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# BTL

24 Years

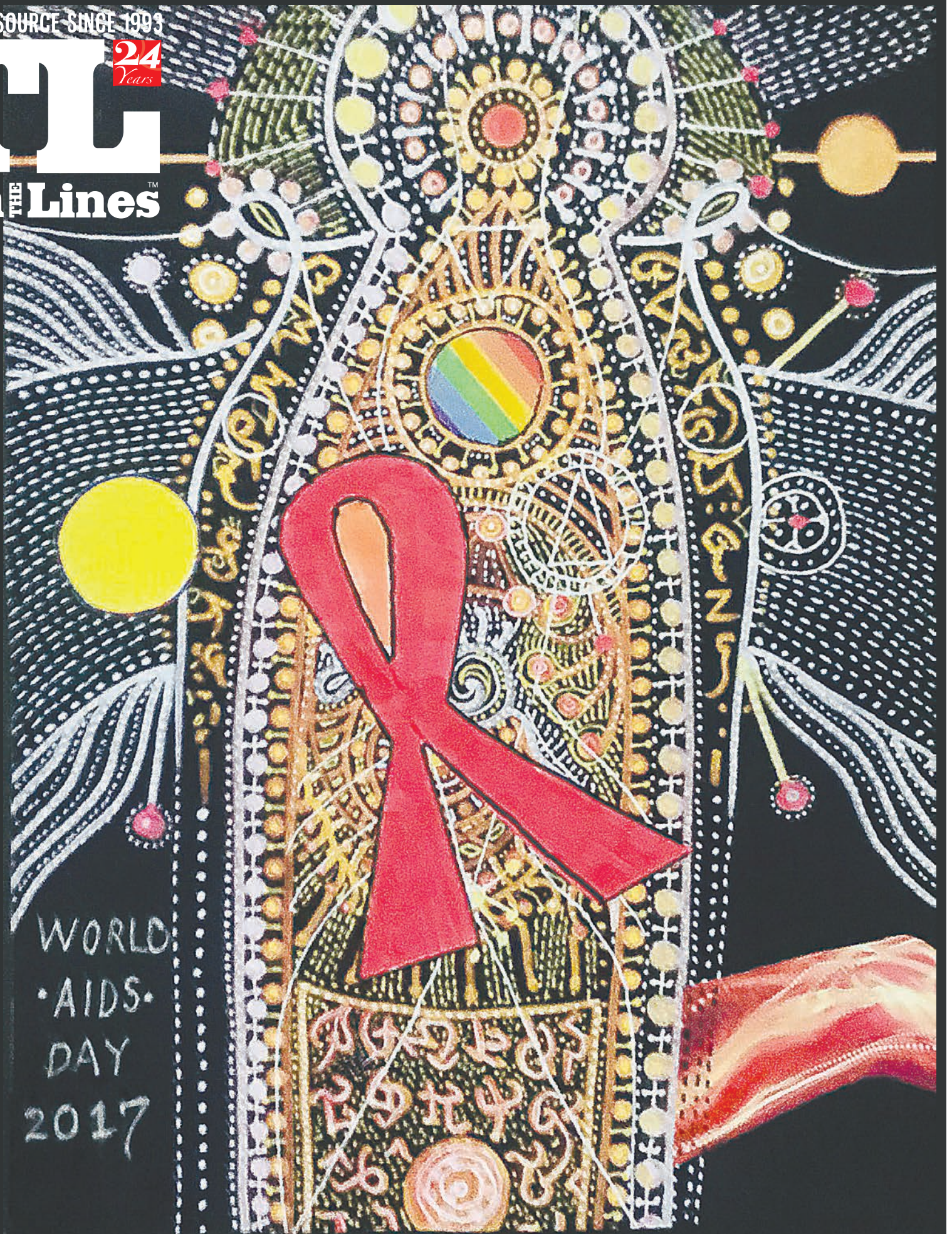
## Between THE Lines™

HIV: Is There Light  
at the End of the  
Tunnel?

SCOTUS Couple  
Speaks Out in  
The Masterpiece  
Cake Case

Six Feet Under  
Actor on One of  
Queerist Movies  
of the Year

WORLD  
• AIDS •  
DAY  
2017



## WHAT IS GENVOYA®?

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

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

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

#### GENVOYA may cause serious side effects:

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

### Who should not take GENVOYA?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

GENVOYA does not  
cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

# SHOW YOUR POWER

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

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(jen-VOY-uh)

## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GENVOYA

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

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

## ABOUT GENVOYA

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

### Do NOT take GENVOYA if you:

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

## GET MORE INFORMATION

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

## IMPORTANT FACTS

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

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF GENVOYA

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

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

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

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

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

## BEFORE TAKING GENVOYA

### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

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

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

## HOW TO TAKE GENVOYA

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



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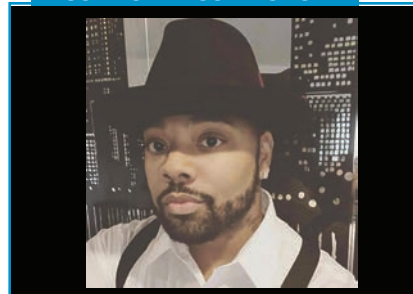


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# Meet the Gay Couple at the Center of Masterpiece Cakeshop Case

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Charlie Craig and David Mullins didn't expect to be the new face of the LGBT rights movement, but that responsibility will be thrust upon them in a matter of weeks as the U.S. Supreme Court hears their case over being denied a wedding cake in Colorado at Masterpiece Cakeshop.

The two are key figures in the case challenging Colorado's non-discrimination law, which bars discrimination in public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation. Jack Phillips, the owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, refused to make a wedding cake for the Denver-based couple on the basis that it would violate his religious beliefs as a Christian.

In an exclusive interview with the Washington Blade, Craig, 37, and Mullins, 33, said they've been anticipating the oral arguments in the case — set for Dec. 5 — with intense emotions. (See related story, p.10)

Mullins said he's been filled with "trepidation and excitement" since the Supreme Court agreed to hear the lawsuit in June.

"I will definitely say I don't think anyone in the country is prepared to hear that a case they are party to is going to be argued before the Supreme Court," Mullins said. "That was definitely a hard thing for us to wrap our minds around."

The day of oral arguments for the court on Dec. 5 is actually the anniversary for the first date of the couple seven years ago. (Recognizing the occasion, Craig said "maybe it's good luck.")

Craig said the two met through a mutual best friend and were friends for a good year before dating. At a time when same-sex marriage was legal in limited places and not in their home state of Colorado, the two nonetheless decided to marry.

Although many couples arrange dramatic engagement proposals, Mullins said the couple had a "cute story" that wasn't very dramatic.

"In all reality, we were just lying on the couch together one Sunday morning," Mullins said. "I think it was Charlie who turned me. He was like, 'You know. I really would marry you.' And I thought about it and I was like, 'I would marry you, too.' And we sort of sat there for a minute and we were like, 'So should we get married? And we decided to get married.' It was a very natural, casual moment, which was really kind of how our relationship was."

Craig added he later discovered Mullins had been socking away money to buy wedding rings. (The two have a pair of three-diamond rings. Craig's is made of white gold, but Mullins's is comprised of cobalt because he's allergic to silver and gold.)



Charlie Craig and David Mullins are at the center of the Masterpiece Cakeshop case. (Photo courtesy of the ACLU)

Because same-sex marriage wasn't yet legal in Colorado, the couple decided to marry in Provincetown, Mass. The Bay State, first in the country with marriage equality, legalized same-sex marriage as a result of a court order by the Massachusetts Supreme Court in 2003.

The two planned to have 30 friends and family members fly up to Massachusetts for the ceremony, and have a hometown reception in Colorado. But then there was the matter of the wedding cake.

Craig said the host for the Denver reception party used Masterpiece Cakeshop for earlier clients and recommended the bakery based on its service and close proximity.

"We looked up the website and were like, yeah, OK, they look like something that we would want," Craig said.

On the fateful day, July 19, 2012, Mullins and Craig proceeded to Masterpiece Cakeshop and brought along Craig's mother. Because she doesn't live in Denver and was in town for a conference that day, the wedding cake purchase would be her only opportunity to take part in the planning.

Mullins said the three went in "really excited" and Craig came in with a binder of ideas, but "it all went wrong immediately" after they sat down with Phillips.

"He immediately asked us who the cake was for and we said it was for us, and he told us he would not make a cake for a same-sex wedding," Mullins said. "And what followed was a horrible pregnant pause. We were just mortified and embarrassed and quickly we just got up and we left."

When the couple entered the parking lot, Mullins said they became emotional and broke down in tears — a moment they said was all the more "painful and profoundly embarrassing" because Craig's mother was present.

The couple said they had no idea Phillips sought to operate his business consistent with this Christian beliefs, nor that he had a policy of refusing wedding cakes to same-sex couples.

Craig and Mullins quickly found relief from the LGBT community and supporters after a Facebook post, which quickly went viral worldwide in a couple days.

As a result of the Facebook post, a friend informed the couple that Phillips' actions were a violation of state law in Colorado — something Mullins said the couple wasn't aware of previously.

"We actually were unaware that there was a law in Colorado against what happened," Mullins said. "It actually took a relative

of Charlie's looking something up and connecting us the next day to actually tell us there was an anti-discrimination statute in Colorado that covered public accommodations discrimination."

Another Colorado shop, Lora's Donuts & Bakery Shop, offered to provide the wedding cake the couple ultimately used for their celebration. The cake had rainbow layering to represent solidarity with the LGBT community.

But there still was the matter of the discrimination. Mullins said the couple spoke with the LGBT legal group Lambda Legal about their rights under state law, then the American Civil Liberties Union — which represents them in the case — helped them further and filed a complaint on their behalf in 2013.

"Eventually, someone at the ACLU found us and we spoke to them, and we decided to move forward with the complaint," Mullins said. "They sort of helped us file the paperwork a little bit, and then after that and much discussion on their part, they decided to take up the case."

Prior to the complaint, the couple hadn't

See next page

“ I feel like of course we’re standing up for ourselves, but the important thing is and what the Supreme Court decision is going to decide, is we’re standing up for these thousands of other people who are discriminated against all the time, and that’s really what keeps us going. ”

– Charlie Craig

had significant experience in LGBT advocacy. Craig, an alumnus of University of Wyoming in Laramie, said 15 years ago he was a board member of a student LGBT group that sought to raise awareness for the Matthew Shepard Foundation and HIV testing, and Mullins said he couldn’t recall any instance of prior LGBT work.

“This was kind of my awakening,” Mullins said.

James Esseks, director of the ACLU Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender & HIV Project, said by filing a complaint, the couple took the lead in the fight to ensure equal rights for LGBT people.

“No one should ever have to experience the kind of pain and humiliation that Charlie and Dave were put through,” Esseks said. “They’ve shown real courage to stand up for the rights of all of us and we’re proud to stand with them as they take this fight to the Supreme Court. We all deserve the freedom to go out in public without being turned away because of who we are.”

At the state level, the couple had success many times over. In December 2013, an administrative judge ruled the bakery had illegally discriminated against the couple — a decision affirmed by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission.

Masterpiece Cakeshop wasn’t penalized with monetary damages, but required to take remedial measures to comply with the law, institute comprehensive staff training and issue quarterly compliance reports for two years on these corrections in addition to documenting all patrons denied service at the bakery.

Mullins said the litigation “is not about whether or not there’s somewhere else we could get a cake” when asked why the couple is insistent Masterpiece Cakeshop be required to serve wedding cakes to same-sex couples.

“Our case is about basic access to public accommodations,” Mullins added. “We were not turned away from Masterpiece Cakeshop because of any design we asked for, we were turned away because we’re a gay couple, and we pursued this because we didn’t want another couple to go through what we had gone through.”

Mullins said if Masterpiece Cakeshop followed state law “we would have received the same service that any other person would have received, we would have been treated with respect.”

As litigation proceeded, Craig said the couple discovered Masterpiece Cakeshop

turned away four or five same-sex couples before them. Although court documents say Phillips had offered the couple any ready-made product in the store in lieu of a wedding cake, Craig said one of these couples had sought cupcakes and were denied service.

In 2015, a three-judge panel on the Colorado Court of Appeals affirmed the decision of the commission. Later, the Colorado Supreme Court refused to hear the case upon appeal from Masterpiece Cakeshop.

That seemed like the end of the road for Masterpiece Cakeshop, But in a last ditch effort, the bakery, represented by the anti-LGBT legal firm Alliance Defending Freedom, petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court for review, citing issues of freedom of religion and expression.

To the surprise of just about everyone, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to accept the petition in June. (The petition had remained pending before the Supreme Court for some time and was taken up shortly after confirmation to the bench of U.S. Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch.)

Why did the Supreme Court agree to take up the case? After consistent rulings at the state level in favor of the couple, could justices have in mind overturning those decisions in favor of allowing anti-LGBT discrimination?

The answer, Mullins said, is completely in the minds of the Supreme Court justices and no one else – at least until justices render their decision in the case.

“Obviously there have been numerous public accommodations cases that have happened in numerous states, and in my wholly un-legal opinion, I think that maybe the reason they took our case was because there was no disagreement over the facts of how anything went down,” Mullins said. “It’s also possible that they just felt it was time to take up one and ours was the one that was on their desk when they made that decision.”

Mullins and Craig – with Craig’s mother in tow – plan to travel to D.C. to witness the oral arguments firsthand at the Supreme Court on Dec. 5. Mullins expressed excitement about seeing “Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s neckpiece” while hearing the case.

The couple has a busy schedule planned for the time they’re in D.C., which includes three speeches at different rallies. That’s consistent with the nearly 150 media interviews in which the couple has participated, ranging from the LGBT press to the New York Times.

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THIS ISN'T ABOUT CAKE.



# IT'S ABOUT WHETHER A BUSINESS CAN SAY “WE DON'T SERVE YOUR KIND HERE.”

In early December, the Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Masterpiece Cakeshop*, a case that has the potential to upend the hard-fought principle that no one should ever be denied service from a business open to the public simply because of who they are.

The case might seem relatively minor: a Colorado bakery refusing to sell a same-sex couple a cake for their wedding reception. But this is not about cake, and it's about a lot more than marriage.

A ruling that says the Constitution gives businesses the right to turn customers away based on religious beliefs or creativity would create gaping holes in our nation's longstanding nondiscrimination protections. It would say there is a constitutional right to discriminate—which could be used not only against LGBT people but also against religious and racial minorities, unmarried couples, single mothers and many, many others.

To learn more go to [www.OpenToAll.com](http://www.OpenToAll.com)

## #OpenToAll



# Viewer's Guide to Tuesday's Supreme Court Argument



BY LISA KEEN

The U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments Dec. 5, in yet another case with major consequences for LGBT people. This one will decide whether any common business vendor – a restaurant, a hotel, a taxicab – selling products or services to the public – can refuse to sell or accommodate LGBT persons by simply claiming to have a religious belief hostile to such persons.

In *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado*, a baker who prepares elaborate cakes for wedding receptions says that the mere act of selling any of his cakes for the reception of a same-sex couple amounts to “participating” in and supporting the wedding. The baker, Jack Phillips, claims to have a religious belief that opposes allowing marriage for same-sex couples. And he says that participating in a same-sex couple’s reception conflicts with that religious belief and his rights as an artist to create what he wants to create.

The case is one of the most-watched cases before the U.S. Supreme Court this session because a ruling in favor of the baker would enable just about any business to refuse service to just about any patron by claiming a religious hostility to that patron or a creative license to refuse service.

The *Masterpiece Cakeshop* case is the only argument the court will hear on Dec. 5. Here are some of the facts and issues to keep in mind as a flood of media coverage ensues:

**When and where:** The argument will take place from 10 to 11 a.m., Dec. 5, at the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Seating for the public is very limited, and persons interested in standing in the very long lines to get in often must arrive (or arrange for line-sitters) the day before the argument. However, audio recordings of major cases, such as this one, are usually available on the court’s website within a few hours of adjournment. And transcripts of the argument are also available on the same day on the court’s transcript page.

**The laws in question:** The case essentially

The case is one of the most-watched cases before the U.S. Supreme Court this session because a ruling in favor of the baker would enable just about any business to refuse service to just about any patron by claiming a religious hostility to that patron or a creative license to refuse service.

pits a state law prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination in public accommodations against a federal law (the First Amendment to the Constitution) forbidding laws “prohibiting the free exercise of religion” or “abridging the freedom of speech.” The state law in this case is Colorado’s, but 20 other states have laws to prevent discrimination against LGBT people. And all states have laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, sex, and other factors. The Colorado law, like those of most other states, exempts any entity “principally used for religious purposes.”

**The person challenging the state law:** Jack Phillips, a “cake artist” and owner of the *Masterpiece Cake* bakery in a Denver suburb, refused to sell a cake to a same-sex couple because “the Bible teaches [same-sex marriage is] not an OK thing.” According to a Heritage Foundation publication, Phillips “belongs to a Baptist-rooted church.” Phillips said his personal religious beliefs and his artistic sensibility prevented him from selling a wedding cake to the couple for their wedding reception.

**The couple challenging discrimination:** Charlie Craig and David Mullins are a gay couple living in Colorado. They were married in Massachusetts in 2012, when the U.S. Supreme Court had not yet struck down state bans against marriage for same-sex couples (in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015). After Phillips refused to sell them a cake for their reception, Mullins posted an account of the interaction on his Facebook page and urged friends to let the bakery “know you feel their policy is discriminatory,” reported the *Denver Post*. That prompted media attention and alerted the couple that the action violated state law. So they filed a complaint with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission.

