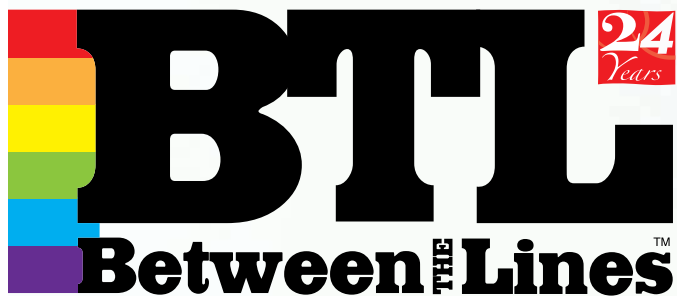


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Troubling Signs for Gays from Supreme Court in Cakeshop Arguments

Trump Ignores LGBT Mention in World AIDS Day Proclamation

Holiday Worship Guide, plus Does God Love Gays?

The Gay Makings of
Martha Stewart

Lifestyle Icon Talks '1860s' Approach to Equality, Same-Sex Weddings, Her 'Gay Sons' and Famed Veronica Lake Transformation

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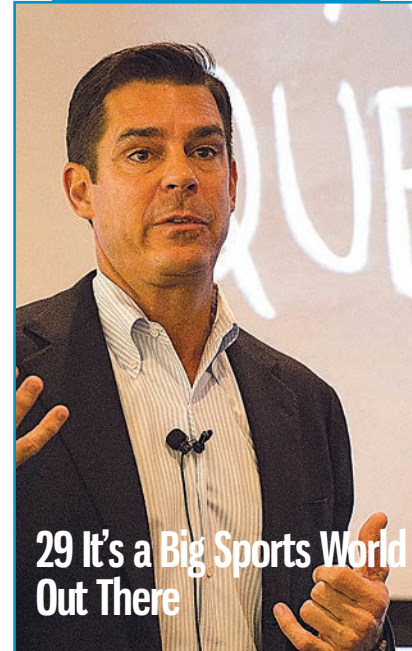
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More Gay and Bisexual Men Able to Donate Blood

BY BTL STAFF

New blood donation rules for gay and bisexual men have come into effect in Scotland, Wales and in England, meaning more gay and bisexual men will be eligible to give blood.

Gay and bisexual men in Britain will be able to donate blood from three months after having sex with another man. The new rules replace a 12-month deferment period which has been in place since the lifetime ban was lifted in 2011.

Scottish LGBTI equality charity, the Equality Network, has welcomed the new blood donation rules which they say will reduce, but not eliminate, the discrimination faced by gay and bisexual men.

Scott Cuthbertson, Development Manager, said, “We welcome that more gay and bisexual men will be eligible to donate blood from today.

“We hope many gay and bisexual men who are now able to donate, do so with their peers. These new rules are a welcome and significant step forward, we remain concerned, however, that for too many low risk gay and bisexual men these new rules are, in effect, a continued ban.”

He continued, “The blood service has committed to explore ways in which a more personalized risk assessment could be introduced. We look forward to continuing to work with both the blood service and the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO) to eliminate all unwarranted discrimination from the UKs blood donation rules.”

The blood donation rules were changed after the UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments instructed their respective blood services to implement the recommendations of a recent review of blood donor criteria and risk assessment by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO), which advises health ministers and departments for health across the UK. Northern Ireland has only recently removed the lifetime ban on MSM blood donations, but with the Stormont Assembly suspended is unlikely to implement the new rule changes any time soon.

The rule change also affects people who have sex with partners who are classed as high risk.

A full briefing on blood donation rules is available at gaybe.am/NX



Veronica Scott-Miller (right) sits next to her girlfriend, Sade Robinson.

The Long Path to Acceptance

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Purple. Hair, jacket, car. Everything about Veronica Scott-Miller is purple – and she likes it that way. Looking at the 25-year-old you’d imagine that in all aspects of her life, she’d be as outspoken about who she is and what she loves, but it wasn’t until recently that she could truly begin to own her identity.

“It started kind of when I was 19, but it was kind of like, ‘I’m not really going to talk about this, but this is definitely happening,’” she said.

What was happening, was her realization that she was a lesbian, and that her surroundings, both at Hampton University in Virginia and at home, weren’t welcoming places for people with her identity. Eventually, she got the courage to put her feelings of alienation at school out there.

“I decided I was finally going to write about it,” Scott-Miller said. “I wrote about how it wasn’t, ‘You can’t do these things,’ but it was more like, ‘You probably shouldn’t do these things.’”

That article was for the now defunct Black Girl Dangerous, a site dedicated to the amplification of queer and trans people of color. And although in her school career there wasn’t one defining homophobic moment from the university, there were many little things that added up to a greater, unwelcoming whole.

“I wanted to wear a suit to our senior ball and they told me that I could not do that,” Scott-Miller said. “So, I had to wear a dress that I did not like.”

In her article, she recalled why she was reluctant to come out on campus.

“For me, ‘coming out’ never made sense. I attended a conservative, majority heterosexual, historically black university, and I knew how adding ‘queer’ in front of ‘black woman’ would single me out,” Scott-Miller wrote. “A major reason why I stayed in the closet was because year after year, requests to form a group for LGBT solidarity were denied by the conservative university who continued to ignore the queer members of the student body. For many, college is a time of freedom in all aspects of life. For the queer community, conservative ideology kept us in secrecy.”

So, Scott-Miller was forced to find solidarity in on-campus friends. “My friends were pretty OK with it. They figured that that was what was going on anyways, because I hadn’t been actively talking about men for a while. One of my other friends came out after me, and they were like, ‘We knew you guys were super gay this whole time,’” she laughed.

Perhaps because of Scott-Miller’s article, or because of increased

See next page

“For me, ‘coming out’ never made sense. I attended a conservative, majority heterosexual, historically black university, and I knew how adding ‘queer’ in front of ‘black woman’ would single me out. A major reason why I stayed in the closet was because year after year, requests to form a group for LGBT solidarity were denied by the conservative university who continued to ignore the queer members of the student body. For many, college is a time of freedom in all aspects of life. For the queer community, conservative ideology kept us in secrecy.”

- Veronica Scott-Miller

pressure on the university board, Hampton finally received its own GSA club – though after she graduated. Even with this positive step, Scott-Miller was still far away from fully accepting her identity, and receiving more opposition from her surroundings didn’t help it.

“I didn’t date anybody seriously until I graduated. She was the first person I talked about being gay with and that’s kind of how I transitioned into that relationship,” Scott-Miller said. “My first girlfriend, her mom hates gay people, and as soon as she found out that I was her girlfriend, she decided she hated me. She really liked me until she found out that’s why I was at her house. I was like, ‘This is your only daughter.’”

Eventually, due to distance – her girlfriend lived in Virginia and she lived in Detroit – the relationship sputtered.

“I got dumped over the phone before I went to work,” she said.

Although the relationship’s end meant she could distance herself from one source of homophobia, Scott-Miller’s situation at home seemed to mirror her university experience: many small moments that built up to a greater whole.

“I don’t know if they’ve said anything outwardly homophobic, but they have turned off the TV when those characters are on there,” she said. “They don’t like shows anymore once those kinds of characters are brought up. They’re like, ‘Oh, this is terrible.’”

She said that their strong ties to the Baptist faith also made it a difficult topic to broach.

“I hadn’t planned on telling my parents ever, but I figured that I should probably do that when I get a serious girlfriend,” she said.

Eventually, she got one, and talking about the topic became unavoidable.

“The girlfriend that I have now, we were hanging out a lot, so my dad jokingly asked, ‘Are you dating?’ I just was like, ‘...what?’ I left the house,” Scott-Miller said. “He called,

and told me to come back inside with her. She was downstairs and she said, ‘This is the scariest thing ever.’”

After that confrontation, although Scott-Miller wasn’t officially thrown out of her house, she didn’t feel comfortable returning. For a week and a half, she timed her visits to get clothes and other necessities from home only when her parents weren’t there.

“And then, I finally, accidentally ran into them because I didn’t time it right,” she laughed. “They said, ‘You can come back home.’ They were actually more mad about me lying about it than the actual being gay thing, which I didn’t understand at first. I was like, ‘Well, it’s not the first thing that I’ve lied to you about, and it’s definitely not the worst.’ They mostly got over it.”

That was a year ago, and today, Scott-Miller is still in the same relationship. She said that over time, her relationship with her parents has definitely improved, but that it still isn’t ideal.

“I think my dad finally got it out of my system. It was mostly him, which was interesting, because I thought it would be the other way around. I thought he would be more understanding. My mom was just, ‘I’m your mom. I’ve been here your whole life and I’m the only reason that you’re here,’” she said.

Now, Scott-Miller is planning a holiday trip with her girlfriend to visit her parents, who have since moved to Florida. She said that although things seem to be looking up, she is happy that she had friends to rely on while coming out. She said that her chosen family was instrumental in giving her the courage to start accepting herself. Had she been able to do it again, she said she would have approached things differently.

“Talking with my friends definitely helped,” she said. “I think I would just focus on the chosen family that you have in case your actual family abandons you. Make sure that those people are looking out for you.”



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Troubling Signs for Gays from Supreme Court in Cakeshop Arguments

Masterpiece Cakeshop Plaintiffs: Case is 'About Freedom'

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

The gay couple who challenged a Colorado baker's decision to refuse to make them a wedding cake on Tuesday said their case is about equality.

"This is about freedom, freedom for LGBT people to live full lives in public," David Mullins told LGBT rights advocates who were gathered outside the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mullins and his husband, Charlie Craig, spoke to the activists after the justices heard oral arguments in their case.

Jack Phillips, owner of the Masterpiece Cakeshop in suburban Denver, maintains the First Amendment allows him to refuse to bake wedding cakes for same-sex couples because of his religious beliefs. Mullins and Craig insist Phillips discriminated against them because of their sexual orientation.

"We want everyone to be free and equal," Mullins told the activists after the oral arguments ended. "All deserve fair and equal treatment and that's why we're here today."



The gay couple who challenged a Colorado baker's decision to refuse to bake them a wedding cake says their case is about "freedom." (Washington Blade photo by Michael Key)

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The U.S. Supreme Court concluded arguments Tuesday in the Masterpiece Cakeshop case with no clear indication of whether it would rule as swing-vote U.S. Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy expressed skepticism of the Colorado non-discrimination law, but also sent conflicting messages.

