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# Trans in the Military: Meet Char Davenport



Char Davenport is a Navy Veteran from the Vietnam era conflict. She has dedicated her life to achieving equality for the transgender community in the work place, health care, public accommodations, voter rights and education helping train dozens of new advocates and leaders in the movement. Char is the Michigan Field Organizer for the National LGBTQ Task Force's Faith-based Gender Justice and Allyship Project.

## Thank Them for Their Service by Protecting Their Right to Serve

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Individuals enlist in military service for a multitude of reasons but all ultimately stand proudly for their service to this country. Many, including LGBTQ service members, make the ultimate sacrifice. Each year on Nov. 11 we celebrate Veterans Day honoring and thanking them for their service.

In a series of tweets, Pres. Trump announced that transgender people would be banned from serving in the U.S. military “in any capacity” attempting to reverse an Obama-era decision to support those who would live openly and authentically as transgender while in service of their country.

Char Davenport is a Navy Veteran from the

Vietnam era conflict. She has dedicated her life to achieving equality for the transgender community in the work place, health care, public accommodations, voter rights and education helping train dozens of new advocates and leaders in the movement. Char is the Michigan Field Organizer for the National LGBTQ Task Force's Faith-based Gender Justice and Allyship Project.

She has helped pass non-discrimination ordinances across Michigan and works with the National Center for Transgender Equality. She's often in Washington DC lobbying her representatives, including a recent trip to support measures to curb gun violence. Like many who enlist even today, Char's motivation initially was more for opportunity than patriotism.

“I was 18 years old trying to navigate my way in a small conservative factory town. I knew I had to get out of where I was because I was headed for a lot of trouble. I was contemplating my future and I happened to be walking downtown. A Navy recruiter flagged me down. I walked into his office and they said I could be anything I want which was an interesting proposition, so I enlisted. I also knew that I could travel. The one thing that the Navy did was travel, you went everywhere. And I really saw this as an opportunity” Davenport said in a recent interview on Collections by Michelle Brown.

Davenport had not come out as transgender while in the military but credits the experience for helping her take those early steps to living authentically.

“After I had enlisted I could see the pride that my father had in his son and I was glad that he was happy. And quite frankly I had hoped that that's what the Navy would do. It would be kind of a hyper masculine experience; a masculine environment and you know I would get myself right so to speak. I thought I thought this could be like a war to make me who I should be. But while I was in the military that's really when I became aware that I was transgender. So, while I was maybe thinking that it would help me man up or whatever, what I actually discovered was that I was not alone. I met other trans service members who were serving very secretly just like myself.”

In his July tweets Trump not only called for a ban of transgender people from serving in the U.S. military “in any capacity” but went on to say that the military “...cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail.”

How did these tweets feel to this veteran?  
“You know with President Barack Obama

it just looked like we had so much hope. We had all this momentum. And then when Donald Trump, President Donald Trump, announced his decision to ban transgender service members - it felt that he had told us (transgender vets and service members) no thanks we don't appreciate you. And it just felt like a dirty trick. And I cried, and I was angry and I was almost speechless. It felt like a kick in the gut. And then when you're down there is another kick in the head and it scared me quite frankly” Davenport said.

A 2016 study commissioned by the Pentagon itself contradicts the President's rationale, finding that the medical costs for transgender military members would be an “exceedingly small portion of active-component health care expenditures.”

As for the presence of transgender service members being disruptive, Davenport added “When I look back at it now and you know everything that I did. In the military back then. I would have been able to do had I transitioned. Back then there was nothing that I could not have done. But it would have been nice to serve openly certainly for me and the others. But I also think it would have been better for the entire squadron that was in the squad. And I think it would have actually created more cohesion rather than tension.” Human rights and LGBT-rights organizations filed two federal lawsuits against President Trump and members of his administration alleging that a ban against transgender people serving in the military is unconstitutional. Recently, Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia cited Trump's tweets as among the reasons she was temporarily blocking Trump's ban on enlisting and retaining transgender military personnel.

Some things haven't changed. Members of the LGBTQ community will be attracted to military service for many of the same reasons that attracted the young Char Davenport to enlist.

As we thank all veterans for their service this November, let's stand together to protect those in the Transgender community right to serve.

*To hear the full interview with Char Davenport follow Collections by Michelle Brown podcast on Blog Talk Radio, iTunes, Stitcher or SoundCloud Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. Her weekly podcast “Collections by Michelle Brown” airs every Thursday at 7 p.m. and can be heard on Blog Talk Radio, iTunes, Stitcher and SoundCloud. Follow her on Facebook at “Collections by Michelle Brown.”*



## WHAT IS GENVOYA®?

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

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

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

#### GENVOYA may cause serious side effects:

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

### Who should not take GENVOYA?

#### Do not take GENVOYA if you take:

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

### What are the other possible side effects of GENVOYA?

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

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

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

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

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking GENVOYA?

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

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

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

**Ask your healthcare provider if GENVOYA is right for you.**

GENVOYA does not  
cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

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

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(jen-VOY-uh)

## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GENVOYA

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

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

## ABOUT GENVOYA

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

### Do NOT take GENVOYA if you:

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

## GET MORE INFORMATION

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

## IMPORTANT FACTS

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

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF GENVOYA

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

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

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

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

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

## BEFORE TAKING GENVOYA

### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

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

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

## HOW TO TAKE GENVOYA

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



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# Out2Enroll Launches LGBT Coalition to Promote Obamacare Under Trump

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

With President Trump taking action seen to undermine Obamacare – such as shortening the window of time for new insurance enrollments – a new LGBT coalition of more than 60 groups has launched to promote insurance options under the law.

Leading the coalition is Out2Enroll (<https://out2enroll.org>), a joint project of the Center for American Progress, the Sellers Dorsey Foundation and the Federal Agencies Project that seeks to enroll LGBT people in insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act.

Gautam Raghavan, a member of Out2Enroll and White House LGBT liaison during the Obama administration, said in a statement the perils facing Obamacare under Trump makes the coalition's efforts all the more important.

"National, state, and local partnership has never been more important to raise awareness about health insurance for LGBTQ people nationwide," Raghavan said. "If the Trump Administration won't get the word out, then we will – online through social media and paid ads, in-person at LGBTQ community centers and events and everywhere else that we can. It's all hands on deck this year and we need to make sure everyone knows their options and their rights."

Founded in 2013, Out2Enroll for years has undertaken efforts to encourage LGBT people to enroll in insurance programs, taking on the mission under the assumption increased enrollments would lead to lower premiums and deductibles for everyone obtaining health coverage.

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

Out2Enroll co-founder Katie Keith cited that statistic in a statement promoting the importance of the Affordable Care Act for LGBT people.

"Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, the uninsured rate for low- and middle-income LGBTQ people has dropped by an overwhelming 35 percent since 2013,"



Keith said. "That means more LGBTQ people have access to medically necessary services they need, from life-saving HIV drugs to gender affirming health care."

But the work may be cut out for the new Out2Enroll coalition. As the Republican Congress has sought (unsuccessfully) to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act legislatively, Trump has taken actions his critics say effectively amounts to sabotage of the new law.

For starters, the Trump administration has limited the window for new enrollments to between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15 – a reduction from 90 days to only 45 days – and refused to fund education efforts to promote awareness of the enrollment period.

Defenders of Obamacare also cried foul when Trump signed an executive order allowing individuals opt out of Obamacare and purchase skimpier health plans, thereby rising insurance costs for everyone else, and withholding cost-sharing reduction

**The Trump administration has limited the window for new enrollments to between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15 – a reduction from 90 days to only 45 days – and refused to fund education efforts to promote awareness of the enrollment period.**

payments to keep premiums down.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said in a statement the Trump administration is "doing everything it can to make it far more difficult for people without health insurance to get health care."

"Even though we're under attack, we've got to fight and educate people," Keisling said. "LGBTQ people should still expect to be treated fairly and protected from discrimination in health insurance and health care – and transgender people should make sure they enroll in the health insurance they need for 2018."

Key members in the new coalition include CenterLink's Center Action Network, Young Invincibles, The Health Initiative, Equality Texas as well as state and local LGBT organizations in 28 states.

David Johns, executive director of the National Black Justice Coalition, said in a statement health care "is a vital aspect to sustaining the overall wellness of any community."

"Last year, 8 out of 10 applicants received a discount on their premiums and most found insurance for \$50 to \$100 per month," Johns said. "The ACA has made significant progress in reducing the uninsured rate of among the African American community, the LGBTQ community and among the entire American population."

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

## WSU Announces Innovative Collaboration with Corktown Health Center

BY BTL STAFF

Wayne State University and the Wayne State University Physician Group are pleased to announce an agreement with Health Emergency Lifeline Programs (HELP) to collaborate with Corktown Health Center. This new affiliation will bring increased capacity, scale and resources to CHC's operations.

The CHC is Michigan's first nonprofit medical home dedicated to serving adult LGBTQ patients and their families. The goal of this affiliation is to:

- Design and deliver medical services that address the health needs of LGBTQ persons in the Detroit area, including our students, trainees, faculty and staff.

- Pioneer treatments and care for transgender persons.

- Develop and implement programing designed to mitigate health disparities in the LGBTQ community.

- Establish education and clinical training for medical students, residents and other health care providers to deliver equitable, effective and patient-centered care for LGBTQ patients.

"This important association will leverage the unique strengths of each organization," said Teresa Roscoe, chief operating officer of HELP/CHC. "It is an opportunity to harness these critical resources to serve the LGBTQ community in a way that's never been done before."

Latonya Riddle-Jones, M.D., medical director, said, "Our ultimate goal is to inclusively improve the overall health and well-being of all members of our society, and this collaboration finally allows us to work with the patients and community in a fully integrated, interdisciplinary team to nurture body, mind and spirit."

Diane Levine, M.D., vice chair of Education for the Department of Internal Medicine at Wayne State University, said, "Our goal is not only to develop best practices, but to ensure we train the next generation of physicians to provide outstanding care to LGBT persons and their allies to decrease health disparities in Michigan and across the country."

The clinic is in a newly-renovated 24,000-square-foot facility in Detroit's historic Corktown neighborhood. CHC will initially provide primary care, integrated behavior health services, comprehensive HIV care and treatment, health insurance navigation and enrollment, and pharmacy services. In close collaboration with community members, CHC will consistently evolve and expand its programs and services.

*Corktown Health Center is located at 1726 Howard Street in Detroit. Call 313-832-3300, email [info@corktownhealth.org](mailto:info@corktownhealth.org) or visit <http://corktownhealth.org>.*

## Court Affirms Ruling Against Pro-LGBT Louisiana Executive Order

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

A state appeals court in Louisiana has affirmed Gov. John Bel Edwards' executive order barring anti-LGBT discrimination in the state government and among state contractors is unconstitutional.

In a nine-page decision issued Nov. 1, Judge Toni Higginbotham of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal for the Second District concludes the executive order violates separation of power and is an overreach of the governor's authority.

"The governor's executive order in this case goes beyond a mere policy statement or directive to fulfill law, because there is no current state or federal law specifically outlining anti-discrimination laws concerning and/or defining sexual orientation or gender identity," Higginbotham writes.

The order affirms a decision issued by Judge Todd Hernandez of the 19th Judicial District Court in December as the result of a dispute between Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, a Republican, and the Democratic governor.

"Having found the governor's executive order invalid, we conclude that the district court did not err in permanently enjoining the mandatory adoption of the executive order," the order says.

The decision also vacates the lower court ruling's on the dispute of constitutional powers between the governor and the attorney general because, without than the issues raised by the executive order, no factual dispute exists and any ruling would constitute an advisory opinion.

The Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeals for the Second District, located in Baton Rouge, consists of 12 judges, each of whom serve on the bench as a result of popular election, not appointment. The case was before a three-judge panel consisting of Higginbotham, Judge Guy Holdridge and Judge Allison Hopkins Penzato.

See Louisiana, page 16

# Deja vu at Supreme Court

BY LISA KEEN

In just a little over a month, the big bronze doors of the U. S. Supreme Court building will swing open as a gay plaintiff emerges from the ornate judicial sanctum with his attorneys, squinting from the sun off the white marble steps. They'll cluster in front of a mob of reporters and cameras on the plaza in front of the famous facade. And they'll explain how they believe the justices heard their plea: that same-sex couples should be treated the same as male-female couples.

Wait! What? The Supreme Court is going to argue the same-sex marriage ban, again?!

Not exactly. But on so many levels, the Supreme Court's review of *Masterpiece Cake v. Colorado* on Dec. 5 will feel like *deja vu* all over again.