**The muddle:** Phillips and his lawyers at the Alliance Defending Freedom have tried

to shift the focus away from religious-based discrimination to the idea that laws should not dictate to “artists” what projects they create. On a June 2017 episode of the talk show *The View*, Phillips said he would sell the same-sex couple “anything” in his store but not a wedding cake. “It’s not turning them away, it’s just this event.” He later claimed, “I’m not judging these two gay men that came in, I’m just trying to preserve my right as an artist to decide which artistic endeavors to do and which I’m not.” The same-sex couple did not get a chance to ask Phillips to create an artistic endeavor just for them. He refused them service within “thirty seconds” or in “less than two minutes, according to his own accounts of the interaction. And Phillips’ website illustrates that most of the wedding cake designs he offers are neither religiously oriented or include a male-female image.

**The state’s action:** A state administrative judge, the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, and the Colorado Court of Appeals all ruled against Phillips. The Commission did not order Phillips to design cakes for same-sex weddings, as Phillips claims, but rather it ordered that he stop “refusing to sell them wedding cakes or any product [the baker] would sell to heterosexual couples.”

**Chief arguments by baker:** The state law violates two First Amendment rights: free exercise of religion and freedom of speech. Phillips argues that his Christian beliefs oppose same-sex marriage and that the work he puts into baking cakes and his selling them for various events amount to speech or “expression.”

**Chief response by civil rights groups:** Lawyers supporting the state law say the religious-based arguments here are recycled from the 1960s, when opponents of laws prohibiting discrimination based on race argued that it violated their religious beliefs

to serve black customers in the same space as white customers. (See *Newman v. Piggie Park* case.) And they say the artistic expression arguments misidentify who the real “speaker” is in the marketplace; it is the buyer, who says ‘I will accept this product’ or ‘I support this work.’

**Possible narrow ruling:** That Phillips’ religious beliefs might be implicated whenever he creates a custom-design cake for a couple (rather than when he sells them a cake with an existing design).

**Attorney for the baker:** Kristen Waggoner is head of the legal team of the Alliance Defending Freedom, an organization that has devoted much of its time and resources to challenging laws that prohibit sexual orientation discrimination. She is a graduate of television evangelical Pat Robertson’s Regent University School of Law.

**Attorney for the U.S.:** The Trump administration has taken sides with the baker. It is sending Solicitor General Noel Francisco to argue their point. Francisco took office in mid-September of this year. A graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, he clerked for Justice Antonin Scalia. He was an associate counsel to President George W. Bush and served in that administration’s Department of Justice.

**Attorney for Colorado:** Colorado Solicitor General Frederick Yarger will defend the state’s law before the Supreme Court. Yarger has held his post for two years. He clerked for Timothy Tymkovich of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and has argued two other cases before the Supreme Court, both in 2016.

**Attorney for the gay couple:** Representing the gay couple will be ACLU national legal director David Cole, a long-time advocate for equal protection of the law for LGBT people and people with HIV.

**Historic note:** In 1996, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a voter-approved law in Colorado that sought to exempt everyone from local ordinances that prohibited discrimination

See next page

In *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado*, a baker who prepares elaborate cakes for wedding receptions says that the mere act of selling any of his cakes for the reception of a same-sex couple amounts to “participating” in and supporting the wedding.

## ► Viewer's Guide

Continued from p. 10

based on sexual orientation. (Romer v. Evans)

**Postscript:** The Supreme Court will discuss in conference Dec. 1, a public accommodations case involving anti-LGBT sentiment in another business transaction. Arlene's Flowers v. Washington involves a florist who did not want to sell flowers for the wedding of a same-sex couple. Like the baker in Colorado, the florist in Washington State lost at the state supreme court and filed an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, a week before the Colorado case. Presumably, by Dec. 1, the justices will know how they plan to rule on the Colorado case and that will guide them on the Washington case. But they will not likely tip their hand on Arlene's Flowers until they release their ruling on Masterpiece Cake – which could be as late as June of next year.

**Lawyers supporting the state law say the religious-based arguments here are recycled from the 1960s, when opponents of laws prohibiting discrimination based on race argued that it violated their religious beliefs to serve black customers.**

## ► Couple

Continued from p. 7

"I think it's important for people to see us just for the fact of we're standing up for ourselves," Craig said. "We experienced discrimination and experienced what it means to follow it through this far."

During the arguments, the ACLU will represent the couple, another attorney will represent the Colorado Civil Rights Commission in defense of the non-discrimination and Alliance Defending Freedom will make Masterpiece Cakeshop's arguments.

But another lawyer from the U.S. Justice Department under U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions may also take part: U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco. Francisco sought time to speak before the Supreme Court after the Justice Department filed a friend-of-the-court brief in favor of Masterpiece Cakeshop.

Mullins said the participation of the Trump administration in the litigation is "definitely notable," but ultimately the Supreme Court will be making the decision in the case.

"In the end, the Supreme Court is nine justices and nine votes and they will make their decisions, and so, in the end, the buck stops with them," Mullins said.

Contrary to the experiences of many plaintiffs in LGBT rights cases, Mullins said the couple hasn't faced significant backlash since the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

"If anything, I feel like it made the story larger and it helped reach some people and changed some minds, of people who weren't as aware of the story beforehand," Mullins said.

The Supreme Court ruling in the Masterpiece Cakeshop will likely be issued next year and could be a milestone for the LGBT rights movement.

Craig, however, said the impact is difficult to determine because the ruling could affect just Colorado law or similar statutes nationwide.

"In the smallest sense they can validate what Colorado has already said, that he violated anti-discrimination laws here, and that would set a precedent for Colorado," Craig said. "It could also set a precedent for the other 20 states that have the same public accommodations laws, or it could be as big as they're sending a message to the whole nation that discriminating against gay people is wrong."

In the event of a loss before the Supreme Court, Mullins said the decision would have deleterious consequences not just for LGBT people, but other marginalized groups.

"If the Supreme Court found that a business owner could refuse to serve someone based on their strongly held religious beliefs, could a hotel owner refuse to rent a room to an interracial couple because his faith believed the races were not meant to mix, or could a business owner refuse to hire a single mother because his faith believed that mothers should be married?" Mullins said. "A loss at the Supreme Court could open the door to many forms of discrimination that have long been considered wrong in our society, and not just ones that involve LGBT people."

Win or lose, Craig said the lawsuit will be worth the effort because it means not just standing up for the thousands of people who've told the couple about their own discrimination stories as the litigation proceeded.

"I feel like of course we're standing up for ourselves, but the important thing is and what the Supreme Court decision is going to decide, is we're standing up for these thousands of other people who are discriminated against all the time, and that's really what keeps us going," Craig said.

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



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## NEWS



Rolando Jimenez, president of the Movement for Homosexual Integration and Liberation, a Chilean LGBT advocacy group, in his office in Santiago, Chile, on Oct. 2, 2017. Washington Blade photo by Michael K. Lavers

# Chilean Lawmakers Begin Debate on Same-Sex Marriage Bill

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

Chilean lawmakers on Monday began to debate a bill that would extend marriage rights to same-sex couples.

Members of the Chilean Senate's Constitution, Legislation and Justice Commission began to consider the measure nearly three months after President Michelle Bachelet introduced it. She signed the country's civil unions law that took effect in October 2015.

The Movement for Homosexual Integration and Liberation, a Chilean LGBT advocacy group, in 2012 filed a lawsuit with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on behalf of three same-sex couples who are seeking marriage rights in the country. Bachelet's government agreed to introduce a bill that would extend marriage and adoption rights to same-sex couples as part of an agreement it reached with the Movement for Homosexual Integration and Liberation in June 2016.

Rolando Jimenez, president of the Movement for Homosexual Integration and Liberation, told the Washington Blade last month during an interview at his office in the Chilean capital of Santiago that up to 70 percent of Chileans support same-sex marriage. He nevertheless added there is "still no absolute majority support for marriage equality."

Former President Sebastian Pinera, who won the first-round of Chile's presidential election that took place on Nov. 19 opposes same-sex marriage. He will face off against Alejandro Guillier—a candidate for Bachelet's center-left Nueva Mayoria coalition who supports same-sex marriage—in the Dec. 17

runoff.

More than 60 of the 155 candidates who were elected to the Congress on Nov. 19 are members of the Nueva Mayoria or the left-wing Frente Amplio party. The Movement for Homosexual Integration and Liberation and Fundacion Iguales, another Chilean advocacy group, applauded the results and noted the majority of the Congress now supports marriage rights for same-sex couples and a bill that would allow transgender adults to legally change their name and gender without undergoing surgery or going before a judge.

"Marriage equality is effectively egalitarian," Fundacion Iguales President Juan Enrique Pi told the Blade last month during an interview at his Santiago office. "We can get married. We can adopt."

U.S. ambassador attends Santiago LGBT rights march

More than 100,000 people marched in support of the same-sex marriage and trans rights bill in Santiago on Saturday.

Guillier, U.S. Ambassador to Chile Carol Perez and Chilean Social Development Minister Marco Barraza are among those who took part in the march. Pinera did not attend.

The U.S. Embassy in Chile on its Twitter page posted a picture that shows Perez marching with other diplomats who were holding a banner that read, "diplomats committed to LGBTI human rights" and speaking to march participants. The embassy also thanked the Movement for Homosexual Integration and Liberation for organizing the event.

"A great space to keep promoting LGBTI rights," it wrote.

# Court: DOD Can't Delay Transgender Enlistments Beyond Jan. 1

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

In response to a request to clarify a court order against President Trump's transgender military ban, a federal judge has ruled neither Trump, nor the Pentagon, may delay transgender enlistments any further than a Jan. 1 target date.

U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, a Clinton appointee, issued the clarification Monday in response to a request from the U.S. Justice Department in the case of *Doe v. Trump*, the initial lawsuit against the ban filed by the National Center for Lesbian Rights and GLBTQ Advocates & Defenders.

The request from the Justice Department last week asserts Kollar-Kotelly couldn't have meant her order bars Defense Secretary James Mattis from extending his delay on transgender accessions beyond the Jan. 1 target date because plaintiffs "only sought prospective relief to enjoin the secretary from implementing the president's memorandum," which was a measure subsequent to Mattis' memo.

"Out of an abundance of caution, however, defendants now seek clarification that, should the secretary of defense exercise such discretion, the secretary's action would not

violate the court's Oct. 30, 2017, order," the filing says.

Mattis issued his memo on June 30 to delay transgender enlistments, which were set to begin at that time as result of a policy change during the Obama administration under Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, until Jan. 1 in response to a request from military service chiefs for more time to implement the policy. (Transgender people currently serving in the armed forces as a result of the Obama-era policy were allowed to stay.)

Kollar-Kotelly explains her order intended to revert the military's policy on transgender troops to the "status quo" before Trump issued his directive banning transgender military service, which means the Mattis memo is now lawful policy.

To clarify on whether Mattis is free to extend the ban on transgender enlistments any further, Kollar-Kotelly writes "any action by any of the defendants that changes this status quo is preliminarily enjoined."

Since Mattis is named defendant in the case, that prohibits him from delaying transgender enlistments any longer than Jan. 1 – the target date in his June 30 memo. At that time, the Trump administration will be required to allow qualified transgender people to enlist into the

armed forces.

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said the clarification confirms "transgender people must be permitted to enlist on Jan. 1, 2018, as previously scheduled."

"We are very pleased that Judge Kollar-Kotelly confirmed her prior ruling and that transgender people who can meet the same qualifications as others will be eligible to enlist," Minter said. "As the court has already determined, there is no justification for excluding transgender people from military service. The order applies to the president and to military officials."

The Justice Department has already appealed Kollar-Kotelly's order – the first against Trump's transgender military ban – to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Last week, U.S. District Judge Marvin Garbis issued a second order against Trump's policy as a result of a separate lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The two lawsuits are among four lawsuits filed against Trump's transgender military ban. Another was filed by Lambda Legal and OutServe-SLDN, and another was filed by Equality California.

*"We are very pleased that Judge Kollar-Kotelly confirmed her prior ruling and that transgender people who can meet the same qualifications as others will be eligible to enlist. As the court has already determined, there is no justification for excluding transgender people from military service. The order applies to the president and to military officials."*

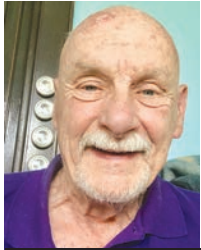
– Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights

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## Memories of a Near-Forgotten Past (Pt. 6)

# Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

There were two newspaper stands in once-busy downtown Detroit in the 1960s. One was situated at Grand Circus Park. The other at Campus Martius, across the street from the still-standing 1877 Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

Each month, I'd stop at the closest stand, look up and down Woodward Avenue, and wait for the perfect, unobserved moment to buy a copy of "Grecian Guild Physique Pictorial."

I kept my visual aphrodisiac in a brown paper bag when traveling home, sneaking a peek between bus stops. (I was once seen over my shoulder by an attractive guy who slipped me his phone number and an unused transfer.)

The 6-by-8-inch fuel for my fantasy life (or, was it, more appropriately, 6-by-9-inch?) cost 50 cents. There were no full-frontal nude images. Only suggestive posing pouches. Oiled sleek bodies. Magnificent outdoor settings. It worked nonetheless. Monumentally so!

Some of the photos carried cryptic markings. I learned later these indicated top or bottom, straight or gay, whether professional photographer's model, or hustler privately available. Not that it did me or my friends any good. But it was camaraderie of a secret shared from straights.

How times have changed! There's so much erotica, porn, and acrobatic, vibratory, cucumber silliness on the internet – 90,000 porn sites – that it constantly borders on being ho-hum boring.

(My initial weekly 105 hours of X-rated viewing has dropped to a mere 25, with fewer cold showers in between. Care to compare notes?)

The internet, of course, is giving the post office a run for the money. But there was a time in the 1960s when magazines like "Physique Pictorial" could not be sent through the mail. Censorship was pervasive. Terrifyingly so.

To send nude photos or suggestive letters could mean arrest. My high school friend Gordon Barnard (aka Rita Hayworth) was a member of the Grecian Guild, a fan club for supposedly discrete networking. The postal authorities steamed open one of his "more suggestively worded epistles," and he was hauled into court, warned, and fined.

Back then – without the convenience of Grindr and DoMeMary – bars were the only place to meet gay friends and make sexual assignments. The best bars were those with a back entrance. Coming or going incognito was an important plus.

One had to be wary of vice officers. Unless a bar paid them off, and a few did, there was a risk of being arrested for looking at an undercover cop a few seconds too long. It was his word against yours, and most of the time your shamefaced explanation didn't count.

The vice officer who entrapped me when I was 23 was attractive. He said he had seen me around. He offered me a lift home. (There was no mention of sex.) When I went to his blue Ford Thunderbird, it was locked. His partner ran on the scene, called me a fag, yelled dramatically, "You're under arrest!"

You were expected to behave in Detroit's gay bars (there were seven or eight downtown in the 1960s). No touching. No kissing. No holding hands. No dancing. I recall the excitement when a private club – the former Detroit Press Club, located above a burlesque theater – permitted same-sex dancing with its \$25-a-year membership. Woweee!

Today's LGBTs take so much for granted. We all need to be reminded there was a time when we had no newspapers, no churches, no gay centers, no Pride marches, virtually no positive visibility. Nothing but each other. (We made do.)

Friendly tip for living from an oldster: Take nothing – or no one – for granted. Do-do happens when you don't pay attention. Watch your step! The Donald Trumpet/ Pence Tamborine sound shake in the distance. Don't say you haven't heard it blowing. (No pun intended.)

*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](http://Charles@pridesource.com).*



## Positive Thoughts

# Surviving with Style



BY JEFF BERRY

*"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."*

—Maya Angelou

I remember as a young child wanting to be "popular." Being popular meant you were part of the "in" crowd, had lots of friends, and were the life of the party. Everyone wanted to be with you; near you...they even wanted to *be* you.

I recall at one point fantasizing that if I were on crutches, then I would be popular. I guess I thought that everyone would want to sign my cast, provide comfort and consolation, and hold doors open for me. I must have pushed to the back of my mind the unsettling fact that I would have to break a bone to

get there, and all that came along with it – the pain, the rehabilitation, the scar.

I tried my hardest to fit in, but I was always a bit different from an early age – soft-spoken, shy, and let's just say, not the athletic type. When all the other boys were playing football or tag at recess, I would be playing wall ball with the girls.

Eventually, I would be bullied at school on a regular basis; they called me "Fairy Berry" (I hated that)

See next page

## ► Surviving with Style

Continued from p. 14

and would snap their towels at me in the gym locker room. Add to that the onset of puberty and the raging hormones that came with it, having sex regularly by sixth grade with the boy who lived down the road, and then the sexual abuse by my father, and it's a wonder I even survived.

I attempted various ways of coping over the years, but nothing seemed to completely wipe away the internalized feelings of shame and unworthiness that lie deep inside. That feeling that was inevitably still there when I came down from the high; the feeling I was never quite able to drown out no matter how much sex I had...and I had a lot.

In 1989, just a few weeks before my 31st birthday, I received the devastating news: "You're HIV-positive." I had finally found my crutch, and the scars that came with it, but somehow it didn't make me popular.

Fast-forward almost 30 years later, and time has given me, at least I hope, some perspective. I find that I'm much more empathetic and forgiving (at least part of the time!), because I've been there. I see my own life reflected back to me when I hear other people's stories of pain and trauma. I've come to realize that each of us has our own path to survival and resilience; we just may be at different time points on the journey. Just as those who have led the way in front of me have picked me up and helped me along, I too try to offer a hand to those on the path behind me.

Recently I was able to indulge myself in an old passion of mine – deejaying. I was honored to be able to spin at Club Metro in Chicago in late August for Chuck Renslow's memorial and the last White Party. I worked for Chuck (who was an early champion of gay rights in

Chicago starting in the 1950s and the founder of International Mr. Leather) for about five or six years as a DJ in the late '80s and early '90s. Going back to my first love – music – all these years later was scary, but ultimately fulfilling. When I was initially asked back in July I immediately jumped at the opportunity and said yes. But then doubt started to creep in when I realized I would not be using any of my old vinyl or turntables, and would have to do everything digitally using a computer. I practiced, practiced, practiced, had a blast, and people seemed to have fun and were dancing (the ultimate litmus test for a DJ). The point is, if you have a chance to follow your passion, go for it. You only go around once (and I'm not talking records on a turntable!).