As the American Civil Liberties Union's national legal director David Cole argued before the bench, Kennedy remarked the attorney's claim the baker, Jack Phillips, denied a wedding cake to the same-sex couple based on their identity, rather than objections to same-sex marriage, was "too facile."

Kennedy also maintained "tolerance is essential" in society and accused the Colorado Civil Rights Commission of being "neither tolerant, nor respectful of Phillips' religious beliefs," noting a line in commission's ruling calling the baker "despicable." Kennedy also mentioned "other good bakery shops that were available."

But Kennedy also questioned whether denial of wedding cake compromised the dignity of the couple – a principle of significant importance to the justice – and questioned why selling ready-made cake to couple wouldn't be speech as opposed to custom cake. Kennedy also envisioned after a ruling in favor of the baker religious groups sending messages to bakeries to "not make

cakes for gay weddings."

In the aftermath of the hearing, reporters in the Supreme Court press room speculated the Supreme Court could rule by remanding the case to the Colorado Civil Rights Commission with instructions to be more tolerant of Phillips' religious beliefs. Another possibility was a ruling specifically crafted to apply to Colorado's non-discrimination law without nationwide implications.

The petitioner in the case, Phillips, argues that making a wedding cake is inherently an artistic act of expression protected under the First Amendment, therefore he should be able to deny wedding cakes out of religious objections to same-sex couples like Charlie

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Craig and David Mullins, who sought to buy a cake for their wedding in 2012.

The Colorado Civil Rights Commission determined Phillips' denial of service to the couple amounted to unlawful anti-gay discrimination under the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act. Although state courts have affirmed that ruling, the Supreme Court agreed to take up the case earlier this year.

U.S. Associate Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor, the Obama-appointed justices, made the strongest case for the Colorado non-discrimination law and at times were seemingly trying to coax Kennedy, who has long history of ruling in favor of gay rights, to side with the same-sex couple.

When Kristen Waggoner, senior vice president of U.S. advocacy for the law firm Alliance Defending Freedom, approached the issue of dignity by saying "in this case, dignity cuts both ways" and the Colorado law is demeaning to Phillips, Sotomayor shot back that wasn't the case.

"It's not demeaning to someone to say if you choose to participate in our community in a public way...you have to sell it to everyone if you open your door," Sotomayor said.

Asserting society has "competing beliefs," Sotomayor recognized LGBT people "have been humiliated...treated unequally" and enumerated the history of discrimination against them, such as being LGBT people being denied medical treatment. That history, Sotomayor said, justifies a non-discrimination law in public accommodations.

"There's certain...conduct you can't engage in, and that includes not selling products you would sell to everyone else," Sotomayor said.

U.S. Solicitor General Neil Francisco made the case the First Amendment allows an individual to deny a wedding cake to same-sex couple, but not for an interracial or black couple because that act would be based on identity, not the act of same-sex marriage.

When Kagan asked whether denying a

wedding to a couple was an affront to the LGBT community, Francisco conceded dignity issues were at stake, but sometimes there's "dignity interest on the other side."

Both Francisco and Waggoner made heavy use of the Supreme Court precedent in the case of *Hurley v. Irish American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Group of Boston*, a 1995 decision which held the state can't compel individuals in a public demonstration to include groups who impart a message the organizers don't want in their demonstration.

Francisco called the decision against Masterpiece Cakeshop the "flipside of *Hurley*" because in this case Colorado was essentially forcing Phillips to take part in the metaphorical parade of supporting same-sex marriage.

There was little time for attorneys to make their cases before the Supreme Court without interruption as justices continually peppered with inquiries and challenged, but on occasion were able to make the points they had prepared.

Cole, representing the American Civil Liberties Union and the same-sex couple, emphasized the far-reaching implications of ruling in favor of being allowed to deny wedding cases to LGBT people.

"We don't doubt the sincerity of Mr. Phillips' [beliefs], but to accept his argument leads to unacceptable consequences," Cole said.

Waggoner said forcing Phillips to make wedding cakes contrary to his beliefs would be the "greatest offense to the First Amendment."

"A wedding cake expresses an inherent messages that a union is to be celebrated, and that message conflicts with Phillips' religious beliefs," Waggoner said.

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



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Trump's World AIDS Day Proclamation Leaves Out LGBTQ People

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

President Trump's first-ever proclamation for World AIDS Day calls for eradication of the disease "as a public health threat," but leaves out enumeration of marginalized groups – such as LGBT people – who are most affected by the epidemic.

Trump issued the proclamation on Nov. 30 on the day before World AIDS Day, which many HIV/AIDS advocates observe to draw attention to the disease. An estimated 1.1 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV/AIDS and 36.7 million people across the globe.

For the first time, Trump says his administration is committed to ending the HIV/AIDS across the globe – a pledge his predecessors in the White House have made, but Trump hadn't taken until now.

"Today, on World AIDS Day, we honor those who have lost their lives to AIDS, we celebrate the remarkable progress we have made in combatting this disease, and we reaffirm our ongoing commitment to end AIDS as a public health threat," Trump writes.

Consistent with his use of faith in public announcements, Trump invokes the use of prayer to draw attention to those who've died of HIV/AIDS.

"On this day, we pray for all those living with HIV, and those who have lost loved ones to AIDS," Trump writes.

Trump hails the success of public-private partnerships in

“Pretending to recognize World AIDS Day while proposing to slash PEPFAR's budget by \$1 billion is downright insulting.”

– Joel Kasnetz, a spokesperson for the Democratic National Committee, said Trump is trying to erase his own record in his World AIDS Day proclamation.

HIV prevention and treatment as well as President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a plan to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic globally.

"Through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and its data-driven investments in partnership with more than 50 countries, we are supporting more than 13.3 million people with lifesaving antiretroviral treatment," Trump says. "We remain deeply committed to supporting adolescent girls and young women through this program, who are up to

14 times more likely to contract HIV than young men in some sub-Saharan African countries."

In the future, Trump pledges to continue to invest in testing strategies "to help people who are unaware they are living with HIV learn their status" and to implement the recent PEPFAR Strategy for Accelerating HIV/AIDS Epidemic Control, which seeks to guide investments in more than 50 countries to control the epidemic

"Due to America's leadership and private sector philanthropy and innovation, we have saved and improved millions of lives and shifted the HIV/AIDS epidemic from crisis toward control," Trump says. "We are proud to continue our work with many partners, including governments, private-sector companies, philanthropic organizations, multilateral institutions, civil society and faith-based organizations, people living with HIV and many others."

But the proclamation lacks explicit inclusion of marginalized groups whom HIV/AIDS most affects, such as LGBT people. According to the Centers for Disease Control, gay and bisexual men make up an estimated 70 percent of new HIV infections in the United States. Although transgender specific-data is limited, an estimated 22 percent of all transgender women have HIV.

In contrast to Trump's proclamation, Obama's proclamation in 2016 spells out LGBTQ people are among the individuals who are at highest risk of contracting HIV/AIDS.

"In the U.S., more than 1.2 million people are living with HIV," Obama wrote. "Gay and bisexual men, transgender people, youth, black and Latino Americans, people living in the Southern United States, and people who inject drugs are at a disproportionate risk."

Trump didn't have an explicit plan to combat HIV/AIDS during his presidential campaign, but the proclamation isn't the first time he's addressed the issue. In June, Trump issued a statement observing National HIV Testing Day and encouraged Americans to learn their HIV status.

Moreover, Trump's praise for programs like PEPFAR ignores his own plans to slash the initiatives. His fiscal year 2018 budget proposal would decrease the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and PEPFAR by 17 percent each, making more than \$1 billion in cuts.

Joel Kasnetz, a spokesperson for the Democratic National Committee, said Trump is trying to erase his own record in his World AIDS Day proclamation.

"Pretending to recognize World AIDS Day while proposing to slash PEPFAR's budget by \$1 billion is downright insulting," Kasnetz said. "Trying to erase LGBTQ people from the history of HIV/AIDS is another slap in the face. In his first year in office, Trump hasn't missed an opportunity to be cruel to the LGBTQ community and the millions living with HIV all over the world."

Carl Schmid, deputy executive director for the AIDS Institute, said the proclamation has "some significant developments," such as the call to end HIV/AIDS, but leaves much to be desired.

"While pleased to have president's commitment, note that his only plan for U.S. is HIV testing," Schmid said. "Need other prevention efforts and care and treatment, but [Trump's] silent on that."

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

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Some See Echoes of '68 Court Case in Wedding Cake Dispute

BY MARK SHERMAN

(AP) – The Supreme Court argument about a baker who refused to make a cake for a same-sex couple makes some civil rights lawyers think of South Carolina's Piggie Park barbecue.

When two African-Americans parked their car at a Piggie Park drive-in in August 1964 in Columbia, South Carolina, the waitress who came out to serve them turned back once she saw they were black and didn't take their order.

In the civil rights lawsuit that followed, Piggie Park owner Maurice Bessinger justified the refusal to serve black customers based on his religious belief opposing "any integration of the races whatsoever."

Federal judges had little trouble dismissing Bessinger's claim.

"Undoubtedly defendant Bessinger has a constitutional right to espouse the religious beliefs of his own choosing, however, he does not have the absolute right to exercise and practice such beliefs in utter disregard of the clear constitutional rights of other citizens," U.S. District Judge Charles Earl Simons Jr. wrote in 1966.

By the time the Supreme Court heard the case in 1968, the issue was the award of fees to the lawyers representing the black South Carolinians who sued Bessinger's restaurants. But in a footnote to its unsigned 8-0 opinion, the court called the religious freedom argument and Bessinger's other defenses "patently frivolous."

Fifty years later, civil rights lawyers are pointing the Supreme Court to Bessinger's case in support of Charlie Craig and David Mullins, the gay couple who were turned away by Colorado baker Jack Phillips, giving rise to the high court case that will be argued Tuesday.

"The logic of Piggie Park and other precedents overwhelmingly rejecting religious justifications for racial discrimination apply squarely to the context of LGBTQ discrimination," the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund said in a Supreme Court brief. The fund also represented the people who sued Piggie Park.