Two years ago, in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, attorneys for LGBT people argued that states should treat same-sex couples the same as male-female couples in the issuance and recognition of marriage licenses. Two years prior to that, in *U.S. v. Windsor*, the argument was that the federal government should recognize the marriages of same-sex couples the same as male-female couples for federal purposes. And that same year, in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the court heard that California voters should be able to deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples. And 11 years ago, in *Romer v. Evans*, the argument was over a law passed by Colorado voters, seeking to enable businesses, landlords, employers, and others to ignore local laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Now, with *Masterpiece Cake*, the court will now consider whether a business in Colorado can ignore a state law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in order to refuse service to same-sex couples.

In the case this year, the business is a baker who specializes in elaborately decorated cakes, suitable for a wedding reception. But the baker refused to sell any one of his fabulously ornate cakes to a same-sex couple, claiming that to do so would offend his religious beliefs -beliefs that purportedly consider marriage between two people of the same sex to be a biblical offense.

Even this claim conjures up great moments in the history of the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1968's *Newman v. Piggie Park*, the owner of some drive-in restaurants had argued that a federal law prohibiting discrimination based on race in public accommodations "contravenes the will of God and constitutes an interference with the free exercise" of the business owner's

**“** I remember the signs that said 'Whites Only' and 'Colored Only'. I remember when, everywhere you looked, there was blatant discrimination against people based on the color of their skin. It's time you learn that the tactics may change, but the will remains the same. Each and every one of us has an obligation to speak up and speak out for the right of each and every person to be treated with dignity and with respect. **”**

– U.S. Rep. John Lewis, a leader of the black civil rights movement and a strong ally of the LGBT civil rights movement.

religion. The high court did not agree. In fact, it referred to the argument as "patently frivolous."

And four years earlier, in *Atlanta Motel v. U.S.*, the high court ruled against the owner of a hotel in Atlanta who refused to accommodate blacks. The owner claimed the federal public accommodations section of the Civil Rights Act deprived him of his liberty and the right to choose with whom he would do business.

"I remember the signs that said 'Whites Only' and 'Colored Only,'" said U.S. Rep. John Lewis, a leader of the black civil rights movement and a strong ally of the LGBT civil rights movement. "I remember when, everywhere you looked, there was blatant discrimination against people based on the color of their skin. It's time you learn that the tactics may change, but the will remains the same. Each and every one of us has an obligation to speak up and speak out for the right of each and every person to be treated with dignity and with respect."

Lewis was one of several speakers at an ACLU-sponsored telephone press conference Monday, drawing attention to the vast number of briefs that have been filed in the *Masterpiece Cake* case. They include the NAACP, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human

Rights, 1,300 faith leaders, 200 members of Congress, 150 mayors, hundreds of chefs and restaurant owners, and such major corporations as Apple and Marriott.

While the *Masterpiece Cake* case represents an instance of a same-sex couple being denied service at a bakery, Rachel Tiven, chief executive officer at Lambda Legal, said her group has received reports of same-sex couples being refused service at a wide variety of public accommodations venues. Among them, she said at Monday's press conference, have been hotels, doctors offices, child birth classes, funeral homes, tow truck operators, and homeless shelters.

James Essex, an attorney with the national ACLU, which is representing the gay couple refused service by the *Masterpiece Cake* shop, said the question before the court is whether the constitution protects a right to discriminate "based either on religion or artistic freedom." And the position taken by the Trump administration and attorneys supporting the *Masterpiece Cake* baker, Jack Phillips, is "extreme and could well license discrimination against many people."

## Obituary: Paul Espenschied, former Menjo's owner 1928 - 2017

Paul Espenschied, a long time business owner and supporter of the gay community, passed away Sept. 6. He was 89.

Paul was born in Summit County Ohio, and grew up in Stark County Ohio. His business interest was in the hospitality industry, and his major start began when he managed, and became part owner, of Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge of Monroe, MI, beginning in the 1970s' through the late 1980s.

He became the co-owner of the Scaramouche Bar, in Toledo during the 1970s until the mid 1980s'. He then co-owned Menjo's in Detroit, one of the premier gay dance clubs of Detroit, starting in the early 1980s to the late 1990s'.

Paul participated in gay rights demonstrations in Lansing and Washington D.C. He also supported AIDS fundraisers and Human Rights Campaign fundraisers. He would often charter buses for his Menjo's

crowd, to get to these events. He was an outspoken person when supporting the human rights of others, and helped many people along the way; listening to their stories about life, and giving back what he had learned from life.

He loved to travel the world and was a lover of animals of all kinds. Donations in his memory may be made to Equality Michigan, 19641 W. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit, MI. 48219.

# U.S. Blocks Removal of Discrimination Reference from UN Olympics Resolution

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

The U.N. General Assembly on Nov. 13 is expected to adopt an "Olympic Truce Resolution" that calls for peace around the world during the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. The resolution also calls for global peace during the week before and after the Olympics, which will take place from Feb. 9-25.

Egypt and Russia sought to remove a reference to Principle 6 -- the Olympic Charter's nondiscrimination clause -- from the resolution because it specifically includes sexual orientation along with religion, gender and other factors.

The version of resolution that is currently before the U.N. General Assembly includes the gay-inclusive Principle 6 language.

"The Olympics is an event that should focus on what brings us together - friendly competition by the world's best athletes - not what makes us different," U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley told the Washington Blade on Tuesday in a statement. "No athlete should face discrimination of any kind when representing their country in the games."

Russia's LGBT rights record -- including a law that bans the promotion of so-called gay propaganda to minors -- overshadowed the 2014 Winter Olympics that took place in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi.

The International Olympic Committee in late 2014 added sexual orientation to Principle 6.

Brazil the following year spearheaded efforts to include a gay-inclusive Principle 6 reference in a resolution that is similar to the one currently before the U.N. General Assembly. It was adopted ahead of the 2016 Summer Olympics that took place in Rio de Janeiro.

"We've already agreed to this badly needed anti-discrimination language in previous Olympics resolutions," Haley told the Blade. "Countries that want to remove anti-discrimination language from this resolution should question their commitment to the ideals that make the Olympics such a special event for people across the globe."

Jessica Stern, executive director of OutRight Action International, a global LGBT and intersex advocacy group, on Wednesday told the Blade in a statement the "governments of Egypt and Russia spent a huge amount of time, effort and political capital trying to undermine the Olympics by promoting discrimination."

"Thankfully, it looks like their efforts will fail," she said. "Many more states from around the world responded with their own time, effort and political will to defend the principle of freedom from discrimination. LGBTI organizations demanded their governments do the right thing and they listened. These days

where LGBTI communities are under attack in the U.S. and everywhere we look, these political symbols matter. This round, we're going to win."

Anti-LGBT crackdowns underway in Egypt, Russia

The U.N. General Assembly will vote on the resolution against the backdrop of growing concerns over anti-LGBT crackdowns in Egypt and Russia.

Egyptian lawmakers last week introduced a bill that would criminalize the country's LGBT community.

Authorities on Sept. 22 arrested at least seven people who waived a rainbow flag during a rock concert in Cairo. More than 60 LGBT Egyptians have been taken into custody over the last two months.

The U.S. Senate on Tuesday unanimously approved a resolution that condemns the ongoing crackdown against LGBT people in Chechnya, a semi-autonomous Russian republic that is located in the North Caucasus.

The Kremlin has claimed it has launched an investigation into the allegations on which the independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta first reported in April, even though Russian President Vladimir Putin has sought to downplay or even dismiss these reports. Chechen President Ramzan Kadyrov, who is a close Putin ally, over the summer described the allegations as "nonsense" and claimed during an interview with HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel" that "we don't have any gays" in his republic.

Haley in April said the U.S. is "disturbed" by the crackdown, but President Trump has yet to publicly comment on it. The State Department in September told the Blade that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson raised the issue with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in a letter.

The U.S. on Sept. 29 voted against a U.N. Human Rights Council resolution that includes a provision condemning the death penalty for those found guilty of committing consensual same-sex sexual acts.

A U.S. official told the Blade after the vote the U.S. "did support language in the resolution against the discriminatory use of the death penalty based on an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, while also requesting changes to make the larger resolution in accordance with U.S. law" that says the death penalty is legal.

"Unfortunately, the main sponsors did not take those edits onboard, so we were unable to support the larger resolution, which called for a global moratorium on the death penalty, in spite of the fact that it included parts that we support," said the official.

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

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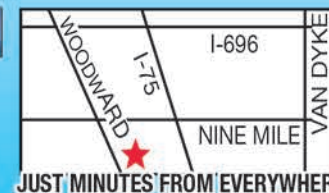
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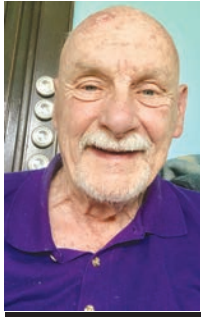
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# Memories of a Near-Forgotten Past Pt. 3

## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

**D**etroit's imposing, massive, block-wide Masonic Temple was built in 1922, or, cornerstone dated 5022, following the Hebraic custom of noting the inception of ritual religious history.

The impressive venue is once more hosting youth-oriented music events, name local entertainers, with crowds lining up block round Temple and Cass Avenues.

At one time in the 1960s every major dance company in the world, classical music orchestra, and soloists appeared there; many brought to the city by famed impresario Sol Hurok.

I heard Paul Paray many times conduct the DSO, thrilled to soprano Maria Callas in red-carpet recital (her conductor arrested, and very briefly detained because of an "incident" at the long-closed, always seedy Stone Burlesque), saw Russian defector Rudolph Nureyev and Dame Margot Fonteyn partnered in a memorable "Swan Lake".

(Curiously, too, a few years ago I attended a Freak Gathering in a small masonic auditorium, where leathermen and women, SM/BD devotees, straight and gay kink comrades gathered for an evening of mutual exposure, pleasurable mental angst, playpen seduction. A BTL former editor was a self-styled dom. I, her 95-percent vanilla guest.)

Across from the Masonic Temple is Cass Park, named for former Michigan governor Lewis Cass. As a kid I spent my summers playing there, wading its centrally located fountain, and, as a nascent gay, enjoying looking at my collection of "Strength & Health" magazines, admiring muscle idols Clarence Ross and Steve "Hercules" Reeves.

**Across from the Masonic Temple is Cass Park, named for former Michigan governor Lewis Cass. As a kid I spent my summers playing there, wading its centrally located fountain, and, as a nascent gay, enjoying looking at my collection of "Strength & Health" magazines, admiring muscle idols Clarence Ross and Steve "Hercules" Reeves.**

At the edge of the park is a statue of Scottish poet Robert Burns. When the statue was dedicated in 1923, thousands gathered for a massed picture taken honoring the unveiling. (How many today know or care who Robert Burns was?)

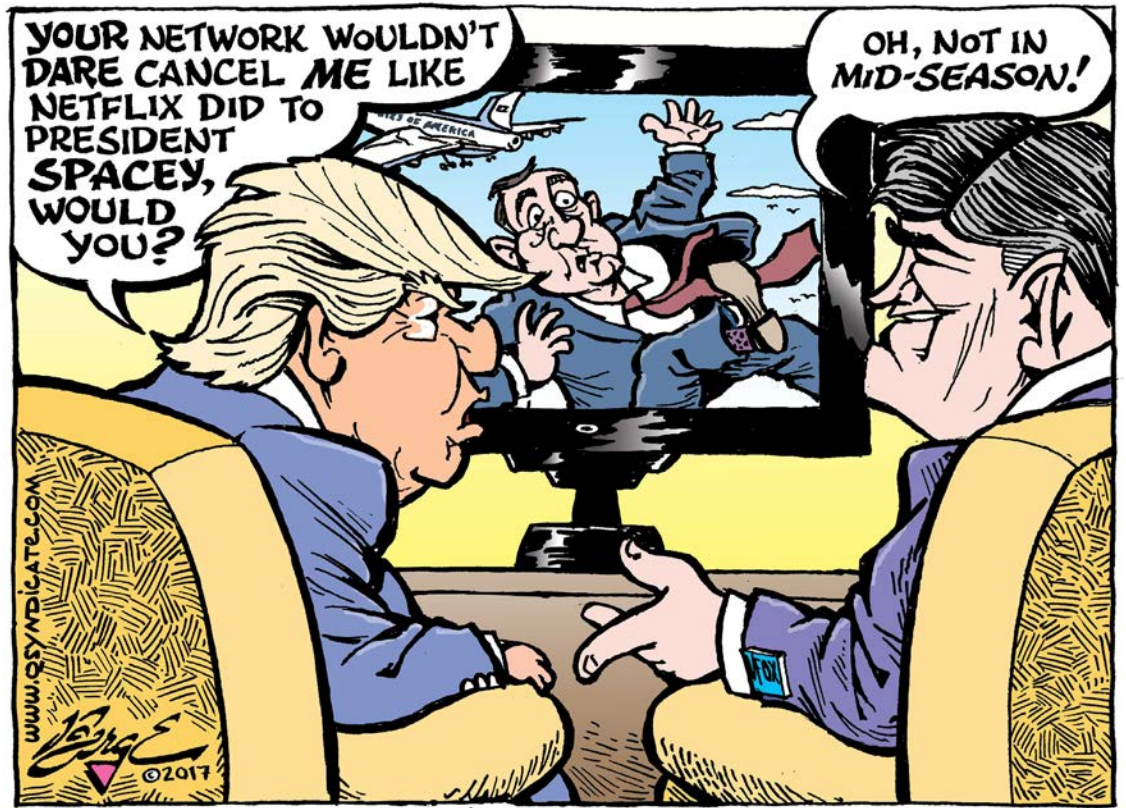
I played tag around the statue. On three sides are poetry quotes I learned by heart: Nae man can tether time nor tide./ From scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs./ Wee modest crimson flower, thou has met me in an evil hour.

