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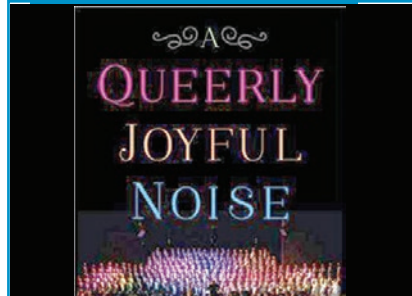
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Transgender Woman Shot, Robbed in Detroit on the Eve of the TDOR

Two Men Charged by Wayne County Prosecutor's Office in Collaboration with Fair Michigan Justice Project

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

In the early morning hours of Nov. 17, a transgender woman was robbed and shot near Palmer Park. The victim, a 36-year-old known to most friends only as Chocolate, was walking on Woodward Avenue near Worcester Street when a SUV, a red GMC Yukon, pulled up alongside her.

Suddenly, two men stepped out of the vehicle while a third remained inside. According to a victim's statement and video footage conveniently captured by Project Green Light cameras, the men, later identified as Jajuan Alexon Williams, 19, and Charles Marion Brown, 21, demanded Chocolate throw her belongings down and run away. While she was running, Brown opened fire on her with a rifle. She was shot four times in the back and arm.

Police arrived quickly and gave chase. They caught up with the suspects when their vehicle jumped a curb and hit a concrete barrier in the area of Russell and Canfield. Williams was apprehended at the scene while Brown was picked up the next morning.

Brown, who was identified by police as the gunman, has been charged by Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy in collaboration with the Fair Michigan Justice Project with various offenses. They include assault with intent to commit murder, assault with intent to commit great bodily harm, armed robbery resulting in serious injury, armed robbery, fleeing and eluding, use of a firearm in connection with a felony, felon in possession of a firearm, and being a habitual offender – a second offense.

Williams is charged with armed robbery resulting in serious injury, armed robbery, use of a firearm in connection with a felony, felon in possession of a firearm, and being a habitual offender - a fourth offense.

"On the eve of the national Transgender Day of Remembrance, this case illustrates the horrific acts of violence to which transgender persons are subject," said Fair Michigan President Dana Nessel in a news release sent out on Sunday.

Chocolate was taken to Henry Ford Hospital where she is recovering. According to statements made by her family to Fox 2 Detroit, Chocolate has two bullets lodged near her spine and has lost feeling in her left side.

"I spoke with her family because I know her personally," said Jeynce Mizrahi Poindexter, transgender victims advocate for Equality Michigan. "I told them to tell her that the whole community is concerned about her."

Mizrahi Poindexter said the timing of the shooting – the 17th annual Transgender Day of Remembrance service honoring those lost to trans violence over the past year – took place later the same day.

"I thought that made the incident even more emotionally taxing," she said. "We were literally preparing for the TDOR event when we found out. It made it even more emotional for me and took me to a dark place."

Michelle Fox-Phillips, executive director of the Gender-Identity Network Alliance, felt much the same.

"Why am I not surprised that a trans girl was being shot at?" Fox-Phillips said. "It happens all the time. And it's very tragic. Thank God her condition has been stabilized and they got two out of three persons involved, which makes it only a matter of time before they get the third."

"We have a target on our backs," Fox-Phillips continued. "I know that's the way I feel."

Community Memorializes 487 Transgender Lives Lost to Violence in the Past Year

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The 17th annual Transgender Day of Remembrance service in Detroit took place Nov. 17 at Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit. About 90 people came out for the service, which included the reading of the names of the 487 trans individuals lost to violence globally over the past year.

"Every year we pass out tea candles," said Michelle Fox-Phillips, co-founder and executive director of the Gender-Identity Network Alliance. "Tonight we don't have enough. We have 416. So we'll just have to make do."

The goal of the service was not just to mourn the loss of life but to "celebrate their lives for who they really were," said Fox-Phillips. "We are celebrating not only those who have been murdered but those who have committed suicide due to anti-transgender hate, bullying, etc."

But such celebration was sometimes difficult throughout the somber ceremony as names were read and poems and songs were shared.

"People do not just try to kill us," Fox-Phillips said. "They try to erase our existence. Once we are murdered we get dumped into garbage cans, we get burned, we get dismembered."

"We are living in perilous times," Fox-Phillips continued. "We have a racist president and an equally racist attorney general. We need to be more vigilant and keep everyone safe."

Making the service more poignant was the fact that a trans woman in Detroit, who goes by the name of Chocolate, was shot near Woodward Avenue and Six Mile Road in the early morning hours of Friday. At the time of the service she remained in serious condition in Henry Ford Hospital.

"I'm hoping that she makes it," said Bre' Campbell, executive director of the Trans Sistas of Color Project. "I would like to say I'm tired but I think I'm beyond that. It's very hard to do this work with very little support. And it's moments like this that are reminders that there is more work to do."

That works includes embracing trans individuals in the community, Campbell said.

"I would challenge people today when we hear the names of the women we've lost that we still remember the girls that are still here," she said. "It's very

"People do not just try to kill us. They try to erase our existence. Once we are murdered we get dumped into garbage cans, we get burned, we get dismembered. We are living in perilous times. We have a racist president and an equally racist attorney general. We need to be more vigilant and keep everyone safe."

- Michelle Fox-Phillips, co-founder and executive director of the Gender-Identity Network Alliance

challenging to look into the eyes of black trans women and tell them there's nothing more that I can do."

Jeynce Mizrahi Poindexter, transgender victim's advocate for Equality Michigan, said the Day of Remembrance service is not something she looks forward to.

"This isn't the premier event of the year," Mizrahi-Poindexter said. "This isn't something you get gussied up to come to. It's not something you really look forward to because of what it represents. But we're here to honor the ones we've lost and to love on them and to remember them because often we are in a society and operating system that intentionally forgets us."

Mizrahi-Poindexter said that since she joined Equality Michigan last year, she has found that she must travel to uncomfortable places to do the work that is most profound.

"All spaces aren't welcoming and we know that" she said. "But I choose to go into those spaces because that's where the real work will happen...You have to go on the other side, and in many instances that's crossing Eight Mile, and crossing populations and regions. Because this

is not just a white trans woman thing, it's not just a black trans woman thing. When they discredit us, when they don't acknowledge us, when we're murdered, we're all bunched in the same group."

On a brighter note, Michelle Brown spoke of the recent success trans individuals had in the elections that took place earlier this month.

"We saw trans people who were living openly elected in Virginia, California, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Minnesota," Brown said. "But you know each one of those that we can be so proud of, we have to remember that each one of those 487 souls had that potential to make a change."

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was founded by trans activist Gwendolyn Ann Smith in 1999. It started as a vigil to honor the loss of Rita Hester, a trans woman who was killed in 1998. The first service commemorated all the trans people lost to violence since Hester's death. The concept grew quickly and today is commemorated around the world. To date, Hester's murder, like most anti-trans murders, remains unsolved.





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Canadian Group Resettles LGBT Refugees from Chechnya

BY HELEN PARSHALL

Kimahli Powell hopes that with international eyes on the crisis of LGBT people fleeing Chechnya, a light can be shed on the plight of LGBT refugees around the world.

Powell is the executive director of Rainbow Railroad, an organization based in Canada that works to help “LGBT people who have faced physical violence or face an imminent threat of violence, imprisonment or death” find safety.

“We are really the only organization in the world focused on this scope of LGBTQI emergency travel,” Powell told the Washington Blade during a recent telephone interview. “We immediately went to work when we heard that there were safe houses being established by the Russian LGBT Network (a Moscow-based advocacy group) for individuals that escaped Chechnya.”

Powell told the Blade that Rainbow Railroad has helped to resettle close to 50 LGBT people who have fled Chechnya.

The majority of them have resettled in Canada, but some of them have gone to other countries. Powell himself traveled abroad to meet with and interview victims ahead of their resettlement.

“The reality of our work is that the majority of the people we help don’t come to Canada, we are truly international in scope,” Powell said.

Distance was one of the factors in resettling victims from Chechnya, both to get the men away from the “stranglehold” of their families and the large Chechen diaspora in Europe.

“Canada’s commitment to the LGBT

community coupled with the urgent nature of this crisis made it ideal for relocation for individuals fleeing Chechnya,” Powell said. “These individuals will need community support in order to aid their resettlement.”

“What’s remarkable about Chechnya is that it truly was an international civil society effort, and that meant partnerships all over the world,” he added.

Powell stressed the work of supporting LGBT victims of state-sponsored violence like in Chechnya does not end with finding them safe locations -- or even necessarily start there.

“People don’t choose to migrate when facing persecution,” Powell said. “These individuals, still, when I interviewed them, many of them said they just wanted to go home. This wasn’t a choice.”

In looking at current hotspots like Egypt and Azerbaijan, Powell said advocates’ reflexes should not be to immediately jump to “get them out.”

“It’s heartening that people took such outrage to Chechnya, and it’s a large part of what allowed us to intervene,” said Powell. “I want to see that same degree of interest and concern about the many other countries in the world that also have LGBTQI people facing persecution.”

“But it’s not our role to immediately reflex and say these people need to leave,” he continued. “It is about assessing the situation and determining where there are individuals at immediate risk who choose to leave.”

For Rainbow Railroad, this work is one of the “major human rights focuses” for the LGBT community.



Rainbow Railroad Executive Director Kimahli Powell. His organization has resettled nearly 50 LGBT Chechens. (Photo courtesy of Kimahli Powell)

“As we celebrate LGBTQI rights and marriage equality for more than 25 nations, the fact of the matter is that there are still 72 countries that criminalize same-sex intimacy,” Powell continued.

Thirty-seven percent of U.N. member states have some kind of criminalization of same-sex activity, according to “State-Sponsored Homophobia,” an annual report compiled by ILGA that examines sexual orientation laws around the world.

“[Chechnya] was a powerful example of what happens when we work together. The fact

of the matter is that we’re more connected than ever,” Powell said. “It was our connections that led us to our partnership with the Russian LGBT Network.”

“As we move forward to working with various governments, including the United States, we believe that this work should continue no matter what party is in power, what type of government is in power,” he added.

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

Victory Fund Endorses Three Gubernatorial Candidates

Potential to Triple LGBTQ Representation in 2018

BY BTL STAFF

The Victory Fund, the only national organization dedicated to electing LGBTQ leaders to public office, endorsed three candidates in their races for governor – with the potential to triple the number of LGBTQ governors in the nation in 2018. The endorsees, announced on Nov. 14, include Oregon Governor Kate Brown, the first openly

LGBTQ elected governor in U.S. history who is up for reelection; Representative Jared Polis, who would become the first openly LGBTQ governor in Colorado; and Maryland state Senator Rich Madaleno, who would become the first openly LGBTQ governor in his state.

“Just one week ago LGBTQ candidates shattered lavender ceilings and broke down barriers across the nation – and we are fired up and determined to expand on those historic victories in 2018,” said Aisha C. Moodie-Mills, President & CEO of Victory Fund. “Oregon Governor Kate Brown remains the only openly LGBTQ person

ever elected governor in the United States. But with wins for her, Representative Jared Polis in Colorado, and state Senator Rich Madaleno in Maryland, we can triple LGBTQ representation in the governors’ mansions next year. While it is essential and groundbreaking to have three outstanding LGBTQ candidates running for governor, we know their focus is on improving the lives of residents in their home states. We are thrilled to endorse these three constituent-focused gubernatorial candidates in their 2018 races – and Victory Fund will get to work on their behalf starting now.”

Moodie-Mills also released individual

statements about Victory Fund’s endorsements of Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Representative Jared Polis and Maryland state Senator Rich Madaleno. As endorsed gubernatorial candidates, Victory Fund will provide campaign, fundraising and communications support throughout their run for office. All three candidates were endorsed by Victory Fund in previous elections.

