it, then I'll fucking say it."

Bell: I remember (Dax and I) watched the

DOMA reading. It was 7:30 in the morning and he was on the East Coast and I was on the West Coast, and at 7:31 I proposed to him on Twitter to make a fucking point of it. To be like, "Now it's OK, but before, it was not cool."

I love that your men were on the same page about waiting to marry till everyone could marry too.

Kunis: My husband's assistant is a gay guy.

Bell: My husband is the most masculine pro-gay man that you would ever meet.

Kunis: I married a gay man! (Laughs)

Bell: In high school (Dax) would snuggle and spoon with his best friend and his mom would walk into the living room and be like, "Well, OK, anytime you want to talk..." thinking, like, is this opening the door to something? And he was like, "No, I like snuggling! He's my best friend!" And they would just be spooning.

Kunis: Awwww! (Laughs)

Bell: He's so open.

Wait, is cuddling gay?

Bell: (Laughs) No, but you have to be very, very open and aware and sensitive to snuggle another man, straight or gay, as a guy.

There are sometimes I'd rather just snuggle –

Kunis: A dog!

How have you been describing the NSFW scene featuring Kathryn Hahn waxing "This Is Us" heartthrob Justin Hartley's junk to your gay friends?

Bell: If you're wondering, "Should I see 'Bad Moms'?" and if you've ever seen "This Is Us" and thought, "I wonder what that guy looks like naked," then this is the movie for you.

Is that the "Bad Moms Christmas" scene that you hope becomes gay famous?

Bell: The waxing scene is gonna become famous in the gay and straight and comedy communities, without question. The waxing scene, I think, is gonna go down in history next to the "When Harry Met Sally" scene. When I first saw it, my jaw was on the ground. It's incredible.

It's just what 2017 needs, if you ask me.

Bell: It's gonna start –

Kunis: A revolution.

Bell: And 2018 off right. Guys, is it gonna fix it? Is it gonna fix 2017? Maybe this waxing scene is gonna fix 2017.

Kunis: It won't, you guys, but I like this wishful thinking.

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

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LGBT Artwork Selected for #LoveLansing Billboard Project

Artist Paige Kowaleski Helps Put LGBT Pride on Display in Lansing Community



BY KATE OPALEWSKI

When asked by the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, “What do you love about Lansing?” Paige Kowaleski said, “I love that I have a community where I feel loved and respected, no matter my gender identity or sexual orientation.”

She creatively expressed these feelings by designing a piece of artwork to submit for a community billboard project the Arts Council began in August in collaboration with Adams Outdoor Advertising.

The #LoveLansing Billboard Project invites any Greater Lansing resident - people of all ages, backgrounds and artistic abilities - to submit artwork that centers on the #LoveLansing hashtag.

Once submitted, the artists’ works goes before a panel for selection, and Adams will turn the chosen pieces into 10-foot by 30-foot billboards to be placed around the city when space is available.

“We asked people to show us what Lansing means to them, why it’s important to them,” said Elizabeth Kindinger, art director at Adams.

“Paige was the only submission representative of the LGBT community. It was so big and bold and beautiful,” said Kindinger noting Lansing’s growth in diversity and inclusivity in the last few decades.

“Not up until recently would you maybe have seen a piece like this. This piece being out in the community is really a statement of who we are and that’s really important to project onto people,” she said. “The Arts Council really stood behind her and pushed her to take that leap of faith.”

As did Kowaleski’s dad who told her about the contest.

“I haven’t really done any artwork for a couple years, up to this point. Being a single parent and trying to find your way in the world makes it hard to focus on things outside of the big necessities. Mostly I would do drawings as gifts for my loved ones,” she said.

When Kowaleski first came to the Lansing area in 2014, she experienced homelessness with her then two-year-old. She found help at the Siren Eaton Shelter, which serves domestic violence survivors and homeless families in Eaton County. It was there she met her girlfriend, Danielle Chauvin.

“There were a lot of good people who worked there and helped me overcome barriers to getting my own housing...