I think one key to my survival has been the love of family and friends. I was lucky; I realize not everyone gets that (but you can choose your own family if you need to). My mom made me believe I could do anything. And Dad, in his own way that somehow got twisted up along the way, loved me too.

So I'm not just surviving, but thriving, as Ms. Angelou so eloquently put it. Passion? Check. Compassion? I'd like to think so. Humor? A must. And style? I leave that up to you to decide.

Take care of yourself, and each other.

*Jeff Berry is the editor of Positively Aware magazine, the leading national HIV treatment magazine published by a not-for-profit AIDS service organization TPAN, in Chicago. This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, TheBody.com and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites – <http://hivplusmag.com>, <http://positivelyaware.com>, <http://poz.com> and <http://thebody.com> – for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS. A version of this article appears in the November+December 2017 issue of Positively Aware.*

# Creep of the Week

## Pauline Hanson

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI



Growing up, my Australian education consisted of watching "Crocodile Dundee" and listening to "Down Under" by Men At Work. Today's generation may be more familiar with Australia via YouTube videos of terrifyingly large spiders and venomous snakes.

I suspect that if you asked the average American if marriage equality is legal in Australia, most would say yes. But it is not.

It hopefully will be soon as the majority of Australians support marriage equality, which was reaffirmed by a national postal survey (a.k.a. a voluntary mail-in ballot) in November that found over 60 percent in favor of L-O-V-E. But it's parliament's move, as they ultimately have the power to pass such laws.

Of course, not everyone is thrilled with the prospect of same-sex couples saying, "I do."

Pauline Hanson, a senator for Queensland, is more of an "I don't" kind of gal.

According to a speech Hanson gave to parliament, people who want marriage equality are "pushing their own agenda" and "selfish."

She describes sex education as "messing around the minds of young children," and says that kids shouldn't learn about "body parts" until they're 14 or 15 (never mind the fact that plenty of 14 and 15 year olds, gay and straight, are already using these "body parts" for sex stuff).

"I have no problems with people being in love and doing what they want to but why do you have to...push on the majority of the population," Hanson asked.

"I have grown up of the opinion that marriage was between a man and a woman," she said in her speech, "but I do not take away the right of people to be in a relationship and to find happiness within themselves."

Which is cute and all, but insisting that gays and lesbians exist solely "within themselves" is essentially demanding that they stay in the closet, which means that

The fact is, we have structured our society, for better or worse, around legally codified relationships, and excluding same-sex couples from legal recognition erases them and paints them as illegitimate. This is true in the U.S. and it is true in Australia.

they don't exist out in the world.

It's a common refrain from the anti-gay camp: "If people want to love each other, fine, but I don't want to have to see it or deal with it or acknowledge it in any way."

It's as if gays and lesbians are expected to exist on the fringe of society, rather than as a part of it.

The fact is, we have structured our society, for better or worse, around legally codified relationships, and excluding same-sex couples from legal recognition erases them and paints them as illegitimate. This is true in the U.S. and it is true in Australia.

So if it's "selfish" to demand equal rights, then I'd say that's a good reason to be selfish.

Of course, Hanson and those like her believe that what's truly selfish is raising children with two moms or two dads, a concern that takes its cue from the lie that gays and lesbians are a danger to children.

Hanson's nightmare scenario involves a kid going to school and being told by a teacher, "I want you to draw a picture of your mum and dad or grandma and grandad."

And she pictures a kid saying, "What am I going to do? I don't have a mum or a dad – it's Peter and Sam. It's Elizabeth and Amanda."

You know what my kid does in these situations? He draws a picture of his two moms. It's not that hard.

But to see through to this obvious answer, you have to actually see two moms and two dads as capable and worthy parents. Hanson doesn't.

As a marriage bill bounces around in parliament, let's hope that Hanson is able to find happiness within herself and can stop trying to snatch it from same-sex couples.



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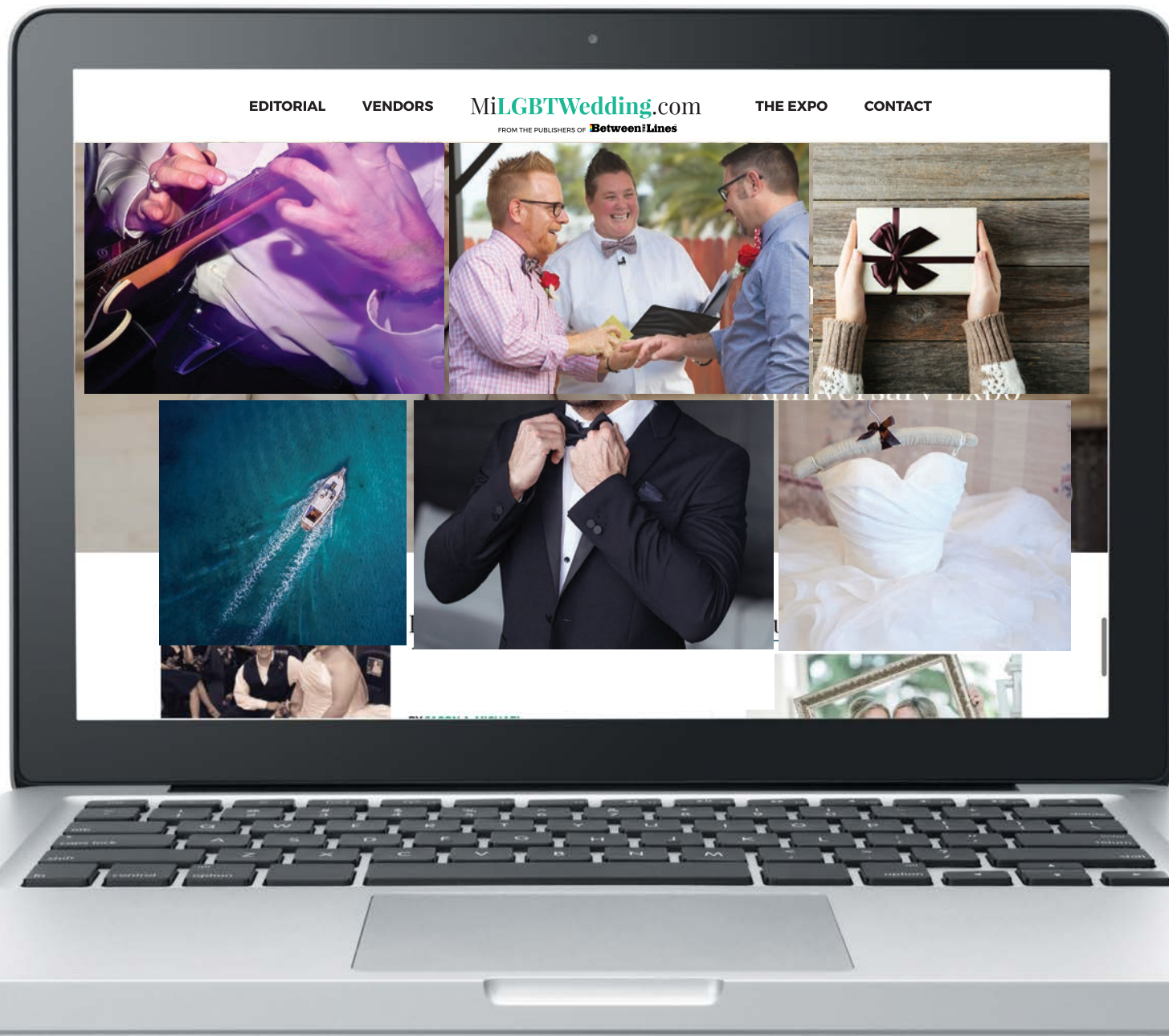
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# What We Know and What We Can Do to End the Epidemic

## BTL EDITORIAL

State health officials, politicians, activists and care providers on the frontline of the HIV epidemic are most optimistic than they have been in 36 years. There is a light at the end of the tunnel – with biomedical interventions the transmission of HIV could end within a decade.

That is a huge change in the landscape of HIV, but that light could be snuffed out for years, perhaps decades, without proactive involvement from this community. This is as much an all hands on deck scenario as marriage equality was.

## Here's what we know and here's what you can do to help end the epidemic:

- Regular testing (at least annually, but preferably quarterly) is the key to unlocking the end of HIV in Michigan.

- A person living with HIV who is taking their medications and undetectable cannot sexually transmit their infection

- A person who is HIV-negative can take a pill once a day to prevent sexually acquiring the virus. It's 99 percent effective.

- A person who is HIV-negative, but uses injection drugs, can take a once a day pill to prevent acquiring HIV through needle sharing. It's 70 percent effective.

- Needle exchanges work in reducing blood borne infections and do not increase intravenous drug use.

- Stigma, whether over sexuality, gender identity or HIV status, continues to be a major obstacle to testing, treatment and prevention.

- Increased access to medical care through the Affordable Care Act is saving lives, preventing HIV transmissions and improving the quality of life for our entire community.

## What you can do right now to help end the epidemic:

- Get tested for HIV. Seriously, know your status.

- If you test HIV-positive, get into medical care and begin medications immediately. It will improve your health outcomes and as a bonus, prevent you from transmitting the virus to anyone else.

- If you test HIV-negative, get on PrEP. You owe to yourself and the community to do your part to prevent HIV transmission.

- Stop using stigmatizing and shaming language which creates obstacles. That includes ending the references in apps to being clean when discussing HIV and ending gender expression shaming.

- Call your lawmakers. We have to save the Affordable Care Act, and we need to protect the Medicaid expansion. Without those two health insurance programs, getting to no new infections will be impossible to reach.

- Call your state lawmakers and tell them to modernize Michigan's HIV disclosure law to reflect actual criminal intent and risk of harm, rather than continue to criminalize people because of a virus.

- Support those living with the virus. Support those at risk for the virus. Encourage each other to be adherent to prevention choices that we are making for ourselves. HIV prevention

is everyone's responsibility.

Ending the epidemic is our shared responsibility. The light at the end of the tunnel can become a bonfire signaling the end of this epidemic, but to build that signal fire, everyone has to do their part. Michigan can, and should, become the leader in stopping HIV. The power is in our hands. The question is: Will we use it?

**Ending the epidemic is our shared responsibility. The light at the end of the tunnel can become a bonfire signaling the end of this epidemic, but to build that signal fire, everyone has to do their part. Michigan can, and should, become the leader in stopping HIV. The power is in our hands. The question is: Will we use it?**



The time of worldwide remembrance today called World AIDS Day began 29 years ago on December 1, 1988. The role of art and artists as tools in emotional visual sharing has been important, powerful, international and cross-cultural. (As example: small but now universal: the AIDS Red Ribbon.)

How important was demonstrated when the first World's AIDS Day included a "Day Without Art," as a dramatic means of focussing full dramatic attention on the shock and horror of the thousands and thousands of lives lost and affected by the deadly HIV virus.

Between The Lines has devoted five of its covers to World AIDS Day with art by well-known community artist Charles Alexander. "The theme, or overall "look" of my cover," says Alexander, "is titled Caring and Compassion during the international AIDS Crisis.

"It's a tribute of consideration to worldwide religious faith and spirituality in response to a pandemic of hopelessness, despair, disease, and once-certain death. The flash of light in the cover's righthand corner represents the challenge of the still on-going plague."

– Cover artist Charles Alexander



# 'A Light at the

# End of the Tunnel'

## How the HIV Epidemic in Michigan Could be Ended in a Decade Racial Disparities Remain Challenge

BY TODD HEYWOOD

*With effective biomedical interventions, but no cure, Michigan leaders believe the end of HIV could come as soon as a decade. The question: Is the infrastructure in place to remove barriers and finance the expensive, but effective interventions to bring about an end to the crisis that's 36 years old?*

*Between The Lines reporter Todd Heywood spent the last month interviewing local, state and national experts about HIV prevention and treatment for this special report. This series is the result of over a dozen hours of interviews and the review of hundreds of pages of state and federal reports on HIV and Hepatitis rates.*

**K**atie Macomber sits in a chair in a conference room in Lansing at the Michigan Department for Health and Human Services in early November. She's spent the last hour going over in detail the state's ongoing efforts to address the HIV epidemic within its borders. She's rattled off numbers and discussed complex social barriers. That's part of her job as the director of the Division of HIV/STD programs for the state. Despite numerous obstacles, there is an air of optimism that state health officials have not shared previously.

Asked if there is "a light at the end of the tunnel," she enthusiastically replies, "Oh, yeah. Absolutely."

She continues, excitedly discussing interactions at various national and regional conferences over the last year.

"Every conference I've been to, the reality that ending new HIV transmission is within 10 years, probably less," she said.

The numbers and science back that optimism. In October, the CDC, for the first time, announced that those with an undetectable viral load have "effectively no risk" of transmitting their virus to a sexual partner. In that same announcement, the federal agency noted that new HIV diagnoses for white men who have sex with men had dropped between 2011 and 2014, and in that same time period the rate of new infections among black MSM had stabilized. Those numbers, the agency

said, were the effect of successful antiretroviral treatment.

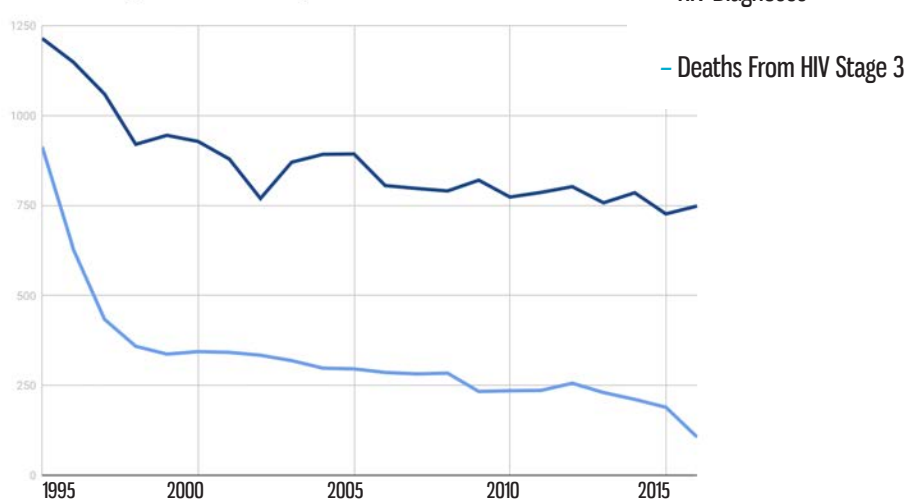
Michigan has seen a stabilization of new HIV infections during that period as well, and it continues to witness that slowing.

Bruce Richman, who is the founder of the Prevention Access Campaign former leader of the U=U (Undetectable equals Uninfectious) messaging campaign, told [aidsmap.com](http://aidsmap.com): "The CDC's updated risk assessment is a historic shift in what it means to be a person living with HIV, and provides a powerful argument for universal access to treatment and care for both personal and public health reasons."

That's a potent reality in the fight against the epidemic. The U.S. and other developed countries are on the cusp of ending new transmissions. But to do that, it will require a concerted effort to address racial disparities which prevent access to medical care, treatment and prevention options. It will require an ongoing and sustained support for the economics of health care. And it will require a laser focus on empowering the communities most at-risk.

It's been 36 years since the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued the very first warning about a strange cluster of rare pneumonias in previously healthy gay men. That cluster report would blossom into a worldwide epidemic, taking the lives of tens of thousands of Americans.

New HIV Diagnoses v. HIV Stage III Deaths 1995-2016



## Light at the End of the Tunnel

With effective biomedical interventions, but no cure, Michigan leaders believe the end of HIV could come as soon as a decade. The question: Is the infrastructure in place to remove barriers and finance the expensive, but effective interventions to bring about an end to the crisis that's 36 years old?

In 1985, when then Health and Human Service Secretary Margaret Heckler joined scientist Robert Gallo to announce the discovery of HIV, she assured the American public a vaccine was a few years away. She was, it turns out, being wildly optimistic. There is no vaccine today, and it would take 11, gruesome years before science was able to create a combination of drugs to fight the virus back and prevent it from killing the human host.

## 1996

With the advent of combination antiretroviral treatment in 1996, there was a shift in the epidemic. People who were near death, rebounded. Death was no longer the foregone conclusion of HIV infection and diagnosis. A Lazarus effect occurred and the once deadly epidemic transformed into a chronic, but manageable health condition.

Data from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services bears this out, showing that in 1995, the year before effective combination therapies were released, 913 people died from stage III HIV disease. At the end of the next year, with the new medications available, that number dropped by a third, to 629 deaths. It was the beginning of a trend. In 2016, the most recent year data available, 106 Michiganders died of HIV Disease Stage III.

That effect may have also had an unintended consequence, says Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit. He represents a key demographic that has been left behind in both prevention efforts and treatment access in the U.S. -- young black men who have sex with men. Lipscomb notes that many of these

youth were not even conscious as gay men or born when effective treatment stemmed the tide of deaths.

"So they came up in an age where they don't see the same terrors as I saw when I was young," he said. "They don't see the immediate consequences of infection and death. They didn't see the rallying around being safe."

He notes that back in the '80s and the early '90s "we visually saw the symptoms of the tidal wave of infection." Those visual images included severe weight loss and physical blemishes like Kaposi's sarcoma lesions.

"You don't see that wave now in common space," he said.