For fun my friend Bob Wells and I would pretend we were European survivors of World War II. We'd fake German accents, and talk in earshot of park benchers about bombings, black outs, the horrors we had endured.

Occasionally listeners who felt sorry for us -- or liked my tearful, would-be Academy Award performance -- gave us nickels and dimes.

I was about 15 one mid-June, no-school day as I sat alone relaxing, soon to be joined by an older, athletic-looking guy who was probably about 30. He asked if he might join me and I said yes, pleased for the company.

See Parting Glances, next page



BY ERIC RADER

## Viewpoint

# To the LGBT Community: Remain Engaged in the Political Process

**A**s we near the end of 2017, our sights turn to 2018 and the many challenges and opportunities that await in the new year. Few of us will be sad to see 2017 fade into history, given the cataclysmic political changes that have occurred this year. Unfortunately, it is still another three years until the next presidential election. Those of us who care about equal rights for the LGBT community, and for sane executive leadership, must continue to fight for our beliefs by marching, protesting, and engaging with allies who share our commitment to equality.

Though we may not be able to achieve much progress at the federal level for three more years, we do have a golden opportunity to effect change at the state level in Michigan next year. On Nov. 6, 2018, Michiganders will go to the polls to choose new

officials to lead state government. The Republican governor, Republican attorney general, and Republican secretary of state are all term-limited and unable to continue in their current jobs. Over 2/3 of the members of the Michigan Senate, and

almost 1/4 of the Michigan House, will be ineligible to run for reelection in 2018. Next year's statewide elections provide a rare chance to put into positions of authority public servants who support an inclusive and progressive agenda that will benefit all Michiganders, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The marquee race in Michigan next year will be the campaign for Michigan governor. Already, several candidates have announced their intentions to run for governor in 2018. On the Democratic side, the announced candidates are former Michigan Democratic

See next page

As the gubernatorial and other races begin to heat up in early 2018, it is critical that the LGBT community remain engaged in the political process. None of the Republican candidates support LGBT equality, and in fact, the leading contenders have been openly hostile to our community. The most anti-LGBT of all the Republican candidates is Bill Schuette, the current Attorney General and the man considered to be the front-runner on the GOP side.

### ► Rader: Stay Engaged

Continued from p. 12

Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer, former Detroit health director Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, and businessman Shri Thanedar. The leading Republicans include Attorney General Bill Schuette, State Senator Patrick Colbeck, and Lieutenant Governor Brian

Calley (not yet an official candidate). Democratic and Republican voters will select their parties' nominees for governor and other offices in the statewide primary election next Aug. 7.

As the gubernatorial and other races begin to heat up in early 2018, it is critical that the LGBT community remain engaged in the political process. None of the Republican candidates support LGBT equality, and in fact, the leading contenders have been openly hostile to our community. The most anti-LGBT of all the Republican candidates is Bill Schuette, the current Attorney General and the man considered to be the front-runner on the GOP side. Throughout his career in state government, as well as his legislative career in Congress and in the Michigan Legislature, Schuette has consistently and steadfastly opposed any and all efforts to protect the legal rights of LGBT citizens. As attorney general since 2011, Schuette has taken strong legal stands against LGBT Michiganders. Most infamously, he opposed April and Jayne DeBoer-Rowse, the lesbian couple from Hazel Park, in their successful challenge to Michigan's anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment. Schuette has also opposed the right of married same-sex couples to adopt, and the inclusion of LGBT Michiganders in the state's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.

### ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 12

Mitch said he was home on leave from the navy, and was visiting a friend who lived nearby. "Would you like a Coke?" he offered, pointing to a nearby drug store. "Sure, why not?" I agreed, somewhat eagerly.

After our coke and conversation, he asked if I'd like a ride to Palmer Park. "I'd like to, but I have to be home for dinner soon," I hesitated. "Can we meet tomorrow?" I offered. Hopefully. "Sure. Let's meet at noon," Mitch smiled, patting me on the shoulder. "Anchors away!"

Next day I put on a clean shirt. Brilcreem'd

Quite frankly, none of Schuette's opponents in the Republican field are any better on LGBT equality.

The Democratic candidates are a different story for LGBT equality, and on every other issue of consequence. All of the Democratic contenders are strong supporters of the LGBT community. They all embrace the Supreme Court's 2015 ruling allowing marriage equality, they all support the right of LGBT couples to adopt, and they all endorse including protections for sexual orientation and gender identity in the state's Elliott-Larsen civil rights law. The Democratic candidates recognize the basic dignity and worth of all Michiganders, including those of us who are LGBT. Regardless of who wins the Democratic nomination for governor in 2018, our community can be assured that the nominee will fight for our rights and would provide strong executive leadership as governor on behalf of LGBT Michiganders.

We must all work on behalf of progressive candidates up and down the ballot in 2018 to bring about genuine progress. Now is the time to get involved. We need to be visible and active throughout all of 2018, not just next fall. If the 2016 elections taught us anything, it's that we can't take anything for granted. If we devote ourselves now to electing a good and progressive governor, along with pro-equality candidates for all of the other statewide offices, we can enter 2019 feeling far better than we've felt throughout 2017, and energized to carry our progressive agenda into the presidential election in 2020.

*Eric Rader teaches political science at Henry Ford College and loves talking politics. Connect with Eric at [ewill4651@yahoo.com](mailto:ewill4651@yahoo.com), or via Twitter @RaderEric.*

my duck-tailed hair -- "A little dab will do you," ran the radio commercial -- and arrived at 11:15. I sat there for an hour. Waiting. Waiting. Mitch never showed. Soon it began to rain. It was a disappointment.

The first of many in my young, just-coming-out, gay life.

*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](mailto:Charles@pridesource.com).*

# Creep of the Week

## Franklin Graham

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



In a Nov. 3 Facebook post Graham accused Disney of "wanting to use so-called family-friendly programs to influence the youth of today to accept and to be a part of the destructive LGBT lifestyle."

Wonder Woman made me gay. At least, that's what I like to tell people. Since I am old I'm, of course, talking about the TV show starring Linda Carter, not the movie starring Gal Gadot (though I did see the movie and, if anything, it just made me more gay). The TV show didn't have a gay storyline or anything, it's just that Carter's Wonder Woman was sexy and strong AF and I was all about it.

In fact, when I was a kid there weren't shows on that had anything to do with anything gay. Especially not shows for kids.

But things have changed. And, apparently, in the next decade or so we'll have plenty of grown up gays saying that "Andi Mack" made them gay.

"Andi Mack," for those of you who aren't 11-year-olds (I had to Google it myself), is a Disney Channel series about a girl named Andi and her friends and family. And recently one of Andi's best friends, Cyrus, comes out as gay to their mutual friend Buffy.

And Rev. Franklin Graham is having none of it. In a Nov. 3 Facebook post Graham accused Disney of "wanting to use so-called family-friendly programs to influence the youth of today to accept and to be a part of the destructive LGBT lifestyle."

He has a point because the coming scene is extremely graphic. I can barely even begin to describe it, but I'll try: Cyrus and Buffy are sitting together at a table. Buffy asks Cyrus who he has a crush on. Cyrus is very uncomfortable, but then admits his crush is a boy. And Buffy reaches across, takes her friends hands and essentially communicates that she loves him, accepts him, and everything is going to be okay.

Ugh. So gross! Get out the eye bleach!

Or not. It's actually a very sweet scene, well written and well performed (which is not something I'm prone to saying about Disney "tween" programming).

Perhaps what Buffy should have done is stand up and shout, "You're going to Hell!" Then Graham might have found it family friendly. Maybe then Graham wouldn't be urging parents to boycott the Disney Channel.

"Disney used to be the brand that parents could trust," Graham writes. "They were kind of like the 'gold seal' of family programming. But those days are long gone."

Apparently someone took the gold seal off and exposed all the gay underneath.

He continues, "Parents BEWARE. You can control this in your home. You might want to consider blocking their channel. Let Disney know why you are upset, but also take action that will get your message across."

Yeah, parents. Tell Disney that if Cyrus isn't killed off or at least sent to some kind of ex-gay Jesus camp you are never watching "Andi Mack" again!

Or you could do what I did and Tweet @DisneyChannel, "The coming out scene on Andi Mack was so sweet and well done. I wish such a thing had existed when I was young. Thank you."

Joshua Rush, the kid that plays Cyrus, says in a E! News video, "I hope people, out of Cyrus's storyline, get this feeling like you can be who are. And if there's something you're thinking about, you should talk about it."

Sofia Wylie, who plays Buffy, says, "It just shows what a great friend Buffy is because she really just was there for him and was a shoulder for him to lean on."

And Peyton Elizabeth Lee, who plays Andi, says, "I hope that it gives kids the confidence to be proud of who they are and to just be happy with themselves. All of the stories in Andi Mack particularly Cyrus's story, give this amazing opportunity to open conversation between parents and kids, or between friends."

Your daily reminder that kids are so much smarter and better than adults.

# House Dems Take Stand Against Anti-Gay Baker Before Supreme Court

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

As the U.S. Supreme Court weighs a challenge to Colorado's non-discrimination law filed by a Christian baker who refuses to make wedding cakes for same-sex couples, House Democrats gathered outside the U.S. Capitol on Nov. 1 to promote a bicameral friend-of-the-court brief against the anti-gay baker.

Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-N.Y.), who's gay and a co-chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus, said at the news conference the refusal of service the Colorado baker proposes is akin to the kind of discrimination outlawed in other civil rights laws.

"If you are selling pizza, if you are renting hotels rooms, you do not get to say you're not going to get served because you are African-American, or because you are Jewish, or because you are a woman," Maloney said. "And it is not an answer to say that it is expressive conduct, that it is speech. It is not an answer to say that is a sincerely held religious belief if you are engaged in commercial activity. That's simple."

Rep. Mark Takano (D-Calif.), who's also gay and a co-chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus, said a ruling in favor of Masterpiece Cakeshop would be the first step in a slippery slope toward more discrimination.

"This amicus brief that we are filing today is not about merely affirming one couple's right to buy cake," Takano said. "What it seems to affirm is every person's right to be treated with dignity and respect in America. A court ruling in favor of the cakeshop would unleash a flood of discrimination from those who want to insult and exclude any group of vulnerable people."

Also speaking at the news conference was House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), who said a ruling for the baker would restore America to the dark days of discrimination.

"We're better than exclusion, we're better than hate, we're better than prejudice," Hoyer said. "We respect each and every one of fellow citizens. Let us pray that the Supreme Court redeems once again the promise of America."

The Supreme Court agreed to hear the case as a result of a petition filed by Jack Phillips, the owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop who refused to make a wedding cake in 2012 for Charlie Craig and David Mullins, a Colorado couple. Bucking the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in public accommodations, Phillips asserts the baking of wedding cakes is inherently an act of expression protected under the First Amendment.



Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-N.Y.) leads House Democrats in a brief before the Supreme Court case. Washington Blade photo by Tom Hausman

The American Civil Liberties Union sued on behalf of Craig and Mullins. An administrative judge ruled in favor of the same-sex couple – a decision the Colorado Court of Appeals upheld in 2015. Although the Colorado Supreme Court declined to review these decisions, the U.S. Supreme Court nonetheless agreed to take the case this year.

The 37-page brief – signed by 175 House members and 36 U.S. senators – makes the case that members of Congress are well-positioned to advise the court on the Masterpiece Cakeshop case because the ruling could impact federal civil rights laws.

"The exemption petitioners seek – allowing discrimination by businesses that claim to engage in expressive conduct – is unworkable," the brief says. "If Mr. Phillips chooses to provide goods or services to the public, then public accommodations laws demand he do so without discriminating against certain historically marginalized classes. Though Mr. Phillips may abide by certain tenets of his own faith, those tenets cannot be 'superimposed on the statutory schemes which are binding on others in that activity.'"

The lead House member on the brief was Maloney and the lead U.S. senator was Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), the only out lesbian in Congress. A total of 211 congressional Democrats signed the brief – a number that dwarfs the 86 congressional Republicans who signed the brief led by Vicky Hartzler (R-Mo.) in favor of the Colorado baker.