We didn’t start talking or dating until a year after I had moved out. We ran into each other at Spiral (Lansing’s premier alternative LGBTQ nightclub) on New Year’s Eve,” she said.

Kowaleski said LGBT visibility is important to her.

“I don’t see a lot of publicity about LGBT events, or places,” she said. “I only know about Spiral from being ‘in,’ and Pride is the only event I ever see advertised. I felt creating a piece of art that could be in Lansing, making LGBT families more visible, would be important. It would show people about a huge part of Lansing, that they might not even know about. Even though I suspected it might make some people uncomfortable.”

Kowaleski said she wasn’t feeling particularly political when she created her piece.

“I was more concerned about how we treat each other. I’m so tired of people judging each other and dogging people for being different. People influence politics. You can say whatever you want in the Capitol building, but it won’t mean a thing unless it is internalized,” she said.

Inspired by the graffiti murals on the tall, brick walls in Lansing’s Old Town, Kowaleski said she asked her Facebook friends to send her pictures of themselves with their significant others.

“I wanted all couples represented so I asked for boy/girl,

See Lansing Billboard, page 37


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OUTINGS

Thursday, Nov. 2

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

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

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

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 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

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

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

Friends and Families 12:30 p.m. Support

group for friends and families of LGBTQ identifying persons. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. haymer@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.org

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

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

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

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

Sunday, Nov. 5

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

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

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

Monday, 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

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

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

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

Sexual Addicts Anonymous 7 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. 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

www.goaffirmations.org

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

Tuesday, 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@mmsinc.org mmsinc.org

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

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

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

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

Editor's Pick

A Drag Queen Christmas: The Naughty Tour

Murray and Peter present A Drag Queen Christmas: The Naughty Tour hosted by Roxxy Andrews at 7 p.m. on Nov. 21 at the Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. This is a must-see holiday spectacular featuring some of the country's best known drag performers like Kim, Shea, Latrice, Aja, Naomi, Farrah, Chi Chi and Eureka. Call 800-745-3000 to purchase tickets. Visit www.dragfans.com for more information.



Editor's Pick

Harry Potter Celebration to benefit the Salus Center

On Nov. 11, the Firefly Farm at 3180 Hagadorn Rd. in Mason will transform into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. There will be pony rides, wizarding crafts, Quidditch pong, themed drinks and potions, caramel apples, house sorting, wand making and more. Suggested donation: \$10. All ages welcome. Costumes encouraged. The event starts at 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.saluscenter.org.



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

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, 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

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

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

Transcend 6:30 p.m. For transgender and gender non-conforming individuals OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. www.outfrontkzoo.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

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

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

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

Thursday, Nov. 9

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

The Silent Epidemic: A Conference on Suicide 12 p.m. Join ranking mental health professionals, employee and union leadership, clergy, people who have lost their loved ones to suicide, and people who have survived suicide attempts at this three-day event focused on suicide prevention and healing. Registration: \$75-200 before Sept. 30 and \$100-300 after Sept. 30. Kevin's Song, 44045 Five Mile Road, **Plymouth**. 313-236-7109. gail@kevinsong.org <https://kevinsong.org/conference/>

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

Connections Youth Group 6 p.m. For youth ages 13-18 OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

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

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

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

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

Friday, Nov. 10

Department of Victim Services

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

ACLU Annual Dinner "We The People" 6:30 p.m. ACLU Michigan is hosting it's annual fundraising dinner @ Cobo Center, featuring keynote speaker, comedian Hasan Minhaj. The LGBT Project of the ACLU is prominently featured. ACLU of Michigan, 1 Washington Boulevard, **Detroit**. 3135786800. www.aclumich.org

Saturday, Nov. 11

Harry Potter Celebration to benefit the Salus Center 1 p.m. Pony rides, wizarding crafts, Quidditch pong, themed drinks and potions, caramel apples, house sorting, wand making and more. Suggested donation: \$10. All ages welcome. Costumes encouraged. Firefly Farm, 3180 Hagadorn Rd., **Mason**. www.saluscenter.org