There is a wave. In 2016, 46 percent of new infections were among black men. Twenty-six percent was among white men. Overall, 60 percent of the infections identified in 2016 were in MSM. A 2010 study of 20-year-old MSM found that black MSM had a prevalence rate of 20 percent at age 20. By the time that cohort reaches the age of 50, 70 percent of them are likely to be infected that study found. White MSM in the same cohort who were age 20 had a prevalence rate of 10 percent, and if current transmission trends continued, half of them would be infected by the time they were age 50.

Despite these trends, Lipscomb said the optimism expressed by state health officials has not trickled down to his community.

"Who knows that, and how do they know that?" Lipscomb asked about the optimism of state health officials at ending the epidemic within the decade. "That's my question. If professionals know that, this is not me

See WAD: Light, page 20

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# Looming Outbreak

## State and Federal Health Officials Warn Opioid Crisis Could Spawn HIV Outbreak in Rural Northern Michigan

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Federal and state health officials have quietly been preparing for an opioid related outbreak of HIV in northern lower Michigan, but lawmakers and the governor have not been briefed.

“In response to the HIV outbreak in Scott County, Indiana, from Injection Drug Use (IDU), the CDC in Fall of 2015, performed an Analysis to Identify US counties where people who inject drugs (PWID) appear especially vulnerable to the rapid spread of HIV infection if introduced, as well as new or continued increases in hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection,” wrote Erica Quealy, a spokeswoman for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. “This assessment identified counties that had similarities with Scott County Indiana that potentially makes them vulnerable for an HIV outbreak. This assessment identified that Michigan had 11 counties in the Northern Lower Peninsula that were deemed vulnerable (top 5 percent in the US) for an HIV outbreak from IDU. To date,

MDHHS HIV Surveillance has detected no statistically significant increase in HIV cases in these counties associated with PWID.”

Despite this information, the office of Republican Gov. Rick Snyder said last week he had not been briefed.

“We can’t find any instance of the Governor having been briefed on the Hep C/HIV issue,” wrote Snyder Spokeswoman Anna Heaton in an email. She referred questions about the situation to Michigan Department of Health and Human Services staff.

Quealy said as a result of those federal findings, last year the department authorized local departments in the affected counties to use up to 15 percent of their HIV education and prevention grant dollars for syringe programs. She said two departments have agreed to start such programs, and will be receiving additional funding for that in January 2018.

Quealy stressed that the CDC assessment was model and that no cases of needle related transmission of HIV in the at-risk counties had been verified to date.

Two members of the Senate Health Policy Committee -- a Democrat and a Republican -- confirmed their committee had not been briefed on the looming concern either. In the event of such an outbreak, lawmakers may be requested to shift funding in the state to respond.

The concerns over the potential outbreak have also led two leading Democrats vying for the party’s gubernatorial nomination next

year to call on Snyder to declare a public health emergency. Both former Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer and former Detroit Director of Public Health Dr. Abdul El-Sayed are calling for a declaration of emergency as it relates to the opioid crisis.

Both referred to the crisis as “biggest public health crisis in our lifetime.” In addition, both said they wanted to see an immediate move to fund syringe access programming.

Kalamazoo Democratic State Rep. Jon Hoadley said he wanted to see action now before an outbreak occurred.

“Do we have the capacity to fund an emergency response? Perhaps,” he said. “Could we try to move some money around to do some sort of immediate intervention? Perhaps. The question is, then, that will be more expensive and less effective than figuring out ways to get ahead of this issue that we know is coming. Every day we’re waiting to see if it gets really bad so we actually have to take action is another day that it’s just going to get worse. The real problem is that when you start looking forward and saying, ‘Well, how do we then sustain the response to actually limit the number of new HIV transmissions? How do we then provide the support so new infections that have occurred, the folks that are newly affected, received the treatment that they deserve, so then we’re also preventing the further transmission of HIV?’ I don’t know where that room is in the budget. It is particularly with HIV care, or when they’re talking about Hepatitis or HIV or a number of other health instance that we’ve been reviewing over the last couple of years. You

just don’t have flexibility in the budget. It’s getting really scary.”

The Detroit News reports that in 2015 there were 1,981 drug-related deaths statewide in Michigan, but in 2016 there were 2,335 such deaths. The majority of those deaths were opioid related the newspaper reports.

Her call for a state of emergency and release of state dollars for needle exchanges comes as state health officials have revealed a dramatic increase in Hepatitis C cases in northern Michigan. Those cases are tied to intravenous drug use, said Katie Macomber, director of the Division of HIV/STD programs at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

“We know because of hepatitis rates, especially in upper Michigan, that people are likely getting infected with Hepatitis C through injection drug use,” Macomber said. “We’re not seeing HIV.”

Unspoken was the word “yet.” Macomber acknowledged that the most recent example of a massive outbreak of HIV in people who use drugs saw a dramatic increase in Hepatitis C cases before HIV made its way into the network. That was in rural Scott County Indiana in 2015. Nearly 200 people were ultimately diagnosed in the outbreak which required an emergency declaration by then Gov. Mike Pence to allow a syringe exchange program to help stem the tide of the outbreak. All the cases were tied to a network of people using the opioid Opana by crushing it up, dissolving it in water and injecting it with shared needles. Prior to that outbreak, the

See next page

### ► WAD: Light

Continued from p. 19

saying that professionals are wrong, that’s not my question, The statement is, the person who comes to me who is curious about this kind of treatment, how would they know that information? That’s why I argue that education-- there’s an education lack.”

Bambi Burnham, an early intervention specialist with the Lansing Area AIDS Network (See related story, page 27), agrees that there is a lack of education, information and outreach within and for the black community. She said doing so requires overcoming a significant number of social issues.

“When we’re talking about racial disparities and social determinants of health, all of those levels play into this part of HIV, the stigma,” she said. “The not wanting to, or not being able to, feel safe with family members or friends, to speak about who you are at your core. It definitely plays into it, and I think that’s the most challenging piece. We’re educated on adverse childhood experiences, ACEs.

We’re educated on social determinants of health, but to actually see it play out in front of you is really... it’s sobering.”

Macomber concurs there are barriers for black MSM -- from lack of insurance, to food and housing insecurity. But she also said she sees historic and systematic racism playing a role in preventing black MSM specifically, and black Michiganders in general, from accessing medical care including HIV testing, treatment and prevention.

“I think we still are increasingly seeing the results of Tuskegee and institutional racism for black men, both in the ability to talk about sex with their providers or families, and in terms of feeling comfortable talking to doctors at all or accessing medical services,” she said.



**Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit represents a key demographic that has been left behind in both prevention efforts and treatment access in the U.S. – young black men who have sex with men.**

Tuskegee refers to a series of experiments spanning 40 years in which black men were allowed to remain infected with syphilis while scientists monitored how that bacteria impacted their bodies over the long term. The experiment was funded by the federal Public Health Service. It ran from 1932 until 1972, according to the CDC. When it was revealed

by the Associated Press in 1972, it caused a massive outcry in the US and led to a direct distrust of American health officials by the black community.

Macomber said health equity is one of the top five priorities for the department in general because it causes poor outcomes in all health related areas when it’s not addressed. But, she acknowledged racism remains an issue in delivering services and addressing HIV.

Lipscomb said places where people of color, those most at risk for HIV infection, gather remain woefully lagging in providing HIV prevention and education information.

“We just don’t see that information right now,” he said. He noted that many young MSM in his programs don’t know what PrEP is or its importance in ending the epidemic and protecting one’s own health. That he said has to be addressed by the community itself.

“We really need a community led response to this,” he said. “We really need the community to step up, to lead this. We don’t need leaders, we need the community.”

rural county in southern Indiana routinely registered only five new cases of HIV a year.

A study, published by the New England Journal of Medicine in July of 2016, reported that of those infected with HIV during the outbreak, just over 92 percent were co-infected with Hepatitis C. That study identified the outbreak of the liver virus as a precursor to the HIV outbreak.

“Third, HCV infection was highly prevalent in this network of persons who inject drugs,” the authors wrote. “Reports of new HCV infections should be noted because they can serve as markers of communities at risk for HIV, and interventions to prevent further HCV infections, such as syringe-exchange programs, could possibly contribute to reducing the risk of an HIV outbreak.”

State health officials have taken note of the increase in new cases of Hepatitis C. They’ve begun to ramp up HIV testing efforts in those 11 counties impacted.

“The Department funds about 50,000 HIV tests in local health departments and community-based agencies each year. In 2014, zero percent were performed in rural health departments, in 2015 zero percent were performed and in 2016 it was 1.6 percent of all tests or about 800 HIV tests,” wrote MDHHS Spokeswoman Erica Quealy in an email. “So far, in 2017, we have funded about 45,000 tests, about 5.4 percent are in those low-morbidity health departments (about 2,440 tests).”

Macomber said that the state has a plan ready to go in the event HIV cases begin showing up in these networks.

But the Thomas Judd Care Center, a community clinic in Traverse City that treats those living with HIV, is not waiting for an outbreak of the disease to start. They’ve done a soft launch of a new HIV prevention clinic called PrEVENT. The new clinic will work with at-risk communities to access the HIV prevention drug Truvada for prevention services, said Victoria Cammarata, a social worker with the organization.

The CDC reports that using the anti-HIV drug for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among injection drug users has an efficacy rate of 70 percent in preventing an HIV-negative person from acquiring HIV. That’s 20 percent less than sexual prevention, but dramatically more effective than other prevention efforts.

“We thought,” said Cammarata of the PrEP clinic, “All right, we got to get our thinking caps on and think of ways that we can reach out to all, not just those 11 counties [identified as at-risk for an opioid related outbreak], but all of our community and get the prevention message out there.”

# The Political Perils of HIV Policy

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Scientists and public health officials are in agreement. Treatment options and prevention drugs combined with testing could bring an end to the HIV epidemic in the U.S. in general and Michigan specifically within the decade.

“Other things [diseases] have had that over time, but it’s always with an advent of a vaccine and we don’t have a vaccine yet,” said Katie Macomber, director of HIV/STD Programs for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. “The scientific advances from 1992 to today? Incredible.”

Without a vaccine, and the cost of the drugs to treat and prevent HIV extraordinarily high, politicians are faced with finding a balancing act between budgets, costs and the public health. It’s a tightrope act that could have catastrophic or exceptionally positive outcomes. The decisions made in the coming years will literally set the course for the future of the epidemic, agreed politicians interviewed by BTL.

The U.S. and the United Nations Joint Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has set an aggressive goal of identifying 90 percent of people living with HIV, connecting 90 percent of those with the virus to medical care and treatment and virally suppressing 90 percent of those in care. It’s called the 90-90-90 Plan.

With scientific evidence mounting that those on treatment, and virally suppressed, can’t transmit their virus to sexual partners, combined with the use of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis, which is up to 99 percent effective in preventing sexual transmission and 70 percent effective in preventing needle sharing transmissions, the landscape of HIV response has changed “dramatically.”

But translating that excitement will require politicians to formulate new strategies to address HIV stigma in the law and in policy-making. Those strategies will require integration of federal and state efforts, particularly for funding.

State Rep. Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) is in his second term in the state House. He has been working in the GOP dominated House to bring attention HIV prevention, care and education needs – a daunting task. But he shares the optimism of public health officials and scientists.

“I will tell you I also believe there’s a light at the end of this tunnel and I think it’s coming sooner rather than later,” he said. “The barriers we need to remove so we can get to the end of this tunnel include education, HIV prevention and treatment. Second, fully funding HIV

treatment so there is no reason folks can’t be 100 percent in proper medical care. Third, it’s addressing the moral stigma that still evades so many folks when it comes to public policy and medical care, which is preventing folks from having an honest conversation on tools like PrEP. If we were able to then fully support the removal of these roadblocks, we actually could get to where we’re trying to go.”

One of the major obstacles facing lawmakers is the drive by national Republicans to repeal the Affordable Care Act. A key provision in that law expanded Medicaid access dramatically to communities most at risk for acquiring HIV and those living with the virus. In Michigan, the expansion made it possible for nearly 700,000 people to get health insurance coverage.

The Trump administration and GOP leaders have talked about rolling back provisions in the law which financed the expansion in most states. One proposal would be to provide a block grant, rather than real time financing for costs. The results could be a drastically scaled down Medicaid program.

“I’m very concerned about that,” said former Senate Minority Leader Gretchen Whitmer. She’s the presumed frontrunner in the primary for the Democratic nomination for governor next year. Currently most of Michigan’s HIV funding – prevention, treatment, health insurance – comes from federal dollars. Gutting one leg of that funding system is dangerous.

“It’s crucial we draw down every dollar available into our state,” said Whitmer. “That we empower a larger fighting capacity in negotiations with pharmaceutical companies so that we can get access for people at lower costs and that we educate the medical profession to write prescriptions.”

That sentiment was shared by Hoadley as well as former Detroit Health Department Director Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, who is challenging Whitmer and others for the nomination in the Democratic 2018 gubernatorial race.

“I think HIV prevention pays for itself,” El-Sayed said. “I think the current formula is sort of broken. I think we have, generally as a state, an issue with revenue as it stands.”

Hoadley said he believes that the state has to reassess revenue generation in light of the ongoing work on rolling back taxes on “billionaires.” He called for a progressive income tax in the state, which would require a constitutional amendment, but could pull in millions of additional dollars to state coffers.

El-Sayed said the state has to re-examine “gigantic cash handouts to large corporations.” He said the issues of funding have to be bridged to become a bipartisan issue and “a

**The U.S. and the United Nations Joint Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) has set an aggressive goal of identifying 90 percent of people living with HIV, connecting 90 percent of those with the virus to medical care and treatment and virally suppressing 90 percent of those in care. It’s called the 90-90-90 Plan.**

matter of political priorities.”

But Hoadley warns that work to make HIV funding a political priority will require a lot of “one on one” work with lawmakers. No one, he said, is coming into the state legislature with a burning passion and experience as it relates to addressing HIV. Complicating this, many in the legislature are like most Americans, operating on policy prescriptions for HIV but doing so with a knowledge base that is two decades old. Hoadley said in conversations he’s had with lawmakers, in explaining the new science as it relates to treatment as prevention and PrEP, cause his colleagues to have “aha” moments. But getting to the “aha” takes time.

For three years, Hoadley has been working with activists to modernize Michigan’s HIV disclosure law. Right now, the law does not require intent to transmit the infection or behavior which has been demonstrated to transmit the virus. As a result, people have been sent to prison for sexual activity that posed no risk of transmission.

He said the movement is making progress, and state health officials have said they are working a parallel track to modernize the law independently of what Hoadley and activists are engaged in.

Both Whitmer and El-Sayed said they want to find ways to create funding programs for people who are underinsured or uninsured to access PrEP. Both mentioned drug assistance programs in operation in Washington and New York states.

For El-Sayed, the 90-90-90 goals from the UN need to be amended. He wants to see 90 percent of people at risk for HIV on PrEP.

“I know that’s a really aggressive goal, but it’s what we have to offer,” he said. “And it’s something that every time somebody who should be on PrEP is not on PrEP, that’s a lost opportunity to prevent a transmission.”

# The Promise of the Pill

## Pre-exposure Prophylaxis is Backed by Science, Health Officials, But Slow On Uptake in Michigan

BY TODD HEYWOOD

It's blue, and a pill. It's tied to sex, but it's not Viagra. It's Truvada. And although it's been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use as an HIV-preventative – and a highly effective one at that – since 2012, access, education and uptake is lacking in Michigan.

“We’ve had 10, maybe 15 calls for PrEP,” said Victoria Cammarata. She’s a social worker employed at the Thomas Judd Center in Traverse City. That demand, combined with possible outbreak of HIV among people who use needles to use drugs, specifically opioids,

in 11 counties served by the center, has led the agency to open Northern Michigan’s first PrEP clinic, called PrEVENT. It official opens on Dec. 1, World AIDS Day.

Until then, the nearest clinical practice prescribing PrEP was located in Clare county, according to data from the state of Michigan.

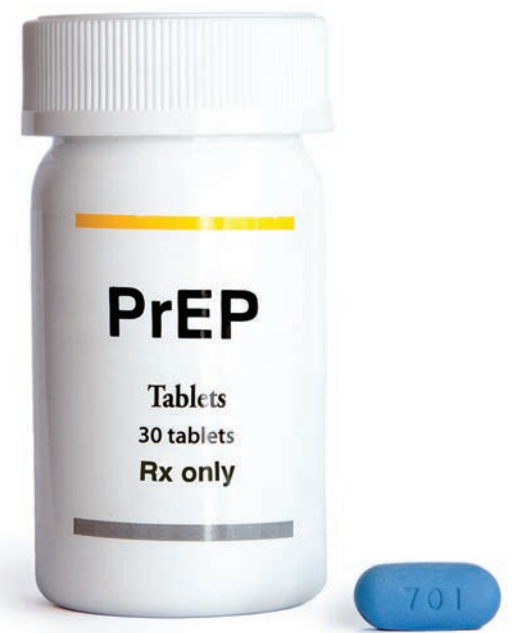
When the Center for Disease Control released prescribing guidelines for the drug in 2013, an estimated 500,000 people should have gone on the drug. Damon Jacobs, a licensed counselor in New York and founder of the Facebook group PrEP Facts: Rethinking HIV Prevention and Sex, said the most recent numbers, from the end of October, of

prescriptions for PrEP released by Gilead, the drugmaker, show nationally 145,000 or so people taking the drug.

Jacobs said the drug is taking off in “little enclaves” like San Francisco, Portland, Chicago, Boston and New York City.

“And consequently a lot of these cities are reporting significant decreases in new HIV diagnoses,” he said.

But those numbers reveal a more complicated issue at play in America. There is a racial disparity among those who are accessing and



using PrEP, he said.

“White men don’t make a significant amount of new HIV diagnoses in the U.S., whereas African Americans make up, I think

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the numbers were like 44 percent of new HIV diagnoses in the US,” he said. “But only 10 percent of PrEP consumers. So that’s a really glaring disparity which tells us something is serious. It tells us that the information, the education, the access is not happening amongst communities and geographic regions where it really needs to happen if we’re serious about the whole end of HIV thing.”