Since 1991, Victory Fund has helped thousands of openly LGBTQ candidates win local, state and federal elections.

For more information, visit <https://victoryfund.org>.



Muskegon County Prosecutor D.J. Hilson and Sen. Steven Bieda (D-Warren) renew calls for hate crime protections in Michigan. Photo courtesy of David Olds

Sen. Bieda, Prosecutor Renew Calls for Hate Crime Protections

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING - Sen. Steve Bieda (D-Warren) and Muskegon County Prosecutor D.J. Hilson have renewed calls for legislative action on Senate Bill 121, which would add gender identification and sexual orientation to the list of protections under the Ethnic Intimidation Act.

Currently, the Ethnic Intimidation Act says that a person is guilty of ethnic intimidation and subject to two years in prison if they maliciously – and with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person based on their race, color, religion, gender or national origin – commit, or threaten to commit, physical harm or property damage.

However, the law does not include sexual orientation and gender identity protections.

“Lawmakers have had this particular piece of legislation on their plate for two decades,” Sen. Bieda said. “How many more assaults will it take for them to realize that the current laws have done nothing to reduce hate crimes, and allow perpetrators to escape the fullest extent of the law?”

A recent case in Muskegon Heights – where a 17-year-old victim was lured, physically assaulted and stripped of his clothing by an attacker who recorded the assault and posted it on Facebook – spotlights the need for gender identification and sexual orientation protections. During an investigation, Muskegon Heights police officers used a recording to determine the attack was racially motivated, and that the attacker selected the victim because he was

gay.

The Muskegon County Prosecutor’s Office, led by Prosecutor D.J. Hilson, sought felony hate crime charges against the attacker, but were unable to do so because sexual orientation is not covered under the current federal hate crime statute.

“I just get to enforce the laws that are made, and not make them,” D.J. Hilson, Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan president-elect, said. “We’re hoping that Sen. Bieda’s Senate Bill 121 will highlight the need to make a change in this particular law.”

For more than a decade, Sen. Bieda has introduced similar legislation to give law enforcement and prosecutor’s offices the tools they need to uphold the rule of law and seek justice for victims of hate crimes, but none has been passed by the Republican-controlled legislature.

In 1998, following the brutal murder of Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard, the Michigan House of Representatives passed a bill to add sexual orientation to the Ethnic Intimidation Act, but the bill then died in the Senate.

SB 121, his current bill, was referred to the Senate Government Operations Committee on Feb. 8 where it still awaits a hearing. Members of the community are encouraged to contact Sen. Arlan Meekhof (R-West Olive) to apply pressure to move SB 121 out of committee to get passed so hate crimes can be prosecuted as hate crimes in the state of Michigan. Meekhof’s office can be reached at 517-373-6920 or via email at SenAMeekhof@senate.michigan.gov.

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Justin Trudeau to Formally Apologize for 'Gross Indecency' Convictions

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Sunday announced his government will formally apologize to those who were convicted of "gross indecency" before the country decriminalized consensual same-sex sexual relations.

He wrote on his Facebook page that his government on Nov. 28 "will offer a formal apology to LGBTQ2 Canadians in the House (of Commons) -- for the persecution & injustices they have suffered, and to advance together on the path to equality & inclusion." The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported Trudeau will also formally apologize to Canadians who were fired from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the country's military and civil service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Canada decriminalized consensual same-sex sexual relations in 1969.

MP Randy Boissonnault -- who is Trudeau's advisor on LGBT and intersex issues -- in June confirmed to the Washington Blade during an interview at the WorldPride International Human Rights Conference in Madrid that the men who were convicted under the law would have their convictions expunged. Boissonnault did not provide a specific timeline as to when the Canadian government was planning to formally apologize to them.

"It will be an historic day for LGBTQ2 communities and for Canada," said Boissonnault on his Twitter page after Trudeau made his announcement. "Diversity makes us stronger."

Egale Canada, a Canadian LGBT and intersex advocacy group, on Sunday said the "long awaited apology" is "one step closer to starting the process of healing."

Canada is the latest country to formally apologize to men who were convicted under laws that criminalized homosexuality.

A law named after Alan Turing -- a gay British mathematician who was convicted of gross indecency in 1952 for having a relationship with another man -- that pardoned gay and bisexual men in England and Wales who were charged under a law that criminalized consensual same-sex sexual acts took effect in January. The governments of Germany, Scotland and New Zealand have also taken similar actions.

Then-Secretary of State John Kerry in January formally apologized to State Department personnel who were fired for "alleged homosexuality" during the so-called "lavender scare" of the 1950s and 1960s. U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) has introduced a bill that would allow those who were fired during the "lavender scare" to have their employment records expunged.

Homosexuality remain criminalized in more than 70 countries around the world. Iran, Saudi Arabia and Mauritania are among the handful of nations in which those who are convicted of engaging in consensual same-sex sexual acts face the death penalty.

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

From the Kitchen Table to the Global Table: Astraea Celebrates 40 Years

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Around a kitchen table in New York back in 1977 a group of women decided that if there was going to be a women's movement that prioritized the needs of lesbians and women of color they would have to fund it themselves. These phenomenal women were described as "a cross-class, multi-racial group of women activists."

From these quiet beginnings the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, one of the first women's foundations in the world, was formed with the belief "that even the smallest of gestures, when combined, could create, nurture and strengthen significant social change."

On Nov. 13 the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice celebrated 40 years of lesbian feminist activism, but this time it wasn't around a kitchen table. The gala was held at New York's Angel Orensanz Foundation and honored leaders from across the four decades whose commitment, passion, and work inspire others and meaningfully advance LGBTQI justice in communities in this country and around the world.

Under the leadership of Executive Director Emerita Katherine Acey, the foundation established the nation's first Lesbian Writers Fund in 1990, created the International Fund for Sexual Minorities in 1996 and in 2006 launched the U.S. Movement Building Initiative to support people of color-led LGBTQ organizations to collectively build their power and voice.

In 2017, the Acey Social Justice Feminist Award was established to honor lesbian and trans women of color over the age of 62 who have made significant but under-recognized contributions to LGBTQI movements and often have unmet financial needs as they age.

An accomplished filmmaker with a track record of leading exponential organizational growth and capacity building to visionary management, J. Bob Alotta took the seat at the head of the table following Acey's tenure as executive director of the Astraea Foundation in 2011.

The "table" had grown since its beginnings in 1977 to include work supporting grassroots activists in over half of the world supporting countless struggles and successes in human rights for the LGBTQI community.

Did she know she would become a human rights globe trotter when she took on the role of executive director?

"I mean I don't think I understood at all



J. Bob Alotta, Executive Director at the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice

what I was about to get into in any way shape or form but certainly not around travel" said Alotta in an interview earlier this year. "I'm on the road, I don't know probably 60 percent of the time maybe more and I do travel all over the world. You know my second week on the job I was in Kenya at this amazing conference of East African LGBTQI activists called Changing Faces/Changing Spaces. That was honestly my second week. And I realized in my first week that my passport had expired. And so, I had to rush and get that taken care of. It was like the first thing I almost did wrong on the job - not having an active passport - but I can assure you now I have the problem of running out of pages."

We laughed about Alotta's request for some "Woo!" before each flight from her Facebook community. It's not like she's afraid of flying but she explained, "The 'Woo' - well it really helps me. I'm like I can't, this flight can't go down. If like all these people are really invested in this being a smooth flight. I do you know honestly believe in the power of the congregation very much. So, it settles my spirit a little bit to know folks have my back when I'm taking off."

In celebrating its 40 years Astraea acknowledges that it has become a "multi-gendered, multi-racial, multi-identity organization" but it continues to honor the legacy of its founding mothers.

"I've been on many different continents and in many different countries meeting with LGBTQI folks. And while our conditions might be different, our cultures might be different without question the common thread or a common thread - there are many - is the incredible resilience and innovation that happens in and from our LGBTQI

communities," said Alotta adding, "You know I think that there's this idea that innovation is the providence of some white men in Silicon Valley. That's the most absurd idea in the world! We know that innovation lives in communities of color; that women are constantly being innovative; that there are more people being innovative people who need to be creative about creating their right livelihood to be in the place that they know themselves to be even if it isn't always easy. That's where innovation is born and that's where creativity lies. And I see that over and over again.

"We've tried to really build work around and think about how to build strategies around that innovation. How do we foster it? We talk a lot about sustainability strategy and all of those things. And to me one of the greatest ways to ensure that we're building successful strategies and sustainable environments for us all, is to harness and bolster the innovation that's happening inside of our communities."

A public foundation, Astraea raises funds every year for its grant making activities. Its website says its impact has been "from Missoula, Montana to Cape Town, South Africa" and it's probably safe to add in many, many places along the way where over the past four decades the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice has devoted over \$31,000,000 to grassroots activists here and across the globe.

Strengthening and supporting LGBTQI groups that promote racial, economic and gender justice in the U.S. and worldwide with flexible general support grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000 per year. "We really do fund nascent and emerging groups," said Alotta. "Like often Astraea will be the first grant to an up and coming organization but we really stay with folks over time."

From that kitchen table to today's global table, the work goes on. Congratulations Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice for your 40 years working for racial, economic and gender justice.

The archived interview of Astraea Foundation's Executive Director, J. Bob Alotta is available on the "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."

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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

NATIONAL LGBTQ TASK FORCE

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: \$100. 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

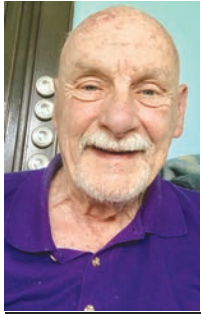
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Memories of a Near-Forgotten Past (Pt. 5)

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Fifty years ago Detroit's Washington Boulevard was a busy setting for exclusive shops, upscale restaurants, elegant bistros stretching sedately from Grand Circus Park's popular Statler Hotel to Michigan Avenue's prestigious Sheraton Cadillac.

Both hotel bars catered to a discrete, well-heeled, happy-hour gay clientele. Good manners expected. No camping it up. No untoward touching. No two-shots-and-a-beer, buddy-buddying. No Mary this! No Mary that!

At the Statler, offenders were handed a terse note: "Your patronage is not wanted here. Please do not return."

For those engaging in the covert pastime of dalliance in sensual stalls of solicitation, the nearby Tuller Hotel was notorious, as were the Telenews theater balcony, Brass Rail Bar (where 50's pop star Johnny Ray was arrested – twice by the same cop!), J. L. Hudson's popular 13th floor men's room, several park underground, tap-tap loos.

As a teenager all was terra incognita, but I learned the lay of the land from "experienced" trowelers who had navigated the watering spots first hand. I did venture cautiously into the Greyhound Bus Depot on Washington Boulevard to check out noonday comings and goings. (So to speak.)

I was cautious. And warned. "Miss Tillie [vice squad] goes there all the time. Mind your business. If you have to pee, just pee. Don't look anybody straight in the eye!" Stories of arrests for merely peeking at a vice officer were many. "It's your word against theirs. Case closed."

Behind the Greyhound was an unexpected gay teenagers hangout called Mama's, one diner star rating over downtown Hub Grill's none. Mama's was owned by the mother of thirty-something, Butch Jimmy ("BJ"), who had his share of impressionable teenagers. Myself included.

Mama – short, roly-poly faced – was of some slavic heritage. She wore her hair in a tight bun and dressed in basic black (no pearls). She got her sense of humor by osmosis, greeting regulars with a hearty hand flutter, loudly announcing, "Kud-de-vahs! Kud-de-vahs!" ("Whores! Whores!")