Also present at the news conference was House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), who said the brief takes a stand

against anti-LGBT discrimination, but is also much broader.

"The Masterpiece Cakeshop case touches the lives, of course, of LGBT people but it also touches the lives of all Americans," Pelosi said. "The case is about the fundamental right for all groups to be free from discrimination. With this brief, we are fighting that our nation lives up to its ideals of equality and justice for all."

Also speaking at the news conference was Rep. Dan Kildee (D-Mich.); Rep. Joseph Kennedy III (D-Mass.), chair of the Transgender Equality Task Force; and Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.).

Krishnamoorthi, a Hindu and the first Indian-American to enter Congress, said he stands in solidarity with LGBT people as a religious, ethnic and racial minority.

"The promise of the United States is that it doesn't matter where you came from, how you dress, how you pray, whom you love or how many letters there are in your name," Krishnamoorthi said. "I have 18 in mine. All that matters is that you're an American, and all Americans deserve equal protection under the law and all must have it."

Joining lawmakers at the news conference in promoting the brief were Sarah Warbelow, legal director for the Human Rights Campaign; Ian Thompson, legislative director for the American Civil Liberties Union; and Harper Jean Tobin, policy director for the National Center for Transgender Equality.

Tobin compared the discrimination Craig and Mullins faced at Masterpiece Cakeshop to the kind of discrimination she said transgender

“This amicus brief that we are filing today is not about merely affirming one couple's right to buy cake. What it seems to affirm is every person's right to be treated with dignity and respect in America. A court ruling in favor of the cakeshop would unleash a flood of discrimination from those who want to insult and exclude any group of vulnerable people.”

- Rep. Mark Takano (D-Calif.), who's also gay and a co-chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus

people face everyday.

"This is the kind of discrimination that our state and federal civil rights laws are meant to protect Americans from in their daily life," Tobin said. "The Supreme Court in this case is being asked to issue a license to discriminate, to turn our cherished civil rights laws into something more like civil rights suggestions."

Under questioning from reporters, Maloney, who married his same-sex spouse in 2014 in New York, became visibly angry the Supreme Court would even entertain the idea a bakery would have a First Amendment right to refuse service to same-sex couples.

"The court would have not taken this case if it was a Jewish couple guaranteed," Maloney said. "The court would not be hearing this case if it was a case of race-based discrimination dressed up as religion. The only reason is that people believe it's still acceptable at some level, in some way to discriminate against LGBT people. The legal principle is exactly the same."

A total of 35 friend-of-the-court briefs were filed before the Supreme Court this week in favor of the Colorado law and the same-sex couple.

Another brief, signed by nearly 1,300 clergy members, asserts religious views "do not provide a license to disregard neutral civil rights laws." The Human Rights Campaign filed a "chefs for equality" brief signed by more than 240 chefs, bakers and restaurateurs opposing a decision against the same-sex couple.

Oral arguments in the case are set for Dec. 5.

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

# GSA Latest Agency to Omit LGBT People from Non-Discrimination Rules

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

A U.S. agency has omitted from its employment policy an explicit prohibition on discrimination against LGBT workers, flouting executive orders prohibiting such discrimination in the federal workforce.

A look at the Equal Employment Opportunity statement for the U.S. General Services Administration, which manages functions of government agencies, reveals no mention of prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, even though other categories – race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability and genetic information – are spelled out.

That marks a change from when the categories of sexual orientation and gender identity were explicitly included in a 2015 edition of the policy as a subset of sex discrimination. The memo says that policy will only become outdated in 2022.

David Stacy, government affairs director for the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement the removal is another attempt of “the Trump-Pence Administration actively seeking to undermine rights for LGBTQ people” and called for restoration of the categories.

“The GSA’s move to exclude sexual orientation and gender identity from their Equal Employment Opportunity statement is mean-spirited, deceptive and irresponsible,” Stacy said. “The GSA’s EEO statement is meant to inform workers and applicants about their legal protections – protections that federal employees have had for decades. Cutting specific mention of sexual orientation and gender identity protections is a slap in the face to LGBTQ federal employees who proudly serve and sadly signals that this administration does not value them. The GSA should immediately restore the previous, accurate EEO policy.”

Acting Administrator Timothy Horne, whom Trump appointed upon his inauguration on Jan. 20., announced then new EEO policy in a memo to workers on Oct. 25 emphasizing the importance of non-discrimination in the workforce – but left out potential discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

“EEO is a critical component of GSA’s efforts to recruit, develop, and retain the most qualified, diverse workforce possible to support our agency’s multifaceted strategic mission,” Horne writes. “Toward that end, it is GSA’s policy that all employees and applicants for employment be afforded equal opportunities in employment without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability or retaliation for engaging in an EEO-protected activity.”

David Stacy, government affairs director for the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement the removal is another attempt of “the Trump-Pence Administration actively seeking to undermine rights for LGBTQ people” and called for restoration of the categories.

The removal of sexual orientation and gender identity from the policy contravenes former President Bill Clinton’s executive order in 1998, which banned anti-gay discrimination in the federal workforce, and former President Barack Obama’s executive order in 2014 barring anti-trans discrimination in the federal workforce as well as anti-LGBT discrimination among federal contractors. President Trump agreed to allow those executive orders to remain standing.

In response to the Blade’s inquiry on why the current EEO policy omits LGBT categories, a GSA spokesperson said the 2015 memo that included an explicit prohibition on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender still “is in full effect.”

“GSA is proud of our diverse and talented workforce and is committed to ensuring all agency employees feel welcome,” the spokesperson said. “GSA prohibits discrimination in the workplace and will continue to make sure our employees’ legal rights are protected.”

The spokesperson didn’t immediately respond to the Blade’s follow-up email on why LGBT categories were omitted in subsequent material if the 2015 memo is still in effect.

In theory, the removal could open up workers at the General Services Administration to discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Those workers should be still be able seek recourse under the Clinton and Obama executive orders and cite the 2015 memo if necessary. Federal laws against sex discrimination, which courts are increasingly interpreting to apply to LGBT people, would also cover workers there. The General Services Administration employs an estimated 12,000 federal workers.

A similar situation emerged in June when the Commerce Department under Wilbur Ross removed LGBT categories from its non-discrimination policy, but promptly reinstated them after media attention. A spokesperson at the time said the omission was an oversight and the department “never intended to change the policy or exclude any protected categories.”

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# Senate Dems Urge DOJ to Reinstate Trans Protections Under Title VII

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

A group of 44 Senate Democrats led by Sens. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Al Franken (D-Minn.) urged the Justice Department on Thursday to reinstate its interpretation of existing civil rights law to prohibit anti-transgender discrimination.

In a letter dated Nov. 2, the Senate Democrats insist Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits sex discrimination in the workplace, also applies to discrimination against transgender workers.

“The Civil Rights Division, charged with enforcement of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, states its purpose is ‘to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans, particularly some of the most vulnerable members of our society,’” the letter says. “Transgender individuals are among the most vulnerable Americans. Your department would best serve its mission by clarifying that employees should be hired or fired based on their ability to do the job – not because of their gender identity.”

The letter urges reversal of an Oct. 4 memo signed by the U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions asserting Title VII “does not prohibit discrimination based



Sen. Kamala Harris is leading a group of 44 Senate Democrats in urging DOJ to reinstate trans protections under Title VII. Washington Blade file photo by Tom Hausman

on gender identity per se.”

As the letter points out, the Sessions memo reverses an earlier memo former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder issued in 2014 under the Obama administration affirming Title VII “encompasses discrimination based on gender identity, including transgender status.”

Also as noted in the letter, Sessions’ memo defies interpretations of Title VII by numerous courts and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Four federal appellate courts – the First, Sixth, Ninth and Eleventh circuit

courts of appeals – have determined employment discrimination against transgender people is barred under Title VII.

“This most recent action by the department to roll back protections for transgender persons is anathema to the Civil Rights Act’s purpose,” the letter says. “When President Johnson signed the act into law on July 2, 1964, he wisely observed, ‘those who founded our country knew that freedom would be secure only if each generation fought to renew and enlarge its meaning.’ Your department has repeatedly undermined those very words.”

In addition to seeking a reversal of the interpretation of the Title VII, the letter calls on the Justice Department to disclose a list of all complaints of gender identity discrimination it has investigated under the past year. As part of this list, the letter asks for the status of each case whether the Justice Department intends to resolve or simply close those open investigations.

The U.S. Justice Department didn’t immediately respond to the Washington Blade’s request to comment on the letter.

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

## ► Louisiana

Continued from p. 10

In a written note at bottom of the first page of the decision, Holdridge indicates he “concurs in the result” of the decision, but suggests he finds other implications.

Edwards signed the executive order in July 2016. It prohibits discrimination on the basis of several categories — including sexual orientation and gender identity — in state agencies in terms of services, employment and purchases of contracts and for state contractors in terms of employment. The component related to purchases of contracts and contractors had an exemption for churches and religious organizations.

In a statement after the decision, Edwards said his office “will thoroughly review the ruling before determining our next steps.”

“I have said repeatedly that discrimination is not a Louisiana value, and this decision does not change my conviction that hiring decisions in state

government should be based on merit alone,” Edwards said. “Discrimination in state government and by state contractors is wrong, makes us weaker, and is bad for business and economic development.”

Edwards pointed to President Trump’s decision to keep in place an Obama-era executive order barring anti-LGBT workplace discrimination among federal contractors as evidence the state order is lawful.

“Even President Trump agrees, as he has kept in place a federal executive order which is virtually identical to the order I put in place,” Edwards said. “I went a step further and provided an exemption for certain religious organizations.”

Claiming victory, Landry said the court ruling “affirms a notion of basic civics that the legislature makes the law, not the governor.”

“We do not live under a king in Louisiana; we have a governor, an independent attorney general, an elected legislature, and a court system who are all involved in the governing of our state,” Landry said. “I applaud the

professionalism and attention of the Court of Appeal in these matters.”

No state law in Louisiana protects LGBT people from discrimination in Louisiana. Now that Landry has succeeded in enjoining enforcement of executive order, LGBT people will have rely on other resources to seek recourse from discrimination, which may include local civil rights law and other non-discrimination policies. Federal law against sex discrimination, which increasingly has been interpreted to apply to LGBT people, still holds in Louisiana.

Louisiana Solicitor General Elizabeth Murrill also commended the court for ruling against Bel Edwards’ executive order in a statement.

“This dispute was always about separation of powers and executive overreach,” Murrill said. “The governor tried to make it something else and, in doing so, deflected that basic issue. Our position has been consistent – expanding the law to create new protected classes requires legislative action.”





“ People said we wouldn't last one week, but now look at us. With all of you continuing to fight for the transgender community we will have another 20 years of activism ahead of us.”

- Rachel Crandall-Crocker, the executive director and co-founder of Transgender Michigan

## Halloween Birthday Bash Celebrates TGMI's 20-Year Anniversary

BY DAVID RYALS

More than 80 people came together at Affirmations in Ferndale on Nov. 3 for what Rachel Crandall-Crocker called the “greatest night of my life.”

Crandall-Crocker, the executive director and co-founder of Transgender Michigan, celebrated her birthday and the 20th anniversary of the organization she started in 1997 with her wife, Susan Crocker to provide advocacy, support and education while serving to create coalitions in the state of Michigan to unify and empower transgender and gender non-conformist communities.

“Twenty years ago a party like this would have been out of the question. There would have been only a few of us here,” she said. “It is amazing this number of people came out...We created Transgender Michigan to make this possible and it worked! There were a few crossdresser clubs but we were one of the first transgender clubs anywhere.”