Both cases involve laws intended to prevent discrimination by private businesses that open their doors to the public. In the case of Piggie Park, the law was the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The bake shop case involves the Colorado

Anti-Discrimination Act, which prohibits businesses from refusing to sell their goods to people on the basis of sexual orientation among other things.

As the case has come to the justices, the focus is on Phillips' speech rights, not his religious beliefs. As a cake artist, he claims a right not to say something with which he disagrees.

Phillips' lawyers also say the baker's issue is not with gay people, but rather same-sex



David Mullins and Charlie Craig. Courtesy of ACLU

marriage. He will sell any pre-made goods to anyone who walks in the store, lawyers for the Alliance Defending Freedom, representing Phillips, said. He also would make a cake celebrating "a marriage between a man and a woman even if one or both spouses identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual," his lawyers wrote.

Laws that regulate speech, as Phillips' team asserts the Colorado anti-discrimination law does, often must withstand the toughest level of review that courts can apply, known as strict scrutiny. His lawyers rely on a 1995 unanimous Supreme Court decision allowing organizers of the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Boston to exclude a gay rights group from the parade.

Speech restrictions rarely survive strict scrutiny at the Supreme Court.

But both Phillips and the Trump administration, which entered the case on Phillips' side, said speech restrictions aimed at race might be different.

A ruling for the baker would not call into question the use of public accommodations laws to prohibit racial discrimination, the administration said in its Supreme Court brief. "As the court recently observed, 'racial bias' is 'a familiar and recurring evil' that poses 'unique historical, constitutional and institutional concerns,'" the administration said, quoting from a decision this year in a case about racial discrimination among jurors.

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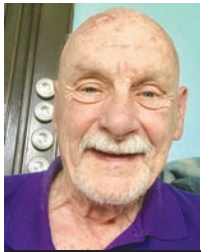
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Memories of a Near-Forgotten Past (Pt. 7)

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

As a gay teenager I hung out at the Hub Grill in downtown Detroit, a greasy spoon of a place, located at Farmer and Bates Streets, in convenient walking distance of four quite popular gay bars, city hall and the 1st Precinct police station!

Just out of high school I was eager to find work and a gay friend, George Trapper (“Trapezoid”) told me that Harper Hospital, where he worked, was hiring high school grads to be trained as OR techs – operating room technicians. Impressive title.

That sounded like a great lead for many reasons. One, was that I was born at Harper Hospital. (I hadn’t the slightest idea that my OR training would lead to what might well be the first coincidence of its kind.)

My training as an OR Tech lasted two months. I learned how to wash my hands with antiseptic, gown without breaking sterile scrub, how to identify and pass surgical instruments and chromic sutures, how to keep detailed records, use the autoclave, do sponge counts and once, deal with a dying patient.

In time, I passed instruments for several caesarian section births, witnessed a four-holed drilled crainotomy, circulated during dozens of tonsillectomies, collected specimens for D&Cs – “dusting and cleaning” – and circulated as a patient died on the operating table.

(I and another OR tech ID-tagged his right-hand thumb and toe, and took his body three flights down for temporary freezer storage. As it was our first experience with death, we sought to dispel the unexpected shock by touches of tension-easing humor.)

The shortage of operating nurses during World War II – an understandable, critical need – led to the training of lay persons to fill the acute shortage. In the late ‘50s there was also an extensive need for surgical nurses in metropolitan hospitals, resulting in the training of laypersons – like high school grads and conscientious objectors avoiding service in the war.

As a Harper Hospital OR Tech, I made mental notes about who might be gay or lesbian. I suspected the rather butch nurse responsible for keeping surgical tools sharp, honed and sterile was a “friend of Dorothy’s.” We techs were also warned about the physician head of anesthesia, and not to accept rides on his summer yacht.

There were, at the time, 13 operating rooms at Harper, numbered one through 14. There was no number 13.

Once I attended my third surgical go-around, the sight of blood no longer bothered me. I also found out that surgery often was subject to participant talk about sports, touches of humor and tension-dispelling banter among the interns, residents and surgical chiefs.

Each surgery ended with what was called a “sponge count.” No surgical opening could be sewn shut until the blood-absorbing sponges were accounted for. None left in the patient. Alas, one surgery a sponge was missing. We recounted and recounted. Finally, a resident admitted to standing on the truant sponge. Was it an accident or an OR prank?

And! What may well be an item for the Guinness Book of World Records, I had the privilege of scrubbing with the doctor who brought me into the world some 19 years earlier, Dr. Leonard Heath.

Whether or not I was his first gay baby is not known, but it was a memorable experience for me and presumably, an elated Dr. Heath.

Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist (700-plus columns) and as a well-known LGBT community artist (1000 Facebook images). He is a Spirit of Detroit Award recipient and an Affirmations LGBT CENTER Jan Stevenson awardee. Connect with him at charles@pridesource.com.



Transmissions



BY GWENDOLYN SMITH

What We Want

A week or two ago, a headline passed my eyes: “The transgender zealots are destroying truth itself,” it seemed to scream, on an article by Peter Hitchens in the Daily Mail.

Hitchens’ point seems to be that, given a foothold, transgender people will force people to turn their backs against reality or face reprimand, citing a teacher who refused to accept the preferred gender of a student as an example of “political correctness.”

To Hitchens, accepting a transgender person’s preferred gender pronouns leads to “thought police” and “mass abortion.”

Of course, it’s all utterly ridiculous hyperbole, somewhere on the far end of the old “gays recruit” arguments. Indeed, the piece itself is little more than

a Mad Lib pastiche of arguments made for decades against LGBTQ and other rights battles, harking back to arguments about womens’ rights in the 1970s leading to same sex restrooms. We’ve read this all before.

Rather than stoop to refuse such bizarre proclamations of doom and gloom, I’ve decided to, instead, speak on what transgender people actually desire. Now I’m sure I may be missing a few things here and there, but I can assure you that you’ll not fund much support for the “sea of blood” Hitchens – and others – seems convinced we’re so intent upon.

First, we want the right to exist. We’re routinely

See next page

► Transmissions

Continued from p. 10

murdered, and quite often our killers escape justice. In many cases, it is deemed acceptable for them to kill us using the ridiculous “transgender panic” defense, deciding that it is so repulsive for them to have been potentially sexual with a trans person that they had to murder us to somehow save their reputations.

While the threats to our lives are the most visceral example, existence goes beyond this. We expect that when we present ourselves in the public sphere, our identities be not ignored. We deserve to have appropriate identification befitting our gender identity or expression, and that identity to be respected in the same fashion as our non-transgender siblings.

We seek access to care that is appropriate to our needs. While I’m sure that most might define that specifically to refer to genital reassignment surgeries and their ilk, I feel it well worth noting that getting any medical care can prove difficult for transgender people. Maladies large and small are refused by insurers due to our transgender status, and medical professionals likewise turning us away due to their discomfort with our status.

By the same token, we expect that when we seek housing, or employment, or other basic human needs, we’re going to be treated as equals to non-transgender people. It’s not that we want preferential treatment – but we want to be treated fairly and impartially.

I don’t like the idea of forcing change through law, but as we live in a culture built on such it seems unavoidable. Much like laws have had to be enacted to protect people of various cultures, religions, races, sexes, sexualities and abilities, so too do transgender people deserve the same sorts of protections.

Ultimately, however, I long for a day when people are accepting of transgender people simply because it’s the right thing to do, not because they need to. I – and I think most transgender people – simply want to be able to live our lives as we see fit.

To Hitchens and his ilk, even having to use the preferred pronouns of a transgender person is a devastating situation worth comparing to genocide. I can only imagine the night terrors he must face when confronted with the idea of respecting another religion, or the notion of handicap ramps on public buildings.

I think, however, his moral panic isn’t so much rooted in what transgender people want, but in what they feel we represent. If a transgender person’s transition from one gender to another is accepted, who’s to say that anyone can’t transition? What does it say about gender itself if it isn’t a fixed construct composed of only two options? Further, if it isn’t fixed, then can one really consider one

While the threats to our lives are the most visceral example, existence goes beyond this. We expect that when we present ourselves in the public sphere, our identities be not ignored. We deserve to have appropriate identification befitting our gender identity or expression, and that identity to be respected in the same fashion as our non-transgender siblings.

gender superior over the other, as I suspect Hitchens assumes?

That is what I suspect lies at the heart of Hitchens’ all-encompassing fear towards transgender people. It’s not that he sees us as a threat to “truth” in an object sense, but in a subjective one. How would his view of the world need to change for him to be willing to accept that human beings just like him, would like to express their genders and still be afforded the same level of respect he enjoys? How terrible would it be for him to consider that everyone is his equal, regardless of their gender, no matter if they are transgender or not?

What’s more, to allow transgender people such a level of body autonomy would be to afford it to everyone: if a transgender person can live a life of their choosing, what’s to prevent the right to a safe abortion?

In that way, perhaps there is a point to his apocalyptic doom-saying, and perhaps now is the end of male dominance. I could see where that would be so frightening to Hitchens, especially in a time when so many are willing to stand up and speak out against sexism and sexual assault enacted by the powerful people in this culture.

For me, I am secure in my “truth,” and no amount of fearmongering from Hitchens or his brethren will change that. If that’s too much for him to handle, it’s not me that needs to change for his comfort.

Gwen Smith makes for a pretty bad zealot. You’ll find her at www.gwensmith.com.

Creep of the Week

Alliance Defending Freedom

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

By the time you read this, the Supreme Court will have heard oral arguments in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, aka the “gay wedding cake” case.

A bit of background: A gay couple asked Jack Phillips, proprietor of Masterpiece Cakeshop, to make them a wedding cake. He said, “Nah. Because gays.” So the couple said, “Sue. Because laws.”

Colorado’s law protects against discrimination based on sexual orientation. Lower courts ruled against Phillips, and now Phillips, represented by the rabidly anti-gay Alliance Defending Freedom, has made it all the way to the Supreme Court.

Now, you might be thinking: Why doesn’t the couple just go to a different cake shop?

Indeed, there are bakers in Colorado who’d happily make the gayest wedding cake for the gayest wedding. That’s not the point. Surely, no couple would want to have their wedding cake made by someone who was bigoted against them, but the couple here isn’t suing Phillips in order to force him to make them a cake. They’re suing Phillips in order to force him to follow the law.