Mama employed Frank, a cadaverous looking cook, who, while abusing hamburgers and squinting menacingly at potato fries, would tell anyone who'd listen that he had made his funeral arrangements and knew exactly where, and in what pastel satin-lined casket, he'd be buried. (R.I.P.!)

During many visits to Mama's I became friends with my Hub Grill idol, Rich. A Polish blond, Rich Suess liked dark-haired, swarthy types. Italians. Spaniards. Mood Indigos. (I was just a tepid Anglo-Saxon, dishwasher, Brillo-pad brunet.)

For me it was important to act straight. I didn't like hanging around with flamers. I knew that my day-to-day survival in this fairy-fag-hating world depended upon passing, looking like your average duck-tailed, occasionally hip-gyrating, pegged pants, Zoot suited groupie.

Rich looked straight as a 10-inch, no-nonsense nun's ruler (until decades later when returning as a New York hair dresser, with a "FAB-you-luss!" ersatz Brooklyn accent). Just weeks into our newly formed alliance, Rich suggested hitting Toledo Ohio's Scenic Bar.

"Hey, Al! It's brand new turf. Fun and games. Drinking age 18. You'll love it." So I did (except for gawdawful 50-cent Zing! 3.2 beer).

It was a gas. Not to be passed up. (Or down.)

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.



Transmission

November Hope

The 7th of November was the 40th anniversary of Harvey Milk's historic victory in San Francisco, becoming the first out, gay elected official in the United States. It felt as if he was smiling on us all that night, as we moved forward.



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

On a night in November, I watched a miracle unfold. It was election night, the 7th of November.

The first big news dropped during dinner. I watched on my phone as news that Danica Roem was leading against Bob Marshall in the race for a place in the Virginia House of Delegates which quickly changed to word that she was victorious. It was a huge victory, given that Bob Marshall was a 26-year incumbent, as well as an anti-LGBT Republican who sponsored the states' "Bathroom Bill" - and Roem is a transgender woman who would be directly impacted by same.

Just like that, Danica rode a blue tide into power in Virginia, with a campaign that rebuffed Marshall's attempts to bait her for being trans. Roem did address being transgender, but was wise enough to move quickly beyond being simply "the transgender

candidate" and focused on bread-and-butter issues that she intended to handle.

Within minutes, I read about Andrea Jenkins win in Minneapolis. Jenkins, an African-American trans woman, won a spot on the Minneapolis City Council. A short while later, trans man Tyler Titus won a seat on the Erie, Pennsylvania School Board, while Stephe Koontz was victorious in her bid to be on the Doraville, Georgia City Council.

I was ecstatic. In a short period of time, four transgender people had been elected. While none were the first to be elected to office – there have been many before, both out and otherwise – the night was nonetheless historic. We weren't done at only four, however.

See next page

Eight transgender people across the United States were elected. They were joined by a number of other diverse voices, including the first openly intersexed public official, Betsy Driver, the first turbaned Sikh mayor, Ravi Bhalla of Hoboken, New Jersey, and many others. It was a big night for democracy, for diversity, and a positively huge time for transgender people.

► Smith: November Hope

Continued from p. 10

Then Lisa Middleton won a seat on the Palm Springs City Council, Gerri Cannon got onto the Somersworth, New Hampshire School Board, and Phillippe Cunningham took a second spot on the Minneapolis City Council.

Surely seven was far more than any one could have hoped for, and yet we still weren't done: Raven Matherne finished out the election with her win on the Stamford Board of Representatives in Connecticut.

Eight transgender people across the United States were elected. They were joined by a number of other diverse voices, including the first openly intersexed public official, Betsy Driver, the first turbaned Sikh mayor, Ravi Bhalla of Hoboken, New Jersey, and many others. It was a big night for democracy, for diversity, and a positively huge time for transgender people.

The 7th of November was the 40th anniversary of Harvey Milk's historic victory in San Francisco, becoming the first out, gay elected official in the United States. It felt as if he was smiling on us all that night, as we moved forward.

I'm usually the first to talk about how bad things are right now for transgender people. And it does seem vital that we keep fighting. We need to respond to all these attacks, and keep moving forward. I'd be lying if I said I think any of those, at least in the short term, will be easy.

We're being cast as the big enemy right now, and facing an onslaught of rights rollbacks under the current administration. We're still seeing anti-transgender murders in the United States every two weeks or so. If I'm pessimistic, there are plenty of reasons for it.

At the same time, we can take this one moment, this one night, and take a bit of hope from it. As hard as our battles are, we can gain traction. It wasn't that long ago that no candidate would have even championed transgender causes, let alone been out as

transgender themselves. Such would have been the death knell of candidacies in even liberal-leaning locations.

I would like to think I need not remind anyone what Harvey Milk had to say about hope, but it seems relevant to note at this point.

"So if there is a message I have to give, it is that I've found one overriding thing about my personal election, it's the fact that if a gay person can be elected, it's a green light," said Milk "And you and you and you, you have to give people hope."

On the 7th of November 2017, the transgender community, in the wake of so much hatred, was given hope. We can be elected, and that is no small thing – especially in the wake of the Trump Administration and so much awfulness focused on transgender people.

That night, transgender people young and old got some hope. There may be a transgender kid out there who, until that night, was thinking of ending their lives -- and now they might some day join Koontz, Cunningham, Cannon, Roem, Matherne, Jenkins, Middleton, Titus, and other transgender elected officials. They now know that they can live out of the shadows, and be not only accepted within their communities, but represent them.

There will be more coming up; Kim Coco Iwamoto is in the running to become the Lieutenant Governor of Hawai'i, while Martin Rawlings-Fein and Mia "Tu Mutch" Satya are both aiming for seats on the San Francisco Unified School Board. I am sure that much like the night of the 7th of November, there are far more candidates out there that I don't know of right now.

SO let us etch this one night down, as the day that those of us who are transgender were victorious in the face of so much adversity, and made a name for our community and ourselves. Let's hold onto that hope, and let it guide us through these difficult times, and into a better future for us all.

Gwen Smith is pondering running sometime, too. You'll find her at www.gwensmith.com

Creep of the Week

Wes Goodman

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Something totally unprecedented has happened and I am not sure how to break this news to you, my loyal readers. In fact, I doubt that you will even believe what I am about to tell you, it is so rare and unheard of. It's basically the unicorn of conservative politics, so prepare to be shocked:

A lawmaker who campaigned on anti-LGBTQ "family values" nonsense got caught being, like, super gay. Wes Goodman, a state representative from Ohio who is married to a lady, has resigned after getting caught doing sex-stuff with a man in his office.

Who could have seen this coming? I mean, besides all the gay men in the Cleveland area on Craigslist where Goodman was constantly trolling for sex. And the many men, gay and straight, Goodman sent dick pics to. And the young conservative men he offered to "mentor," which was code for dirty Snapchat sessions and/or non-consensual hotel room fondling. All this and more is laid out in a thoroughly researched and stomach turning piece in the Independent Journal Review.

Oh, and by the way, Goodman's sexual assault of a young man in a hotel room? Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council, knew all about it and promised the kid's parents he'd do something. He didn't.

And, yes, if you haven't caught on by now, none of this is really surprising at all. Goodman joins a long list of Christian conservatives who actively sought to harm LGBTQ people, usually by painting them as perverts void of humanity and passing legislation to curtail their civil rights.

On his campaign website, which has since been taken down, Goodman claimed that, "Healthy, vibrant, thriving, values-driven families are the source of Ohio's proud history and the key to Ohio's future greatness. The ideals of a loving father and mother, a committed natural marriage, and a caring community are well worth pursuing and protecting."

If you run all of that through Google's Bullshit to English Translator, you get one word: "Hypocrisy."

But don't worry. Goodman is sorry that he couldn't advance the anti-LGBTQ agenda he promised the Ohioans who voted for him.



Goodman's sexual assault of a young man in a hotel room? Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council, knew all about it and promised the kid's parents he'd do something. He didn't.

"We all bring our own struggles and our own trials into public life," Goodman said in the statement after resigning. "That has been true for me, and I sincerely regret that my actions and choices have kept me from serving my constituents and our state in a way that reflects the best ideals of public service. For those whom I have let down, I'm sorry. As I move onto the next chapter of my life, I sincerely ask for privacy for myself, my family, and my friends."

It's cute to ask for privacy, and to ask "sincerely," no less, in a situation like this. Because, "Nah."

Goodman doesn't deserve privacy. He's not a private citizen struggling with his sexuality or even a public figure whose sexuality is irrelevant to his work. He used his position of power to hurt LGBTQ people and diminish their humanity and rights.

God bless whoever tried to out Goodman's lying and cheating ass months ago by sending Facebook Messenger screen shots to Ohio House leadership as evidence that Goodman "was gay and not faithful to his wife," according to the Columbus Dispatch. In one of the messages Goodman brags that he gets plenty of blow jobs from "a couple of bi frat brothers."

Goodman denied it all at the time, saying the screenshots were fake.

Turns out, Goodman was the fake. As is the GOP's claim to be the party of family values.

Of the nine substantial LGBT-related decisions in front of the Supreme Court since *Hurley*, the LGBT side has won eight times. The only loss was in 2000 with *Boy Scouts v. Dale*. That case, too, involved a state law against discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations.



SCOTUS Preview: The Masterpiece Cake Case

BY LISA KEEN

By one legal expert's assessment, the Trump administration's argument for allowing a baker to refuse service to a same-sex couple would lead to "anarchy."

In a nutshell, the Department of Justice brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado* – a case that will be before the court for oral argument Dec. 5 – argues that selling cakes is like staging parades.

DOJ points back to a decision in the 1995 *Hurley v. Irish-American Gay* case in which the Supreme Court ruled that Massachusetts could not enforce its law against sexual orientation discrimination in public accommodations. The state had found the organizers of a St. Patrick's Day parade in Boston violated the state law when they refused to allow an openly gay contingent. The high court said enforcement of that law against the parade organizers violated the First Amendment right of the parade organizers to control the message of their event.

The DOJ equates the refusal of Jack Phillips, a Colorado baker, to sell a cake to a

same-sex couple for their wedding reception to the refusal of parade organizers to allow an openly LGBT contingent in their public procession. (Ironically, just this year, the Boston parade organizers voted to let an LGBT contingent into the parade.)

Led by a former clerk of conservative Justice Clarence Thomas (Jeffrey B. Wall), the DOJ brief contends that, "Forcing Phillips to create expression for and participate in a ceremony that violates his sincerely held religious beliefs invades his First Amendment rights in a manner akin to the governmental intrusion in *Hurley*."

It's interesting to note that Phillips acknowledges on his shop's website (www.continuetogive.com/supportjackphillips) that he took "less than 30 seconds" to refuse to sell a cake to Charlie Craig and David Mullins for their wedding reception. The 28 wedding cake designs featured on his website are beautiful and demonstrate an artistry, but only two include images that reference male-female couples and none conveys anything about anyone's religious beliefs.

Ryan Karerat, a spokesman for the ACLU, which is representing the couple, said the

couple was "turned away before they could discuss designs ... as soon as [Phillips] realized the cake was for them."

Nevertheless, Phillips' attorneys at the Alliance Defending Freedom contend, "Phillips serves all people, but cannot convey all ideas or celebrate all events." And DOJ contends that selling any wedding cake to the same-sex couple compels Phillips to express a message and "participate" in an event that violates his religious beliefs.

Robert Post, the Sterling Professor of Law at Yale University Law School, says that DOJ's logic, if extended to other businesses, "would effectively undo anti-discrimination laws generally" and lead to "anarchy."

"Almost all our behavior carries a message," said Post, in a telephone press conference last week. "If I went around claiming I could hit you because it's expressive -- I can make anything I do expressive...[and the] country becomes ungovernable."