Motor City Bears 6:30 p.m. A gay male, social and fund raising activity group for Bears and admirers, established in 1994. Meet and greet starts at 5:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

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

Sunday, Nov. 12

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

MUSIC & MORE

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre "A2CT Acting Workshop" Ann Arbor Civic Theatre is thrilled to announce that veteran actor, director, & instructor Glenn Bugala will be teaching a 5-session Acting 2 class focusing on scene work. Glenn is an actor & director who has directed many A2CT's critically acclaimed productions. A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., **Ann Arbor**. Nov. 11 - Dec. 16. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org/classes-and-workshops

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre "A2CT Improv Troupes Fall Showcase" The hugely successful Civic Improv Ensemble will present a Fall Showcase, with all three Civic Improv troupes performing in four shows in the A2CT Studio. Tickets are \$10 and are available by phone at 734-971-2228 or in limited quantities at the door.

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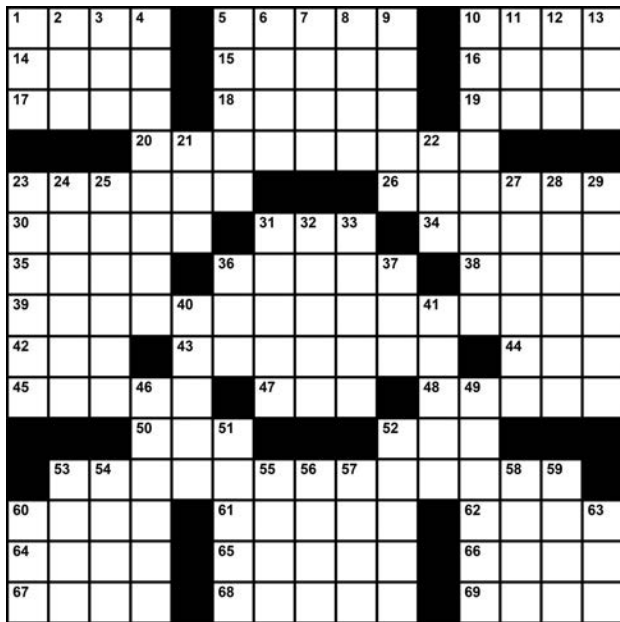
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Q Puzzle



- about autoeroticism, perhaps
 42 Spring month for Vivien
 43 Ferrera of "Ugly Betty"
 44 Title for Laurence Olivier
 45 Come out in the long run
 47 Head job?
 48 Metal waste
 50 Nurse in a bar
 52 Pitching stat
 53 End of the quote
 60 The Queen Elizabeth, for one
 61 Number of sides to a gay symbol
 62 Suffix with beef or fruit
 64 Wilde land
 65 "King Lear" daughter
 66 Took a bough?
 67 2000 Ian flick
 68 Kelly Clarkson and Will Young, e.g.
 69 Box tops
- 12 ___ dance (stripper's offering)
 13 Printers' measures
 21 Workers under Dr. Torres
 22 Palindromic preposition
 23 Working hours
 24 Role for Anthony or Freddie
 25 Stone-faced
 27 Like a melody, to Bernstein
 28 Sandy of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf"
 29 They can cut leaves of grass
 31 Worked one's shaft
 32 "Hedwig and the ___ Inch"
 33 Count contemporary of Ethel Waters
 36 Soft in the head
 37 Word after post or ad
 40 Lacking life
 41 Moraga's mother
 46 Frequent grand slam title of Billie Jean King
 49 One who may act up
 51 Dish name
 52 Makes straight
 53 Passing fancy
 54 Put in a position?
 55 Where you stack wood or spank a fanny
 56 Therefore
 57 Ginsberg's "In Back of the ___"
 58 Ankle-length skirt
 59 Just managed, with "out"
 60 Safe follower
 63 Some staffers at The Advocate (abbr.)