State health officials were unable to provide a breakdown of the racial makeup of persons in Michigan on PrEP. However, they said from January to September of this year, 1,951 referrals for PrEP were made statewide. Wayne county agencies represented 1,044 of those referrals. Erica Quealy, a spokeswoman for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, said that number is almost certainly an undercount because of the way the state is currently tracking referrals.

According to information shared with the city of Lansing for a World AIDS Day resolution, one provider in Ingham County is currently providing PrEP to about 150 people. Of those, 80 percent are white, while the remaining 20 percent are about evenly split between black men who have sex with men and Asian men who have sex with men.

Katie Macomber, director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services HIV/STD Programs, said the state spends very little money on PrEP. It has a grant from the CDC to scale up PrEP advertising in Wayne County, which it has done for the last two years.

“We’re expanding that in January to other markets in the state because we saw that it was really successful,” she said of the media campaign.

But that perception is challenged by Curtis Lipscomb who is the executive director of LGBT Detroit, an African American group focused on the same gender loving and transgender communities in Detroit.

“The average African American gay male that I come across in Detroit, Michigan, does not know the acronym of PrEP,” said Lipscomb. “AIDS organizations in Detroit

Michigan have no public displays of education prominent and often around that. They may see an STD clinic announcement from our health department, but PrEP and other types of treatment to prevent HIV infection is not commonly displayed.”

Despite this lack of presence, Lipscomb said there is a request for “space for PrEP and test education.”

Data from the state of Michigan shows that of the state’s 83 counties, 11 have one or more providers offering to prescribe the once a day pill that is up to 99 percent effective in preventing a person from acquiring HIV. That data shows only 21 named medical providers who are writing the prescription in those 11 counties, with an additional three health systems recorded. According to Michigan’s Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) department, over 40,000 people in Michigan have current licenses as doctors in the state.

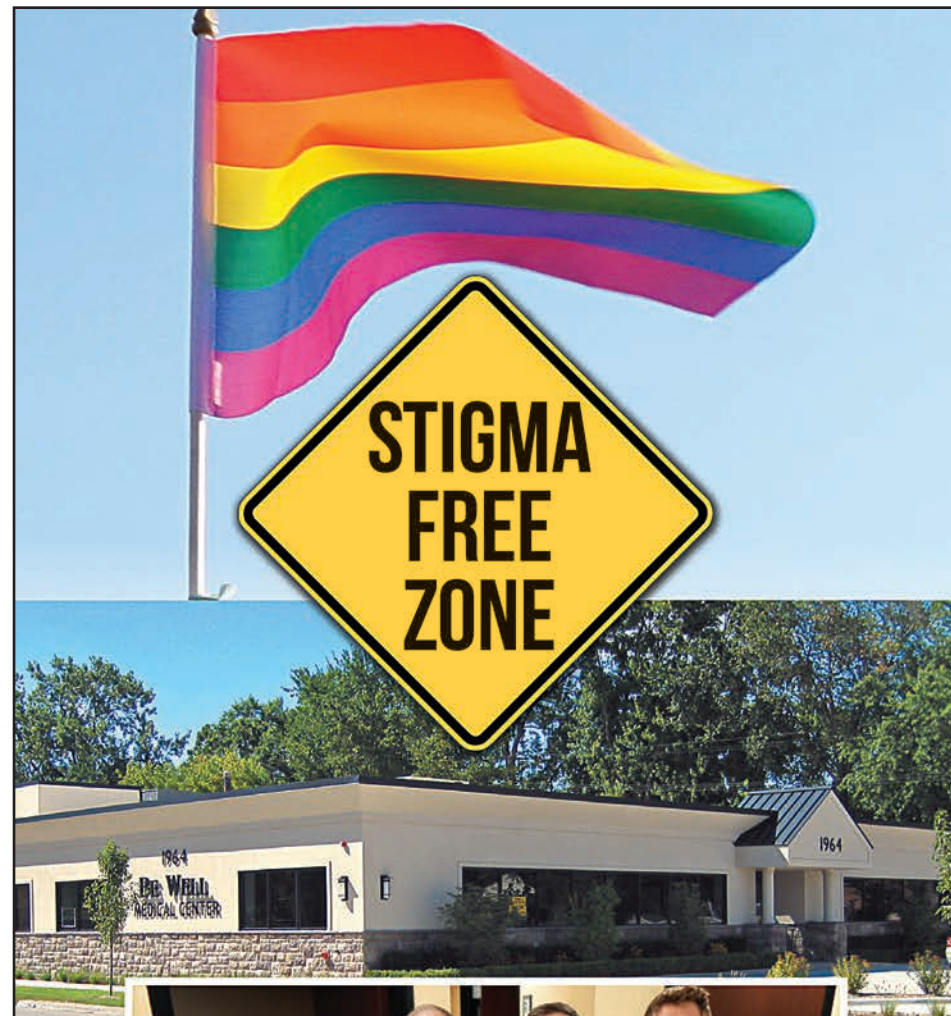
Cammarata said her group decided the demand for PrEP was clear but the providers were not willing to prescribe the prevention drug. The Judd Center stepped into that vacuum without outside funding to create the PrEVENT Clinic. The clinic expects to serve 100 to 150 high risk individuals in its first six months of operation, she said.

“We were having people call different primary care providers who were calling us and asking if we knew anybody in the area prescribing it,” she said. “Everyone was referring to the infectious disease provider, even though primary care providers can easily do it. There was this great influx of young people asking for the medication. There wasn’t the response that they were looking for.”

Macomber said state health officials have been working on that response by doing provider training and education with its limited resources.

The need, however, remains. And the Judd Center is stepping in.

“We felt like the rest of the state was ten steps ahead of Northern Michigan,” she said. “We realized that it’s a great need up in our area, that there’s nothing like that up here.”



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## What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

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

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

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

#### Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

#### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

#### TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

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

## Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

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for **PrEP** pre-exposure prophylaxis



(tru-VAH-dah)

## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

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

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

## ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

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

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

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

## HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

## IMPORTANT FACTS

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

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

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

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

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

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

## BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

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

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

## HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

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

## GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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Version date: April 2017

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# From the Frontlines: Early Intervention Services

## HIV Worker Bambi Burnham Helps Remove Obstacles to Medical Care

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Behind her, hanging on the wall of her small office in south Lansing, are a series of information posters. One is Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, another is a pull from one of the HIV publications showing all the anti-HIV drugs currently approved in the U.S. This is Bambi Burnham's office at the Lansing Area AIDS Network on the city's near southside. It's an unassuming and inviting space with subdued lighting.

Burnham herself has an infectious laugh and quick sense of humor, essential tools in helping people living with HIV gain access to a daunting medical system which will ultimately assist them in staying healthy. She is part of a new cadre of HIV workers assigned to locate those who know they are living with the virus but have fallen out of care. Once that is accomplished, it's her and her colleagues' job to remove the obstacles to medical care and help that person control their infection. She also works with newly diagnosed persons as they navigate a medical system that can be imposing and alien at first.

"Many times, the person that I'm working with, they are least concerned about their HIV," said Burnham. "It's all of the other pieces that they need help with: stable housing, food on the table, whether they have a social network of family and friends that are healthy relationships for them. Approaching a client as a whole person instead of just looking at the HIV is really, I think, key to having a successful encounter."

Indeed, many people living with HIV who know they have the virus, struggled with a plethora of issues from substance abuse to domestic violence to mental health issues to unstable housing which create obstacles to attending medical appointments, accessing medical care and prescriptions and taking medications daily. Studies have found that without addressing these issues, connecting a person to care



Bambi Burnham

“Many times, the person that I’m working with, they are least concerned about their HIV. It’s all of the other pieces that they need help with: stable housing, food on the table, whether they have a social network of family and friends that are healthy relationships for them. Approaching a client as a whole person instead of just looking at the HIV is really, I think, key to having a successful encounter.”

will fail.

And failure to connect a person to care could have deadly consequences for the person with HIV and prove a risk to public health. Michigan has joined the Centers for Disease Control and other public health leaders to push the news that science has found that a person who is living with HIV who is on successful treatment with anti-HIV medications not only lives a longer, healthier life, but also cannot sexually transmit their infection to partners, the main mode of transmission of HIV in the U.S.

"If you can gain their trust and remove the barriers and keep them in long-term care, that's going to help end the epidemic because they will not be infectious," said

Burnham.

State health officials agree. That's why they are funding Early Intervention Services workers across the state.

"EIS is really the gold standard of helping people navigate that first period of getting back into care or being newly impacted," said Katie Macomber, director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services HIV/STD Programs.

Macomber referred BTL to Burnham because of her experience in the programming. Burnham has become a trainer for other EIS workers across the state. These two-year-old positions compliment and support the ongoing work of traditional caseworkers at AIDS

Services Organizations. And even those roles have changed, noted Macomber. Those have shifted into one-on-one counseling services and coaching and away from end-of-life preparation and group facilitation work traditionally funded by the state.

Despite the public health impacts, Burnham said her focus is on the well being of the individual when she is working with them.

"When I'm working with someone, I try not to give them the message that this is good for the community, because really everybody is typically interested in what's good for me," she said.

And removing and addressing those barriers can range from spending 16 hours in the hospital

with a client to make sure they are getting the necessary medical interventions to live. It can mean navigating through the complicated process of obtaining insurance through the health care exchanges. Sometimes, it requires creative solutions to reach those who are not in care to cajol them back.

"If I can't reach a client in a typical way through phone or text, I have sent holiday cards that are non-disclosing, so they don't know that it's coming from an agency," she said. "My point is to show up for that person, that somebody really does care about them as a person, and I've had really good success stepping out of the office mode to try and make sure people are taken care of."



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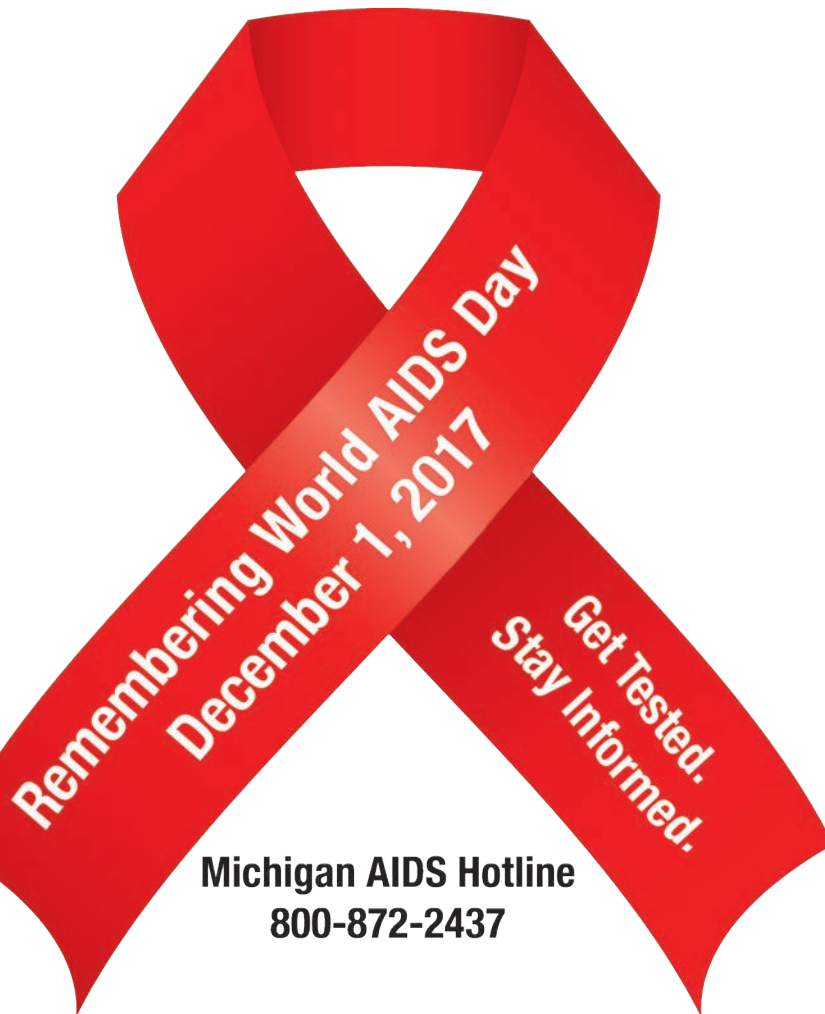
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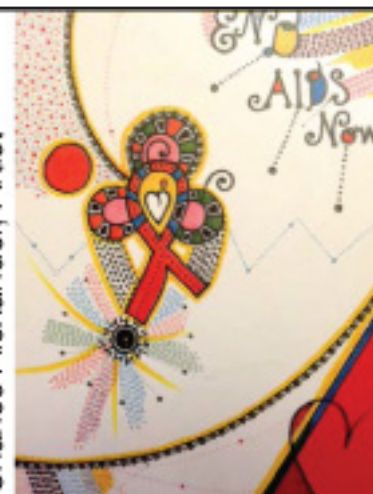
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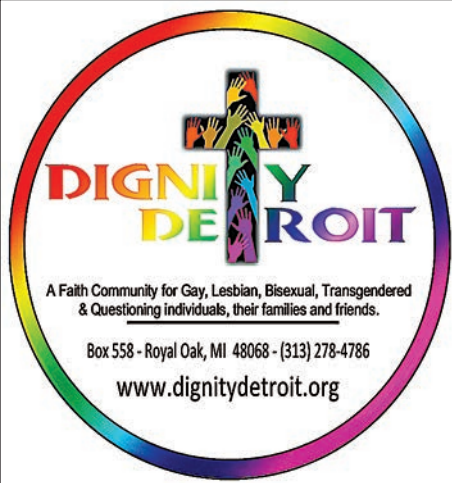
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# UMMA Hosts Visual AIDS' Day With(out) Art Project

## Contemporary Artists Prioritize Black Narratives Within the Ongoing HIV Epidemic

BY BTL STAFF

The University of Michigan Museum of Art Student Engagement Council and the U-M Spectrum Center presents a screening of Visual AIDS' "Alternate Endings, Radical Beginnings" from 6-7:45 p.m. on Dec. 1 at the Helmut Stern Auditorium.

The series of new video works by seven contemporary artists - Mykki Blanco, Cheryl Dunye (with Ellen Spiro), Reina Gossett, Thomas Allen Harris, Kia Labeija, Tiona McClodden and Brontez Purnell - prioritizes Black narratives within the ongoing HIV epidemic.

In spite of the impact of HIV/AIDS within Black communities, these stories and experiences are often excluded from larger artistic and historical narratives. In 2016, African Americans represented 44 percent of all new HIV diagnoses in the U.S. Given this context, it is increasingly urgent to feature a myriad of stories that consider and represent the lives of those housed within this statistic. "Alternate Endings, Radical Beginnings" seeks to highlight the voices of those that are marginalized within broader Black communities nationwide, including queer and trans folks.

Curated by Erin Christovale and Vivian Crockett for Visual AIDS, "Alternate Endings, Radical Beginnings" is the 28th iteration of Visual AIDS' longstanding Day With(out) Art project. The

commissioned projects include intimate meditations of young HIV positive protagonists; a consideration of community-based HIV/AIDS activism in the South; explorations of the legacies and contemporary resonances within AIDS archives; a poetic journey through New York exploring historical traces of queer and trans life, and more. Together, the videos provide a platform centering voices deeply impacted by the ongoing epidemic.

Additional partners include the U-M Center for Sexuality & Health Disparities, Trans Sistas of Color Project, and Unified HIV Health and Beyond. A panel discussion will be held following the screening with Bré Campbell, founder of the TSOCP, Leon Golson, director of prevention programs for Unified HIV Health and Beyond in Ypsilanti; and Demario Longmire, a Health Corps Fellow working with communities affected by HIV/AIDS in Washington, D.C.

Campbell is a black woman of trans experience living in Detroit. As the co-director of TSOCP - a grassroots, needs-based organization created by trans women of color living in the city - she has been living with HIV since 2010 and uses her experience to advocate for other women living with HIV through her positions as a board member of the Positive Women's Network-USA and a national advisory board of Positively Trans, a program of Transgender Law Center.

In the last 11 years Golson's role has included supervision of Unified's HIV Counseling and Testing Clinic, outreach, prevention and education efforts. His nearly 30 years of HIV prevention work includes 13 years with the agency formerly known as the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project as their program director and four years with the American Red Cross in their AIDS Education Department. Golson has developed and/or facilitated various HIV/STI workshops, trainings and interventions such as Peer/Opinion Leader Training, Cultural Sensitivity workshops for LGBTQI2 clients, Many Men, Many Voices, Prevention Options for Positives and Healthy Relationships.

Longmire is a recent graduate of the UM with a degree in Linguistics, LGBTQ Studies and Intergroup Relations. While on campus, he played a leadership role with organizations like Michigan in Color, Central Student Government, SAPAC, Change It Up, the UMMA Student Engagement Council, and the Educational Theatre Company. He was also involved with Pedagogy of Action, an HIV/AIDS educational program on campus created and facilitated by Dr. Nesha Haniff. He is currently a Health Corps Fellow (funded by Americorps) working as the volunteer and overnight outreach coordinator for HIPS, an organization that focuses on community support, empowerment, and advocacy for communities and



individuals engaged in or impacted by drug use or sexual exchange in Washington D.C.

Student programming at UMMA is supported by the UM Credit Union Arts Adventures Program, UMMA's Lead Sponsor for Student and Family Engagement.

*The Helmut Stern Auditorium is at 525 South State Street in Ann Arbor. For more information about the Visual AIDS "Alternate Endings, Radical Beginnings" screening, visit <http://umma.umich.edu>.*

## World AIDS Day Event Calendar

### FRIDAY, DEC. 1

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Free condoms, education and referral to PrEP and assistance for those living with HIV who need help getting back into care. Kent County Health Department Personal Health Services at 700 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids. Contact April Hight at 616-632-7171 or email [april.hight@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:april.hight@kentcountymi.gov).