Mary Bonauto says the DOJ is trying to "shift emphasis to the cake as opposed to the law obliging all businesses covered by the public accommodations law to serve customers."

The Colorado law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations covers businesses that are open to the public, and can include a wide variety of businesses -- hotels, cabs, grocery stores, restaurants, doctor offices, pharmacies, and day care centers.

"There is no exception for creative or beautiful products," said Bonauto, who argued for equal protection of LGBT couples in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. That case led to the 2015 decision that struck down state laws that banned recognition and licensing of marriage for same-sex couples.

Like Post, Bonauto says that, "if the Court accepts the Petitioners' views, then there will be barely a shred of anti-discrimination laws in place."

Not surprisingly, attorneys for Colorado and the same-sex couple (the ACLU is representing Craig and Mullins) put their emphasis on different previous decisions by the Supreme Court.

Ria Tabacco Mar, counsel of record for Craig and Mullins, said in a telephone press conference for the National LGBT Bar Association, that Phillips' religious exercise

claim is “really nothing but a recycled argument like we saw in the 1960s, when the owner of a barbecue restaurant called the Piggie Park claimed that his religious beliefs meant he could not serve black diners in the same space as white customers.”

In *Newman v. Piggie Park* and a number of other decisions, states the ACLU’s brief, the Supreme Court has “affirmed repeatedly the government’s ability to prohibit discriminatory conduct over the freedom of expression, association, and religion objections of entities ranging from law firms and labor unions to private schools and universities to membership organizations open to the public, to restaurants, and newspapers. Retail bakeries should fare no differently.”

The Supreme Court’s 1968 decision in *Piggie Park* included a footnote that described as “patently frivolous” the restaurant owner’s claim that “his religious beliefs compel him to oppose any integration of the races whatever.”

Colorado’s brief argues that *Hurley* does not apply here because the parade organizers were “a private, non-commercial association,” not involved in a commercial enterprise, as is the baker. The state law regulates a business’ “refusal of service,” not its freedom of expression.

“Both Phillips and the United States ask the Court to convert the doctrine [of freedom of expression] from ‘a right of self-determination in matters that touch individual opinion and personal attitude’ ... into a license for commercial entities to refuse sales and service because of their customers’ protected characteristics. The doctrine does not apply so indiscriminately,” states the Colorado brief, “and expanding it to apply here would cause profound doctrinal and practical problems.

Phillips, who is being represented by the Alliance Defending Freedom, has failed before the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, the Colorado Court of Appeals, and the Colorado Supreme Court. But in order to have his appeal taken up by the U.S. Supreme Court, his legal team’s briefs had to convince at least four of the nine justices to give him a chance. Given the precedent of cases like *Piggie Park*, the strong pro-LGBT arc in Supreme Court decisions since *Hurley*, and the fact that just three years ago the Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal in a very similar case (*Elane Photography*) out of New Mexico, it’s somewhat surprising that four did give Phillips a nod.

“The risk of continued discrimination is particularly acute, when those providing services to the public believe they are entitled, in the name of religion or free speech, to refuse service to others based on who they are.”

- Lambda Legal Brief

Of the nine substantial LGBT-related decisions in front of the Supreme Court since *Hurley*, the LGBT side has won eight times. The only loss was in 2000 with *Boy Scouts v. Dale*. That case, too, involved a state law against discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations. And there, too, the court ruled that enforcement of the law against the Boy Scouts was a violation of the group’s First Amendment right to “expressive association.” But like the parade organizers, the Boy Scouts group was identified as a “private” organization and not engaged in a commercial activity when it barred inclusion of gay scouts and leaders. (And like the Boston parade organizers, the Boy Scouts of America association has subsequently agreed to allow openly gay members and leaders.)

At the same time the Supreme Court held the Boy Scouts could exclude a gay scout leader, it acknowledged its decisions in two cases involving public service organizations – decisions that held “States have a compelling interest in eliminating discrimination against women in public accommodations...”

“We have held that the freedom [of expressive association] could be overridden ‘by regulations adopted to serve compelling state interests, unrelated to the suppression of ideas, that cannot be achieved through means significantly less restrictive of associational freedoms.’”

But two non-LGBT related decisions in recent years could signal the court’s willingness to carve out more exceptions for free exercise exemptions: *Hobby Lobby* and *Trinity*.

In the 2014 decision of *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby*, a 5 to 4 majority ruled that a federal law may not require a closely held commercial employer to provide health insurance coverage for contraception if that employer claims that to do so violates his or her personal religious beliefs. LGBT activists took some comfort from the majority’s statement that the ruling applies only to the contraception mandate, but they

worried that the recent mistreatment of LGBT people in employment and other commercial settings made the ruling still very troubling.

And in June of this year, a 7 to 2 majority ruled in *Trinity Lutheran v. Comer* that a state’s denying funding to a school that “would have received [a state grant] but for the fact that Trinity Lutheran is a church” violates the Free Exercise clause of the First Amendment. LGBT activists had argued the school should be denied state funding because the school exercised its religious beliefs against homosexuality and against other religions in determining which children it would exclude.

“For as long as we have had anti-discrimination laws we’ve had challenges,” said a former DOJ official under the Obama administration, Samuel Bagenstos, during the ACLU’s press conference on the *Masterpiece* case. “... You could imagine any white supremacist business saying they discriminate against blacks because it sends a message...”

In a brief to the Supreme Court on the *Masterpiece* case, Lambda Legal, Equality California, and 11 other organizations detail numerous cases in which LGBT people have been discriminated against in the name of religion. They include a funeral home in Mississippi refusing to pick up the body of a deceased gay nursing home residence saying, “This goes against everything I believe in. I’m a Christian.” Midwives who claimed their work was part of their ministry repeatedly turned down a lesbian couple in Tennessee, preparing to give birth to their child.

And “a California-resident lesbian couple was refused by a bed and breakfast in Hawaii, the owner telling them she ‘felt uncomfortable renting a room to homosexuals, citing her personal religious views’.”

“The risk of continued discrimination is particularly acute,” says the Lambda brief, “when those providing services to the public believe they are entitled, in the name of religion or free speech, to refuse service to others based on who they are.”

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A Hard-Fought Love

'Life is Beautiful' for Casto-Thatcher Couple after Overcoming a Difficult Path

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

All day she had been debating on when to do it, and after a rainy Friday spent kayaking, Heather Thatcher, 43, was sure; she would do it that night. She and her girlfriend got back to their campsite, built a fire, and then, Thatcher excused herself for a moment into the camper.

"I had made a photobook with pictures of various points of all of our first year of dating," Thatcher said. "I made this book and I wrapped it up and I had the ring and everything."

When she reemerged with the wrapped gift, she took her girlfriend by surprise.

"I said, 'Heather, why do you have to do shit like this,'" laughed Heather Casto-Thatcher, 38. "She's always so giving and she's so thoughtful."

The proposal wasn't outright, however. At first, Casto-Thatcher thought that the gift was just going to be a romantic photo album.

"She opened it and started looking through the pictures, and pretty early on

in our relationship, we watched the movie, 'Life is Beautiful' together. The whole thing is in Italian with subtitles. I love the Italian language and a lot of times, I would send her text messages in Italian, and she would have to translate them to see what they meant," Thatcher said. "On the very last page of the book, I wrote this long message in Italian, and, at the very end, I proposed."

By that point, Casto-Thatcher had caught on, but she made sure to translate the message at the end—just to be certain.

"I had to get my phone out to translate it all and the last line was, 'Will you marry me?' It was very nice," Casto-Thatcher said.

And this proposal was especially so, as it mirrored the couple's first meeting.

"I was out with a couple of friends having a party and a bonfire. I was spending the night there, it was just the three of us," Casto-Thatcher said. "I had been messaging her and then she asked, 'Can I come over?' I thought, 'That'd be kind of nice.' She came over for the bonfire and the second we met ..."

"We were pretty much inseparable after that point," Thatcher said. "We dated for almost a year and I proposed to her."

Thatcher said she knew immediately after seeing Casto-Thatcher for the first time that she was attracted to her.

"I was on OkCupid, scrolling through pictures and her picture popped up," Thatcher said. "Her smile stopped me in my tracks. I thought, 'I have to meet this woman.'"

And the timing was perfect. Both Heathers were looking for a fulfilling relationship.

"We were both married to men previously. I was married for nine and a half years when my husband passed away," Casto-Thatcher said. "I am bisexual, and my husband knew that I was attracted to women and it was never an issue. Then, when I was single



Heather Casto-Thatcher (left) and Heather Thatcher (right) with their children on their Aug. 4 wedding day.

and ready to date again, three and a half years ago, I thought, 'Why am I not dating another woman?'"

Her coming out process was fairly straightforward.

"I had a little bit of fear telling my family and friends, but not one person gave me really negative feedback," Casto-Thatcher said. "Most of them said, 'Oh, OK.' For me, it was pretty easy."

For Thatcher, her path was more difficult. After coming out, she filed for divorce from her husband of 22 years and was forced to begin her life anew.

"Even my mom, and she's since come around, she initially told me that she was disappointed which was really hurtful," she said. "My niece is trans, and my sister and I have such a different perspective about this whole thing it's crazy. My sister got really upset with my mom and called her, laid into her, and saw what she was doing and she's been fantastic ever since."

But she couldn't win everyone over.

"All the people who said they were my 'friends,' none of them speak to me anymore. I was told I was going to hell, I was told the choices I was making were going to lead to death and that God would never bless me," Thatcher said. "I had to start from scratch. I had a couple of friends through work and I'm much better for it."

Fast forward through another happy year of dating to Aug. 4 of this year, and it was the couple's wedding day.

"My mom and dad were visiting from Florida. We got up, we got some mimosas, and because we lived together prior to that, we actually picked out our dresses together," Thatcher said. "We decided after we went to get our hair and makeup done, that we

wouldn't see each other after that point until later in the day."

On the day, Thatcher made her way to downtown Detroit with her daughter Katherine separately, while Casto-Thatcher went with her daughter's Alexis and Haley. The five got their hair and makeup done together. Then, the groups separated for more wedding preparations.

No strangers to sentimentality, the couple made sure to see each other for the first time at a pre-ceremony picture session that nodded to the couple's first official date at the Detroit Institute of Arts Museum. Hours later, the couple was married at the Waterview Loft at Port Detroit.

"They were fantastic. Our photographer was fantastic, Derek Cookson, he was awesome. I was a little concerned with how the different vendors would be with us being a same-sex couple, but everyone was fantastic," Thatcher said.

The two had no trouble with other vendors either.

"At the venue, Emerald City Designs did all of the tablescaping and flowers," Casto-Thatcher said. "We made sure to say up front, 'If you have a problem with it, we don't want to work with you.'"

"We also worked with Sweet Heather Anne's Bakery, and they were great too," Thatcher said. "Everybody was fantastic."

Thatcher said that the happiness she found with her wife taught her a lesson.

"Don't attempt to change yourself for anybody else, no matter how hard it is," Thatcher said. "Even though it was hard initially on the kids, they see the benefits now. It's so much better for them to see a loving, happy marriage than to see anything else."

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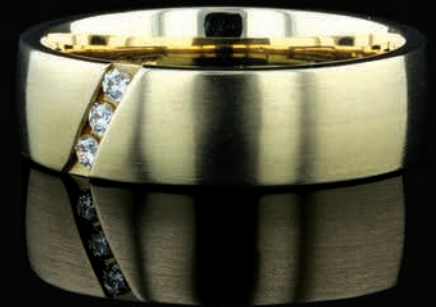


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Photo: Bob D'Amico

Icon Talks Being the 'Water Hose' During Divisive Times & the Politicization of Her Faith-Based Music

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Reba McEntire has released a beautiful new Christmas album. The melancholy spirit of her friend Dolly Parton's 1982 holiday staple "Hard Candy Christmas" is preserved on McEntire's new reading, and her sparse version of "Mary, Did You Know?" featuring Christmas mainstays Vince Gill and Amy Grant engenders a spirited hopefulness even the secular population may find comfort in.