Look, no matter what the outcome of the case, Phillips isn’t likely to change his mind and start offering dyke discounts or homo half price specials. You can’t legislate feelings and beliefs. You can, however, legislate against discrimination. And LGBTQ people deserve legal protections against discrimination, even when people claim to be discriminating because God told them to.

Some might argue that this case doesn’t belong in the courts and should be settled via capitalism. After all, if Phillips discriminates and people don’t like that, then people will no longer patronize his shop and he will go out of business.

But like so many things when it comes to capitalism, that works better in theory than in real life. First, it’s likely LGBTQ people would no longer patronize Masterpiece Cakeshop, and likely those close to LGBTQ people wouldn’t either. But the fact of the matter is, it probably wouldn’t matter much to most people. Because most people aren’t LGBTQ, and

The fact is, this lawsuit is about so much more than cake. What the ADF wants to do in the name of “religious freedom” is to chip away at legal protections for LGBTQ people, undoing many of the civil rights gains we have made, up to and including marriage equality.

if a problem doesn’t directly affect them, they likely won’t take any kind of action.

Take racism, for example. The majority of white voters, men and women, voted for Donald Trump, who ran a blatantly racist campaign supported by Nazis. Racism wasn’t a deal breaker for them, even though many of those white voters claim not to be racist or agree with Trump’s racist views. Because racism doesn’t affect white people the same way it does people of color, it was really easy for them to look past it and vote for Trump. I guarantee you if Walmart was legally allowed to discriminate against brown and black people, whites would be all, “That sucks, but the prices are so low!”

The fact is, this lawsuit is about so much more than cake. What the ADF wants to do in the name of “religious freedom” is to chip away at legal protections for LGBTQ people, undoing many of the civil rights gains we have made, up to, and including, marriage equality.

ADF has long espoused the belief that LGBTQ people are abominations, wicked people who have made wicked choices that they force decent people to accept. They argue that this case is really all about artistic expression. In other words, that Phillips has no problem with gay people, he just can’t make a cake for something he doesn’t believe in (those gay people loving each other and being legally wed). But the fact is, you can’t separate the two. You can’t say, “I acknowledge you as a person, but I do not acknowledge your humanity.” Dehumanizing is the goal here, and we must not lose sight of that.



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Friday, Dec. 15

Congregation Shir Tikvah
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Annual Latke Dinner and Chanukah Service
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3900 Northfield Pkwy., Troy 48084
248-649-4418
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Sunday, Dec. 17

Friends and Family Sunday, 11:30 a.m.
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Thursday, Dec. 21

St. John's Episcopal Church
Healing & Eucharist, 11 a.m.
26998 Woodward Ave. and 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak
248-546-1255
stjohnro.org

Friday, Dec. 22

Unity of Ann Arbor
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7 p.m.
Rev. Patrice Bittner, Senior Minister
4599 Carpenter Road, Ypsilanti
734-434-8545
unitya2.com

Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24

St. John's Episcopal Church
Holy Eucharist, 8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist with music, 10:15 a.m.
26998 Woodward Ave. and 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak

First Presbyterian Church of Northville
Family-Friendly Service, 9:30 a.m.
(Featuring a "No-Rehearsal" Christmas Pageant)
Candlelight Service, 7 p.m.
200 E. Main St., Northville
248-349-0911
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Antioch Lutheran Church
Worship, 9:30 a.m.
33360 W. 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills
antiochelca.org
Divine Peace
Rev. Carolyn Mobley-Bowie
Worship, 9:30 a.m.
6650 Elizabeth Lake Road, Waterford Township
248-332-1186
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Salem Church
Worship Sunday, 10 a.m.
33424 Oakland Ave., Farmington
248-474-6880
salemucc.us

Unity of Ann Arbor
Christmas Service, 10 a.m.
Rev. Cindy Yamamoto, Senior Minister
4599 Carpenter Road, Ypsilanti
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Grosse Pointe Congregational Church
Worship Sunday, 10 a.m.
Rev. Richard Yeager-Stiver
240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms
313-884-3075
gpccong.org

Whosoever Ministry
Sunday Service, 11:30 a.m.
240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms
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MCC Detroit
Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow
Church Service, 11:30 a.m.
Joint service with Clawson UMC, 7 p.m.
205 N. Main St., Clawson
248-399-7741
mccdetroit.org

Unity of Royal Oak
Candlelight Services, 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.
2500 Crooks Road
248-288-3550
unityroyaloak.org

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Whosoever Ministry
UCC Prayer Line, 6 p.m.
240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms
888-770-1322
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New Year's Eve, Sunday, Dec. 31

Divine Peace
Rev. Carolyn Mobley-Bowie
Worship, 9:30 a.m.
6650 Elizabeth Lake Road, Waterford Township
248-332-1186
dpmcc.net

Antioch Lutheran Church
Worship, 9:30 a.m.
33360 W. 13 Mile Road, Farmington Hills
antiochelca.org

Unity of Ann Arbor
Burning Bowl Service, 10 a.m.
Rev. Patrice Bittner, Senior Minister
4599 Carpenter Road, Ypsilanti
734-434-8545
unitya2.com

Unity of Royal Oak
Burning Bowl Service, 10 a.m.
2500 Crooks Road
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unityroyaloak.org

Whosoever Ministry
Sunday Service, 11:30 a.m.
240 Chalfonte, Grosse Pointe Farms
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Does God Love Gays?

Being LGBTQ in Christian America

BY JONATHAN W. THURSTON

Being gay and being Christian are often considered two very separate things. After all, the Westboro Baptist Church's motto is "God Hates Fags," and many gay men, at least from this journalist's experience, are often atheist. But what is the true connect between sexuality and religion? Are there more gay Christians than one might think? Can one be gay and Christian?

This year, the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) sought to answer some of these questions - from at least a statistical background - in their September report, "America's Changing Religious Identity."

This report is unique in that it is the largest survey of religious identity in America ever, surveying over 101,000 people over all 50 states.

Here are a few fun facts from the report:

"LGBT Americans are far less likely to identify with any religious group than the public as a whole. Nearly half (46 percent) of Americans who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender are religiously unaffiliated. This is roughly twice the number of Americans overall (24 percent) who are religiously unaffiliated."

"Fewer identify as Christian. Only six percent of LGBT Americans are white evangelical Protestant, while similar numbers identify as white mainline Protestant (8 percent) and white Catholic (6 percent). Fewer than one in ten identify as black Protestant (6 percent), Hispanic Catholic (5 percent), or Hispanic Protestant (3 percent)."

"There are stark generational differences among LGBT Americans in their religious identity. A majority (56 percent) of LGBT young adults (age 18 to 29) are religiously unaffiliated, compared to one-quarter (25 percent) of

LGBT seniors (age 65 or older). Notably, Buddhists and Unitarian-Universalists have a much higher proportion of LGBT members than other religious traditions. One in seven Buddhists (14 percent) and Unitarian-Universalists (14 percent) identify as LGBT."

Dr. Robert P. Jones, CEO of PRRI and author of "The End of White Christian America," spoke to us about his findings. The report, he claims, had really humble beginnings. "What we do here at PRRI is pay really close attention to the rather tectonic changes that are occurring in the American religious identity and culture."

He notes that one of the surprising aspects of the study has been the widespread religious decline. "White Christians are declining, and we see a decrease in Christians who are religiously affiliated. But there were some statistics that really stood out to us. One of them was that there's been a lot of discussion about decline among white mainline Protestants, and to a lesser extent, white Catholics. But we really noted that white Evangelical Protestants are shrinking as well, and so that's something that I think has not been part of the narrative."

Jim Toy, the secretary of Oasis TBLG Outreach Ministry, Episcopal Diocese of Michigan and co-founder and board member of Inclusive Justice Michigan, spoke to BTL about his thoughts on the PRRI report. He notes the decrease in religious affiliation with young people.

"My sense," Toy says, "is that in the U.S. we are becoming more and more of a secularized society overall." In his line of work, he focuses on people who come from religious affiliations of course, but he notices clear efforts for LGBT inclusion: "Overall, the people up here, up north, the ones who are religiously affiliated are affiliated with a religion that is more accepting as opposed to one that's not."

“ I think clearly discrimination and prejudice has certainly pushed many people I know of all ages, especially young people who tend to be skeptical anyway, of what their parents and grandparents saw is in the normative so it's natural to be skeptical of that. ”

- Rev. Bode attributes discrimination on the mores of past generations.

Another local figure, Rev. Matthew Bode, pastor for 15 years with Detroit Cooperative Parish, had this to say about the report. "The people I deal with are more likely to be attached to a faith community or have a sense of religion and spirituality that they identify with. They may not practice it the way they want because of issues with discrimination in the face of the community that they come from, but in my experience, even in our community, that's not the case now."

Rev. Bode attributes much of that discrimination on the mores of past generations. "I think clearly discrimination and prejudice has certainly pushed many people I know of all ages, especially young people who tend to be skeptical anyway, of what their parents and grandparents saw is in the normative so it's natural to be skeptical of that."

Rev. Ric Beattie of Unity of Royal Oak has mostly positive thoughts about the future of LGBT and loves having that inclusivity in his own church even. "I look back at the rate of change," Rev. Beattie says, "and I see young men and women coming to me and others to get married, or having children, and in my day we were trying not to get caught. We were trying not to get outed, or to lose our jobs. Where I grew up was not the most gay-friendly place. So, I love this change that's happening!"

At the end of the day, we live in a country with an amazing freedom of religious identity and expression. Wherever one finds solace and comfort should always be a place of security and inclusion. If anything, the above sources offer that inclusion to those who are LGBT and need that safe space to worship and pray. At the end of the day, maybe God does love gays after all.




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Between THE LinesTM

Divine Transformations

Reverend Starts Transgender Church

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

In the recipe for a church, one needs a public space, a liturgy, a congregation and a little bit of audience participation. “Well, I can say that we’ll try to get everyone to sing together,” laughed Rev. Anya Johnston. “I won’t be leading that part, but we’ll be doing that, and we’ll be pulling in some of the traditional elements that people expect in a house of worship of almost any kind.”

Although she doesn’t want to get too caught up in hierarchy, Johnston is officially the founding minister of a brand-new church, specifically aimed at serving members of the transgender community. It’s called: TransFormations: Faith in Change.