In Halloween style, friends and allies enjoyed food, drinks and music provided

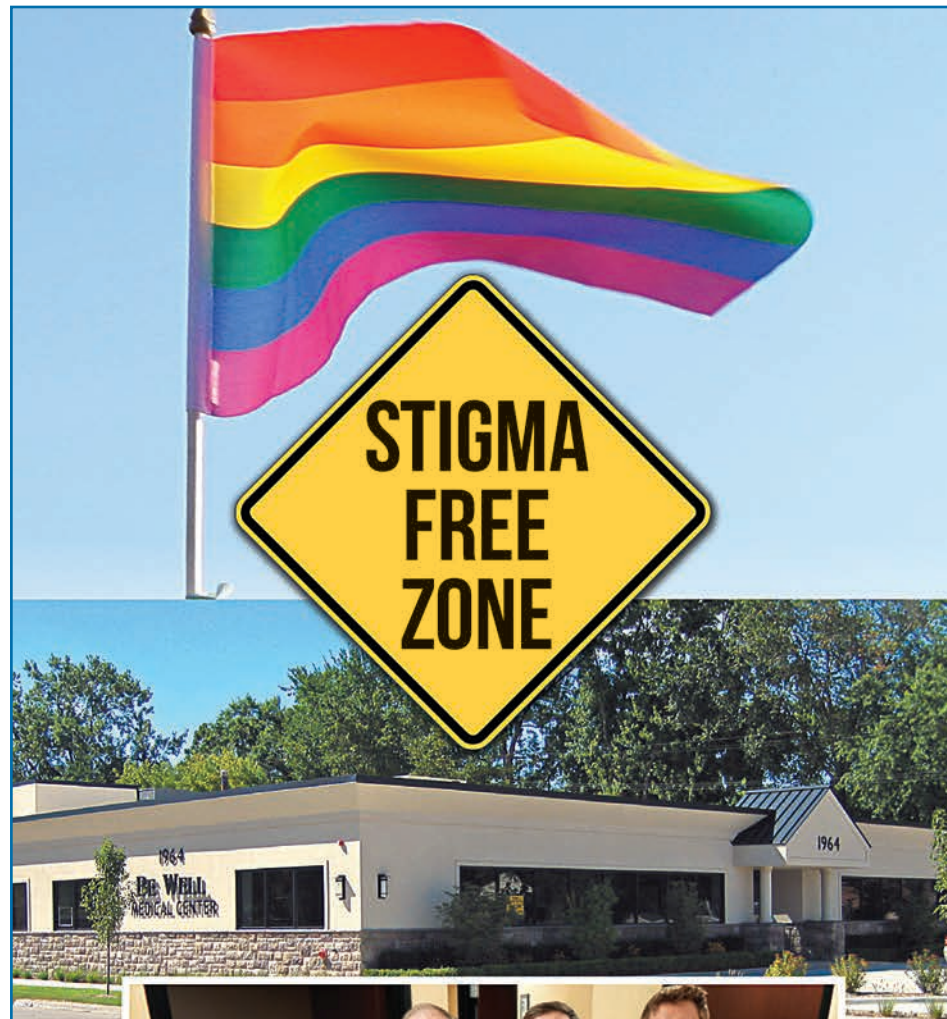
by local DJ Megan Johnson, a trans woman who owns and manages Five Star Entertainment.

When asked what members of the community can do to keep supporting TGMI, Crandall-Crocker said, “One thing we could always use is money. And they could donate on our website at [transgendermichigan.org](http://transgendermichigan.org). I want to say a lot of people don't think they have what it takes to be an activist. I have multiple disabilities and I'm an international activist. And if I can do it, anyone can. You don't even have to be fluent. I'm not fluent....”

While speaking to attendees Crandall Crocker recalled the time when she first proposed the idea of the organization.

“People said we wouldn't last one week, but now look at us,” she said. “With all of you continuing to fight for the transgender community we will have another 20 years of activism ahead of us. Remember, anyone can be an activist and do the right thing.”

Find out more about how to support TGMI online at [www.transgendermichigan.org](http://www.transgendermichigan.org) or call 800-842-2954.



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# AMERICAN UNBRIDLED

Photo: Atlantic Records

## Kelly Clarkson Talks Artistic Liberation and Why She Wants to Confront Her LGBTQ Friends' Homophobic Parents

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

During her 15-year career as your friendly pop spirit-lifter, Kelly Clarkson has prescribed a cheap alternative to therapy: anthemic pick-me-ups like “Since U Been Gone” and “People Like Us,” songs that impel a transcendental, fist-raised state. Late-night Facebook Live sessions are also her thing, and recently, the “American Idol” alum geeked out like she’d just won “Idol” all over again about her soulful rebirth, “Meaning of Life,” released on her new label, Atlantic Records. It was just Clarkson chillin’ on the couch with a glass of red wine that was much deserved, considering

the artistic sacrifices she had to make post-“Idol,” when she felt creatively stagnate as a Top 40 machine for RCA Records. But aside from a fat glass of red, Clarkson has other strong urges too.

Due, in part, to her simply being so damn cool, Clarkson – who drowned the world in their own tears right along with her own as she was crowned the inaugural “Idol” winner in 2002 – tells me she feels so compelled to stick up for her LGBT besties she literally wants to go door-to-door and talk some sense into her friends’ homophobic parents.

Because her friends ask her not to, she doesn’t. But here, with the ever-outspoken and now-artistically-liberated Clarkson leaving

almost no opinion unturned, the Texas native makes that point loud and clear. Before getting back to being a mom to River Rose, 3, and Remington Alexander, 1, as well as husband Brandon Blackstock’s kids Seth and Savannah from a previous relationship, Clarkson spoke like one. Even her simple “diva” request – a “pretty dress to sing in” – is enough to make you wish you were on that couch with her and a bottle of Pinot.

**Mariah, P!NK, Kesha – so many female artists have gone through the creative struggles you have.**

Oh, every artist. It’s so not unique in any way.

**How good does it feel to finally be yourself artistically?**

It just feels freeing to make an entire project and, in its entirety, I’m 100 percent excited about it. There wasn’t any compromise. It’s how I feel the creative industry should feel. There’s nothing like working on something you’re so proud of.

**Please tell me you at least got a little sloppy at a gay club to celebrate the end of your contract with RCA.**

(Laughs) Brother, I got four kids and a career, I ain’t got time to go to clubs! I’m rockin’ a 1-, 3-, 10- and 16 year-old, man. You know what club I go to? The club of playing board

games with my family... which, actually, I love.

**Plus, you have your farm just outside Nashville. You've got chickens to raise!**

We've got our chickens, our honeybees, our orchard. We love our farm.

**Have you sent RCA Records head Clive Davis a copy of the album?**

(Laughs) Be like, "This is what I was wanting to do this whole time!" Yeah, no. (Laughs) You know what's so sad: I was so excited to work with him. You have no idea. He worked with so many of my favorites: Janis (Joplin), and he worked with Bruce Springsteen way back in the day. All these artists who were very innovative in their time, and I was so excited. That's been one of the saddest points for me in this industry – just figuring out that someone I really look up to just was not what they seemed. That was a pretty big blow. I was pretty sad about that. Like, we don't always need to meet our heroes.

**In some ways, your story of artistic suppression is relatable to the LGBT community. As an ally, do you recognize that affinity?**

Talking with my gay or lesbian friends over the years, I can't imagine. I've always said I can't imagine not being able to be myself in and out. And, yes, while I can relate a bit musically to feeling like you're going over massive hurdles to try and get to a compromise that you're happy with, that's nothing in comparison to hearing my friends talk about (being gay), especially in the South where I grew up, and then the faith thing comes into play.

I had one friend wait, and this is the saddest thing ever: I don't think she ever felt comfortable in her skin because her parents were older. So, they passed away and then she finally felt free. I thought, "What a horrible feeling to have to wait until people aren't around to be yourself." I could never ever relate to that. I feel horrible that anybody has to go through that. It's almost like when people ask me about other artists who have all these shticks about them and I'm like, "Oh god, that would weigh on me if I had to keep that up, if I had to keep doing shit to make everyone happy."

Walking onto the stage in, like, a pretty dress to sing, that's really the extent of my diva, or just my experience on the stage. I've always just been very simple. Even in situations, musically, where I really had to fight or jump through hoops, I still was able to be myself, which I think people didn't like because I was very open. But I have to do that. I have to express myself. Literally, I would go in such a downward spiral of depression if I weren't able to, and that's why, honestly, a lot of friends, especially who are gay and lesbian, felt that way. I pray to God my children never have to feel that, that people around me don't have to feel that. I always hope that I'm always the one person going,

"If they're upset about it, screw it. It's your life. You can't *not* be you. You can't suffer just because you're trying to make somebody else happy. That's not a life."

**That sounds exactly like something Kelly Clarkson would say. And I wonder, as someone who has this large, far-reaching platform, what does it mean to you to be an LGBT ally, and when did you know you had the power to be one?**

I always laugh at the concept that people are like, "We just love what you say; that's why we love you," and I'm like, "Why is everyone not like that?" That's what boggles my mind. Why would you *not* say what you want to say? (In our last interview you) asked me if my daughter or son, or any of the four, ended up being gay, how would I take that, and I'd be like, "Awesome!" Honestly, in a world that is so hateful sometimes, I don't care where my kids find love. Hopefully with a loving and respectful and kind person, but I don't care if they're a boy or a girl. It just doesn't make a damn bit of difference to me.

I do want my children to fall in love with people who are loving, but I feel like our priorities are silly-ass backwards. Like, I want to go to my friends' parents who just don't want to talk about it. They know, but are like, "We just can't talk about it," which is so demeaning to their (children's) existence. And I want to knock on their door – I don't, because (my friends) ask me not to (laughs) – and be like, "Do you know you're missing out on an exceptional human because you can't get past your own ignorance? It's just silly to me that you want to miss out." I want to tell them, "I didn't have a dad and it had nothing to do with me being gay – it had to do with, he was a shitty guy. And you have the opportunity now to *not* be that parent and embrace your child. That's your DNA. You love your children. What's wrong with you?" It just makes me so mad, more so than anything.

**This past June, you helped two gay fans get engaged during one of your meet-and-greets.**

Oh my gosh, it was exciting. But I was nervous! Like, what if he was gonna say no?! (Laughs)

**How would you live that down?**

Literally, before I was like, "Wait. I do not want to be put in this situation where this guy might say no. Are you sure he's gonna say yes?" And he goes, "Well, I hope so!" He was nervous. I probably didn't help any. (Laughs)


**Do you hope gay couples just start routinely getting engaged in front of you?**

I was like, "I need to get ordained!"

**For the sake of gay couples everywhere, why are you not?**

I don't know if that would be authenticated! I don't know if people would question that!

See Kelly Clarkson, page 24



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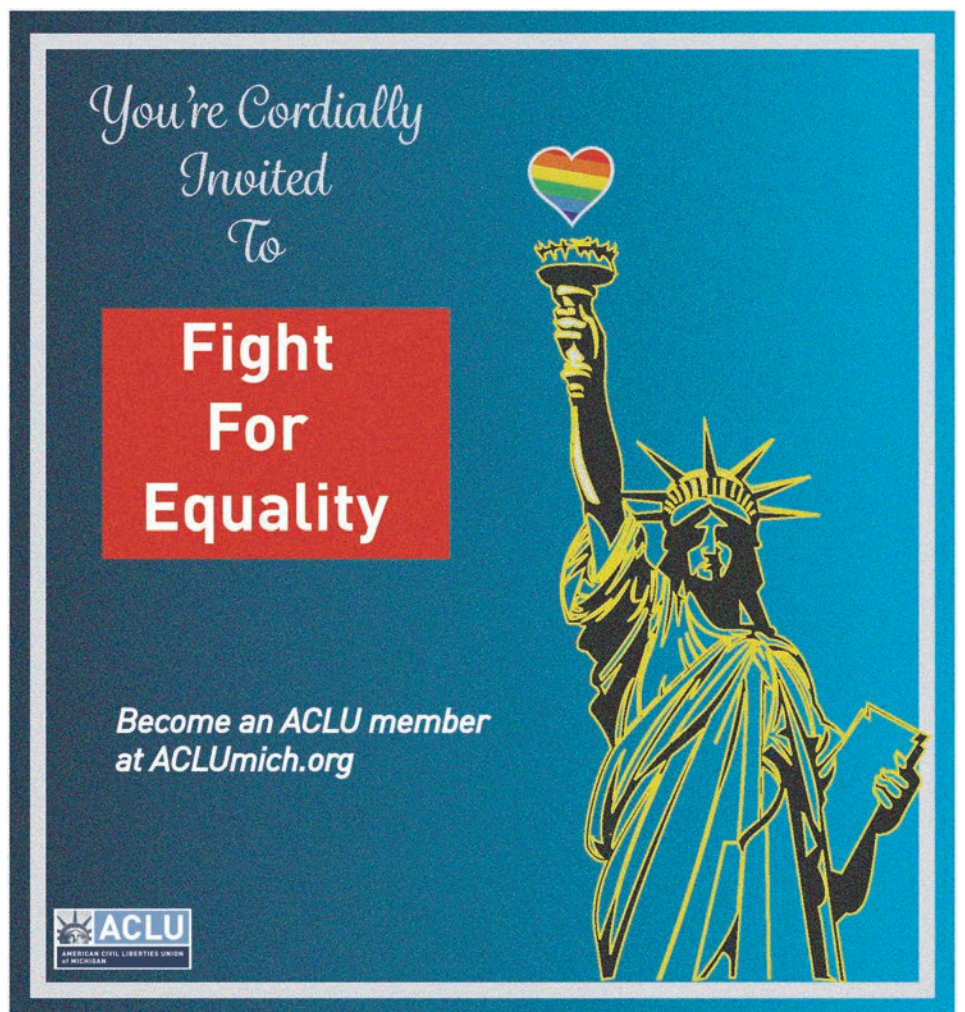
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I was like, "I need to get ordained!"

**For the sake of gay couples everywhere, why are you not?**

I don't know if that would be authenticated! I don't know if people would question that!