[www.accesskent.com/Health/health\\_department.htm](http://www.accesskent.com/Health/health_department.htm)

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Free and confidential HIV testing at the Kirkhof Center, Room 1247 on

1 Campus Drive in Allendale. Call 616-331-2530 or email [lgbtcenter@gvsu.edu](mailto:lgbtcenter@gvsu.edu) for more information. Visit the Grand Valley University website at [www.gvsu.edu](http://www.gvsu.edu).

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond HIV testing. Free by appointment or walk-in at 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 230, Detroit. Visit [www.miunified.org](http://www.miunified.org)

5-7p.m.

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond and the Let's Talk About It Show host the World AIDS Day Mini Ball at the Ruth Ellis Center at 77 Victor

Street in Highland Park. For more information, contact Ka' Juan Hill (Khaos Mizrahi) at [www.facebook.com/comevents/490330038013634](http://www.facebook.com/comevents/490330038013634).

10:30 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Matrix Human Services: Gigi's Night Club, 16920 W. Warren Ave. in Detroit

Call 866-226-6366 or visit [www.matrixhumanservices.org](http://www.matrixhumanservices.org)

### SATURDAY, DEC. 2

12-3 p.m.

Affirmations and Matrix MAC Health present a special free and confidential World AIDS Day event at 290 W. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale. Walk in for

HIV and STD testing, get safer sex kits with condoms and lube given to every person tested. Wear a red ribbon and receive other gifts. For more information, call 888-226-6366 or visit [www.matrixhumanservices.org](http://www.matrixhumanservices.org) or [www.goaffirmations.org](http://www.goaffirmations.org).

### MONDAY, DEC. 4

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond HIV testing. Free by appointment or walk-in at 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 230, Detroit. [www.miunified.org](http://www.miunified.org)

10 a.m.

MAC Health Office

429 Livernois St. in Ferndale by

appointment until 4:30 p.m.

Call 866-226-6366 or visit [www.matrixhumanservices.org](http://www.matrixhumanservices.org)

1-3 p.m.

EMU Student Center Room 301, 900 Oakwood St., Ypsilanti. Free HIV testing in collaboration with You Black Beautiful Woman. Visit [www.miunified.org](http://www.miunified.org)

6-8 p.m.

University of Michigan Student Union, Spectrum Center Office, 500 S. State St in Ann Arbor. Receive free HIV testing at the Spectrum Center during school semester. Contact the HARC office at 734-572-9355 for more details. [www.miunified.org](http://www.miunified.org)

**TUESDAY, DEC. 5**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond HIV testing. Free by appointment or walk-in at 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 230, Detroit.

Visit [www.miunified.org](http://www.miunified.org)

10 a.m.

MAC Health Office

429 Livernois St. in Ferndale by appointment until 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 866-226-6366 or visit [www.matrixhumanservices.org](http://www.matrixhumanservices.org).

11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond HIV testing, 3075 Clark Road #203 in Ypsilanti. Appointments Only. Call 734-572-9355 to make your appointment for free HIV testing.

Visit [www.miunified.org](http://www.miunified.org)**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond HIV testing. Free by appointment or walk-in at 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Suite 230, Detroit.

Visit [www.miunified.org](http://www.miunified.org)

10 a.m.

MAC Health Office

429 Livernois St. in Ferndale by appointment until 4:30 p.m.

For more information, call 866-226-6366 or visit [www.matrixhumanservices.org](http://www.matrixhumanservices.org).

2:30-4:30 p.m.

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond HIV testing. Currie's Barber Shop, 432 Harriett Street in Ypsilanti.

Visit our new outreach unit. Receive HIV, Hep C testing and more. Contact Lemont Gore at 734-572-9355 or [lemont@hivaidresource.org](mailto:lemont@hivaidresource.org) for more details.

Visit [www.miunified.org](http://www.miunified.org)

5-8 p.m.

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond HIV testing, 3075 Clark Road #203 in Ypsilanti. Appointments Only. Call 734-572-9355 to make your appointment for free HIV testing.

Visit [www.miunified.org](http://www.miunified.org)

6:30-8:30 p.m.

Matrix Human Services Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road in Ferndale. For more information, call 866-226-6366 or visit [www.matrixhumanservices.org](http://www.matrixhumanservices.org)

## 'Peace by Piece' Unveils its Community Art Project at GFAC

A community art share project sponsored by Wellness Services will premier its "Peace by Piece" exhibit at the Greater Flint Arts Council on Dec. 2 at 816 Saginaw Street in Flint. Guests are invited to come out to this free event from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

This event, entitled "Peace by Piece," will feature ceramic tiles painted by the people of Flint, archived materials detailing the history of Wellness Services, food, music, and a speaker that will give more insight into HIV/AIDS and how those affected by these conditions live their lives.

Since 1986, Wellness Services, a non-profit organization based in downtown Flint, has strived to provide care for those living with HIV, prevent the spread of HIV and STIs, and provide safe and celebratory spaces for members of the LGBTQ+ community and those who have been historically marginalized. Often the crux of the work manifests itself in the form of a public event or forum, in which the voices of those who navigate obstacles of oppression and discrimination in their daily lives are amplified and the community comes closer to a point of greater understanding and awareness.

Additionally, Wellness Services will provide trained counselors to conduct free HIV tests. The results are provided on-site within minutes. Free condoms will also be available.

Wellness Services strives to normalize HIV testing as part of everyday life while educating communities about the latest news regarding sexually transmitted infections. With early diagnosis and treatment, someone with HIV can live a healthy average life span.

For more information, visit the Wellness Services website [www.wellnessaids.org](http://www.wellnessaids.org) or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/WellnessAIDSServices](http://www.facebook.com/WellnessAIDSServices)

# HIV POSITIVE? We can help.

Get in care. Stay in care. Live well.

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



810.232.0888

## Calhoun County

Dr. Andrew Luciano  
Family Physician Marshall Medical Associates  
1174 W. Michigan Ave  
Marshall, MI 49068  
269-781-9867  
codell@marshallmedial.net

## Clare County

Dr. Peter Gulick, Infectious Disease  
Central Michigan Community Health Dept.  
815 N Clare Ave  
Harrison, MI 48625  
989-539-6731

## Genesee County

Sandra Manssur, NP Primary Care  
Genesee County Health Department  
Primary Care  
630 S. Saginaw St, Suite 4  
Flint, MI 48502  
810-257-3445

## Ingham County

Dr. Peter Gulick  
Carol Salisbury, NP  
Dr. Eric Wert  
Infectious Disease Internist

Ingham County Health Clinic  
5303 South Cedar Street  
Lansing, MI 48911  
517-887-4311

## Kalamazoo County

Dr. Bojan Hrpka, Generalist  
Bronson Family Medicine Downtown  
Bronson Hospital  
601 John St. Suite M-020  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
269-341-8282

Dr. Kristi VanDerKolk, Generalist  
Family Health Center  
117 W. Paterson Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
269-349-2641

Dr. Jonathan Martinek, Generalist  
Pro Med Physicians Family  
7901 Angling Rd.  
Portage, MI 49024  
269-324-8600

## Kent County

Dr. Minerva Galang  
Dr. Nnaemeka Egwuatu  
Dr. Andrew Jameson  
Infectious Disease

Mercy Health Saint Marys  
310 Lafayette Ave SE,  
Suite 410  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
616-685-8200

Dr. Armstrong, Primary Care  
Grand Valley State University Family Health Center  
72 Sheldon Blvd SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Contact Mike Burrit, Practice Manager  
616-988-8774

Mercy Health Prevention Practices  
Infectious Disease  
HIV Specialty  
Mercy Health Prevention Practices  
1700 Clinton Street  
Muskegon, MI 49441  
Contact Michael Ramsey  
231-728-5663 or Michael.ramsey@mercyhealth.com

## Oakland County

Dr. Paul Benson Family Medicine, HIV Specialty  
Be Well Clinic  
1964 11 Mile Rd  
Berkley, MI 48072  
248-544-9300

Leigha Ford Clark, NP Health Clinic  
ACCESS Community  
Social Services – various locations  
Contact David Ponsart  
313-216-2253 or dponsart@accesscommunity.org

## Saginaw County

Dr. Peter Gulick Infectious Disease  
Special Immunology Clinic at Health Delivery  
1522 Janes St  
Saginaw, MI 48601  
989-907-2728

## Wayne County

Dr. Elizabeth Secord  
Dr. Patrice Wade  
Immunologist (Adolescent Medicine) 13-25 years old  
Horizons Project Clinic, Wayne State University  
University Health Center  
4201 St. Antoine Street, #5F  
Detroit, MI 48201  
Contact Dr. Patrice Wade, DNP, RN, AGPCNP-BC  
313-745-4454 or pwade@med.wayne.edu

Dr. Sunstrum, Infectious Disease  
Sunstrum Medical Associates  
1934 Monroe Street  
Dearborn, MI 48124  
313-565-7464

Dr. Jonathan Cohn  
Dr. Jennifer Veltman  
Infectious Disease  
Tolan Park Medical Building  
3901 Chrysler Drive Suite, 4A  
Detroit, MI 48201  
313-745-4525

## Washtenaw County

Washtenaw County Health Department  
HIV/STI Clinic  
Sliding Fee Scale  
555 Towner St.  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
734-544-6840

*Note to Providers: If you or someone you know is prescribing and monitoring PrEP and is currently not on this list and would like to be, please contact Kenneth Borkowski at borkowskik@michigan.gov to be added.*



Health Department

## STD/HIV CLINIC

**“The Risk is Not Knowing, Know Your Status!**

**Get Educated! Get Tested!”**



### Services Provided:

- Risk Assessment Counseling
- Free Condoms
- Rapid HIV Testing/Counseling

### Testing and Treatment:

Confidential, \$10.00 Administration fee, appointment

Only, persons 12 and older

- Syphilis
- Gonorrhea/ Chlamydia
- Trichomoniasis
- Non –gonococcal urethritis (NGU)
- Scabies
- Pubic lice
- HEPC

To schedule an appointment  
**CALL 586-465-9217**

at the time listed below

<b>Monday</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>

Staff is available Monday –Friday to answer any questions

**“We Take pride in taking care of our residents”**



# Glossary

## WORLD AIDS DAY

**Early Intervention Services (EIS)** – an intervention designed to assist those newly diagnosed as HIV-positive access medical care and programs to address a variety of social issues including substance abuse, homelessness and underinsurance. The program is also in place to assist those who have fallen out of care reconnect and re-engage with medical care and increase positive health outcomes.

**In Care** – state and federal health officials define a person as being in medical care if they have had at least two CD4 and viral load tests in the past year.

**Out of Care** – state and federal health officials define a person as being out of medical if they have not had at least two CD4 and viral load tests in the past year.

**CD4** – this is a specific cell in the immune system that HIV invades and takes over. A normal range for CD4s is 400 – 1200. A person who has a CD4 count of 200 or less has attained HIV Disease Stage 3, which was formerly known as AIDS.

**Viral Load** - this is a measure of free viral particles in the blood stream. Most clinics in Michigan use a test that can detect as few as 28 viral particles per milliliter of blood. Anything less than that is considered “undetectable.” For federal purposes, a viral load measure of less than 200 viral particles per milliliter of blood is considered “undetectable.”

**Undetectable** – this means that while a person has HIV, the virus is controlled by medications. The CDC has recently announced that persons with an undetectable viral load are unable to sexually transmit their infection.

**Treatment as Prevention (TasP)** – knowing that an undetectable viral load means a



person is unable to sexually transmit the virus, health officials have begun classifying treatment with antiretroviral medications as a form of prevention.

**Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)** – By taking a specific anti-HIV drug called Truvada daily, a person who is HIV-negative is able to prevent becoming infected with the virus. The intervention is considered to be as much as 99 percent effective in preventing HIV acquisition in HIV-negative persons.

**U=U** – This is a new public relations campaign designed by persons living with HIV to promote the scientific evidence that an undetectable viral load means a person is unable to sexually transmit the virus. It stand for Undetectable equals Uninfectious. Michigan was one of the very first health departments in the country to adopt this messaging officially.

**Editor’s Note:** The term AIDS is no longer a recognized medical term. As a result, it will only be used in this report in reference to history or events, such as World AIDS Day. The CDC, the World Health Organization and other leading health agencies have shifted in the last five years to using HIV Disease as a label for all related disease progression of HIV. It stages the infection’s progress in three stages. Stage one is the initial infection stage. Stage two is the time period when a person is mostly healthy but the virus is doing unseen damage to the immune system. While Stage three is the point where the immune system has been so damaged it allows for a person to become sick with opportunistic infections. Once a person has reached stage three, they will remain listed in that stage for the remainder of their life, regardless of improvements to their immune system.

# Glossary

The term AIDS is no longer a recognized medical term

# I Stay Ready, I Get Tested.



Many STDs don’t have symptoms. Get tested to keep you and your partner healthy.

Call the **Detroit STD Clinic**  
313-577-9100  
or go to [gettested.cdc.gov](http://gettested.cdc.gov)




**Talk to a live expert about STDs**  
800
872
2437  
The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline. Live weekdays, 10 am - 6 pm.

-  **FIND A TESTING SITE NEAR YOU.**
-  **LEARN ABOUT PREP, PEP AND OTHER RISK REDUCTION TOOLS.**
-  **LOOKING FOR FREE CONDOMS?**
-  **GET CONNECTED WITH CARE.**
-  **THINK YOU WERE PUT AT RISK?**
-  **NEED HEALTH INSURANCE?**
-  **FIND SUPPORT GROUPS.**
-  **LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES?**

  
**ONLINE CHAT NOW AVAILABLE**  
[WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG](http://WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG)  
 

THE MICHIGAN HIV/STD HOTLINE IS A PROGRAM OF UNIFIED - HIV HEALTH AND BEYOND



Richard Jenkins and Sally Hawkins. Photo: Fox Searchlight

# Love Is Richard Jenkins

## Actor Talks Gay Role in New 'Love Is Love'-Themed Film & Why He Hasn't Stopped Thinking About 'Six Feet Under'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

As Giles, Richard Jenkins exudes a great deal of warmth playing a closeted '60s-era gay man longing for a romantic connection in Guillermo del Toro's timely cautionary tale "The Shape of Water." But cordiality comes natural to the "Six Feet Under" alum, who unforgettably portrayed the Fishers' apparitional patriarch, Nathaniel, on HBO's life-affirming dramedy about death from 2001-2005.

In conversation, Jenkins, 70, expresses genuine gratitude and curiosity about my deeply felt connection to another brilliant turn of his – this time in del Toro's enchanting, illusion-shattering tale of queerness, a story that gripped the Emmy-winning actor for that very detail.

In this awards-worthy spectacle, a mute janitor named Elisa (Sally Hawkins) and an imperiled merman (Doug Jones) fall hard for each other in a world where existing in the human form, especially if you're black or gay

as the socially aware allegory acknowledges, is already a heavy burden. Though the director's whimsical yarn is set during the Cold War, its political commentary on queer and minority acceptance is a response to present-day disunity and the toxicity of white, male rulers.

"If you could title it 'Love Is Love,' that's what it is," proclaims Jenkins, who discussed the film's ability to break down walls that currently divide our nation, as well as the "invisible" gay actor he referenced while playing Giles and still, like the gay fans who continue to express their appreciation for the preeminent HBO show when they meet him, frequently contemplating the meaning of "Six Feet Under."

**You just know how to choose roles, or the roles know how to choose you.**

Luck has something to do with it, if you wanna know the truth.

**Was part of the appeal of "Shape of Water" the**

**"love is love" element?**

Yes, absolutely – *absolutely!* These are invisible people who at that time, 1962, lived in the shadows, lived in their own world, a lonely world. And yeah, it was fascinating because I grew up in 1962. I was in high school. It was great for me. But there was nobody gay in my high school until our 35th reunion.

**Right. Nobody could be out at that time, right?**

Nobody was out. Nobody! You didn't talk about it. It wasn't even on the radar. And so if you were a straight white guy, life was great. But if you were anything else, it wasn't so good.

**And here we are, 50, 60 years later, and the same could be said.**

Absolutely. And, well, that's why (Guillermo) wrote it, for today.

**I understand Guillermo writes a biography for all**

**of his actors and puts a secret in the biography that you are not to reveal to the rest of the cast. What was your secret for Giles?**

I don't know! (Laughs)

**Ha! You didn't read the bio, did you?**

I did read the bio! But I don't remember what the secret was. (Laughs)

**He did say you didn't use anything from the bio for the role.**

Well, here's my take on it: If it's not on the page, then it doesn't matter. The life of this character is on the page, that's where all of the clues are. If you were writing a novel and you had the backstory, that's one thing; but it can be confusing to add something that nobody knows (about), so I just scour the script. That's where I look for all of the clues to his life: who he is, what he likes, what he's been. I mean, I read in the script that he and his boss at the ad agency were partners, and (Giles) would say, "I want to come back."

Now, does he mean to the agency? That's not what it meant to me.

**So you read their relationship as being romantic?**

Yes, yes. And it wasn't explained, but I got it from the script.

**To play Giles, did you reference any real-life LGBT people who were also living closeted lives during the '60s?**

I thought of a man named Howard London, who is dead now. He was an actor and he was the kindest man I ever knew, and he was invisible at the time. I knew him in the early '70s until he died in the early 2000s. But I thought of Howard. He was alone his whole life. When he died he gave my wife and I his record collection, this incredible record collection. And I thought of Howard and I thought of how he wanted love in his life, and he had it for a while and then he didn't. I just ... it just reminded me of him.