“We start our kickoff service at Affirmations,” Johnston said. “I would say in the big picture it would be a separate thing, but the important thing initially is to have a place together, and if that continues to be Affirmations, that’s fine.”

Johnston’s decision to branch off and create a new denomination, one which has not been given a full title yet, was not taken lightly. In an official FAQ description, she wrote about the reasoning for the congregation’s current name:

“We are a spiritual community that gives transgender people and their allies a sense of purpose, hope and full humanity, beginning with the recognition that gender is a creative manifestation of the divine,” Johnston wrote.

She said that the church has no official religious background, noting that many of the targeted members will be “refugees”

from other faiths and denominations, the majority, though, have decided to be part of a religion that overlaps with the core principals of many religions.”

Her approach is similar to that of other LGBTQ-friendly congregations, but purposely, she is making sure to intermingle many different traditions.

“My ideal is this multi-faith environment, which is what a healthy Unitarian Universalist environment is like, where there are Buddhists and Hindus and Jews and Christians and former Catholics and atheists and agnostics all together, because it isn’t that agreement that brings us together,” She said. “What we hold in common is this experience of living a little bit out of step with what the dominant culture is.”

And Johnston is unafraid to tackle a challenge that big. Ordained to be a Unitarian Universalist 18 years ago, she gave it her all in divinity school; her program trained her to operate in a multi-faith environment, and her degree required 90 credits to graduate. Johnston walked away from Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California with 145. Her tenacity, has also made her resilient. In her long career, she has been no stranger to abuse. After coming out as transgender in 2007, her Detroit appointment as a temporary minister became unbearable.

“I found a lot of people quite accepting, and then there were the others who started to make things really difficult. Because I was serving as their consulting senior minister, the treasurer called me ‘it’ instead of having a pronoun for me. That’s kind of what we might call ‘ouch moments,’” Johnston said. “So, when I finished my time there, I did a one-year job in Miami, Florida, and once again, I had one person who was just so hateful and she used to call me ‘that creature.’”

After that, Johnston decided to take an extended break from ministry for a few years, but she couldn’t keep away for long. Something always kept drawing her back to her faith, something that she could only relate back to her childhood.

“I was raised Catholic and I would sit in church as a little kid, and I knew that something was happening that they weren’t talking about. It was like there was a magic show going on, but everybody was ignoring the magic part,” Johnston said.

That sense of wonder brought her to Ohio, where she told her story to another church, and was reappointed, but not for long. A small group within the congregation essentially forced Johnston out of her job.

“The day after that happened, I got the note from Rachel (Crandall-Crocker), which made me laugh,” she said.

Crandall-Crocker is a local transgender activist and the founder of the annual Transgender Day of Visibility, and a member of the church’s board. She gave Johnston the push she needed to start a church on her own. Johnston said she has nothing against other LGBT congregations, but recognition is one of the main reasons she chose to branch out.

“When I think of LGBT-centered churches, I think

See next page



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December 24, 2017 10:30 a.m. Shared Christmas Eve Day
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All other Sundays, Regular Service Time is 9:30 a.m.



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Friday, December 22 at 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 24 at 10 a.m. Christmas Service
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of Metropolitan Community Church. My experience is that the 'T' has always been the small-letter 'T' with large 'Ls' and 'Gs,' and that's better than a lot of places," Johnston said. "So, it's a place where I'm comfortable in terms of gender-identity, but not in terms of, typically, theology. The theory is, that much like the people I've been serving my whole career, there are people who feel wounded by their church's history."

But that doesn't mean that people who aren't transgender aren't able to attend, simply that the services will focus on a specific audience. For the first gathering, the theme will be expectations.

"On the one hand, that's expectations about what will this be like, because none of us have been in this moment before, and also all the expectations around family and loss issues around holidays," Johnston said. "That could be framed as something. We have expectations and they're often not realistic or positive, so the focus will be on finding hope and optimism amongst that, as well answering the unasked questions of, 'What is a trans church?' I'm looking forward to seeing who shows up, and if I'm nervous, it's really that no one will show up. But that isn't even nerves, that's just an unknown."



Rev. Anya Johnston



Christmas
2017



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SUNDAY, 12/24
4 PM & 6 PM
Christmas Eve
Candle Light Services

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The Gay Makings of **Martha Stewart**

Lifestyle Icon Talks '1860s' Approach to Equality, Same-Sex Weddings & How Gays 'Step Up Their Game' In Her Midst

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

You don't have to tell Martha Stewart that gay men love her like their own mother.

The influential entrepreneur and domestic diva's deep-rooted connection to the LGBTQ community goes beyond special appearances on "Ugly Betty" and "Ellen," when she appeared as herself in a 1995 episode of the groundbreaking sitcom. Stewart, throughout her half-century-long career, has long embodied a quality near and dear to the queer community: perfection. After all, before "live your best life" was a meme, it was Stewart's honed methodology.

Could that affinity for precision and flawlessness – for the perfect Christmas ham, the perfect vegetable garden, the perfect dating persona – be why Stewart is very clued into the fact that many gay men perceive her as a mother figure?

It's a relationship worth exploring, and during my tight 15 minutes with Stewart I dove into the lifestyle maven's personal affiliations with many LGBTQ people: her nephew, Christopher Herbert, as well as her dearest gay friends, whom she hosts at her various homes. While "in a car, so any confusion, blame the cell service," Stewart, 76, was reflective and laid-back as she served up a savory platter of gay talk: Her age-appropriate philosophy on equality, gays who host Stewart at their get-togethers (she jokes, though she can't possibly be kidding, that it "ups their game"), and her memories of transforming, unforgettably and stunningly, into '40s film icon Veronica Lake for late, gay makeup artist Kevyn Aucoin.

I've really appreciated the inclusivity on VH1's "Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party," with guests ranging from LGBTQ icons like Patti LaBelle and Kathy Griffin to gay TV personality Ross Mathews and also Laverne Cox. How aware are you of being LGBTQ inclusive when it comes to this show and also your career as a whole?

Oh, thank you. Well, we're kind of in the showbiz world and being inclusive, that just sort of goes with the terrain.

I don't care who the person is; I care about what the person does, and how they do it.



Photo: Fadil Berisha

Martha Stewart Weddings magazine famously introduced same-sex couples into its pages in 2009, with Jeremy Hooper and Andrew Shulman sharing their vows with family and friends in Litchfield, Connecticut. Why was it important to be at the forefront of marriage equality in that way, and what did that moment mean to you?

I believe in “all men are created equal.” I think I go back to the 1860s, and before! (Laughs) And I don’t think any compromise is necessary. I think it’s absolutely a fact that all men are created equal, and so I just treated people like equals my entire life. Equals in every single way, no matter what their proclivity is or what their sexuality is, or their color or their race. It doesn’t matter to me.

That wedding issue was a big deal as it was one of the first mainstream wedding magazines to have featured a gay couple’s wedding, and then there was another in 2011.

I know! And that was my nephew. That was Christopher Herbert marrying a Native American man (Timothy Long).

Seeing as though gay marriage wasn’t even recognized legally coast to coast then, were Martha-worshipping housewives open to displays of same-sex affection?

It was legal in Massachusetts, where they actually got married. I went to their wedding. They had a pre-wedding in Massachusetts, which was the legal wedding, and then they had the family celebration at my farm, which was another tying of the knot. The ceremony and that Celtic tying of the knot was so beautiful.

Was that the best same-sex wedding you’ve been to?

I’d say it’s one of them – I’ve been to a lot! I mean, I have a lot of gay editors, both male and female. One of our style directors at Weddings got married and he had a fantastic wedding at a nightclub in Brooklyn. That was so fun, and that was also featured in the magazine. And I’ve been to several female weddings. You know, every wedding is special to me.

Is it intimidating for people to host Martha Stewart at their wedding?

I don’t know if it’s intimidating, but I think it ups their game a little bit! (Laughs)

What do you look for at a same-sex wedding?

I like to see what the couple is wearing. I like to see how they handle relatives. But I don’t differentiate a gay wedding from a straight wedding. I just don’t differentiate. I just went to Steven Gambrel’s wedding. That was so beautiful! He’s a very famous, very wealthy interior designer, and he married his longtime partner at their beautiful home in Sag Harbor, Long Island. It was an extraordinary evening. The father of Steven’s partner got up and said, “This is our family’s first gay wedding,” and he said, “It’s a momentous occasion for our family and we embrace it.” It was one of the nicest father speeches I’ve heard at a wedding. Everybody sort of wanted to cry because he was visibly uncomfortable and yet accepting at the same time. It was very moving.

You also attended out Chanel designer Karl Lagerfeld’s A-list tribute party in October.

Oh my god, that was a fantastic party! Mariah Carey singing! She sang a couple of songs for Karl dressed in a Chanel sequined dress that was, you know, perfectly clinging. It was beautiful, and Karl was so thrilled.

Growing up in New Jersey in the ’40s and ’50s, what was your introduction to the LGBTQ community?

In my class, I knew that several of the boys were gay. It wasn’t talked about, and nobody made fun of them. Nutley High School was a pretty liberal but also quiet school, so there were some gay boys that we knew, and I think one or two girls. But they hadn’t come out, and the boys really were not out, if you want to use that word. But they were definitely gay.

And then in our own family, I had one cousin who was gay who lives in Buffalo and then my nephew is gay, and I think even though he didn’t come out until college, we all sort of knew he was gay. My daughter who has radar like crazy, Alexis, who I’m sure you know, she knows. And my mother didn’t have a clue. It wasn’t part of her lifestyle. She just didn’t have those friends.

Snoop Dogg has said that you love to get him drunk. Do you have a gay friend who’s especially good at getting you drunk?

See Martha, page 19

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Ann Arbor Theater Turns Again to its Inner Brit for the Holidays

Theatre Nova Presents 'The Year Without a Panto Claus'

BY ENCORE MICHIGAN STAFF

Theatre NOVA presents the world premiere of "The Year Without a Panto Claus" by Carla Milarch and R. MacKenzie Lewis, running now through Dec. 31.

2017 was a bummer of a year. When Santa gets depressed, he decides to pack it in and disappear. Two of his elves search far and near looking for some genuine Christmas cheer. Arriving at

a few decidedly un-Christmas-y locations, they face the wrath of the Heat and Snow Miser twins, the tropical town's grumpy citizens and a mysterious Russian bombshell named Vixen. Bring the whole family to laugh, boo, hiss and sing your way through another fun-filled night of heroes and villains, updated pop songs, holiday favorites and merriment.