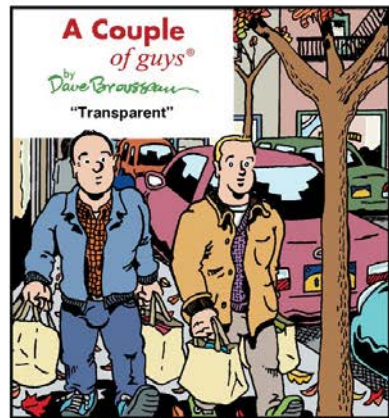
Down

- 1 Solidly behind
 2 Young chap
 3 Actress ___ Aduba, who plays 20-Across
 4 Pal of Romeo
 5 Where to see Tom, Dick, or Harry
 6 Star of "There's Something About Mary"
 7 Stephen McCauley's "The ___ Way Out"
 8 It comes before date?
 9 "So long!"
 10 Albee Pulitzer Prize work
 11 Guns N' Roses frontman
 Rose

Suzanne Summarizes

Across

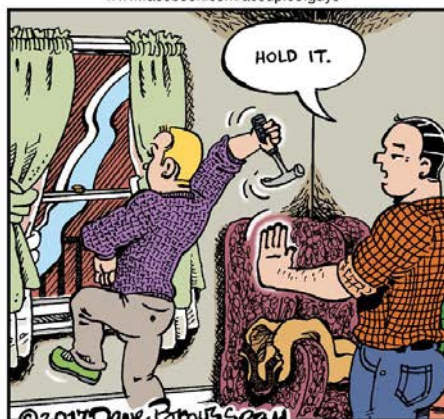
- 1 A shade of the color purple
 5 What comes out of your head
 10 Abercrombie & Fitch event
 14 Attack with wrecking balls
 15 Queer activist Murphy
 16 A doctor makes you strip for it
 17 Something the nose knows
 18 Sample some buns, e.g.
 19 Mounts, to Maria von Trapp
- 20 Suzanne's nickname on "Orange Is the New Black"
 23 Not getting enough credit
 26 Place for pinballs
 30 "Designing Women" actress Annie
 31 Queen in "Romeo and Juliet"
 34 Like cornstalks that bear
 35 "Star Trek" counselor Deanna
 36 Shore of Palm Springs
 38 Mulan's male persona
 39 Start of a quote by Suzanne



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7 Award-Worthy LGBT Films (That You Probably Haven't Seen) to Cozy Up to This Fall

BY MIKEY ROX

Over network TV? Tired of Hulu? Seen *everything* on Netflix? Dig a little deeper to find meaningful and surprisingly well-executed LGBT films making the festival rounds this fall.

1. 'The Lavendar Scare'

A documentary detailing the homosexual witch hunt sanctioned by the U.S. government in the 1950s (made possible by then-Senator Joseph McCarthy's anti-communism campaign), "The Lavendar Scare" – which has been in production since at least 2013, but only released last year – follows several subjects, including lifelong LGBT activist Frank Kemeny, as they tell their harrowing stories of humiliation, blackmail, and dismissal of civil service for what amounts to nothing more than keeping their private lives private. This eye-opening doc is still making the rounds – recently winning awards at film fests in Atlantic City; Fargo, North Dakota; Hartford, Connecticut; Kansas City; and Memphis – but you may find it among the screenings at an art-house theater or LGBT film festival near you. If not, call your local indie joint and request it.

2. 'Close-Knit'

You might not expect one of the most progressive trans films ever made to emerge from Japan – especially considering that's it's the first trans film to come from the country *ever* – but it makes sense for "Close-Knit," a surprising narrative that focuses on the beating heart of a blended-by-circumstance family. The film takes issue with the trans plot line as an aside, welcomingly, and rather pays attention to the bond formed between a young girl and her uncle's male-to-female partner during the absence of her oft-missing mother. The film, directed by Naoko Oigigami, took home the top prize at the Far East Film Festival in Udine, Italy; Best Narrative Feature at the Tel Aviv International LGBT Film



Festival; and the Teddy Jury Award at the Berlin International Film Festival.