But it is two weeks after the Las Vegas shooting, and nearly a month before the CMAs, which emotionally honored the victims during its "In Memoriam," when I connect with McEntire to talk about the new album and her holiday plans. Sticking to casual banter seems malapropos given the recent series of tragic and divisive events that eventually led to McEntire pledging to love you the best she can during the all-star musical opening of the CMAs.

How do you *not* talk about issues affecting all of us, even McEntire?

After all, the Country Music Hall of Famer performs in Vegas regularly during her residency, "Reba, Brooks & Dunn: Together in Vegas," which recently announced additional 2018 dates.

Moreover, the icon has wielded great influence as an entertainer—singer; Broadway, film and TV actress; gay favorite—during her four-decade career, and so when she pledged her support for marriage equality in 2014 to me during our last conversation, it felt especially groundbreaking. At the time, she spoke lovingly about her dear friends, Michael and Steven, who didn't have the same legal protections as heterosexual couples. "It was not fair," she told me, pointedly. Just over a year after our talk, Michael and Steven's relationship was legally recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Now, any artist with clout is being called upon to take on other hot topics, as evidenced by the preemptive decision by CMA producers to enact a no-politics stipulation on journalists during the event (the provision was overturned by the time the show aired). But the pressure to weigh in on political issues can be felt even within the country music community, as Rosanne Cash pled for the genre's influencers to speak out against the NRA in a Oct. 3 New York Times column called "Country Musicians, Stand Up to the N.R.A." (Faith Hill and Tim McGraw recently called for sensible gun laws in an interview with Billboard after Cash's call to action).

In addition to talking about her personal

struggles with religion and being true to her musical roots, McEntire, 62, told me she looks to God for guidance on addressing the world's affairs. Strikingly, she did clarify that her track "Back to God," featured as an acoustic version on "My Kind of Christmas," is purely a faith song despite various sites and social-media memes associating the song with President Donald Trump.

Do you have gay people in your circle of family and friends who you'll be seeing for the holidays?

Probably so, yeah. I'll be in Nashville before we go out of the country after Christmas, so I've got a lot of friends in town that we'll be seeing after we get through with our show in Las Vegas on (December) 10th.

What special something do your gay and lesbian loved ones bring to your holiday festivities?

Friendship. And we hang out throughout the year, so it's not much different around Christmas than it is throughout the year.

Just more eating.

A *lot* more eating—yeah, true! And lots of just hanging together and the reason for the season, which is the birthday of Jesus and we all celebrate that. It's more of the same, just being great friends at Christmas like we are throughout the year.

Please tell me all of our favorite country gay icons—yourself, Dolly, Faith, Martina, and so on—have some kind of Secret Santa.

(Laughs) No, we don't. Wouldn't that be fun, though?

Do you do White Elephant exchanges?

Oh yeah, we do it with my RBI (Firm) team and we used to do it at Starstruck. Dirty Santa or White Elephants are really a lot of fun.

What's the craziest gift you ever received during a White Elephant exchange?

Oh my gosh, probably an old dirty sweater!

I just spoke to your daughter-in-law, Kelly Clarkson, who you collaborate with on "Silent Night." As I'm sure you know, she finally has creative control. Was there a time in your career when, like Kelly, you struggled to make the music you wanted to make because of label heads?

You know, I was very, very lucky to get to work with people who are open-minded. It wasn't a situation of not getting to sing the music I wanted to and make the music I wanted to; it's that when I got started I didn't know, other than I had been raised with what I wanted to sing, and then when it got a little more contemporary with the orchestras, I had to go to the head of the

label, Jimmy Bowen, and say, “I really wanna go back to my roots,” and he said, “What’s that?” I said, “Steel guitar and fiddle.” He said, “All right, you can do it.” And I said, “Well, how do I do it?” And he said, “Well, you need to go start finding your own music.” So Jimmy was totally 100 percent for me doing what I wanted to do and I was very grateful for that.

Kelly is bold when it comes to expressing her social and political beliefs, and I understand her stepdaughter and your grandchild, Savannah, is really political. Do you have political debates within the family?

Nope. I don’t talk politics because I think there are a lot more things I can contribute to the world without arguing with somebody about politics.

My family has this rule, especially during holiday gatherings: no political discussions.

I think that’s very healthy.

Do you have a similar rule?

I just don’t do it. When somebody wants to talk politics, I let ’em know that and we change the subject.

There seems to be a lot of pressure on public figures to take stances on some important issues concerning our country. During our last interview, in fact, you pledged your full support for same-sex marriages for the first time. A lot has happened since, including the recent shooting at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival in Las Vegas, and recently, Rosanne Cash penned a column in the New York Times encouraging the country music community to speak out against gun violence. For you, when is a potentially divisive issue important enough to talk about?

I think I’ll know it when it comes to me. I think I’ll know it when that happens. So, I can’t say it’s gonna be tomorrow (laughs), or what the topic is gonna be. I’ll know it – I think it’ll be told to me. I rely on God a lot to let me know what I need to be doing and I ask him for guidance, totally, all the time, every day. So when that’s needed, I’ll be the spokesperson.

Regarding the Rosanne Cash piece calling on the country music, did you feel a need to step forward?

This is the first time I’ve heard of it.

She wrote a column in the New York Times asking country artists to speak out on gun violence and gun control. Basically, “Is the issue deeper than just ‘thoughts and prayers?’” It was a really thought-provoking column.

Well, good for her. Good deal.

How has what is happening in the world become personal for you?

It always has been. When you have children and people you love and care about, it’s not only your children or your grandchildren, it’s your whole family. It’s your friends, it’s your community, it’s your country, it’s your town, it’s your neighbors. You deal with all of it and

your concern is for all of them, so yeah, it’s been going on for a long time. It’s been going on since – long before we ever got here. It just seems like because of the media we know about what’s going on a lot more than we did when we were kids. When I was growing up, we only had the 6 o’clock and 10 o’clock news and what you heard on the radio and that was it.

Do you think we would benefit by going back to just the 6 and 10 o’clock news?

I really don’t know which is best. Are we overloaded with press? Do we need more? Do we need to know all of this? I remember that song that Anne Murray had out, “A Little Good News” (laughs). That’s what I like to watch – good news.

What does it mean to be an artist who can, in one night, bring together gay fans, conservative right fans and drag queens?

It means a lot to me because what we’re there for – my job is to entertain and to lighten the load off your back, and I hope when everybody walks through that door to come into a concert they leave their troubles at the door and they come in and join together and listen and enjoy and take away something that will brighten their day. Give them somethin’ to think about and improve their lives, hopefully.

Maybe there’s a message in those songs. I have always said, Chris, that I’m the conduit, I’m the water hose. I’m singing these songs because there’s a message in music, because it’s so healing, and so when I sing it, I sing songs that touch my heart. Hopefully when you’re in the audience and you listen to those songs it touches your heart – and in a way that I have no idea how it’s gonna touch your heart, but I hope that it does.

How did you feel about ABC passing on your TV project created by out “Desperate Housewives” and “Golden Girls” writer Marc Cherry?

I couldn’t believe it. I was devastated. I thought it was the greatest show. Everybody who I played it for was like, “Oh my gosh, I can’t wait to see more,” and I said, “Well, unfortunately, you’re not gonna get to because they didn’t take it.” Marc did a wonderful job. He’s a genius. I love him to pieces. He is so clever. And it was just such a good show. But we’re not gonna get to continue on, so my heart just hurt for that. We shot (the pilot) in March of this year, and I was really wanting everybody to see it.

Will we see you on TV aside from “CMA Country Christmas”?

I hope so! We’re looking at scripts now for next year and some TV movies and different things like that. You never know what’s gonna materialize. I talked about the Marc Cherry script for, gosh, four or five months and was so excited. Just knew it was gonna be a slam dunk. But you never know about the future. I just have to say, well, wasn’t in the plans, everything happens for a reason, timing is everything.

See next page

Steph White

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Continued from p. 17

Getting back to music, your song "Back to God," which originally appeared on your "Sing It Now: Songs of Faith & Hope" released in early 2017 and now on "My Kind of Christmas" as an acoustic duet with Lauren Daigle, was being associated with President Donald Trump by his supporters upon its release. I mention that because I grew up trying to reconcile being a gay man with my Catholic upbringing, and that was really a struggle for me because I didn't know which I should choose or if I had to choose. So now, when I see a song like "Back to God" being politicized, I think of LGBT children who don't side with the president but seek comfort from a song like "Back to God." How do you feel about your song being politicized in that way when it can potentially alienate gay fans?

I think that's ridiculous.

But there really are memes and articles saying "Back to God" is essentially a Trump anthem.

No, no. It wasn't at all. (The lyric "give this world back to God" means we've got troubles, we've got things going on, people are worrying, people are trying to solve problems themselves. If they gave their problems and their worries up to the Lord, he will take care of him and you'll have a peace that you've never experienced in your life. How anybody took that and politicized that is beyond my imagination. It's totally a faith song. Faith-based, and of hope and of faith and looking for a better way of dealing with the stuff that's going on. And my way of dealing with it is giving it to the Lord.

As a person of faith, what message would you like to send to LGBT people who may struggle with religion?

You know, sometimes I struggle with religion because there are so many, but if you read all of 'em, all of the different religions, there is one underlying thing: God wants us to love each other. Treat people like you want to be treated and love each other — that's not hard, but in a sense, it is. But that's it. He just wants us to love each other, and I think that's what we all really need to work on.

When I spoke to Amy Grant in 2013, she told me, "I know that the religious community has not been very welcoming, but I just want to stress that the journey of faith brings us into community, but it's really about one relationship. The journey of faith is just being willing and open to have a relationship with God. And everybody is welcome. Everybody."

Yeah, yup! And also, another thing: The secret of peace is forgiveness, and that's hard. That's *really* hard. But when you do, all of that hatred and resentment that's eating up your heart and your stomach and your gallbladder and it's just making you sick, if you forgive, all that goes away and it's replaced with space that is ready to have more love put in and you find better relationships and more friends, so you gotta forgive and you gotta just love people.

Sounds like you found the secret, Reba.

(Laughs) Ya know, funny enough: I kind of think I did! Everybody says, "Oh yeah, I've known that for a long time," and then I say, "Why didn't I understand that?" It's hard. It's real hard to forgive. But it's the best blessing in the world to give yourself.

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

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feature film, "Hurricane Bianca", is available on Netflix. Her second stand-up special, "Not Today Satan", will be available on Vimeo OnDemand December 2017. "Hurricane Bianca 2: From Russia with Hate" will be released in 2018. Bianca is currently touring with her new stand-up comedy show "Blame It On Bianca Del Rio" to sold out audiences all over the world. Tickets are \$39.50 for the all ages show at the Royal Oak Music Theatre at 7 p.m. on Feb. 23, 2018.

For more information, visit www.royaloakmusictheatre.com.

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BY BTL STAFF

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Sean Kammer, manager of the city Downtown Development Authority, told The Daily Tribune the DDA bought 1,000 of the tote bags to hand out and filled them with coupons and gifts worth a total of about \$20,000.

The bags will contain a book that can be stamped at participating businesses. Once a shopper has purchased 10 items they can drop the passport-like book off in a ballot box at Royal Oak City Hall. In return, the DDA will mail the shopper a gift card from a local business, Kammer said.