"The Year Without a Panto Claus" features Ramona Burns, Lisa Michaels and Scott Screws and is directed by Melissa Freilich. The production and design team includes R. Mackenzie Lewis (music director/composer), Forrest Hejkal (scenic design), Cal Schwartz (costume design), Allan McMillan (lighting design), Becky Fox (props) and Michelle Resnick (stage manager).

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Fridays, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for kids (16 years and under). Theatre NOVA continues to make theatre accessible by offering pay-what-you-can tickets for those who need them.

For tickets, visit TheatreNOVA.org, call 734-635-8450 (Tuesdays through Fridays from noon -- 3 p.m.), or buy them in person at the box office one hour before showtime.

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"Martha & Snoop's Potluck Dinner Party" airs on VH1. Photo courtesy of VH1

► Martha

Continued from p. 17

I don't like getting drunk, so not necessarily, no.

Tipsy?

If I get tipsy, it's probably because I haven't eaten anything. I don't get up saying, "Oh, I'm gonna get drunk today." I just don't do that.

Is entertaining a group of sophisticated gay men the ultimate challenge?

No. Again, I don't differentiate if I have a group of gay men (over). I just don't ever think that way. I don't differentiate. (Artbag business owner) Christopher Moore came to my house recently with four gay friends just to look at the gardens and I gave them cappuccinos and they were happy. I actually didn't have any food in the house, so I couldn't give them anything to eat, but they were perfectly happy. I just don't ever think that way. I don't differentiate.

Wait, let's back up, Martha. You didn't have any food in your house?

Well, nothing except eggs. I could've made them scrambled eggs. I thought after, "I probably should have fed them something"... but I didn't. (Laughs)

Is it true that Cher was the one who convinced you to work with famous late, gay makeup artist Kevyn Aucoin when he photographed you as Veronica Lake for his 2000 book "Face Forward"?

No, I knew who Kevyn Aucoin was, and he was such an amazing makeup artist. And I like doing things like that. I have a face that can become other people. And I just thought, "Oh, god, what an opportunity." He did such an amazing job.

In the gay community and beauty world, those photos are quite legendary.

Oh, I know who it was! It was the guy who

worked for me (Alex Peruzzi). He's Linda Evangelista in the book – he was head of merchandising in my craft department. A very handsome boy.

How do you reflect on that shoot?

I didn't know that Kevyn was suffering from a pretty hideous disease, but I did remark on the size of his hands. He had that disease that enlarged appendages. His hands, his feet, everything was oversized. And I couldn't believe that someone with such monster hands – these big hands – could do such delicate makeup work, but he did. He did amazing, amazing work. It was an art form of his to see a structure of a face and turn it into another face.

Looking back, have any gay people influenced your fondness for decadence or even your path to becoming a lifestyle icon?

No, not really. Although when I was catering (Stewart launched a catering business in the '70s) many of the young men who were my waiters were gay, and they still are. The gay community works a lot in the catering business in New York; they are either actors or artists and they need to make money, so they make money in catering. But they were all chosen on skill and aptitude for the kind of job they were doing, and they were all great. But my daughter and I both have lots of gay friends. My closest friend is Kevin Sharkey and he's also like the surrogate uncle to Alexis (and her family) and he lives in their same building, and he's Tio Kevin to them. I even introduce him playfully to friends as my gay son.

I want to be Martha Stewart's gay son.

Lots of his friends would like to be Martha's gay son!

How does one achieve Martha Stewart "gay son" status?

He's worked for (me for) 18 years, that's how! He worked his way up!

Steph White

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SASHA VELOUR

Ru Paul Drag Race Winner at Necto

BY BTL STAFF

On her website, Sasha Velour describes herself as a “gender-fluid drag queen and designer currently living in Brooklyn, NY.” She is also the creative director of Velour: The Drag Magazine, and produces the critically-acclaimed monthly drag show called Nightgowns. NEXT magazine described Nightgowns as “a signature blend of thoughtful, politically-charged, emotional drag.” Velour is also a visual artist, who’s art has been featured in a variety of publications like Posture, QU33R, Cicada, The Nib, InkBRICK, Comics Workbook Magazine and in several solo gallery shows. But Velour is perhaps best known for being the season nine winner of “RuPaul’s Drag Race.”

On Friday, Dec. 8, Velour will headline a show at Ann Arbor’s Necto Nightclub, hosted by Chanel Hunter and Jadein Black.

The performance will include two shows, the first beginning at 9:45 p.m., with an encore set at midnight. The midnight show will be followed by a fan meet and greet photo opportunity. Meet and greet tickets can be purchased online, along with VIP services and upgrades.

Necto’s resident pride night DJs, DJ Jace and DJ Digi Mark, will be maintaining the music all night in both the main room and the red room.

Doors open at 9 p.m. 18+ welcome with ID. Cover costs \$5 for those 21 and over, and \$10 for those under 21. Express entry and meet and greet tickets are available for \$25 at gaybe.am/Ln. For more information about the event, contact VIP@necto.com. Necto Nightclub is located at 516 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor.

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UMS Presents J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio

BY BTL STAFF

Johann Sebastian Bach wrote over 200 church cantatas, and the Bach Collegium Japan is intent on performing every one of them – and in fact did so, in chronological order, from 1995 to 2013. The group will be performing in a show presented by the University of Michigan Musical Society on Dec. 8, at 8 p.m. at the Hill Auditorium.

Additionally, the group recorded all of the cantatas in an effort that took 18 years and resulted in 55 discs. Bach’s oratorio is written in six parts, each celebrating one of the major feast days of the Christmas period. The Bach Collegium brings its signature crispness and purity to a beloved Bach masterpiece, highlighting the polyphonic wonder of Bach’s cantatas that were written to celebrate Jesus’ birth.



Photo courtesy of Marco Borggreve

The Hill Auditorium can be found at 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. For more information, visit ums.org.



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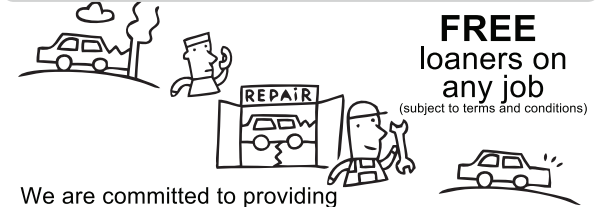
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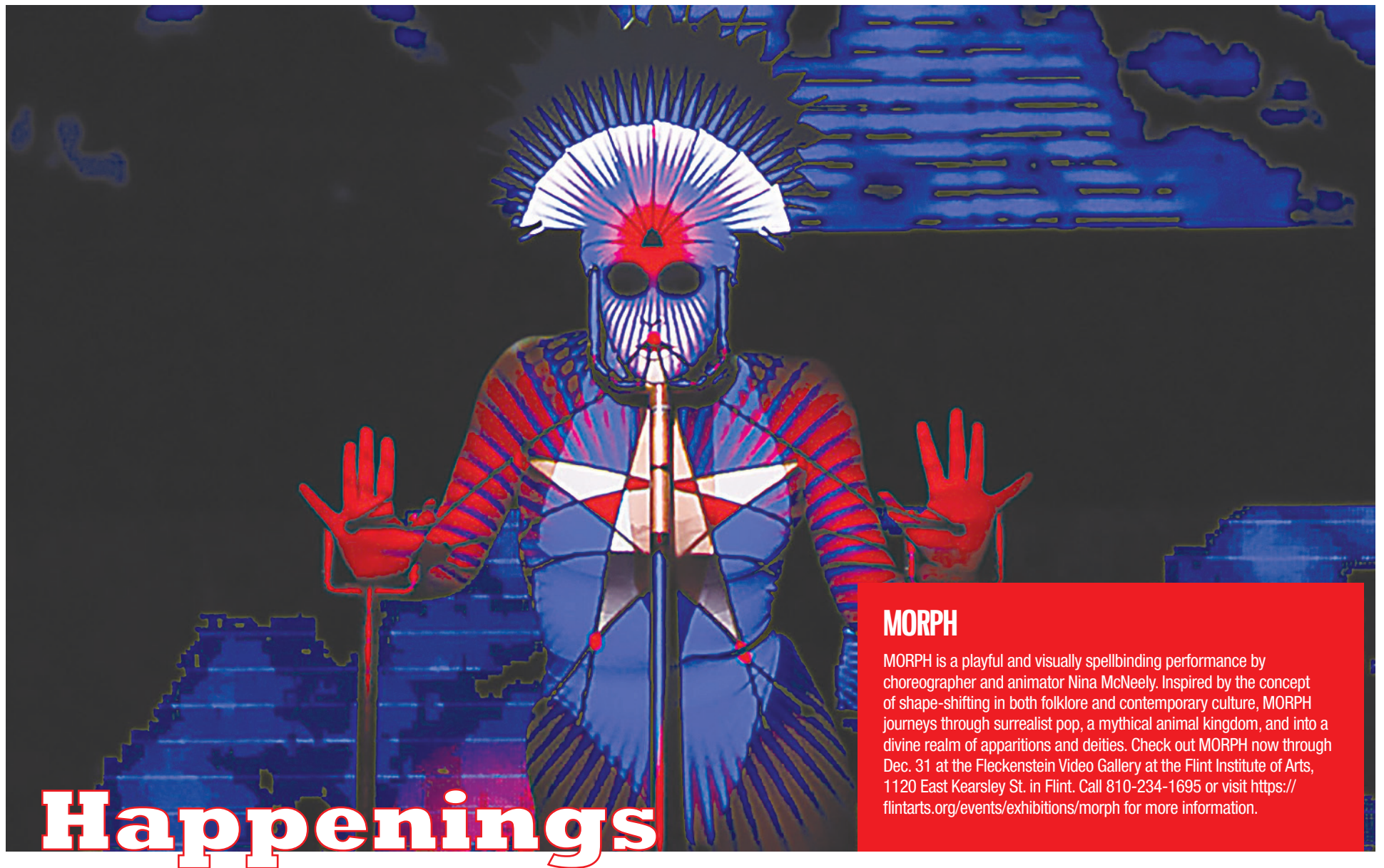
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MORPH is a playful and visually spellbinding performance by choreographer and animator Nina McNeely. Inspired by the concept of shape-shifting in both folklore and contemporary culture, MORPH journeys through surrealist pop, a mythical animal kingdom, and into a divine realm of apparitions and deities. Check out MORPH now through Dec. 31 at the Fleckenstein Video Gallery at the Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 East Kearsley St. in Flint. Call 810-234-1695 or visit <https://flintarts.org/events/exhibitions/morph> for more information.