See Kelly Clarkson, page 24

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## Rockin' for the Hungry Campaign to Provide One Million Meals

### Kroger, Ann Arbor 107one, and Food Gatherers Will Join Forces to Help Alleviate Hunger Nov. 28 Through Dec. 3

BY BTL STAFF

One in seven people in Washtenaw County will have to choose between paying for medicine, gas or electricity and buying food to celebrate the holidays. In an effort to help provide one million meals to families facing food insecurity this year, give to Food Gatherers' annual Rockin' for the Hungry fund and food drive Nov. 28-Dec. 3 in collaboration with ann arbor's 107one FM and Kroger.

Community leaders Irene Fast and Harold and Kay Peplau pledged \$100,000 in matching funds again this year. Make a gift at any Kroger store in Washtenaw County during the campaign to have it matched dollar for dollar.

"In a nation of plenty, no one should go hungry," states Eileen Spring, CEO of Food Gatherers. "We rely on plenty of generosity to rescue food, deliver it to more than 150 partner programs and serve the people who need it most. We can't do it alone. With your support, we can mobilize all available resources to fight hunger where we live and eliminate its root causes."

ann arbor 107one will broadcast Rockin' for the Hungry live outside two Ann Arbor Kroger stores for six days:

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**400 South Maple Road**

More than 100 volunteers will be onsite at the Maple Road Kroger collecting donations and "freezin' for a reason" with Food Gatherers staff and ann arbor's 107one radio personalities.

Other Kroger locations in Washtenaw County will accept the donation of funds or non-perishable food items during the campaign. Members of the community are invited to create their own campaign this year also. Instructions for setting up a fundraising page are available online at [www.foodgatherers.org/rockin](http://www.foodgatherers.org/rockin).

Call Food Gatherers at 734-761-2796 Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. or visit [www.foodgatherers.org/donate](http://www.foodgatherers.org/donate) for more information.

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f t t y



## Ozone House Welcomes Back Krista Girty as New Executive Director

BY BTL STAFF

The Ozone House in Ann Arbor has appointed Krista Girty as new executive director of the community organization that supports youth across Washtenaw County.

Girty will start her new role on Nov. 1, replacing Katie Doyle, who has accepted a position as clinical assistant professor at University of Michigan's School of Social Work after 17 years with Ozone House.

"We are gratified that Katie will be taking what she has learned at Ozone House a bit further upstream to support Master of Social Work students before they enter the field," said Soni Mithani, president of the Ozone House Board of Directors, in a statement.

In early 2000, Girty worked at Ozone House as a case manager, creating programs like SOLO (Supported Opportunities for Living on your Own) and revamping established programs like PrideZone.

Ozone House, created in 1969, has intervention and prevention services along with programming that offers counseling, emergency services, housing, job training, educational support, LGBTQ+ services and substance abuse support.

Girty brings years of experience to her new role as executive director, the Ozone House said, with two decades of working in youth advocacy, homeless youth services and stabilization programs.

Girty has worked for entities such as the Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network in Florida, Larkin Street Youth Services and Huckleberry House in the San Francisco Bay Area, and the Covenant House's Northern California Operations.

Girty's commitment to youth is what makes her the perfect executive director of the Ozone House, Mithani said in a statement.

"We are looking forward to introducing Krista to our community and the youth we serve, and to working with Krista on tackling, curbing, and dare I say, ending youth homelessness in our neighborhoods over the coming years," said Mithani.

For more information, visit <http://ozonehouse.org/about-us/>.

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## Halsey 'hopeless fountain kingdom' Tour

GRAMMY Award-nominated multi-platinum alternative pop maverick Halsey is currently on tour celebrating her second full-length album, "hopeless fountain kingdom" [Astralwerks]. Halsey executive produced the album alongside Benny Blanco, Greg Kurstin, Lido and Ricky Reed, which features the tracks "Now or Never," "Bad at Love" and "Strangers" ft. Lauren Jauregui. Halsey brings her biggest, brightest, and boldest stage show yet to the Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave. in Detroit on Nov. 21 with PartyNextDoor and Charli XCX as support. Tickets are on-sale now at [www.hfktour.com](http://www.hfktour.com).

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

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

**Connections Youth Group** 6 p.m. For youth ages 13-18 OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**LGBTQ Youth Meeting** 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. [michael@kgllrc.org](mailto:michael@kgllrc.org) [www.outfrontkzoo.org](http://www.outfrontkzoo.org)

**Men's Social Group** 7 p.m. Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. [www.grpride.org](http://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](http://standwithtrans.org) [www.standwithtrans.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:sjohnson@equalitymi.org) [www.grpride.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

**Own Your Gender** 7 p.m. For transgender, non-binary and gender and gender questioning people Grand Rapids Pride

Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. [www.grpride.org](http://www.grpride.org)

### Sunday, Nov. 12

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

### Monday, Nov. 13

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

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

### Wednesday, Nov. 15

**Out Loud Chorus Board Meeting** 7 p.m. Out Loud Chorus, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. [www.jimtoycenter.org/](http://www.jimtoycenter.org/)

### Thursday, Nov. 16

**Gender Non-Conformists** 7 p.m. A social and support group for genderqueer,

genderfabulous, transgender, gender-exploring folks and all those who transgress gender binaries. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

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

### Friday, Nov. 17

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

### Saturday, Nov. 18

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

**Coming Out Over Coffee** 10:30 a.m. A casual discussion group covering all aspects of coming out and the effects it may have on your life. Affirmations, 290

## Editor's Pick

### Peace, Love and Philanthropy

Members of the community are invited to participate in the Metta Yoga Project at 11 a.m. on Nov. 18 to benefit Equality Michigan. The one-hour yoga class for all levels and a 15-minute loving kindness meditation will be led by Ronda Diegel at the Michigan School of Professional Psychology, 26811 Orchard Lake Rd. in Farmington Hills. A \$20 donation is suggested (more or less gratefully accepted). Cash or checks made out to Equality Michigan Education Fund. RSVP to [drondadiegl@comcast.net](mailto:drondadiegl@comcast.net).



# Editor's Pick

## Project Homeless Connect

This event, sponsored by the Jackson County Continuum of Care, seeks to connect those experiencing homelessness with the care and services they need from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Nov. 16. Project Homeless Connect will take place at St. Johns United Church of Christ/United Center, 801 S. Mechanic St. in Jackson. Everyone is welcome to enjoy free giveaways including haircuts, raffle prizes and lunch. Free JATA transportation is available to and from the event. Visit <http://gaybe.am/Kk> for more information.



W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. [www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 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](http://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. 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>

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "The Kris Johnson Group With Lulu Fall" Award-winning trumpeter Kris Johnson returns to the Cube with Lulu Fall for an evening of vibrant music elements. Tickets \$15-\$49. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 10 p.m. Nov. 17. 313-576-5111. [www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4699&prod=4698](http://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4699&prod=4698)

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "The Kris Johnson Group with Lulu Fall" Kris

Johnson and Lulu Fall make their long awaited return to Detroit to celebrate the release of their new project, The Unpaved Road. Contact Max M. Fisher Music Center for ticket info. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 10 p.m. Nov. 17. 313-576-5111. [www.dso.org/cube](http://www.dso.org/cube)

**Sound Board** "90's Freestyle" Sound Board welcomes the 90's Freestyle Concert presented by Mix 92.3 Artist performing are Lisa Lisa, Michel le, Tone Loc, Coolio and Rob Base. Check website for ticket information. Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 12. 866-782-9622. [www.motorcitycasino.com](http://www.motorcitycasino.com)

**Static Network** "Konrad Lee & The Hotsy Totsies with the Samauri Arkestra" PRESENTING FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY! THREE ONE & ONLY KONRAD LEE-LOUNGE SINGER EXTRAORDINAIRE featuring THE HOTSY TOTSIES AND THE SAMURAI ARKESTRALots of music! Lots of dancing! Lots of absurdity! And, lots of FUN! He will perform classics from the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s & 00s. Konrad Lee is what you would call the consummate performer, a Detroit gem, an acrobatic vocalist. A man of few words, unless music is playing. Tangent Gallery, 715 E. Milwaukee, Detroit. Nov. 17 - Nov. 17. 313-873-2955. [www.facebook.com/events/399222680493920/](http://www.facebook.com/events/399222680493920/)

**University Musical Society** "Chanticleer Heart of a Soldier" Chanticleer is known around the world as an 'orchestra of voices' for the seamless blend of it's 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](http://www.ums.org)

### THEATER

**A2CT Auditions for The Explorers Club** Ann Arbor Civic Theatre announces auditions for its main stage production of 'The Explorers Club' by Neil Benjamin. Auditions will take place Sunday and Monday, November 12 and 13, 2017, at 7 PM at the Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Studio. Callbacks are scheduled for Wednesday, November 15 at 7 PM. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. Nov. 12 - Nov. 13. 734-971-2228. <http://www.a2ct.org/audition>

**Beau Jest** Contact Theatre for ticket prices. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Nov. 16 - Dec. 23. 517-655-SHOW. [www.williamstontheatre.org](http://www.williamstontheatre.org)

### Professional

**61st Season Black Tie Celebration** Join the celebration with keynote speaker, Tonya Allen, Skillman Foundation President. Includes champagne and appetizers, Cash bar. All tickets \$75. Contact for tickets, sponsorships and contributions. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 6:30 p.m. Nov. 18. 313-868-1347. [www.detroitreptheatre.com](http://www.detroitreptheatre.com)

**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.detroitmercycarts.com](http://www.detroitmercycarts.com)

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

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

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

**Resisting by David Wells** Theatre NOVA, 410 W. Huron St., Ann Arbor. Through Nov. 19. 734-635-8450. [www.theatrenova.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.broadwayindetroit.com)

**The Marriage of Figaro** The classic opera with music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Check website for ticket information. Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Nov. 11 - Nov. 19. 313-237-SING. [www.michiganopera.org](http://www.michiganopera.org)

### ART 'N' AROUND

**Ann Arbor District Library** "The Battle Over Oscar Wildes Legacy" Years after Oscar Wildes death, two of his closest friends engaged in a bitter battle over Wildes legacy and who was to blame for his downfall and early death. The feud had long-lasting repercussions, not only for the two men, but also for how we remember Oscar Wilde today. Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch, 343 S 5th Ave, Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Nov. 17. (734) 327-4200. <http://www.aadl.org/node/365701>

See Happenings, page 29

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## ► Kelly Clarkson

Continued from p.19

One of our friends – my husband also manages Blake Shelton – was like, “I wanna marry y’all” and I was like, “I want it to be, like, credible. You don’t actually have a following, or a church!”

**I have a feeling people would go to the Church of KC.**

Oh, Lord, that would be a funny church.

**So, as much as I love talking about music, it’s hard not to acknowledge the screwy state of the world during interviews these days.**

Yeah, everything is obviously impacted by it.

**How are you? I know you’ve always stood up for what you believe in, but in this politically divisive climate, do you feel an even greater responsibility to stand up for the things that are important to you?**

The hard thing for me, specifically: I always hate when people bring up, “Oh, you’re a celebrity, you shouldn’t have an opinion.” The hard thing in that for me is, I’m not just that. I’m a mother, I’m a daughter, I’m a woman. And it took a long time and a lot of women to pioneer that way for me, to even have a voice. So, for me to not use that is so disrespectful to those before me who worked so hard for it. For me to not take advantage of

that seems like a cruel irony.

Why would I not voice my opinion as a mother? Why can’t I say this is a really hard time to have a 10- and 16-year-old, guys? Because I don’t know what to tell them when they hear certain things on TV. They’re smart enough to know what’s going on. I can’t hide them from that. So, it’s a very hard time to explain things away. It’s a very hard time to have the discussion about any kind of bigotry or racism or elitism. It’s a very hard time because a lot of things are happening that are making crazy, insane, irrational moments normal, and it’s a very hard time to raise kids in that environment. Forget me even being a celebrity. As a mother – just as a mother – it’s a very hard time.

I’m glad, at least, that everything is all coming to the forefront because it’s now pointing out – like, I had no idea we had white supremacists. I have never come across people like that. Not even as a child in a small town in the South, and even then, that town has blossomed and they’re more progressive now.

It’s 2017 – why are we still having these conversations? But we’re having them because they do exist, and it’s insane. It’s insane that somebody just doesn’t go, “Oh, I’m sorry, but yeah, we don’t want that here. You should go somewhere else. This is a country of many cultures, many faiths,

and open-mindedness. That is why people came here.” It’s amazing to me that we just don’t have grown-ass men and women in the public eye of politics going, “Absolutely not. I’m not even having this conversation because that’s not even OK. There’s no way to validate what just happened.”

**Reflecting on all your work for RCA: Which album are you most and least proud of?**

The album I’m most proud of in that whole section is the Christmas album (2013’s “Wrapped in Red”), and that’s just because it was 100 percent me. Because it was Christmas and it was OK for me to make decisions (laughs). They let Greg (Kurstin) and I do whatever we wanted, so it was a lot easier to accomplish my goal with that album.