3. "Families Like Yours"

Underwritten by Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Wells Fargo, and the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, "Families Like Yours" showcases through candid interviews the challenges of raising an LGBT family in America – which, for all intents and purposes, is not unlike raising a "traditional" family in America (the whole point of this documentary) – as it introduces us to the LGBT men and women called mommy and daddy by their children, including

out actor Denis O'Hare, husband Hugo Redwood and adopted son Declan. The film recently screened at Fort Lauderdale's OUTshine Film Festival, following its July premiere in New York City presented by Deutsche Bank.

4. 'God's Own Country'

There's a lot to like about Britain's "God's Own Country" – before you even sit down to watch it. If its Sundance Film Festival cred doesn't attract you – it was the only UK-based movie to feature in the world drama category at this year's event – perhaps its 98-percent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes will do the trick. Drawing comparison to "Brokeback



Mountain" (which, admittedly, is an easy association for our community for any material portraying rough sex in a rural setting between two partners who don't consider themselves "gay"), "God's Own Country" at least does right where that Best Picture Oscar nominee broke our hearts by pursuing a happy ending. Even if that is relative nowadays.

5. 'After Louie'

Artist and ACT UP activist Sam (Alan Cumming), who lived through the early years of the HIV/AIDS crisis, is disillusioned by Millennials' seeming disregard for the disease as they solicit casual sex through social media with seemingly no regard for the

6. 'High Low Forty'

Long-estranged brothers Billy and Joe reconnect during a road trip back to their native Texas to be by their dying father's side. The sibs haven't seen each other in a while because after Billy was discharged from the Army, he beat feet to Los Angeles, the reason for which plays out over the long ride home (though you've probably already guessed why). Directed and written by and starring Paddy Quinn, "High-Low Forty" won Best Narrative Feature at this year's GI Film Festival in San Diego.

7. 'Rift'

Iceland – if you're not aware – has a solid track record for producing attention-commanding queer films (if you haven't found "Heartstone" yet, track it down), and "Rift" is no exception. This thriller/horror-mystery finds ex-boyfriends Gunnar and Einar holed up together in BFI (that's Bumfuck, Iceland for the uninitiated) haunted by their past and a few bumps in the night. The film won the Artistic Vision Award at L.A. Outfest 2017 and is scheduled for limited theatrical release on Nov. 21.

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.

Editor's Pick

Annual Michael vs. Prince Party

Corner Productions invites members of the community to their annual Michael vs. Prince party on Nov. 25 at 8 p.m. featuring DJ's John Arnold and Todd Osborn. For 12 years, this legendary event pays tribute to both music icons - Michael Jackson and Prince - at the Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore St. in Detroit. Tickets are \$15 for the 21+ event. For more information, visit <http://gaybe.am/Ss>.



► Happenings

Continued from p. 31

Due to limited seating, ordering tickets in advance is recommended. A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 10 - Nov. 11. 734-971-2228. <http://www.a2ct.org/events/improv-troupe>

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

Michigan Opera Theatre "Kathleen Battle in Recital" This legendary soprano continues to hold audiences spellbound with her luminous voice that is, without question, one of the very few most beautiful in the world. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 4 p.m. Nov. 5. 313-237-SING. www.michiganopera.org

Theatre Detroit "The Con" Tegan & Sara are traveling across North America performing acoustic arrangements from The Con album. Tickets start at \$29. Detroit Masonic Temple, 500 Temple Street, Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 5. 313-638-2724. www.themasonic.com

University Musical Society "The Jake is Mightier than the Sword" Originally a five-minute show shot from his laundry room & posted on YouTube after protests in Tahrir Square unseated Egypt's ruling elite, it became the most-watched program in the region, with 30 million viewers every week. Throughout its three seasons, the show remained controversial for its hilarious and bold criticism of ruling powers. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 6. 734-764-2538. <https://ums.org>

University Musical Society "Chanticleer Heart of a Soldier" Chanticleer is known around the world as an 'orchestra of voices' for the seamless blend of its 12 male voices. Check website for more info. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. Nov. 10. 734-761-1800. www.ums.org