**What did you love most about the dynamic between Elisa, who is literally voiceless, and Giles, who is, in a sense, also voiceless as a closeted gay man?**

I loved every second of it. Guillermo said to me, "I couldn't do this film with anybody else, and wouldn't do it with anybody else but Sally." We rehearsed for two weeks and we used the time to become friends. It took about 10 minutes to become her friend. We have a lot of mutual friends, and I just loved her immediately and we just became really good friends, and it shows onscreen. I mean, I think that's there, and it was important that we and Guillermo did hang out together. So, it was very free on the screen with her, and it was very relaxed. And you can't hide that. You can't fake that. That's what you try to do as an actor – live your life as it's happening. And it's hard when you don't have somebody who you trust or love, and I do both of those with her.

**One of the real turning points hinges on Giles and his interaction with that diner server. Could you talk about Giles' motivation after that scene and how he ends up being instrumental in helping Elisa fulfill her wish of being with the merman?**

It starts with the realization after the diner and after being turned down by his boss, which again, I played as they were together at one time, like, "I bet these two had a relationship." So after both of those things fall off, I say to her, "You're my only friend and I don't even know what this thing is, but it's important to you, so I'll do whatever you want." I love the fact that he gets there from living these pipe dreams, that somehow this boy in the pie shop is gonna be interested in him (laughs). But we've all had that! I thought Hayley Mills, if she ever met me, would fall for me! (Laughs) I don't know what it is – you just live in this... it's just odd. But I love the fact that he goes from thinking

of it as a fish in a tank to her fiancé, basically. And he says to her, "He's an interesting guy."

**You also memorably played a gay character, Josh Brolin's life partner, in 1996's "Flirting with Disaster." How do you reflect on that role?**

I love that role! (Laughs) Oh my gosh – and he carried his gun everywhere he went! I loved it. I just loved the whole project. I just loved playing him, this guy who happened to be gay. And, I mean, he seemed conservative in some ways.

**Yeah, he didn't seem into anal sex in the way you might expect.**

He just wasn't into it!

**Was that your first gay role?**

Yes, yes, it was. It was great fun.

**How aware have you become of your gay following?**

Do I have a gay following?

**You will after this movie, if you didn't already.**

Well, then I'll be aware of it, and that'll be good.

**"Six Feet Under" has an immense legacy in the LGBT community because it was so groundbreaking in that it featured realistic portrayals of LGBT people, including your son David, played by Michael C. Hall. That show has stuck with me in ways that I never thought a TV show could. Does it still sit with you? Do you think about that show every now and again?**

I do. I think about it a lot. I think about ... part of it makes me sad, when I think about it.

**I mean, that series finale. Those last 10 minutes.**

The last 10 minutes were amazing, but what makes me sad is that – you never knew who my character was, because you only saw me when somebody thought of me. It was their recollection, their image, their impression of me that you saw. There was so much that wasn't said between the children and Nathaniel, both of the sons. I mean, David had no idea that I was proud of him and then somebody said once that your father was proud of you and he said, "My father was proud of me?" They never talked about anything. Same with (my other son) Nate. And it just... it made me sad. I remember thinking, "God, I hope my kids and I don't do this."

**There is an important lesson to be learned there: Say what you need to say now.**

There is. And I'll tell people if they're not getting along with their parents, "Just stop. You don't want them to die with things unspoken. You just don't." But, you know, (creator) Alan Ball – this is what interested him, that kind of true relationship with his children and family and each other. And it's a very personal show, and it was an honor to

See Richard Jenkins, page 39

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## Cirque Dreams Holidayze

Cirque Dreams Holidayze lights up Detroit Dec. 1-3 at the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. The 10th anniversary national tour features five unforgettable performances in this critically-acclaimed holiday stage extravaganza - a Broadway musical, new cirque adventure and family show wrapped in one. For show times and ticket (\$29-69) information, visit [www.olympiaentertainment.com](http://www.olympiaentertainment.com) or call 800-745-3000. Check out Cirque Productions online at <http://cirqueproductions.com/>.

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, Nov. 30

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

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

### 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](http://www.thetaskforce.org/kalamazoo)

### Saturday, Dec. 2

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

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

### Sunday, Dec. 3

**LGBTQ Support Group** 5 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6726 Center Road, **Traverse City**. [www.tcpolestar.org/](http://www.tcpolestar.org/)

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

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

### Monday, 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](http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/support-discussion-groups)

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

**Brotherhood of Support** 6 p.m. For transmasculine identified people ages 16 and older. Group is affiliated with

FtM Detroit. FtM A2 Ypsi, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. [www.jimtoycenter.org/](http://www.jimtoycenter.org/)

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

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

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

### Tuesday, 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 [mmsinc.org](http://mmsinc.org)

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

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

**Men's Group Meeting** 7 p.m. Perceptions, 123 N. Michigan Ave., **Saginaw**. [www.perceptionsmi.org/](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:joburleigh@aol.com) [www.uuaa.org/](http://www.uuaa.org/)

### Wednesday, Dec. 6

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

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

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

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

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

**Youth Group** 7 p.m. For youth ages 13-17 Grand Rapids Pride Center, 343 Atlas Ave. SE, **Grand Rapids**. [www.grpride.org](http://www.grpride.org)

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

### Thursday, Dec. 7

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

**6th Annual Bowl-A-Rama** 6 p.m. Bowling fundraiser for Ruth Ellis Center, Ugly Sweater Competition, 50/50 raffle,



# Editor's Pick

## Focus Group Discussion

The Detroit Health Department is interested to hear your opinion about HIV and STD prevention. What should the Detroit Health Department do to prevent HIV/STDs? Help improve prevention services in your community, share your opinions about HIV and STDs in Detroit and tell the DHD how they can better serve the community. Join the DHD for a discussion from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Dec. 4. Receive a \$25 gift card and a meal. To participate or get more information, call or text 313-378-0986.



silent auction, pizza & pop! Tickets \$40 in advance, \$45 at the door, \$25 Students Ruth Ellis Center, 3490 W. 12 Mile Road, **Berkley**. 248-321-3635. www.ruthelliscenter.org

**Connections Youth Group** 6 p.m. For youth ages 13-18 OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

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

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

**Transgender Support Group** 7 p.m. Perceptions, 815 N. Grant, **Bay City**. www.perceptionsmi.org/

### Friday, Dec. 8

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

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

**Career Fair** 6 p.m. Learn about various career paths including law, accounting, mental health, medical and art therapy. Check website for more info. Stand With Trans, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org

### Saturday, Dec. 9

**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/

**Mini Relationship Skills Class** 12 p.m. \$5 suggested donation for class "Bringing our Behavior in Alignment with Our Values" led by Carmen Wargel. MI

Network of LGBTQ Survivors of Abuse, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. bbudde@goaffirmations.org www.goaffirmations.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

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

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

## MUSIC & MORE

**313 Presents** "Cirque Dreams Holiday" Cirque Dreams: Holiday Detroit Tickets are selling fast so don't miss it. Check out Cirque Dreams: Holiday 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** "Kaki King" Hailed by Rolling Stone as a genre unto herself, composer and guitarist Kaki King is a true iconoclast. TICKETS \$49 - VIP Experience; \$15 - General Admission. Max M. & Marjorie S., Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 8:30 p.m. Dec. 8. 3135765111. www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4706&prod=4705

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Kaki King" Hailed by Rolling Stone as 'a genre unto herself.' Composer and guitarist Kaki King is a true iconoclast. Contact the Max M. Fisher Music Center for ticket info. Max M. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8:30 p.m. Dec. 8. 313-576-5111. www.dso.org/cube

**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

**Little Caesars Arena** "Katy Perry - 'Witness Tour'" Katy Perry is on tour promoting her new album "Witness". Contact Little Caesars Arena for ticket information. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 7 p.m. Dec. 6. 3133495777. www.littlecaesarsickets.com

**Sing Out Detroit** "Chill Out" Come out and Chill Out! with Sing Out Detroit. Dont miss this fun afternoon of cool jazz and

See Happenings, page 38

November 16 - December 23, 2017



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# Editor's Pick

## Woodward Wonderland

One of metro Detroit's favorite holiday traditions, Woodward Wonderland celebrates everything magical about winter in the Motor City, yesterday and today - from the Thanksgiving Parade, ice skating in Campus Martius, Motown Christmas songs, and the 12th Floor of J.L. Hudson's. This distinctively Detroit holiday show is perfect for the whole family from Dec. 8-10 (Friday, 10 a.m.; Saturday, 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 4 p.m.) at the Detroit Film Theatre, 5200 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. Tickets start around \$27. Call 313-872-6910 or visit <http://mosaicdetroit.org/tickets/> for more information.



### Happenings

Continued from p. 37

traditional holiday songs! Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Available online or by calling (248) 943-2411. Ferndale High School, 881 Pinecrest Drive, Ferndale. 3 a.m. Dec. 10. 248-943-2411. <http://singoutdetroit.org>

**Sound Board** "20th Anniversary Christmas Tour" 20th Anniversary Christmas Tour with Dave Koz and friends. Tickets \$37, \$40 & \$50 All guests must be at least 21 years old, with valid photo ID. Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. Dec. 6. 866-782-9622. [www.soudboarddetroit.com](http://www.soudboarddetroit.com)

**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>

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

### THEATER

**A2CT Junior Theatre Presents Peter Pan Jr.** Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Junior

Theatre presents the musical Peter Pan Jr., Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for kids. Tickets are available by calling the office at 734-971-2228, at the A2CT office at 322 W. Ann St, online at [a2ct.org](http://a2ct.org). Peter Pan Jr. is suitable for ages four and up. Additional information is available by visiting [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org). Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Children's Creative Center, 1600 Pauline Ave, Ann Arbor. Dec. 8 - Dec. 10. 734-971-2228. <http://www.a2ct.org/junior-theatre/peter-pan-jr>

**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.theatreanddanceatwayne.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](http://www.detroitreptheatre.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](http://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. Dec. 1 - Dec. 3. [www.allinbirmingham.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.dia.org)

**Detroit Symphony Orchestra** "Art @ The Max III" Join us for 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. This event is free and open to the public. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 10 a.m. Dec. 2. 3135765162. [www.dso.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.lawrencestreetgallery.com) Lawrence Street Gallery, 22620 Woodward Avenue, Ferndale. Nov. 29 - Dec. 22. 2485440394. [www.lawrencestreetgallery.com](http://www.lawrencestreetgallery.com)

**Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series** "Buster Simpson: Art Antioxidant" Buster Simpson, an artist active since the late 1960s, has worked on major infrastructure and planning projects, site-specific sculptures, museum installations, and community interventions. Simpson was born in Saginaw, MI, and attended U of M. Simpson has exhibited at The New Museum, MoMA PS1, Seattle Art Museum, The Hirshhorn Museum, Capp Street Project. Michigan Theater, 603 E Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 5:10 p.m. Dec. 7. 7347643464. [https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/buster\\_simpson](https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/buster_simpson)

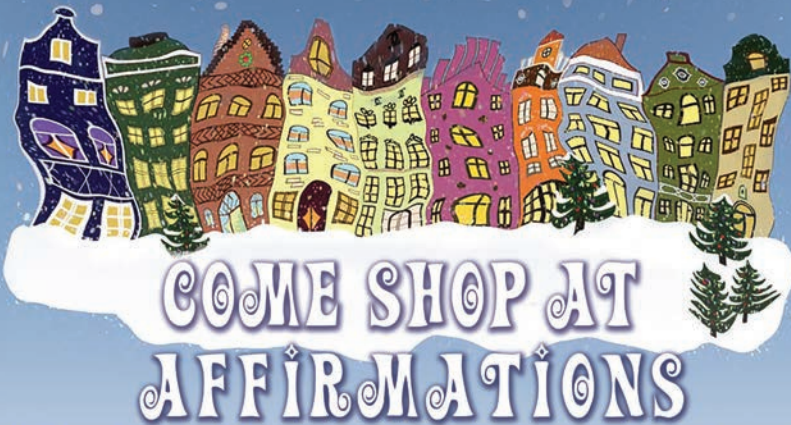
**Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series** "Justine Mahoney: Tainted" Justine Mahoney's sculptures and collages have captivated audiences for their deceptively innocent approach to exploring the dark side of human existence, and childhood experiences. Michigan Theater, 603 E Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 5 p.m. Nov. 30. 7347643464. [https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/justine\\_mahoney](https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/justine_mahoney)

**Winter Art Tour 2017 - Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti** "Winter Art Tour 2017 - Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti" Shop handmade goods from 300+ artists at 10 diverse venues; visit 4 or more to qualify for prizes! Free refreshments and activities. Details at [winterarttour.com](http://winterarttour.com) Yourist Studio Gallery - Winter Art Tour Headquarters for 10 Shows in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, 1133 Broadway, Ann Arbor. Dec. 8 - Dec. 10. 734-662-4914. [winterarttour.com](http://winterarttour.com)

December 15th and 16th

## HOLIDAY ARTS AND CRAFTS BAZAAR

Friday, December 15, 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday, December 16, 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.



Held inside the Affirmations Community Center in the heart of downtown Ferndale, the Affirmations Holiday Bazaar is a great opportunity for last minute holiday gift shopping.

For more information, contact Ian Unger, Youth Program Coordinator at [iunger@goaffirmations.org](mailto:iunger@goaffirmations.org).

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► **Richard Jenkins**

Continued from p. 35

be a part of it.

**Do you hear from gay fans who have a deep connection to the show?**

I do. I hear from people who say, "I'm gay and that show was just so important to me."

**That show went deeper for people than most shows. How do you as an actor process being a part of something that can emotionally resonate with someone as strongly as "Six Feet Under" did?**

I think it's why we do it. It's why I became an actor. I can't paint, I can't dance, I don't sing, and so I became an actor. That's my art, whether I'm any good at it, or not. It's an interpretive art, but it is an art, I think. And you believe when you do it that there's a common understanding between all people, whether they're conservative or liberal or French or German, and that human connection is your job to try to make. When you do it's incredibly gratifying because that's why you're there.

So something like "Six Feet Under" – it's funny with TV because in the theater you know immediately, but in television and movies you don't until people stop you at an airport or on the street or write something about it, so it's incredibly gratifying because it's why we do

what we do. We all are alike in so many ways that we try to fight constantly. We just try to fight it – "I'm not like this; I'm this, I'm this" and (sighs)... that's why art can break that down. If you go see a movie like this and you're a conservative who is against gay marriage and you like this movie, that is in your subconscious from now on. You've actually walked in somebody else's shoes.

**While I watched the film, the word "empathy" kept coming to mind.**

Empathy – you are absolutely right. (Guillermo) wrote it for this time. "It's an adult fairy tale," he said, "that I wrote for this time." While we were shooting it, Guillermo would say, "You think it's working?" I'd say, "I have no idea!" (Laughs) He said, "By the time they get to the dance number in black and white, they're either gonna laugh me out of the theater or they're gonna understand." And I said, "That's why it's art, man. Because you're taking a chance." And they do understand.

I don't usually think about movies this way, and usually if somebody doesn't like a movie that I'm in, I think, "Well, OK, maybe it's me." But if you don't like this movie, there's part of me that thinks it's your problem, it's not my problem (laughs), because it is a beautiful, beautiful film.

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# It's Christmaspalooza in Lansing

BY BTL STAFF

The LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus presents Christmaspalooza Dec. 2-3 at the First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa St. in Lansing. Tickets for the Saturday show at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday show at 3 p.m. are available for purchase from chorus members or at the door.

Founded in December of 1988 as the Greater Lansing Gay Men's Chorus, the organization changed its name in 2011 to LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus. This change, according to its website, was a reflection of the organization's growth and vision for the future. As its new mission statement states, "LanSINGout exists to enrich those around us through music, fellowship, and community involvement."

When the chorus first began, its purpose was to not only portray a positive image of the gay community, but to also provide a safe place for gay men to socialize. After more than 20 years, members of the chorus are thankful to say that much has changed in the Lansing community in regards to views towards gay men.

After undertaking a strategic planning process several years ago, the chorus widened its focus to enhance the lives of the Lansing community. This is being accomplished through two



distinct paths: entertaining a more diverse audience at the concerts and special events and actively supporting other non-profits in Lansing through fundraising and volunteering.

The chorus uses its talents to entertain a wider group of Lansing citizens. Whether it is singing at Silver Bells in the City in the atrium of Lansing City Hall, giving a special performance at Turner-Dodge House for its

holiday celebration at the World AID's Day ceremony at the Hannah Center, LanSINGout is reaching a larger audience than ever before.

The chorus has also been active in the community as well. For the past five years, the members have provided and served lunch for the participants in the Lansing AIDS Walk. It has also held a concert with proceeds going to the Lansing Area Aids Network, which was honored with its 2010 Champaign Award at its annual Red Ribbon Gala.

In the past years, the chorus has donated a portion of concert proceeds to three deserving local charities: Ele's Place in 2008, Lansing Food Bank in 2009, and Lansing Community College Music Scholarship Fund in 2010.

LanSINGout is currently comprised of around 30 members, with several having been with the chorus for over 15 years. Its music selection ranges from Broadway musicals to African processions. The chorus has seen a consistent increase in the musicianship of its members as it strives to provide not only entertaining performances, but ones that reflect high quality.

For more information about LanSINGout Gay Men's Chorus, visit [www.lansingout.org/](http://www.lansingout.org/).