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OUTINGS

Thursday, Nov. 23

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

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

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

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

Saturday, Nov. 25

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

www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

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

Sunday, Nov. 26

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

Transcend 4 p.m. For transgender and gender non-conforming individuals OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-3494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

Monday, Nov. 27

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

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

FtM Detroit Support Group 7 p.m. Support is limited to transmasculine, AFAB

people who no longer identify as female, or are questioning, and their guests. FtM Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. ftmdetroit@gmail.com

Tuesday, Nov. 28

#GivingTuesday 12 a.m. #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving on the organizations Facebook page to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide. Visit www.lgbtdetroit.org for more info. LGBT Detroit, 0000, **det**. <http://gaybe.am/kb>

Personal Medicine: Becoming Active Agents in Our Own Recovery 7:30 p.m. By Jerry Fouche, BS, MA, SpA, CADC. Learn how "skills not pills" can help manage symptoms and improve wellness in recovery from addiction. Dawn Farm, 5305 Elliott Drive, **Ypsilanti**. 734-485-8725. info@dawnfarm.org www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series

Thursday, Nov. 30

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

Friday, Dec. 1

World AIDS Day 8 a.m. A full day of events, workshops, concerts and fundraisers. The day kicks off with breakfast at the Garden Center Theater at 8am. Check website for events at various locations across the city. World AIDS Day U.S., 3929 Woodward Avenue, **Detroit**. 3137571733. <http://worldaidsdayus.org>

National LGBTQ Task Force Gathering 5:30 p.m. You're invited to a gathering

of our LGBTQ community and allies. Our honored speaker will be Kathleen Campisano, Organizing & Training Director. Hosts: Mary Harper, John Allen, John Hoadley, Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson. To RSVP, visit our website for all details. The National LGBTQ Task Force, **Kalamazoo**. www.thetaskforce.org/kalamazoo

Saturday, Dec. 2

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

Coming Out Over Coffee

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

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous Brownbaggers 1:30 p.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile

Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups

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

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 3

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

Pride AA Weekly Meeting 6 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-3494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

Pride NA Weekly Meeting 7 p.m. OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-3494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

Monday, Dec. 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, Dec. 5

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



Editor's Pick

Detroit Urban Craft Fair

The Detroit Urban Craft Fair, a three-day alternative craft fair, features over 100 one-of-a-kind handmade crafters and indie artists at the Detroit Masonic Temple, 500 Temple St. The Detroit Urban Craft Fair's mission is to elevate handmade goods as an alternative to mass-produced items, support and elevate small craft business by providing a place for them to sell during the busy holiday shopping season, and raise awareness of handmade craft. Hours: Dec. 1, 6-9 p.m.; Dec. 2, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Dec. 3, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Tickets: \$1 on Saturday and Sunday (\$10 on Friday for opening night). Children 12 and under are free. Call 313-638-2724 or visit <https://detroiturbancraftfair.com/> for more information. Poster design by Angie Coe



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interfaith Service of Affirmation Your People Are My People 7:30 p.m. You are invited to an interfaith service of love and support for LGBTQI folks and allies. Speaker is Rev. Theresa Ines Soto, Interim Minister, UU Congregation of Flint. A collection will be taken to support the justice work of Immigration Equality. A

social gathering will follow the service. Co-sponsoring Faith Communities in the Ann Arbor Area, 4001 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. at Ellworth. Ann Arbor. 248-219-7583. joburleigh@aol.com www.uuaa.org/

MUSIC & MORE

313 Presents "Cirque Dreams Holidaze" Cirque Dreams: Holidaze Detroit Tickets are selling fast so don't miss it. Check out Cirque Dreams: Holidaze Fox Theatre - Detroit for ticket information. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 1 - Dec. 3. 313-471-6611. www.313presents.com

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

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "The Music of Queen" Brody Dolyniuk channels the distinct vocals of Freddie Mercury for a "Bohemian Rhapsody" of hit after chart-smashing hit along with the DSO and a full rock band. They will rock you! Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 25 - Nov. 26. 313-576-5111. www.dso.org

Food Gatherers "Rockin' for the Hungry Campaign" Kroger, Ann Arbor 107one and Food Gatherers join forces to alleviate hunger from Nov.28 through Dec 3, accepting non-perishable food items or donation of funds. Ann Arbor 107.one will broadcast live at 2 local Ann Arbor Kroger locations! Check website for live broadcast locations and times. Kroger, 2641 Plymouth Road, Ann Arbor. Nov. 28 - Dec. 3. 734-761-2796. www.foodgatherers.org

MI Green Team "The East Michigan VegBash" Celebration of creative & flavorful vegetarian and vegan cuisine, libations and living. Online tickets \$10 adults/ \$7 students Check website for details. Packard Proving Grounds, 49965 Van Dyke Road, Shelby Township. 3 p.m. Nov. 24. www.migreenteam.com/VegBash

Michigan Theater "Sing-Along & White Christmas Movie!" Caroling is free with a ticket to the sing-along. With on-screen lyrics, interactive props, and more! Join us for caroling with the Barton organ from 7 to 7:30 PM. Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye

play war buddies turned entertainers who fall for a pair of sisters (Rosemary Clooney and Vera Ellen). Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Nov. 24. 734-668-8397. www.michtheater.org

Strategic Staffing Solutions "Wild Lights at The Detroit Zoo" The Detroit Zoo is lighting up the night again this year with Wild Lights, a spectacular light display throughout the front half of the zoo. Tickets \$10-\$16/Parking \$7. The Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Nov. 18 - Dec. 31. <https://detroitzoo.org/events/zoo-events/wild-lights>



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See Happenings, page 25

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Author Spreads As Much Love as Possible

BY T. THOMAS ABERNATHY

Scott Stabile is an up-and-coming author based in Michigan where he lives with his partner. A passionate speaker and love advocate, Scott runs daylong empowerment workshops nationally and internationally. BTL recently spoke to him about his new book, titled "Big Love: The Power of Living With a Wide-Open Heart." Stabile answered some questions about the book, his experiences writing it, and some of his hopes for the future.

If you had to give me a short elevator pitch for "Big Love," what would it be?

I would say that "Big Love" is a collection of personal essays. Each one is about a moment in my life where I've been pulled from my center, and the tools that I've used to find my way back.

Let's build on that a little. What made you decide to put this book together, and get it out there for people to read?

I've had a Facebook page for over five years now, and I've done a lot of writing on that. I tend to write about a lot of the subjects in the book, and share that with a community that's been continually growing. I write about ideas like compassion, kindness, moving through our fears, and being honest with our pain. Writing and posting on Facebook has been wonderful, but it also has limitations. Even when I write longer posts, they're still not as deep as you can go when you're creating a chapter in a book. So, I actually began taking some of these ideas that I wrote about on Facebook and really went deeper into the ideas behind them. I know that not everyone is on Facebook, and not everyone is on social media. I realized that if I wanted this message to reach more people, a book is a natural way to do it.

I know that, towards the beginning of the book, there's a lot of darkness there, especially when you're talking about your family. You've already told me a little bit about dealing with some of these issues, but did you run into any major challenges when getting this onto the page?

You know, it's funny. I think the greatest challenge happened after the words were on the page. In the weeks before the book was coming out, I was like, "Oh, man, I just shared a lot of myself, and now everyone's going to know everything!" So I think the panic about that set in in the weeks before release. As far as the heavier chapters go, when you're writing about these heavy experiences in your life, it's hard not to be taken back to them and feel what you were feeling. So a lot



of the chapters were very emotional to write, but also really cathartic. Putting emotions onto the page is such a helpful release of energy. It was cathartic and powerful and nerve-wracking, especially when I knew it was coming out, but it was good.

Looking back on the book, now that it's out, are there any messages that you'd like to share with our LGBTQ readers, especially ones who are struggling?

The truth is, I think the messages would apply to those who aren't LGBTQ as well, but it certainly applies to those who are. You know, you don't have to have my exact circumstances in your life to know that we can connect with each other. Because we all know pain, we all know sadness, we all know sorrow. By sharing my experience with these emotions and with these circumstances, my hope is that others will feel less alone in their story, and in their struggle, and in their shame, and whatever else they're going through. I want people to understand that they are worthy, and they are beautiful, and they don't have to do a single thing differently to be any more worthy than they already are. The other big message with the book for me is to really invite people to consider choosing love as a guiding force in their life as often as possible, and see what difference that makes in their life. We need to ask ourselves, "What does love invite me to do?" I think that's the main message: considering love as your guiding force, and seeing how it changes your life.

If people want to follow your work and support the book, what are some resources for them to do that?

Well, the book is available everywhere. It's available as an e-book, a hardcover in bookstores, there's even an audiobook with me reading it.

An audiobook?

Yeah! I had to audition to read it actually, which was really funny. I'm glad they chose me.

To connect with Scott, or learn more about "Big Love," visit his website, www.scottstabile.com, or follow his postings and share in his experiences on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ScottFrankStabile.

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Editor's Pick

Them: Objects of Separation, Hate and Violence

Now through March 11, 2018, the Arab American National Museum at 13624 Michigan Ave. in Dearborn presents "Them: Objects of Separation, Hate and Violence." The exhibition explores artifacts and images from the early 20th century to present day that reflect and encourage separation, hate and violence. These items, even those sometimes excused as "harmless fun," foster prejudice and discrimination. Created by the Jim Crow Museum for Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University and expanded in conjunction with AANM, the exhibition can be explored Wednesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and on Sundays, 12-5 p.m. Museum admission is \$8 (ages 13 and up), \$4 students and educators with ID, seniors age 59 and up, children ages 6-12. Free to museum members and children under 6. Students under age 18 are required to submit a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian. For more information, visit <http://www.arabamericanmuseum.org>. Photo by David Leins/AANM



Happenings

Continued from p. 23

Concerts

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "45th Annual Noel Night f/ Sidewalk Chalk" . Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 7 p.m. Dec. 2. 313-576-5111. www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4734&prod=4733

PRISM Men's Chorus "Glitz & Glam, a Broadway Holiday" Tickets: \$25-45. Pre-glow reception before the show. Club Venetian, 29310 John R. Rd., Madison Heights. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 2. www.prism-chorus.org

THEATER

An American in Paris Named Best Musical of the year and the winner of four Tony Awards, An American in Paris is the hit new musical guaranteed to sweep you off your feet and into the arms of a story you'll never forget!. Broadway In Detroit, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Nov. 28 - Dec. 10. 313-237-SING. tickets@motopera.org

Beau Jest Contact Theatre for ticket prices. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. Through Dec. 23. 517-655-SHOW. www.williamstontheatre.org

Professional

A Christmas Carol - Scrooge is Back!