Concerts

Detroit Public Television "Detroit Performs Live" 3rd Annual Celebration of Motor City Music American Idol winner Ruben Studdard along with Alexander Zonjic, The Motor City Horns, Ethan Daniel Davidson, Jill Jack, Lady Sunshine, Tom Butwin and The Miracles Revue featuring Mark Scott. Ticket start at \$25. The Fillmore, 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Nov. 3. 800-859-9887. www.detroitperforms.org/live/

Olympia Entertainment "Lady Gaga". Olympia Entertainment, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 7. www.olympiaentertainment.com/

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

THEATER

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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

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

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

Detroit Mercy Theatre Company Library Event LIBRARY SERIES - A movie scene. A scene from a play. How do scenes work? The University of Detroit Mercy Theatre Company will present an interactive experience about the making of a scene using a scene from their first production, A Bright Room Called Day. Join us at the Ferndale Public Library and learn how a scene is crafted to move a story forward. Detroit Mercy Theatre Company, Ferndale Public Library, 222 E Nine Mile Rd, Ferndale. 6:30 p.m. Nov. 8. 313-993-3269. TheTheatreCo.com

Kinky Boots Tickets: \$30. Olympia Entertainment, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 3 - Nov. 5. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.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. Through Nov. 19. 734.635.8450. www.theatrenova.org

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

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

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

The Color Purple. Broadway in Detroit, Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Nov. 7 - Nov. 12. 313-872-1000. www.broadwayindetroit.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

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. 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

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

Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series "Art Spiegelman: Comics is the Yiddish of Art" Artist/Illustrator Art Spiegelman is known widely for his Pulitzer Prize-winning literary graphic novel Maus, a Holocaust narrative. His current project, WORDLESS!, a multimedia look at the history of the graphic novel, had its world premiere at the Sydney Opera House. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty Street, Ann Arbor. 5:10 p.m. Nov. 9. 7347643464. https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/art_spiegelman

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

Detroit Repertory Theatre 61st Season Black Tie Celebration 6:30 P.M. Saturday November 18, 2017

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

John Corvino Selected as Next Dean of Irvin D. Reid Honors College

BY BTL STAFF

The Office of the Provost is pleased to announce that John Corvino has been selected to serve as the next dean of the Irvin D. Reid Honors College. Corvino will begin serving in this position on July 1, 2018. He succeeds founding Dean Jerry Herron, who has led the Honors College since 2008.

“After a number of discussions with several faculty candidates and discussions with leadership from around the university, John Corvino was clearly the best candidate for this challenging role,” said Provost Keith Whitfield.

Corvino arrived at Wayne State as a lecturer in 1998, earning tenure in 2007 and becoming full professor in 2015. He holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor’s from St. John’s University (New York), whose own Honors Program he credits for an excellent educational foundation.

Much of Corvino’s research aims to build bridges on controversial “culture war” issues regarding sexuality and marriage. He is the author of numerous articles, as well as three books from Oxford University Press: “Debating Same-Sex Marriage” (with Maggie Gallagher, 2012), “What’s Wrong with Homosexuality?” (2013), and “Debating Religious Liberty and Discrimination” (with Ryan T. Anderson and Sherif Girgis, 2017).

Corvino is the recipient of several teaching awards, including the Wayne State University President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and a 2012 Distinguished Professor of the Year Award from the Presidents Council of the State Universities of Michigan. In



2012, he became chair of the Wayne State Philosophy Department, where he has focused on building and strengthening ties with other university departments and reforming undergraduate and graduate program curricula. He also continues to be active as a “public philosopher,” having spoken at more than 250 campuses around the country and the globe. He lives in Detroit.

“I am excited to begin this new role, having enjoyed working with our Honors students in many classes during my two decades at Wayne State,” said Corvino. “I am deeply humbled to follow founding Dean Jerry Herron, who has built a fantastic college worthy of the exceptional students it serves.”