OUTINGS

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

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

Career Fair for LGBTQ+ Youth 6 p.m. Sponsored by Affirmations and Stand with Trans, this event will provide LGBTQ+ youth an opportunity to learn about various career paths, how to pursue their dream job and offer access to affirming businesses (local and national) in a casual, safe setting. Hosted at Affirmations and presented by the XTL Youth Workforce Development program, the event is FREE to all attendees. Refreshments will be available. Stand With Trans, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. lunger@goaffirmations.org 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

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

Sunday, Dec. 10

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

Monday, Dec. 11

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

standwithtrans.org

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Transcend 6:30 p.m. For transgender and gender non-conforming individuals OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. www.outfrontkzoo.org

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

Thursday, Dec. 14

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

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

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

Support group for parents and transgender youth 7 p.m. Youth meet in the "youth lounge." Parents meet in

room 100. Second and fourth Thursday of each month. Stand with Trans, 30450 Farmington Road, **Farmington Hills**. 248-739-9254. roz@standwithtrans.org www.standwithtrans.org

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

Friday, Dec. 15

Woman 2 Woman 5:30 p.m. For lesbian, transgender and bi-attractual individuals. RSVP to Sharron Fincher via email. Woman 2 Woman, 20025 Greenfield Road, **Detroit**. sharronfincher@gbtdetroit.org www.lgbtdetroit.org

Saturday, Dec. 16

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

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

Editor's Pick

Bystander Intervention Training

In response to the alarming increase in hate crimes and attacks against immigrant, Muslim, LGBTQ+ and other vulnerable populations in our communities, the Jackson Pride Center and Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice will host the Bystander Intervention Training from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Dec. 16. Learn skills and techniques to help keep each other safe with Sheri Wander from the Meta Peace Team and other certified ICPJ facilitators at the Jackson Pride Center, 801 S. Mechanic St. in Jackson. Pre-registration is required. Visit www.facebook.com/jxnmipride/ for details.



Sunday, Dec. 17

PFLAG Meeting 2 p.m. Info and Support Meeting PFLAG Tri-Cities, 2525 Hemminger Road, Saginaw Township. 989-971-7085. leishashaler@gmail.com www.pflag.org

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

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

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

Monday, Dec. 18

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

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

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

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

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

MUSIC & MORE

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

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

Okemos Community Church "Let There Be Peace on Earth Christmas Concert" Okemos Community Church Chancel Choir presents a free Christmas Concert. Accompanied by piano, organ and a string orchestra and directed by Steve Martin. A free dessert reception follows. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. 7 p.m. Dec. 16. 517-349-4220. <https://m.facebook.com/events/164240470986138>

Sing Out Detroit "Chill Out" Come out and Chill Out! with Sing Out Detroit. Don't miss this fun afternoon of cool jazz and 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>

Static Network "Home for the Holiday Songwriter Showcase & Charity Drive" The event brings together local performers for one evening of acoustic music for a good cause. The donations and proceeds from the event go towards purchasing food and winter clothing items that are distributed to homeless people and animals thru our selected charities. www.pjslagerhouse.com. 21 & over are welcome. Admission is \$5 with one can of people or pet food or winter clothing item or \$6 without. Boots, blankets, socks and hats are much needed items this year. PJs Lagerhouse, 1254 Michigan Avenue, Detroit. 8 p.m. Dec. 14. 313-961-4668. www.pjslagerhouse.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>

The Ringwald Theater "The SantaLand Diaries & Season's Greetings" This delightful anti holiday treat makes it's annual return to the Ringwald for another round of twisted holiday fun! Contact the Ringwald for ticket info. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Dec. 14 - Dec. 18. 248-545-5545. www.theringwald.com

Other

See Happenings, page 25



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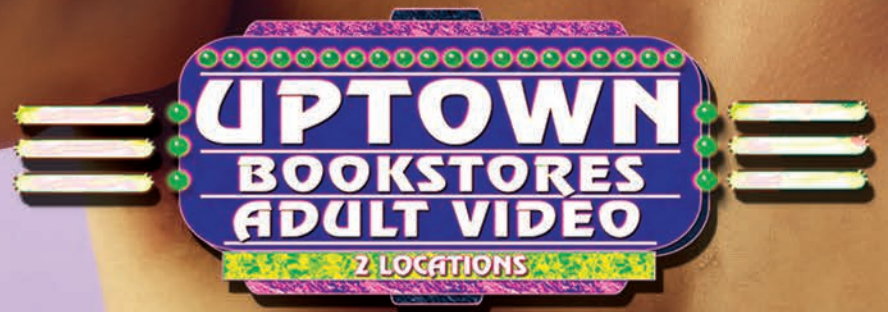
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Editor's Pick

ArtLab J Winter Party

ArtLab J, founded in 2012, will host a winter party in their new location, the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit at 111 E. Kirby St, on Dec. 16. The party starts at 4 p.m. before the Detroit Dance Race at 6 p.m. The event gives emerging and professional choreographers an opportunity and location to present their work. One of the performances will be chosen by the audience to return and perform at the Detroit Institute of Arts with ArtLab J in the 2018 Spring Dance Concert. Winter party tickets: \$25, includes food and performance; \$15 for performance only. Visit www.artlabj.com/detroit-dance-race/ for more information.



Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Dec. 10. 313-833-7900. www.mosaicdetroit.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. Through Dec. 17. 313-577-2960. www.theatredanceatwayne.com

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

The 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

you'll never forget! Broadway In Detroit, Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Through Dec. 10. 313-237-SING. tickets@motopera.org

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

Woodward Wonderland: A Detroit Holiday Celebration This production is a true celebration of Detroit, bringing together professional caliber youth talent along with the legendary stories of the city's past and today. \$27. Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, Detroit Film Theatre inside the Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100

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. Peter Pan Jr. is suitable for ages four and up. Additional information is available by visiting 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

▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 23

Broadway In Detroit "Christmas Wonderland" A spectacular holiday show for the entire family! Tickets available @ ticketmaster.com or Fisher Theatre box office. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. Dec. 12 - Dec. 17. 313-872-1000. BroadwayInDetroit.com

THEATER

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

ART 'N' AROUND

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

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

Flint Institute of Arts "The Art of Containment" 50 plus Vessels from Bloomfield Hills resident Sidney Swidler's Collection, curated & amassed over 30 years! Tickets: Adults \$7, Kids \$5, Senior Citizens \$5, Free under 12, FREE SATURDAYS! Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Oct. 11 - March 18. 810-234-1695. <https://flintarts.org>

Flint Institute of Arts "Size Matters" Big and small works from the FIA Collection Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Sep. 16 - Dec. 30. 8102341695. flintarts.org

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

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

Pewabic Pottery "Holiday Shopping Night!" Holiday shopping night with holiday treats, wine and coffee. Pewabic Pottery, 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit. 6 p.m. Dec. 13. 313-626-2000. www.pewabic.org

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 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

Yourist Studio Gallery "Yourist Studio Gallery Annual Holiday Show and Sale" Join us to enjoy new ceramic art, good company, festive food and drink, and seasonal conviviality. Opening Friday, Dec 8, 5-8pm. Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway, Ann Arbor. Dec. 8 - Dec. 10. 734-662-4914. www.youristpottery.com/

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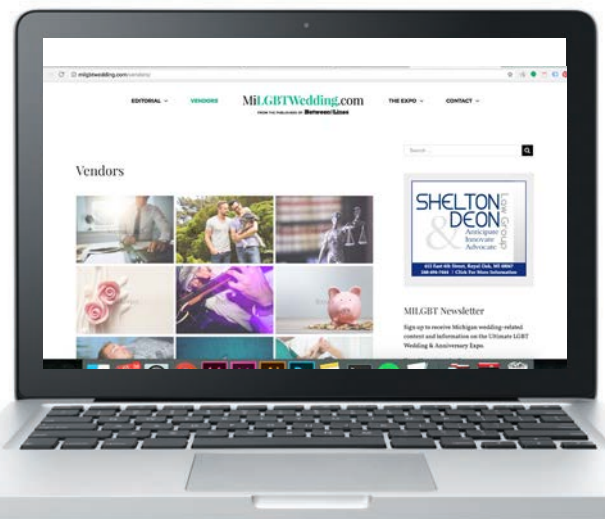
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The OutField

It's a Big LGBT Sports World Out There

BY DAN WOOG

In the beginning, there was nothing. If you were an LGBT athlete, coach or fan, you were on your own. You had no idea there were others like you anywhere in the sports world. You thought you were alone. Though men and women were coming out in every other area – politics, entertainment, even the military – the locker room door remained firmly shut.

Over the course of a couple of decades, of course, that's changed. There are now countless ways for LGBT people to connect with, learn from, be inspired by and, in turn, inspire others. Here are some of the biggest – and some you may never have heard of.

Outsports

The granddaddy of it all is Outsports. Since 1999, the website (www.outsports.com) has covered the LGBT sports world with a keen, insightful eye. Its bread-and-butter is coming-out stories (everyone from Michael Sam to obscure NAIA water polo players) and news (like lawsuits alleging discrimination, and teams hosting Pride nights). In 2017, reading about athletes coming out may seem like the same-old, same-old – until you realize that it's a new experience for the person telling the tale. And no matter what sport you play, overcoming adversity never gets old.

Gay Games

The Gay Games have been held every four years, since 1982. They've grown into a worldwide sporting and cultural event, open to all without regard to sexual orientation. Like Outsports, the concept can seem dated – until you see the power in numbers at one of the quadrennial events. The next Gay Games are set for this coming August, in Paris. Yes, gay Paree.