My least favorite? Man, I mean, maybe my least favorite was my first one (2003’s “Thankful”). I just say that because of the experience. I was very young and very excited about making a record. It was my first time doing all of that, and it was also my first time realizing, “This is gonna be really hard because there are so many cooks in the kitchen and they don’t care that you’re not allowed to be one.” It was my first experience in the industry going, “Oh, wait, this isn’t what I thought it was gonna be like.” So my ignorance led to that and me being young and excited, I guess. Not that I don’t love the album – it’s just that I didn’t love finding that out.

**Do you ever get tired of singing your first single, 2002’s “A Moment Like This”?**

I never sing it! Because the song wasn’t meant for me – it was meant for the winner. I never would’ve been like, “This is a great record” (laughs). I get the moment it was for. That was the perfect song for that moment. I totally address that, but that song doesn’t fit in my tour setlist.

**It still takes me back every time I hear it.**

Totally. The nostalgia. For me too. It was a beautiful moment. I’m very thankful and blessed for it. But it wasn’t a song that was meant for me. They just wrote it for whomever was gonna win, so that doesn’t make me feel special. (Laughs)

**With “Meaning of Life,” your hair on the album cover is giving me some serious Mariah vibes.**

That Drew Barrymore-to-the-side-’90s vibe, yeah – it’s completely calculated. (Laughs) I literally was like, “I want the hair for this album to be talking to God.” It fits with the record. It’s so sassy and confident and diva in the best sense, and so I really wanted that ’90s hair. Whether it’s the artwork or the music, everything on this album is influenced by the ’90s, which was my favorite time in music.

**From “Since U Been Gone” on through “People Like Us” and “I Have a Dream,” your anthems have been empowering to LGBT people. What song on this album do you hope becomes the next big gay anthem?**

It’s always my gay boys who come up and go, “Oh my god, I love ‘Whole Lotta Woman.’” And it’s so funny, because I’m like, that is so ironic and amazing! (Laughs)

**Based solely on the track’s name, not even the fact that it’s a celebratory anthem, you can’t possibly be that surprised.**

(Laughs) Honestly, I didn’t think about it! But then we performed it impromptu at the “Today” show just for the audience there in New York – not for the televised show, just for the audience – and it was so funny because all the gay boys were dancing more than anyone, even more than the women! It was so fun. It’s such a fun audience that just loves sass and confidence, and I just love being surrounded by an audience with that kind of energy.

**That song definitely shut downs, once and for all, your social-media shamers. What advice do you have for LGBT people who experience the bullying that you’ve experienced?**

We have a 16-year-old girl and a grown-ass woman was being horrible to her. She was just being hateful and passive-aggressive online and I had to be real with (my daughter). I said, “This is gonna happen so often, so this would be a good time to learn to take the high road. Block them or whatever you want to do to not see it, if you don’t want to see it.” Bullying is gonna happen, so we tell our kids, “That’s gonna happen. I can’t protect you from that. There’s nothing we can do about that. There are no bullying cops.” It’s an epidemic that’s horrible and it needs to be addressed, but at the same time, when you have kids coming to you, I just have to teach her to rise above it.

It’s one of those things I always describe to fans, too, in meet-and-greets because they always ask, “How are you so confident?” It’s because, at the end of the day, I really don’t care about anyone’s opinion but mine and the people I know who love me and really do want the best for me. You can’t base your entire existence and every decision off how people are gonna feel about it. That’s a giant check list; there’s a lot of us. (Laughs) So, just be happy with your decisions, and sometimes know you’re gonna be successful and sometimes you’re gonna fail. And whatever. At least you were steering your ship.

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



**The NATIONAL LGBTQ TASK FORCE invites you to a gathering of our community**

**Friday, December 1, 2017**  
5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

At the home of Mary Harper and Marigene Arnold

We believe we need to be together at this critical time for the LGBTQ community, our allies, and our country. Kathleen Campisano, Organizing and Training Director of the National LGBTQ Task Force, will be our honored speaker. She will tell you about the critical work the Task Force has done in Michigan and other states, as well as our plans to continue to be a leader in the resistance to the Trump administration and how you can be involved.

**Drinks, light fare provided. Suggested donation: \$1000. Address provided upon RSVP**

We hope you will consider becoming a Leadership Council member of the Task Force, with a minimum donation of \$1,500 annually. If you cannot attend, please consider making a gift to the Task Force at [www.thetaskforce.org/kalamazoo](http://www.thetaskforce.org/kalamazoo)

**Hosts:**  
Mary Harper, Board member  
John Allen, member of the National Advisory Council and former Board member  
Jon Hoadley, member of the National Advisory Council  
Susan Horowitz, former Board member  
Jan Stevenson, former Board member

**To RSVP, visit**  
[www.thetaskforce.org/kalamazoo](http://www.thetaskforce.org/kalamazoo)



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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Sara Ramirez moves to 'Madam'

Hey, all you "Madam Secretary" fans: Did Bebe Neuwirth shake your Sunday night to the core when her character left the show? Did you think it was some sort of trick? It wasn't. Neuwirth has exited the popular political drama and she'll soon be replaced with "Grey's Anatomy" alum Sara Ramirez. As you probably already know, the bisexual Ramirez played lesbian Callie Torres for 10 years on "Grey's" but she's trading her scrubs for suits as she glides into Washington D.C. as Kat Sandoval, powerful political strategist working with Tea Leoni (she's the Madam Secretary of the title, btw, for all of you cultural elitists who spend your Sundays with HBO). Ramirez's character will be introduced on the Nov. 19 episode, and no, we don't know if Kat's a lesbian, too, but if the publicity still featuring that gorgeously modern butch haircut is any indication, mayyyyyybeeeee....

## Judy, again, and this time it's Zellweger's turn

We have always loved and always will love Renee Zellweger. She hasn't been around much lately, and that's a drag, and we had to go see the boring faith-based drama "Same Kind of Different as Me" and that last not-so-great Bridget Jones sequel to get our Renee needs fulfilled, but we hold out hope for the future. Now it appears that our wish might come true fairly soon, because Zellweger has been cast as late-stage Judy Garland in an upcoming biographical drama. Untitled for now, and shooting in early 2018, it will tell the story of Judy's final tragic days in London, where she performed her last concerts, married her fifth husband, and longed to be home with her children. There's no other casting news, but directing is Tony Award nominee Rupert Goold ("American Psycho," "King Charles III") and the script is from "The Crown"'s Tom Edge. Meanwhile, we know Renee Z can belt out a song, so we hope she's practicing a gut-wrenching "The Man Who Got Away." We'll be waiting.

## Jane Lynch walks in Ellen's shoes, sort of

Telepictures, the company behind Ellen DeGeneres' staggering popular daytime talk show, along with Warner Bros. syndication arm (Warner Bros. is where Ellen's show goes before cameras every day), is about to launch a talk show with Ellen's pal Jane



Jane Lynch. Photo: KathClick

Lynch. But don't call this a copycat project just yet. Lynch's show will be created around her comedy, just like Ellen's, and will be shot in front of a live audience and showcase real people's stories, also just like Ellen's, but the plan right now is for there to be no celebrity guests plugging their upcoming projects, very much unlike Ellen's. We're excited for this one because we've admired the four-time Emmy winning Ms. Lynch for years now, and she's got the cred for it, too, having already won two of those Emmy Awards as the host of "Hollywood Game Night." Whatever the unnamed show turns out to be, we'll be tuning in, as long as it doesn't air at the same time as Wendy Williams. We have priorities.

## Luke Evans is in a 'State Like Sleep'

Film history is at least partially a story about gay actors wondering if coming out will sink their career or limit their choices. And for countless numbers of them it's been a rough road. But after some highly publicized fits and starts, Luke Evans may be the gay male actor who gets to have exactly the kind of career he wants to have. He's out, he plays heterosexuals (please do catch "Professor Marston and the Wonder Women"; it's very good), he stars in macho action films, and nobody seems to care one bit. His latest project, shooting now in Toronto, is "State Like Sleep," starring Katherine Waterston ("Alien: Covenant") and Michael Shannon ("Nocturnal Animals"). From writer-director Meredith Danluck – until recently known mostly for documentaries like Garbage Island – it's about a dead celebrity, the mystery of his double life, and the wife who wants answers. Evans plays the proprietor of an upscale strip club, a place that may hold the key to everything, as places like that often do in the movies. Expect further clues sometime in 2018.

Romeo San Vicente thinks Luke Evans' weird little mustache is sexy.

One ticket—two exhibitions!

An advertisement for two exhibitions. The top half is split into two vertical panels. The left panel features a photograph of ancient stone columns and the title "Church" in large, white, serif font. To the left of the title, the text "A PAINTER'S PILGRIMAGE" is written vertically. The right panel features a reproduction of a painting by J.M.W. Turner, showing a dense field of flowers, with the title "Monet" in large, white, serif font. To the left of the title, the text "FRAMING LIFE" is written vertically. Below the panels are two colored boxes: a maroon box on the left with the dates "October 22, 2017- January 15, 2018" and a blue box on the right with the dates "October 22, 2017- March 4, 2018". At the bottom right of the advertisement, it says "Made possible by the Bonnie Ann Larson Modern European Masters Series".

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



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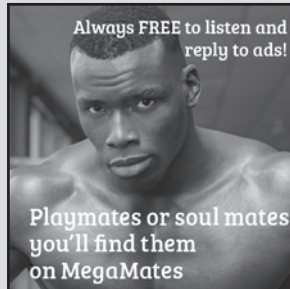
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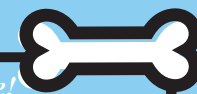


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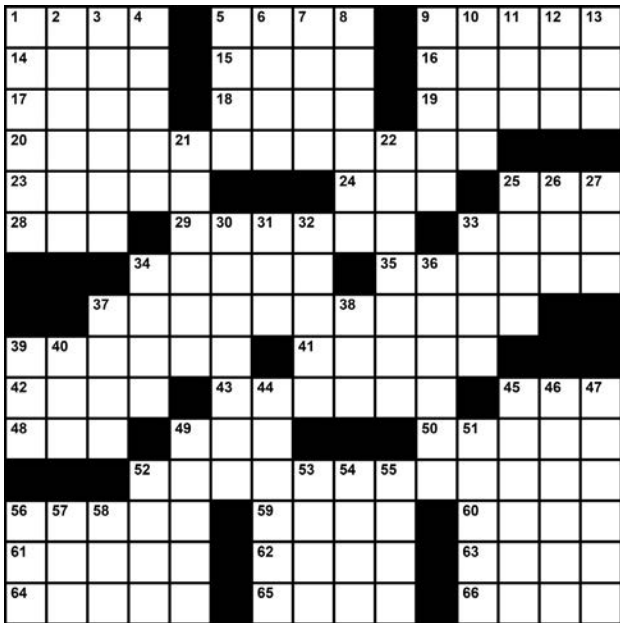


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# Q Puzzle



## Battle of the Sexes

### Across

- 1 Bear that may be a minor
- 5 Opposed to, to 8-Down
- 9 Carell, who played Bobby Riggs in "Battle of the Sexes"
- 14 Like a Peter Lorre film
- 15 Sweeping story
- 16 Movie based on "The Price of Salt"
- 17 Half of a pair for grabbing
- 18 Stuffed shirt
- 19 Exams on sexual technique?