Whitfield also thanked Herron for his long and distinguished service as founding dean of the Honors College. “I have enjoyed working with Dean Herron and will miss his thoughtful, caring and compassionate leadership. I have always found him to be the quintessential example of selfless administrator, scholar and gentleman, and we will miss his contributions to the leadership of the university. The university is truly a better place because of his longstanding and steadfast leadership.”

Henry Ford Village Implements Collaborative Education Experience Pairs Local Interior Design Students with Senior Living Residents

BY BTL STAFF

Senior living community Henry Ford Village announced Oct. 24 that they are hosting a collaborative education experience program known as the Student Designer Show House with the interior design students from Eastern Michigan University and Henry Ford College. The program is designed to give students at the universities a chance to practice their skills in real life situations. As part of a full-semester class project, students will have the opportunity to meet with Henry Ford Village residents and work closely with them to completely redesign a living space at Henry Ford Village.

Susan Haifleigh, an instructor of interior design at the School of Visual and Built Environments at EMU, expressed her enthusiasm for the program when she said, “This is a wonderful way to take the academic theories the students are learning in our classrooms and apply them in the real world. Because of collaborations like this one, we know our students will produce creative solutions that are also grounded in reality.”

In addition to working with residents throughout the semester, this first-of- its-kind collaborative education experience will also feature a very special series of viewing events. The events will be held at Henry Ford Village Dec. 6-9 with three homes designed by the participating students open for viewing.

Karen Wilmering, program coordinator of interior design at Henry Ford College said, “Our students are privileged to work with Henry Ford Village to gain this practical experience and believe it to be an honor to give

back to our community through this innovative service project.”

The viewings begin on Dec. 6 with a premiere night open exclusively to the residents of Henry Ford Village, followed by an open house for participating students and their guests on Dec. 8, and finally on Dec. 9, the homes will be available for viewing by the general public. Following the public viewings, the program will end with the completed living space being presented to the Henry Ford Village residents that worked with the students throughout the semester.

More About Henry Ford Village

Henry Ford Village is a vibrant, thriving, active community for people who have worked hard and are looking to get the most out of life by living a maintenance-free lifestyle. A multitude of activities and amenities can be found on the 35-acre grounds including shopping, dining and entertainment. With levels of care that range from fully independent living to assisted living, the staff is available 24/7 at Henry Ford Village which specializes in the latest innovations in senior care. Offering both memory support and a top-quality health rehabilitation center, Henry Ford Village provides skilled nursing and specialized care programs tailored to their resident’s individual needs.

To learn more about the Student Designer Show House program contact Denise Sutton at 313-584-5200 or email: suttondenise@hfvillage.com

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2441 Pinecrest Ferndale, MI
248-399- 7741
www.mccdetroit.org

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Box 558 - Royal Oak, MI 48068 - (313) 278-4786
www.dignitydetroit.org

MI Launches First Trauma Recovery Center in Flint for Victims of Violent Crime

BY BTL STAFF

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services announced Oct. 27 that Hurley Medical Center in Flint will serve as the first Trauma Recovery Center in Michigan to provide crisis intervention to hospitalized traumatic violent crime victims.

Michigan will be just the third state in the nation to build a network of Trauma Recovery Centers. To launch this new center, MDHHS has granted \$365,927 to Hurley Medical Center.

“We are proud to launch Michigan’s first Trauma Recovery Center in partnership with Hurley Medical Center to improve the services available to victims of crime, especially those who may face challenges in accessing services,” said James McCurtis, Manager of Crime Victim Services, MDHHS. “After a violent crime has occurred, this new Trauma Recovery Center will ensure that victims are immediately connected to support services.”

The TRC at Hurley Medical Center will operate in partnership with community service organizations to provide comprehensive treatment to crime victims. TRC trauma counselors will provide immediate mental health support and advocacy to hospitalized patients who are the victims of traumatic violent crimes such as gunshot and stab wounds, gang violence, physical attacks, sexual assault, human trafficking, domestic violence, and hate crimes.

“In year one of what is planned to be a multi-year initiative, funded by the MDHHS, Hurley will hire staff, and refine the TRC’s scope of services while solidifying collaborative partnerships with other local

service organizations.