This holiday season, join Ebenezer Scrooge on a ghostly adventure in Dickens classic story. Check website for details. Theatre & Dance at Wayne, Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Dec. 1 - Dec. 17. 313-577-2960. www.theatreanddanceatwayne.com

Miss Nelson is Missing! Tickets: \$25. Olympia Entertainment, City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 25 - Nov. 26. 313-471-6611. www.olympiaentertainment.com

Swimming Upstream Tickets: \$20. World Premiere by Rich Rubin, Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. Through Dec. 23. 313-868-1347. www.detroitreptheatre.com

The Nutcracker The Nutcracker is now a 21st Century spectacle, bright, high-tech,

and filled with imagery! Check website for details. Michigan Opera Theatre, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Nov. 25 - Nov. 26. 313-237-SING. www.michiganopera.org

The Wizard of Oz A spectacular new national tour of the beloved Wizard of Oz. 313 Presents, Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 25 - Nov. 26. 3134716611. www.313presents.com

The Year Without a Panto Claus Tickets: \$20 for adults, \$10 kids (ages 16 and under). Theatre NOVA, 410 w Huron, Ann Arbor. Through Dec. 31. 7346358450. www.artful.ly/theatre-nova/store/events

ART 'N' AROUND

Birmingham Shopping District "Birmingham Winter Market" Featuring carriage rides, Santa Haus, and Birmingham Tree Lighting (12/1 @ 6PM), illuminated booths, holiday crafts, art, home decor, live entertainment! Downtown Birmingham, Woodward Ave., Birmingham. 9 a.m. Nov. 25. www.allinbirmingham.com

Birmingham Shopping District "Small Business Saturday" Shop BIG and support the local economy on Small Business Saturday. Enjoy extra perks for shoppers! Downtown Birmingham, Woodward Ave., Birmingham. 9 a.m. Nov. 25. www.allinbirmingham.com

Detroit Institute of Arts "Church - A Painter's Pilgrimage" One ticket sends you on two artistic adventures -- Monet: Framing Life and Church: A Painter's Pilgrimage. Travel to distinct places and time in history to experience the world as these two artists did. Check website for details! Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 9 - Jan. 14. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Detroit Institute of Arts "Monet - Framing Life" One ticket sends you on

two artistic adventures -- Monet: Framing Life and Church: A Painter's Pilgrimage. Travel to distinct places and time in history to experience the world as these two artists did. Check Website for more info. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Nov. 9 - March 4. 313-833-7900. www.dia.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Art @ The Max III Gallery Tours" Join gallery curator Steve Panton for a guided tour of the Art @ The Max III exhibition featuring the works of Detroit artists Matt Corbin, Scott Hocking, Sydney G. James, Nicole Macdonald, Jo Powers, Maya Stovall, and Andrew Thompson. Tours begin at 230 pm and 330 pm, and will convene at the 1st floor Atrium. This event is free and open to the public. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 1:30 p.m. Nov. 25. 3135765162. <https://www.dso.org/>

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Art @ The Max III" JMax M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 10 a.m. Dec. 2. 3135765162. www.dso.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Om @ The Max" Practice yoga to live music. Certified yoga instructor and DSO Librarian Ethan Allen leads a group yoga session open to all skill levels accompanied with music performed live by flautist Jeff Zook and harpist Rachel Miller of the DSO. Namaste \$18 Children \$25 Adult Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 10:30 a.m. Dec. 2. 3135765111. <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4703&prod=4702>

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 "Think Small '17" Think Small an all media show celebrating diminutive art. Opening Night, Friday, Dec 1 6-9PM info: www.lawrencestreetgallery.com Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. Nov. 29 - Dec. 22. 2485440394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Lawrence Street Gallery "Face and Heart: Visions Behind Walls of Continuity" 22620 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. Nov. 1 - Nov. 24. 248-544-0394. www.lawrencestreetgallery.com

Made in The Mitten Store "Made in The Mitten Holiday Market" A great holiday shopping experience! Made in The Mitten is a Michigan artist inspired marketplace, showcasing the work of Michigan artists from all over and their craft. Admission \$2 for adults, kids under 10 free! Made in The Mitten, 706 S. Washington Ave., Royal Oak. 5 p.m. Nov. 25. 248-850-3268. www.madeinthemittenstore.com

Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series "Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series Presents: Congressman John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell" John Lewis is a civil rights leader and an American politician, serving Georgias 5th district since 1987. He was one of the Big Six leaders of groups who organized the 1963 March on Washington. Lewis has dedicated his life to protecting human rights and securing civil liberties. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 7 p.m. Nov. 27. 7347643464. <https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/john-lewis>

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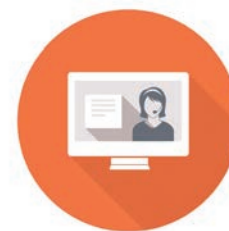
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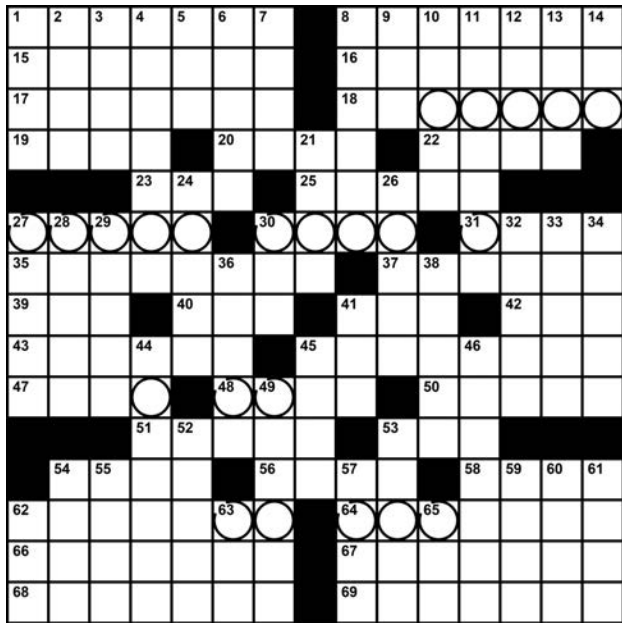
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Q Puzzle



Hidden Quote

Across

- 1 A bit of dialogue from this movie is hidden in the circled letters of this puzzle
 8 Frida's celebrations
 15 Emulate Dr. Kildare
 16 They may penetrate your enemies
 17 He rubs you the right way
 18 Remove a light bulb
 19 Painting and such, to da Vinci
 20 By ___ of (owing to)

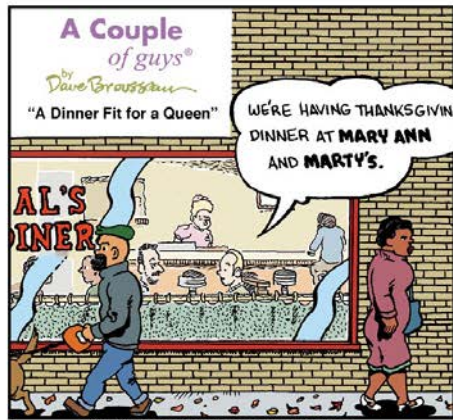
- 22 Craig Claiborne's gumbo pod
 23 Maiden name preceder
 25 "C'est Moi," to King Arthur
 27 "That's the pot calling the kettle beige," e.g.
 30 Bones in the pelvic area
 31 Picks up
 35 Position firmly
 37 "Our" to Pasolini
 39 From ___ Z (the whole shebang)
 40 Inventor's monogram
 41 Pre-Epstein Beatle Sutcliffe

- 42 NATO turf
 43 Electrifying speech
 45 Carol of Broadway
 47 Member of the opposition
 48 Distribute sparingly
 50 One that ought to be paddled
 51 Poke in the backside
 53 In an excited state, perhaps
 54 Actor Johnson and others
 56 Shakespeare's Othello, for one
 58 Soprano Gluck
 62 Gertrude Stein portraitist
 64 Frilly mats
 66 Michelangelo, for one
 67 Game divisions for Pallone
 68 Good fortune that comes on you suddenly
 69 Proded

Down

- 1 What you might be in when you're out
 2 On ___ with
 3 Top
 4 It goes with old lace on Broadway
 5 Charlotte of "Facts of Life"
 6 Piece for Liberace
 7 She played Lois to Dean's Clark
 8 Tutti's partner
 9 McKellen of "Gods and Monsters"
 10 Coarse salt in the tub
 11 Reacts to homophobia, perhaps
 12 Ariz., once
 13 Drama, to Tennessee Williams
 14 One-eighty from NNE
 21 "Aida" backdrop
 24 Hog the stage
 26 He comes once a year
 27 Ben Stiller's mother Anne
 28 Chekov in the "Star Trek" movie
 29 Strikes through
 30 Dick Button's milieu
 32 Had oral sex at home?
 33 "Versace On The Floor" singer Mars
 34 He drilled Gomer Pyle
 36 Elaine ___ ("Taxi" role)
 38 Pound portion
 41 Cyndi Lauper's "___ Bop"
 44 Traffic lights, e.g.
 45 African queen
 46 Writer Barney
 49 Donny of "Dreamcoat"
 52 Davis of "King"
 53 _Mr. ___ (1996 DeGeneres film)
 54 "The Celluloid Closet" author Russo
 55 West Point, e.g. (abbr.)
 57 Garfield's whipping boy
 59 Swedish soprano Jenny
 60 "Let ___ Lover"
 61 Grp. or org.
 62 One in a fairy tale threesome
 63 ___ Francisco
 65 Having one sharp, to Bernstein

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com



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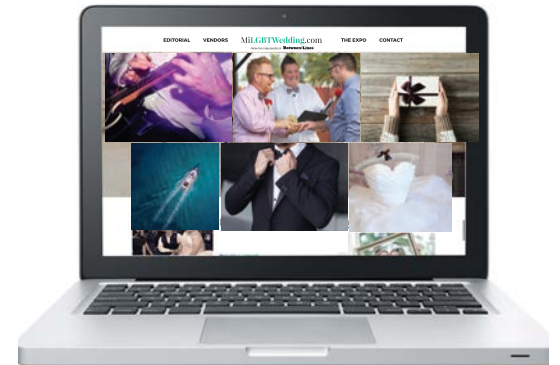
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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Ann Arbor Summer Festival Announces Mike Michelon as New Executive Director

BY BTL STAFF

The Ann Arbor Summer Festival Board of Trustees announced Mike Michelon has been appointed as the new Executive Director effective immediately. Formerly the festival's General Manager, Michelon has been managing the festival's business and operations since joining the staff in 2014. He succeeds Amy Nesbitt in leading the 35-year-old organization.



Michelon said, "I am honored to become the next director of the festival, an organization and community celebration that I've cared deeply about since first coming to Ann Arbor as a student. The Ann Arbor Summer Festival represents what's best about our city and I cherish our opportunity to continue to engage the creativity, curiosity, and passion of our community and region through high caliber arts experiences."

Michelon has been a part of the senior leadership of the festival since 2014. Prior to the festival, Michelon worked in the programming and production departments at the University Musical Society. Additionally, he has extensive experience in freelance Production Management, is active in student leadership development at the university and is a member of the Ann Arbor Rotary Club. Michelon is a graduate of the University of Michigan.

Wendy Lawrence, chair of the board of trustees and search committee remarked, "When we began the search process in June, we were extremely pleased with the caliber of the candidate pool. Mike's leadership, diverse experience in arts administration and live event production, and his vision for the organization stood out. We are thrilled he has accepted our offer and we look forward to the organization under his leadership."

Ken Fischer, President Emeritus of UMS, added, "I've known and worked with Mike Michelon for nearly a decade. Given his leadership qualities, ability to build teams and empower people, and extensive experience in programming and production, Mike Michelon is exceptionally well prepared to lead the Ann Arbor Summer Festival and to continue and enhance its unique and highly valued place in our community."

The festival's 35th season of Top of the Park runs from June 8 through July 1, 2018. For more information on all festival events, please visit the festival website www.a2sf.org.

Author Explores Queer Choral Musicking as a Social Practice with a Purpose

BY BTL STAFF

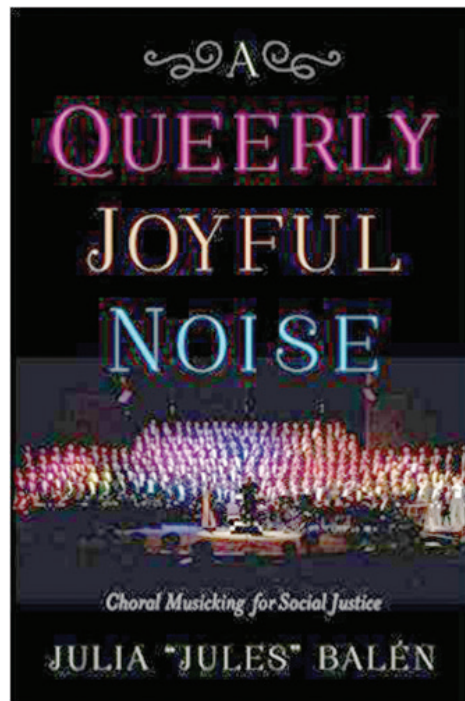
Why choruses? Author Julia "Jules" Balén seeks to answer that question in the book "Queerly Joyful Noise," which examines how choral singing can be both personally transformative and politically impactful.