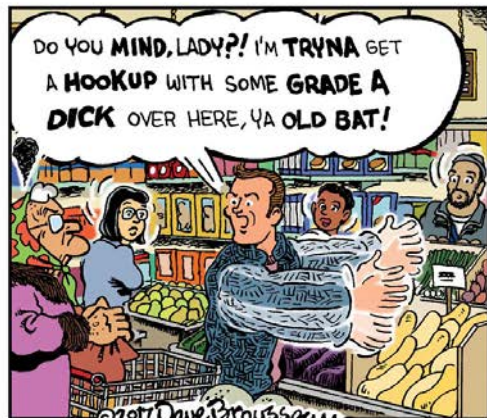
- 20 Start of a Bobby Riggs quote in "Battle of the Sexes"
- 23 Tries to lose
- 24 "Poppycock!"
- 25 Silent Bob's partner
- 28 "So's \_\_\_ old man!"
- 29 Clearest of head
- 33 Dark version of the color purple
- 34 "Innocent" author Scott
- 35 Guys under Hoover, e.g.
- 37 More of the quote
- 39 Tickle pink

- 41 Pottery ovens
- 42 Right on a map
- 43 Placed one inside another
- 45 Kerouac's "Big \_\_\_"
- 48 Mouth-to-mouth pro
- 49 One of TV's "Bosom Buddies"
- 50 "Fantasia" ballerina
- 52 End of the quote
- 56 Evita portrayer on stage
- 59 Sophie B. Hawkins' "The Cream Will \_\_\_"
- 60 "Nurse Jackie" portrayer Falco
- 61 Whiskey bottle word
- 62 Lines from Lesbos
- 63 Perform a decorator's task
- 64 Emma, who played Billie Jean King in "Battle of the Sexes"
- 65 Boss Tweed caricaturist
- 66 Three of Frida's family

### Down

- 1 Like Oscar Madison of \_The Odd Couple\_
- 2 Bert, to Ernie
- 3 Mary Lambert, for one
- 4 Lingo
- 5 Org. with a common purpose
- 6 "West Side Story" faction
- 7 "\_\_\_ Rhythm"
- 8 Jim who played Gomer
- 9 "To Kill a Mockingbird" tomboy
- 10 Pastry with fruit, perhaps
- 11 Pitching stat
- 12 Tennessee foot player
- 13 Dottermans of "Antonia's Line"
- 21 Copies of The Advocate, e.g.
- 22 Safe to put in your mouth
- 25 Male private parts, in slang
- 26 Be in a cast
- 27 "Let's do it!"
- 30 "\_\_\_ and Old Lace"
- 31 Classic Japanese theater
- 32 "Return of the Jedi" creatures
- 33 Muscle Mary's concern
- 34 Cho's "I'm the One \_\_\_ I Want"
- 36 1982 biopic with Ian Charleson
- 37 Trial run
- 38 Sense of humor
- 39 Drench Trump in a Russian video
- 40 On the \_\_\_ (running away)
- 44 "You've Got Mail" director Nora
- 45 "Kiss of the \_\_\_ Woman"
- 46 Positive aspect
- 47 Shakespearean lover and his namesakes
- 49 Penetrating weapon
- 51 Like helium and krypton
- 52 "Blame \_\_\_ The Bossa Nova"
- 53 Slave in an Elton John musical
- 54 Objectifies, sexually
- 55 Flak jacket, for one
- 56 It may come at the end of a love letter
- 57 What Michelangelo put out
- 58 To boot

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



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## Join the HTJ Planning Committee

BY BTL STAFF

LGBT Detroit is looking for members of the community who are interested in joining the Hotter Than July planning committee.

“We need people that are able to attend the subcommittee meeting as well as the Hotter Than July planning committee meetings,” said Jamesion King. “We need people to identify possible sponsors and be able to deliver benefits to sponsors. We need people to organize and delegate event tasks. Also, to recruit, communicate and energize volunteers.”

Contact King at [jamesionking@lgbtdetroit.org](mailto:jamesionking@lgbtdetroit.org) for more information about how to help positively promote and ensure the success of HTJ in 2018.

## Affirmations Offers Seminar Series

BY BTL STAFF

This winter, join Children Services Network at Affirmations for a seminar series about taking special considerations with serving diverse populations. Attendance is by donation only at a \$20 suggested rate.

### Seminar Topics and Dates:

Special considerations: Sexual Minorities  
Presented by Ian Unger  
Nov. 10, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Special considerations: Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Individuals  
Presented by Ian Unger  
Dec. 8, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Special considerations: Culturally Diverse Populations  
Presented by Brandi-Pritchett-Johnson of the Diane Morgan Group  
Jan. 12, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Special considerations: Military personnel, First Responders and their families  
Presenter TBD  
Feb. 2, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

*Affirmations is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Rd. in Ferndale. Visit <http://goaffirmations.org>. Contact Ian Unger at 248-398-7105 or [iunger@goaffirmations.org](mailto:iunger@goaffirmations.org) for details.*

## Michigan Communities Observe Transgender Day of Remembrance

BY BTL STAFF

Transgender Day of Remembrance is an annual observance on Nov. 20 that honors the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. TDOR was started by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998.

Though Hester was not the first transgender

person to be a victim of transphobia and violence, her death became the catalyst for the launch of TDOR in San Francisco on the one-year anniversary of her death.

During the week of Nov. 14-20, individuals and organizations around the country participate in Transgender Awareness Week to help raise the visibility of transgender and gender non-conforming people and address the issues these communities face.

There are a variety of activities and events in Michigan to memorialize those who have been murdered because of hate, to support the transgender community and to help raise awareness about the continued violence facing transgender people.

For more information, visit <https://tdor.info>.

### Nov. 11

St. John's United Church of Christ  
801 S. Mechanic in Jackson  
4:30-6 p.m.  
Hosted by the Jackson Pride Center  
[www.facebook.com/jxnmipride/](http://www.facebook.com/jxnmipride/)

Robin Theatre  
1105 S. Washington Ave. Lansing  
1-3 p.m.  
Hosted by Space for Grace Fellowship UCC  
[www.spaceforgrace.org](http://www.spaceforgrace.org)

Riverfront Apartments  
Community Room, 601 N. Cedar St., Lansing  
4-6 p.m. Hosted by Space for Grace Fellowship UCC  
[www.spaceforgrace.org](http://www.spaceforgrace.org)

### Nov. 13

University of Michigan School of Social Work, ECC Room  
1080 S. University Ave. Ann Arbor  
6:30-8 p.m.  
Co-hosted by the Spectrum Center

Keynote speaker Dr. Z Nicolazzo, assistant professor in the adult and higher education program and a faculty associate in the Center for the Study of Women,

Gender, and Sexuality, both at Northern Illinois University. <http://bit.ly/2yCaNqX>

Russel H. Kirkhof Center  
Grand Valley State University  
Grand River Room 2250  
1 Campus Dr in Allendale  
4 p.m.  
Hosted by GVSU Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center  
Free talk with gender theorist and historian Susan Stryker. “What Transpires Now: Transgender History and the Future We Need.”  
[www.facebook.com/grtransfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/grtransfoundation)

### Nov. 16

McKinnon Plaza  
University of Michigan  
303 E. Kearsley St. in Flint  
6 p.m.  
Hosted by Ellen Bommartio LGBTQ Center, [www.facebook.com/UMF.LGBTQ](http://www.facebook.com/UMF.LGBTQ)

### Nov. 17

MCC Detroit  
2441 Pinecrest in Ferndale  
7-9 p.m. Hosted by the Gender-Identity Network Alliance and

MCC Detroit  
[www.facebook.com/MCCDetroit](http://www.facebook.com/MCCDetroit)

### Nov. 18

First Congregational United Church of Christ, 210 West Saginaw Hwy. Grand Ledge  
6 p.m.  
Hosted by Emily Rose and Nicole Wilson  
[www.facebook.com/events/1940990612841091/](http://www.facebook.com/events/1940990612841091/)

### Nov. 19

MCC Detroit  
2441 Pinecrest in Ferndale  
Transgender Day of Remembrance Morning Worship Service  
11 a.m.

Salus Center  
624 E. Michigan Ave. in Lansing  
6-7:30 p.m.  
[www.facebook.com/SalusCenterMI](http://www.facebook.com/SalusCenterMI)

### Nov. 20

William Monroe Trotter Multicultural Center  
1443 Washtenaw Ave. in Ann Arbor

6-8 p.m.  
Hosted by the University of Michigan Spectrum Center  
[www.facebook.com/spectrumcenter/](http://www.facebook.com/spectrumcenter/)

Eastern Michigan University  
LGBT Resource Center  
354 EMU Student Center in Ypsilanti  
734-487-4149 or [lgbtcr@emich.edu](mailto:lgbtcr@emich.edu)  
[www.emich.edu/lgbtrc](http://www.emich.edu/lgbtrc)

The Bradley House Theatre  
403 S. Jefferson Ave. in Saginaw  
7:30 p.m.  
“The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson” Hosted by Perceptions and PFLAG Tri-Cities  
[www.perceptionsmi.org](http://www.perceptionsmi.org)

Gender and Sexuality Center  
Oakland University  
312 Meadow Brook Road, 49D  
Oakland Center in Rochester  
248-370-4336 or [GSC@oakland.edu](mailto:GSC@oakland.edu)  
9 a.m.

A panel will discuss issues transgender people face, provide resources for transgender people and offer guidance on how to help or be a good ally to the transgender community. <https://oakland.edu/gsc>

## ► Happenings

Continued from p. 23

**Circe Production** "Elvira Kurt at Women in the Arts Festival" 2 day festival event! Well known for her no punches pulled sets at the various Womens Festivals in the Midwest, Elvira Kurt will add a wonderful comic touch to this years Women in the Arts Festival. Suggested ticket donation \$15 (more if you can, less if you cant) Edgewood United Church, 469 Hagadorn, East Lansing. Nov. 10 - Nov. 11. 5174841712. www.witafestival.com

**Circe Production** "Were Not Dead Yet at Women in the Arts Festival" This years Women in the Arts Festival is the trio lovingly called Were Not Dead Yet. These three decidedly not dead women, Dianne Davidson, Deidre McCalla, and Jamie Anderson, perform in-the-round for an evening of humor and grace running the gamut from gut-wrenching blues to heartbreakingly tender ballads. Tickets are \$20 for the public, \$18 for Fiddle members and \$5 for students. Edgewood United Church, 469 Hagadorn, East Lansing. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 10. 5174841712. www.witafestival.com

**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

**Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series** "Lucy McRae: Future of Wellness" Lucy McRae is a sci-fi artist, designer, body architect, and filmmaker placing the human body in complex, futuristic scenarios that confound the boundaries between the natural and artificial. Michigan Theater, 603 E Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 5:10 p.m. Nov. 16. 7347643464. https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/lucy\_mcrac

**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. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty Street, Ann Arbor. 5:10 p.m. Nov. 9. 7347643464. https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/art\_spiegelman

**Pewabic Pottery** "Holiday Showcase" Holiday showcase at Pewabic Pottery celebrating the season unveiling our new giftware! Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. 5 p.m. Nov. 9. 313-626-2000. www.pewabic.org

**Plant Based Nutrition Support Group** "A Plant Based Holiday Cooking Extravaganza" Enjoy plant-based cooking demonstrations of dishes sure to impress at holiday dinners. Chefs from GreenSpace, Clean PlateCacao Tree, Ann Arbor Vegan Kitchen, Reluctantly Vegan, GladiatorVeg, Chef Veggi and the PBNSG

**Culinary Curator** Try delicious samples and get recipes to make these mouthwatering dishes at home! Tickets are \$20 online until November 15th and \$25 at the door while supplies last Seaholm High School, 2436 West Lincoln, Birmingham. 6:30 p.m. Nov. 16. 248-919-8726. www.pbns.org/Events

**Signal-Return** "INK UP!" Come celebrate our 6th anniversary at our annual fundraiser, in the studio, in the store and in the street! Join us in an action-packed celebration! This year, we welcome Third Man Records as party co-hosts. Children and teens admission is free! Signal-Return is a 501c3 nonprofit arts organization and all money raised go to support our innovative programming for the upcoming year. Signal-Return, 1345 Division St Ste 102, Detroit. 6 p.m. Nov. 17. 313-567-8970. www.signalreturnpress.org/ink-up/

**The Brooklyn Institute for Social Research** "Fugitive Justice Race, Politics, and History Fall Course at The Brooklyn Institute for Social Research" What happens when Black history focuses on the fugitive rather than the emancipated slave? This four-week course is Thursdays, 6:30-9:30pm, Nov. 9, 16, 30 & December 7. Prices are offered on a sliding scale from \$25-\$75. Scholarships readily available for those who cant afford the fee. To register, visit our website or call 313-236-9271. The Bethlehem Building, 1450 McKinstry Street, Detroit. 6:30 p.m. Nov. 9. 313-236-9271. https://thebrooklyninstitute.com/items/courses/fugitive-justice-race-politics-history/

**The Guild of Artists & Artisans** "Royal Oak Farmers Market Art Fair" This is a juried fair and admission is FREE for fairgoers! The event will feature 75 artists. Royal Oak Farmers Market, 316 E. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Nov. 16 - Nov. 17. 248-246-3276. www.theguild.org/fairs/royal-oak-market-art-fair-edition



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# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

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

## AIDS/HIV

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

### AIDS Walk Detroit

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

### Macomb County STD Clinic

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

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

### Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

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

### UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

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

## Advocacy

### Equality Michigan

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

## Campus

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

### U-M Ann Arbor

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

### Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

### Eastern Michigan University

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

### The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

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

### Wayne State JIGSAW

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

## Community Centers

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

### Jim Toy Community Center

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

### LGBT Detroit

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

## Affirmations

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

## Legal

### American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

### Fair Michigan

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

### Know Your Rights Project

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

## Older Adults

### SAGE Metro Detroit

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

## Political

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

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

### Stonewall for Revolution

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

## Professional Groups

### Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

### Ties Like Me

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

## Suits And The City

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

## Transgender

### FtM Detroit

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

### FtM A2 Ypsi

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

### Transgender Michigan

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

### Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

## Youth

### Ruth Ellis Center

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

### Ozone House

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

### Stand With Trans

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



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

## Find these resources online

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

## Get Listed, Promote Your Events

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

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

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