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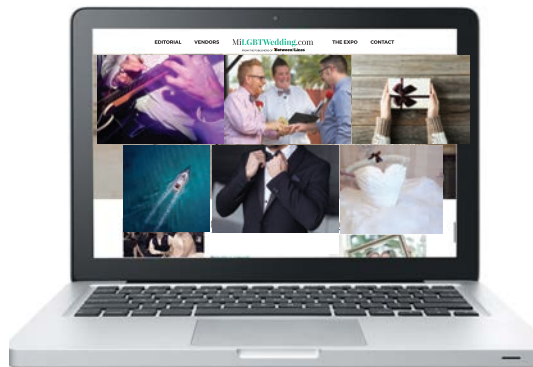
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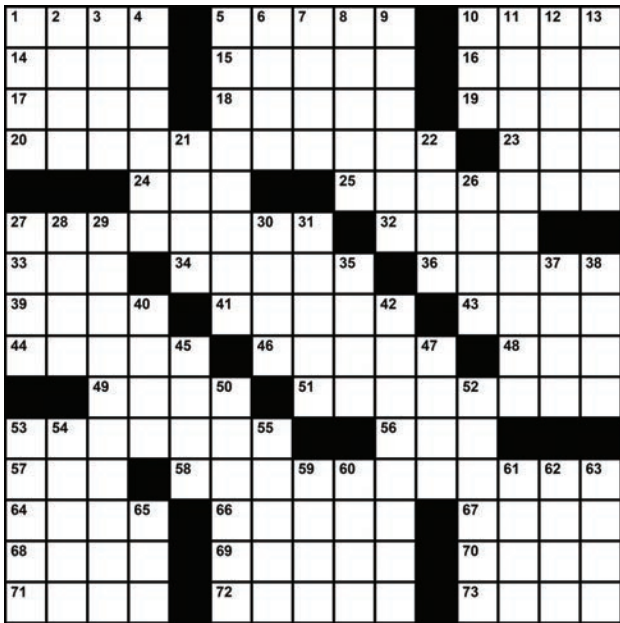


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# Q Puzzle



- 41 Sarandon, who plays Ray's grandmother  
 43 Series terminal  
 44 Caligula's year  
 46 Fish dish  
 48 Part of a chorus line?  
 49 Prick  
 51 Margaret Cho show  
 53 Sexually ambiguous "Twilight" star Stewart  
 56 She played Gabrielle on "Desperate Housewives"  
 57 Flicked one's Bic  
 58 Like Ray, in "3 Generations"  
 64 One-time Arthur Ashe rival Nastase  
 66 Warwick's "\_\_\_ Little Prayer for You"  
 67 Gulp of medicine  
 68 Broadway light  
 69 Fran Drescher show, with "The"  
 70 Enjoy Capote  
 71 Drag role for John Travolta  
 72 Sticks  
 73 Label on a lemon that isn't a fruit
- 10 Shakespeare's Puck, e.g.  
 11 She plays Ray's mother  
 12 "F" on a test  
 13 Black pussy cats, e.g.  
 21 Elmer who hunts rabbits  
 22 Opening of Hell?  
 26 "Julius Caesar" setting  
 27 Carrie in "Star Wars"  
 28 Draw some interest  
 29 Make the change that is the subject of "3 Generations"  
 30 Radio jock Don  
 31 Puccini work  
 35 Candy purchases  
 37 Part of an espionage name  
 38 Ruck of "Spin City"  
 40 Testy response, or testicles  
 42 Bouquets for homophiles?  
 45 Lauer, who cross-dressed as Dolly Parton on "Today"  
 47 1993 title role for 53-Down  
 50 Strait man  
 52 Author Scoppetone  
 53 \_De-Lovely\_ star Kevin  
 54 Rubbed the wrong way  
 55 Like orifices close to each other  
 59 Half of Mork's good-bye  
 60 New Year's song ender  
 61 Lesbian couples in "Bambi"?  
 62 Morales of "Mi Familia"  
 63 Cincinnati team  
 65 Old Spanish queen

## 3 Generations

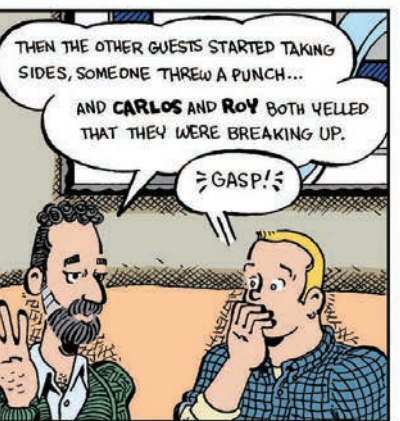
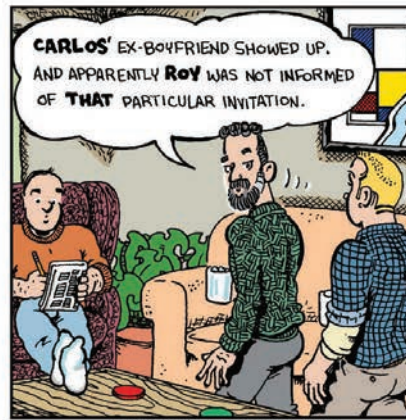
### Across

- 1 Anderson Cooper's area  
 5 Streisand's "Prince of \_\_\_"  
 10 The goods  
 14 Highest elected homophobe's office shape  
 15 \_\_\_ fours (doggy-style)  
 16 Sir's counterpart  
 17 Q to a Scrabble player  
 18 Morgan Fairchild's "Roseanne" character  
 19 Top or bottom of the world
- 20 She plays Ray in "3 Generations"  
 23 ISP option  
 24 Had lots of partners, with "out"  
 25 "Tales of the City," for example  
 27 Cole Porter song from "Paris"  
 32 Unload loads  
 33 Stud site  
 34 Muster out  
 36 Marlon Brando's hometown  
 39 Persian Gulf land

### Down

- 1 One on Bernstein's staff?  
 2 Like McKellen's Magneto  
 3 Place for a Rivera mural  
 4 Emulates hibernating bears  
 5 Fannie Flagg had some fried green ones  
 6 "I knew \_\_\_ instant ..."  
 7 Disney's "That \_\_\_ Cat!"  
 8 Fashion designer Perry  
 9 Points of view

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## Affirmations Board of Director's President Resigns

Affirmations, the largest LGBTQ+ community center in Michigan, announced Tuesday that Brad Bell has decided to step down as president of the board effective Nov. 17. Bell served many years as a volunteer, a board member, the Spring Bash Chairperson, the board secretary, and most recently as the board president. Mike Flores, the current vice president, will assume the role of interim-president until the next board elections in May 2018.

Brad Bell stated, "After four years of serving on the Affirmations Board, I have decided to step down from the board. During that time the center has seen improved financial stability under Susan Erspamer's leadership, the development of many new programs, and has recently completed a new strategic plan. I was honored to work with staff and other board members to help layout the new vision, mission, and strategy for the center. I also leave knowing the board has added an amazing group of individuals who will lead the center into the future. I have a high level of confidence there will be a smooth transition of board leadership to Mike Flores, who will take over the remaining months of my term. Mike has been leading the development committee, and he was instrumental in the strategic planning process."

Flores commented, "Affirmations Board of Directors would like to thank Brad Bell for his years of service. His unwavering support brought stability and set a trajectory of success for the center. Brad shepherded the executive team through a strategic planning process identifying a new vision and mission to guide Affirmations over the next 10 years. I look forward to build on his efforts, and to work with the board through the center's next phase."

The succession plan outlined ensures the board and the center continue to perform its core mission. Flores' background in finance, strategy development, and program management will benefit the center as he presides over the board, works to finalize the 2018 budget, and chairs the 2018 Spring Bash Event.

"On behalf of Affirmations, I would like to thank Brad for his support during my tenure.

His commitment to the center was instrumental in shaping the future of Affirmations," said Erspamer. "I would also like to congratulate Mike Flores for his new role as interim president. I look forward to working with him as we finalize the 2018 budget and roll out the new Affirmations Vision & Mission."

Between the Lines will publish in January the interview with Erspamer regarding the community center's strategic plan for 2018.

## Two MCC Churches Move into New Homes MCC Detroit, Divine Peace MCC Relocating Next Month

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Two area Metropolitan Community Churches, MCC Detroit and Divine Peace MCC, will be moving into new homes. The first service for each at their new location will be Sunday, Dec. 3.

MCC Detroit was forced to look for a new location when Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church in Ferndale, from which MCC Detroit rents space, announced they were going to put the church on the market. The idea of purchasing the church outright was brought up but gathered little steam.

"The building is in such disrepair that it would not be financially feasible for us," said Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow, senior minister and teacher for MCC Detroit.

In finding new space, church members felt it was important to stay relatively close to the Ferndale area. "We did an exhaustive search based upon our membership and basically looked within a 10-mile radius of where we're currently located," Stringfellow said.

The idea of the church buying a space of its own was also considered.

"We tried to see if we could purchase property on our own and that proved to be quite costly with the time frame that we were given," said Stringfellow. "We were basically given till the end of this year to find a new space."

When it became clear that purchasing a church was not feasible, the search team began to look for churches to share space with.

"The criteria we used is, is the church welcoming of LGBT individuals," Stringfellow said. "Was it accessible to all of our members, and would we have space to relocate our offices?"

Using that criteria, MCC Detroit found one potential site. It was Clawson United Methodist Church, located nearly nine miles away.

"We ran into a snag because United Methodists are not affirming at this point," Stringfellow explained. "However, this particular congregation is a reconciling United Methodist church. A reconciling community means that the local congregation has voted to welcome LGBT individuals. And this church, prior to the previous pastor, had an out lesbian pastor."

One downside to the move is the United Methodist policy that no same sex marriages can take place on their property.

"We as a congregation voted to simply hold our marriage

ceremonies in alternative locations," said Stringfellow, who admitted that MCC Detroit might not enjoy a lengthy stay in their new space. "We are looking at Clawson being a temporary space until we can find a more permanent space."

"This is a great temporary solution," Stringfellow continued. "It's the best that we had. Other affirming churches didn't have the space or other churches that were great were not affirming."

### Divine Peace MCC Moves into a 'Real Church'

Meanwhile in Waterford, Divine Peace MCC is planning to move from their current location in a strip mall in the city to a real church, namely Bethel United Church of Christ.

"It's a beautiful space," said Rev. Carolyn Mobley-Bowie, interim minister for Divine Peace. "It's a beautiful building. It looks like a little country church set off from the road up the hill. It has a rainbow flag because it's an open and affirming church."

But sharing space, Mobley-Bowie said, will take getting used to.

"Our service will be at 9:30 on Sundays and their service will be at 11 a.m.," she said. "The down side of sharing space is that we'll only have an hour for worship unless we want to bump our worship time to 9 o'clock, which I'm considering already but it probably won't be changed until later."

Mobley-Bowie, who just came on as interim minister in September, said a hefty rent increase at the church's current location, in a strip mall in the city, caused them to look for a new church home.

"We couldn't afford to stay in the space and we got a really good deal with the new one," she said. "And sharing space is not a new idea for MCC. A lot of MCC churches start out sharing a church. Most of them love the idea of being in a sanctuary that was built as a sanctuary, a church space that was built as a church space."

"Still, what goes along with that is that it's not ours by ourselves," Mobley-Bowie continued. "We have to get on their calendar, they don't get on ours. So that will be some adjustment."

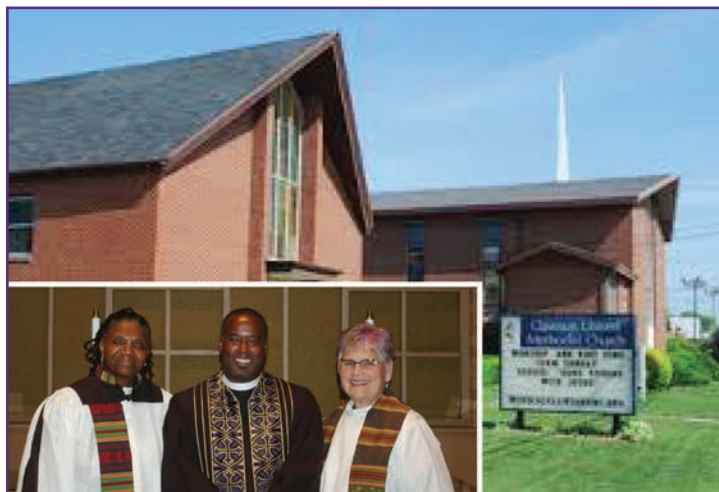
Such was the case for Divine Peace's Christmas Variety Show, which will take place Friday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.

"Making sure the space is available when we want to do something is going to be different and a bit of a challenge," said Mobley-Bowie.

In addition to use of the sanctuary, Divine Peace will have a designated office within the space.

"Our board room and office will be the same room," Mobley-Bowie said. "But it will be separate from their office." In the end, Mobley-Bowie said she's sure things will work out.

"We're excited about the move and we're glad to be moving," she said. "It's going to save us money. We just did our budget and it looks better now."



### New Location!

MCC Detroit is excited to grow our congregation!  
Beginning Sunday, December 3, visit us in  
Clawson at our new time of 11:30 am. Follow our  
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(New Address)  
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MCC Detroit's new location will be Clawson United Methodist Church, located at 205 N. Main Street in Clawson. Sunday services will begin at 11:30 a.m. Divine Peace's new location will be Bethel United Church of Christ, located at 6650 Elizabeth Lake Road in Waterford. Sunday services will start at 9 a.m. The first service for both churches at their new location will be Sunday, Dec. 3.

# Detroiters Write First Book, Tackles 'Things Unsaid'

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Detroiters Shyne Nelson has written his first book. "Things Unsaid" is a collection of poetry, essays and short stories.

"I wanted to write a book my whole life," Nelson, 32, said. "The concept was pretty much things I had thought and things my friends had thought that they weren't able to express in an unapologetic way. Most times the issues that you read about in the book are discussed politely. And I said to myself what if we were really transparent in our feelings and the things that we go through. So that's where it came from."

The process to write the book took Nelson almost seven years.

"The reason for that is I had a lot of ideas and concepts when I was younger but, to be honest, I wasn't that confident," said Nelson. "I thought nobody would want to hear what I had to say. I wasn't sure of myself so I let it sit."

But by the time Nelson turned 30, he had found his voice and sought to finish his book.

"I really wanted to complete it," he said. "It was a life goal and I really wanted to finish it."

Nelson initially shopped the book to publishers, but most, he said, were turned off by his bold no-holds-barred style.

"They wanted to take away some of the subjects that I graze and I really do talk about a lot of different things and the publishing company felt that the subjects were somewhat taboo or that they would be offensive to people," Nelson said. "But I didn't want to be watered down."

In "Things Unsaid," Nelson's poetry is provocative, his essays are insightful and his short stories are just plain entertaining.

"My hope is that people see themselves in the book," said Nelson. "I hope that people feel a justification for the feelings they've felt before. I want people to say, 'no, you're not crazy. Everybody feels like this.' They just don't have the strength to say it out loud."

In one essay, "Dear Black Man," Nelson takes on members of the African American community who see him as less than for being gay.

"There are a lot of different things going on right now with the black community and the gay community," Nelson said. "I wrote it out of frustration.



I feel like going back when you look at the story of civil rights and the contributions that Martin Luther King made you never hear about Bayard Rustin or any of the LGBT community people being in the forefront and they were. It is really frustrating for me to feel shunned by people who should consider me family.

"It bothers me when somebody who looks like me feels that I'm not their equal," Nelson continued. "I put in the same amount of work as straight men. I have the same education. But for some reason there's a stigma that I'm weaker. And I wanted it to be known that I'm no weaker. I'm as strong as you. You have people like me in your family. The recent incident with the guy who killed his son for being gay, that was heartbreaking. But it happens so much more in the black community than in other ethnic groups."

Writing, Nelson said, came natural to him, and is something that he's always done.

"I've been writing since I was about 8," he said. "I guess you could say I started writing as a form of therapy. It was a way to get my thoughts out and express myself without any consequence or the fear of someone repeating what I

had to say."

Nelson is also an avid reader, with his favorite author being the late E. Lynn Harris.

"That's my idol," Nelson said. "I'm so sad and upset about the fact that he passed away before I was able to meet him. He's my inspiration for being a writer. He's one of my heroes definitely."

When he's not writing or reading, Nelson said his passion is record collecting.

"I'm an avid record collector," he said. "I love records. I love to listen to them. I love to collect them. I love to shop for them. That's pretty much it. I'm a homebody. I'm not a big club person at all. I'm not a big social person as far as big crowds and stuff like that."

Next up for Nelson, he said he'd liked to turn "Things Unsaid" into a stage play.

"I've been working on some dialogue for it," he said. "I feel that stage plays are a lost art and I want to put my people – black and gay people – on stage and tell the story."

"Things Unsaid" is available for purchase on The Book Patch for \$12. For more information, visit Shyne Nelson on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ThingsUnsaidBook>.

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# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

## AIDS/HIV

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

### AIDS Walk Detroit

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

### Macomb County STD Clinic

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

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

### Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

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

### UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

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

## Advocacy

### Equality Michigan

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

## Campus

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

### U-M Ann Arbor

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

### Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

### Eastern Michigan University

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

### The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

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

### Wayne State JIGSAW

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

## Community Centers

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

### Jim Toy Community Center

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

### LGBT Detroit

Detroit  
[www.lgbtdetroit.org](http://www.lgbtdetroit.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit](https://www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit)  
or follow them on Twitter @LGBTDetroit.

20025 Greenfield Road  
Detroit, MI  
Phone: 313-397-2127

### Affirmations

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

Ferndale, MI  
248-398-7105

## Legal

### American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

### Fair Michigan

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

### Know Your Rights Project

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

## Older Adults

### SAGE Metro Detroit

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

## Political

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

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

### Stonewall for Revolution

[www.facebook.com/stonewall4revolution](https://www.facebook.com/stonewall4revolution)

## Professional Groups

### Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

### Ties Like Me

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

### Suits And The City

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

## Transgender

### FtM Detroit

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

### FtM A2 Ypsi

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

### Transgender Michigan

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

### Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

## Youth

### Ruth Ellis Center

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

### Ozone House

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

### Stand With Trans

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



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

## Find these resources online

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

## Get Listed, Promote Your Events

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

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



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