Balén points to Chorus America, the largest umbrella choral organization in the U.S., which estimates that "42.6 million people in the U.S. sing in more than 270,000 choruses today."

Her intention with this book, as she writes in the introduction, is "not so much to tell individuals stories, though I certainly do that. Rather, these stories help me sketch a larger picture of queer choral musicking as a social practice with a purpose."

A proud member of numerous queer choruses, Balén draws from years of firsthand observations, archival research, and extensive interviews to reveal how queer chorus members feel shared vulnerability, collective strength, and even moments of ecstasy when performing.

As they blend their different voices to create something beautiful, LGBTQ singers stand together and make themselves heard. Comparing queer choral performances to the uses of group singing within the civil rights and labor movements, Balén maps the relationship between different forms of oppression and strategic musical forms of resistance. She



also explores the potential this queer communal space creates for mobilizing progressive social action. She does this in three parts: "Finding Our Voices," "Queer Organizing for Social Change" and "Communal Erotics and Social Justice."

A "Queerly Joyful Noise" serves as a testament to the power of music, intimately depicting how participation in a queer chorus is more than a pastime, but a meaningful form of protest through celebration.

The book is available for purchase online <http://gaybe.am/kQ> for around \$24.

Holiday Concerts By Michigan LGBTQ Choruses

Prism Men's Chorus

"Winter 2017, A Broadway Holiday; Glitz & Glam"
7:30 p.m. Dec. 2
Club Venetian
29310 John R, Madison Hts.,
<http://prism-chorus.org>

LansINGout Gay Men's Chorus

"Christmaspalooza"
7:30 p.m. Dec. 2
3 p.m. Dec. 3
First Presbyterian Church
510 W. Ottawa St. in Lansing
www.lansingout.org

Sing Out Detroit, Mixed LGBT Chorus

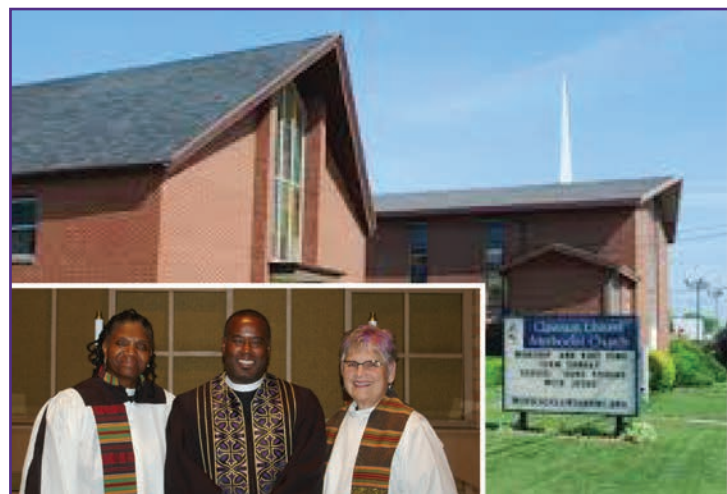
"Chill Out"
3 p.m. Dec. 10
Ferndale High School
881 Pinecrest Dr., Ferndale
<http://singoutdetroit.org>

Detroit Together Men's Chorus

"Put A Little Love In Your Heart"
7:30 p.m. Dec. 16
St. James Catholic Church
240 Pearson, Ferndale
<http://www.dtmc.org>

Out Loud Chorus

8 p.m. Jan. 19, 2018
Towsley Auditorium in the Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College, 4800 E. Huron River Dr., Ann Arbor
<http://olconline.org>



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205 N Main St, Clawson, MI 48017
248-399-7741
www.mccdetroit.org



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'Detroit Concert for a Cure' Comes to Ferndale

BY BTL STAFF

Cast members of the national touring production of "An American In Paris" (performing at the Detroit Opera House Nov. 28 – Dec. 10) will perform in a special concert to benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and Ferndale's Blessings in a Backpack <http://www.blessingsinabackpackmi.org/ferndale/> – a



"neighbor-helping-neighbor" program that is designed to help bridge the gap of the nutritional needs of children from the Ferndale School District.

"Detroit Concert for a Cure" starts at 7 p.m. on Dec. 4 at The Loving Touch, 22634 Woodward Ave. in Ferndale. Doors open at 6 p.m. for the 18 and over event. Guests attending can support the cause as they enjoy an intimate evening featuring cabaret-style performances by cast members of "An American in Paris," as they perform some of their favorite songs and familiar Broadway tunes.

"An American in Paris" is the new Tony Award-winning musical about an American soldier, a mysterious French girl, and an indomitable European city, each yearning for a new beginning in the aftermath of war.

The evening, hosted by local drag superstar, Sabin, will also feature live and silent auctions and a cash bar. Admission for the event is \$25 in advance or at the door. All funds raised at the event will benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS <https://broadwaycares.org/> and Blessings in a Backpack. Tickets for "Detroit Concert for a Cure" are available service fee free at Woodward Avenue Brewers box office located at 22646 Woodward Ave. in Ferndale, or at the door at The Loving Touch on the night of the show. Advance tickets are also available by visiting www.thelovingtouchferndale.com.

Tickets for "An American in Paris" at the Detroit Opera House are available by calling the Fisher Theatre at 313-872-1000 or online at www.broadwayindetroit.com.

Celebrate the Holidays with Perceptions

BY BTL STAFF

Kick off the holiday season with a fun, fabulous evening surrounded by family and friends on Dec. 2 at Apple Mountain Resort, 4519 N. River Road in Freeland. Perceptions is excited to host the organization's 16th Annual Holiday Gala with attendees who are encouraged to show off their holiday spirit in creative ways – if they so choose – and come prepared to dance the night away to the electrifying sounds of local favorite, Avenue 5.

"In the past, attendance was at its highest when the event was held at Apple Mountain. We're thrilled to be back and hope the trend continues. The Holiday Gala is a wonderful night out celebrating the Great Lakes Bay Region's LGBT+ community and allies, as well as the important work Perceptions does in the region," said Gala chair, Beth Sibray.

Perceptions is a non-profit organization that brings sexual orientation and gender identity and expression (SOGIE) education, advocacy, networking, and resources to individuals and organizations in the Great Lakes Bay Region with the vision of fostering an inclusive

and supportive community that inspires engagement, equality and respect for all.

The evening kicks off at 6:30 p.m. with an open bar and hors d'oeuvres. Guests will be invited to partake in a buffet dinner featuring sliced roast beef and herb roasted chicken along with various sides and salads. After dinner, a special guest speaker will take the stage. Stay tuned for a special announcement on our Facebook page later this month. Perceptions' Harmony Diversity Choir is also scheduled to perform.

Tickets for the Holiday Gala are \$50 each and are available for purchase online or through any Perceptions board member or Gala committee member. Visit www.perceptionsmi.org to purchase tickets.

While enjoying cocktails and dinner, guests are invited to browse the silent auction area for unique items and experiences. Raffles for other great prizes will be held throughout the evening. Businesses or individuals interested in donating to the silent auction or raffle are asked to contact the auction chair, Allison Matthew at allisonamathew@gmail.com.

Visit www.perceptionsmi.org for more information.

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

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

AIDS/HIV

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

AIDS Walk Detroit

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

Macomb County STD Clinic

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

<http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIV/AIDS/Counseling/Testing>

Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

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

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

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

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

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

Campus

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

U-M Ann Arbor

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

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

Eastern Michigan University

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

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp

Wayne State JIGSAW

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

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

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

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

Ferndale
<http://goaffirmations.org>
www.facebook.com/Affirmations/
or follow them on Twitter @ GoAffirmations.

290 W. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI
248-398-7105

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

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

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

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

Stonewall for Revolution

www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

Ties Like Me

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

Suits And The City

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

Transgender

FtM Detroit

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

FtM A2 Ypsi

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

Transgender Michigan

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

Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

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

Ozone House

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

Stand With Trans

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



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

Find these resources online

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

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

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

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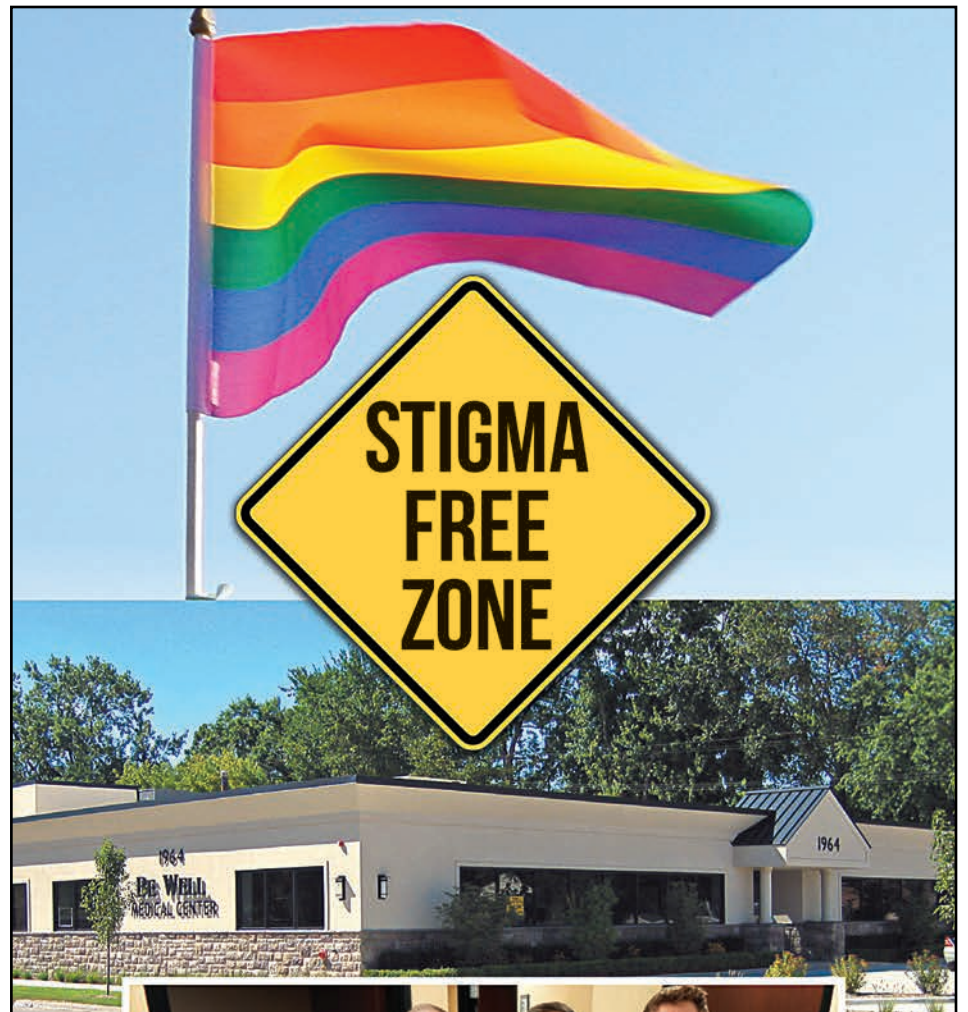
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Deborah Cox is not scheduled to perform at the Sat. Matinee & Sunday evening performances.

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