When fully implemented, Hurley’s TRC will follow and care for victims throughout their hospital stay and post hospital experience, providing them a familiar face to associate with during a time where they have been uprooted from everything in their lives. The TRC is being developed in collaboration and with the support of national partners including the Alliance for Safety and Justice, UC San Francisco Trauma Recovery Center, and local partners.

“Michigan is showing national leadership in how to help victims heal and stop the cycle of crime. Unaddressed trauma is too often an invisible epidemic,” said Lenore Anderson, President, Alliance for Safety & Justice. TRC advocates will provide patients with trauma counseling and assistance with any other immediate needs such as food, clothing, and housing. An advocate will also help victims apply for victim compensation and will, if needed, arrange for victims to receive more specialized assistance, such as substance abuse treatment, legal advocacy, joblessness, or psychological trauma treatment. Beyond leaving the hospital, the TRC will assist with services including follow up treatment, counseling, transportation and more.

Michigan’s TRC is modeled on the California TRC network. The UC San Francisco Trauma Recovery Center reports that 74 percent of patients showed an improvement in overall mental health. There was also a 65 percent increase in sexual assault survivors who received follow-up treatment and a 56 percent increase in victims returning to employment. MDHHS aims to launch additional TRCs throughout the state in the future.

► Lansing Billboard

Continued from p. 29

two girls and two boys. It’s important that we all respect each other’s love. All love is important,” she said. “I was really excited about the thought that my art would be seen by a huge number of people. Billboards are unmissable broadcasts that locals and visitors to Lansing would see. People would see my name and maybe I would have more opportunities to do art for people, or businesses. Also, my art had to have a greater meaning, a higher purpose – to open people’s minds and eyes to the diverse communities around us.”

Kowaleski has found peace through practicing her art.

“I am a survivor and live with anxiety disorder and PTSD,” she said. “This affects my whole life, often leaving me debilitated and isolated. Art gives me something to focus on, apart from my feelings of anxiety. I am

disappointed that this contest is over, because I found a great sense of purpose while I was working on my piece.”

Since the contest ended, Kowaleski has become a member of the Arts Council.

“I am hoping to be involved with the projects and contests that they organize for community members. I would love to make connections with other artists and people working in the industry,” she said. “I am hoping to open some doors to a career opportunity in graphic design.”

The project will produce up to 40 billboards this fall. Kowaleski’s billboard is set to stay up until Jan. 1. There will be a call for new artists to submit their work in mid-December.

Follow Adams Outdoor Advertising on Facebook <http://www.adamsoutdoor.com/#1> for more information. Stay connected with the Arts Council of Greater Lansing online <http://lansingarts.org/post/call-for-artists-lovelansing-billboard-project>.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Find over 300 Non-Profit Listings Serving Michigan's LGBTQ Online @ www.pridesource.com

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

AIDS/HIV

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

AIDS Walk Detroit

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

Macomb County STD Clinic

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

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

Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

120 Parsons Street
Detroit, MI 48201
888-226-6366
248-545-1435
www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/ryanwhite/

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

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

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

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

Campus

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

U-M Ann Arbor

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

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

Eastern Michigan University

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

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp

Wayne State JIGSAW

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

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor
www.jimtoycenter.org
www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter
or follow them on Twitter @JimToyCenter.
319 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI
734-995-9867

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

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

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI
www.aclumich.org
313-578-6800

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI
313-578-6812
sagemetrodetroit.org
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

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

Stonewall for Revolution

www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

Ties Like Me

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

Suits And The City

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

Transgender

FtM Detroit

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

FtM A2 Ypsi

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

Transgender Michigan

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

Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

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

Ozone House

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

Stand With Trans

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



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

Find these resources online

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

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

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

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

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What is Mytesi?

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

Important Safety Information

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

**For Copay Savings Card and
Patient Assistance, see Mytesi.com**

Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

NP-390-32

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IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

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

What Is Mytesi?

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

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

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

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

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

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

Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

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

A Nursing Mother?

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

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

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

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?

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

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

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

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

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