Changing the Game

GLSEN – the national organization working to make K-12 schools safe, affirming places for all students regardless of sexual orientation or expression – sponsors Changing the Game. The sports project offers resources for student-athletes, coaches, phys ed teachers and



Former baseball player Billy Bean provided guidance and training to players, managers and team and league staffers on LGBT issues.

parents. As anyone who has spent any time in any school knows, the attitudes of coaches and players goes a long way toward determining the environment of the building.

Other Resources

Resources are also available from It Takes a Team. That project – sponsored by the Women's Sports Foundation – works on eliminating homophobia in sports. And, true to its “team” concept, it focuses on men as well as women.

The National Center for Lesbian Rights has a Sports Project that addresses legal issues. The organization has done landmark work assisting coaches who have been fired, as well as with coaches who demonstrate anti-LGBT behavior.

Equality Coaching Alliance is an online forum. Operating primarily through Facebook, it provides a safe space for coaches to ask for – and receive – advice about being out (or not) in the workplace.

Also online: the Gay and Lesbian Athletics Foundation. The group works to enhance the visibility of LGBT athletes as positive role models.

Many groups working in the LGBT sports space involve allies. You Can Play was founded by Patrick Burke to honor his brother Brendan. The Burkes are a noted hockey family; Brendan, a gay man, showed Patrick what the locker room is like for LGBT athletes. You Can Play has posted scores of inspiring videos, filmed by high school, college

and professional teams and entire athletic departments and leagues. All deliver the same message: Anyone who can play a sport is welcome.

Another important group is Athlete Ally. Founded by University of Maryland wrestler Hudson Taylor, the non-profit provides public awareness campaigns, educational programming and resources to foster inclusive sports communities. The program includes “ambassadors” from over 80 colleges, and more than 100 professional athletes.

Ambassador for Inclusion

The proliferation of LGBT organizations has reached into the top levels of pro sports. In 2014, Major League Baseball became the first big-time sport to appoint an “ambassador for inclusion.” Former player – and openly gay man – Billy Bean provided guidance and training to players, managers and team and league staffers on LGBT issues, in the minor leagues as well as majors. He developed training programs to fight sexism and prejudice, as well as homophobia. Earlier this year, Bean was promoted to vice president and special assistant to commissioner Rob Manfred.

NFL Pride Initiative

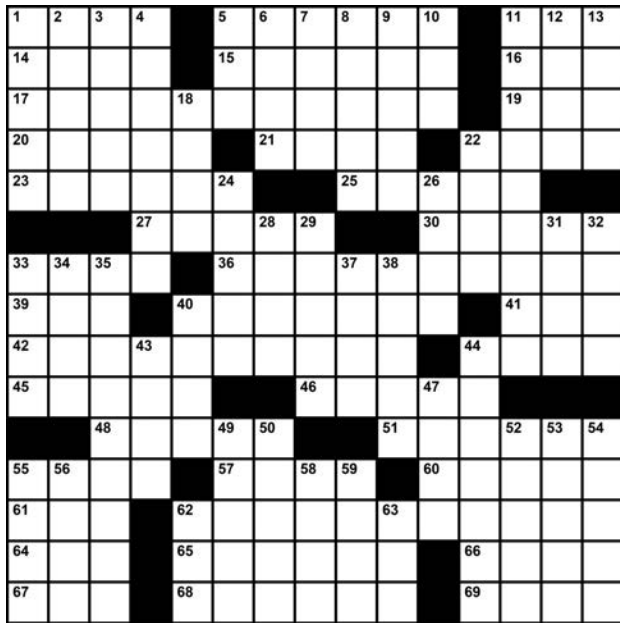
Two months ago, the NFL launched a Pride initiative. Part of the Diversity Council – and originated by two gay league employees – its aim is to “heighten sensitivity to the LGBTQ community (and reinforce) commitment to an inclusive environment in which all employees are welcome.”

That's several steps beyond what professional teams in all sports have done: promote “Pride” events. Sure, they're a way to sell tickets. But, done with creativity – as when the Los Angeles Dodgers highlight gay couples on their Kiss Cam – they're also a way to celebrate LGBT fans who buy those tickets.

We've come a long way from the days when “LGBT sports” was an oxymoron. But the fact that so many initiatives exist means we've still got a ways to go.

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach and gay activist. His latest book is “We Kick Balls: True Stories from the Youth Soccer Wars.” He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

Q Puzzle



Plummer's Helper

Across

- 1 Prick
5 Rubbed with rubber
11 Some go to hail to get one
14 Circle over St. Peter's head
15 Like some candle at St. Mary's
16 Park of NYC
17 With 36-Across, current movie with a major role recast
19 Magneto to the X-Men
20 "Fabu!"

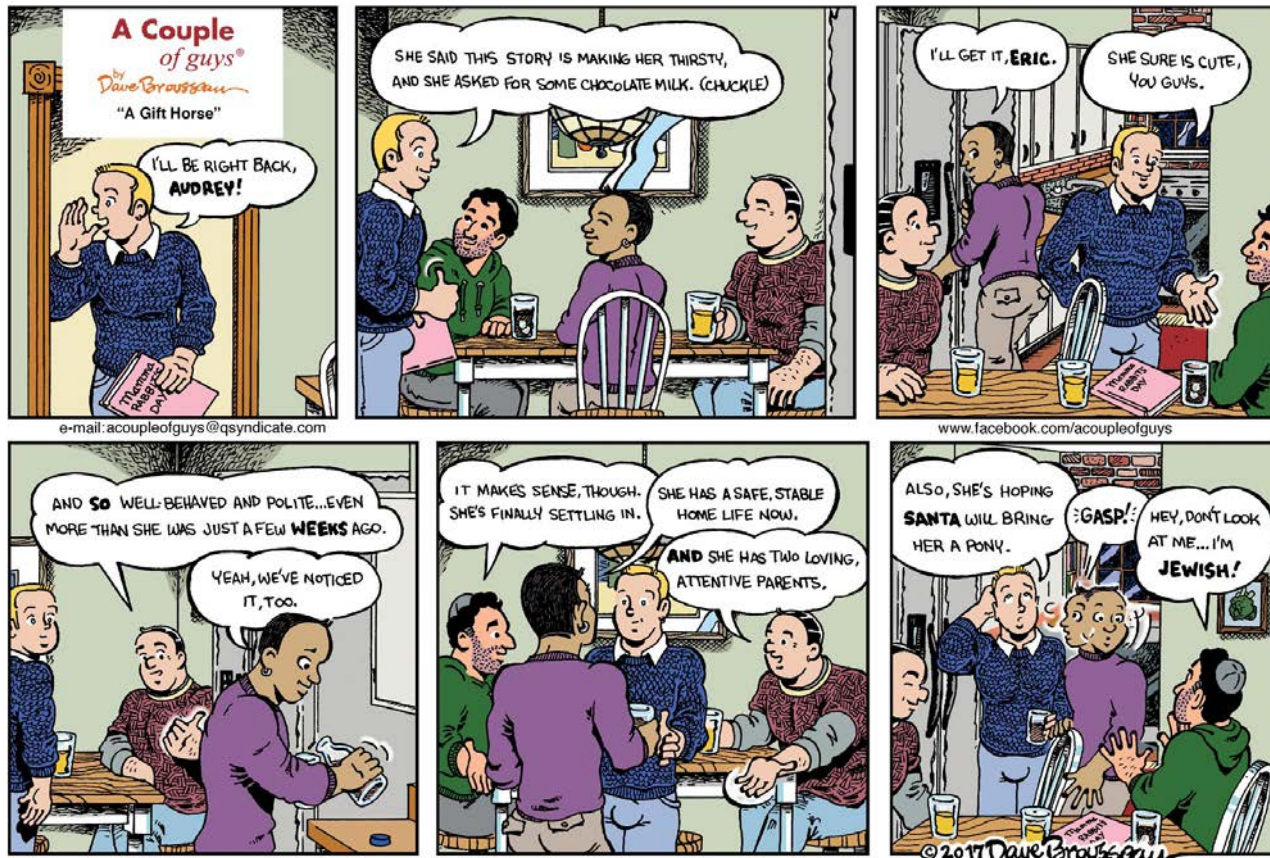
- 21 France's Côte d' _____
22 Where Boy Scouts sleep together
23 Toward Dinah?
25 Patron of Wilde's homeland, briefly
27 Angelou with some Mexicans of old?
30 Joe Cocker's "You _____ Beautiful"
33 Stonewall Jackson's soldiers
36 See 17-Across
39 Tin Woodsman's tool

- 40 Calls for
41 Three of Caesar's people
42 Recast character in this puzzle's movie
44 Liberace fabric
45 Major blood carrier
46 "A Room of One's Own," e.g.
48 Nuts to a lesser degree
51 Periodical boners
55 Ornament in "Cleopatra," perhaps
57 Chains around a knight
60 Shakespeare's Andronicus
61 Honolulu gift
62 Director who recast Christopher Plummer in the role of 42-Across
64 Son of Prince Valiant
65 Noble or Valby
66 "No" voter
67 Signal that goes either way
68 Least significant
69 Cruise obnoxiously

Down

- 1 Her name is Alexander
2 Maupin stories
3 Islam's deity
4 Copulatory recipients
5 Second person
6 Nero's city
7 All-inclusive
8 Source of stuff that may run down your face
9 Frequent foe of Navratilova
10 Laurie Partridge portrayer Susan
11 Where students eat it
12 Shakespeare's river
13 _____ poet (Ginsberg as a vegetarian?)
18 60 minutes with Frida
22 Source of poi
24 Initial gay bar activity
26 Fondles clumsily
28 Initial stake
29 Tennessee, but not Williams
31 Like a Muscle Mary who does sit-ups
32 Garfield's pal
33 Indian head
34 Trade show, for short
35 Hides of hairy guys?
37 Flirts with, with "on"
38 Meredith's "Family Ties" role
40 Zip
43 Place for Young men?
44 Like Lord Byron's works
47 They're performing, in "Fame"
49 Nellie-lover in "South Pacific"
50 "M*A*S*H" company clerk
52 In accord
53 "Così fan _____"
54 No longer lying with one's partner
55 Melodramatic cry
56 Peter by the piano
58 Eurhythmics' "Would _____ to You?"
59 Part of Mapplethorpe's equipment
62 Band fronted by Michael Stipe
63 "But on the other hand..."

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com



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Affirmations Hosts Holiday Arts and Crafts Bazaar

BY BTL STAFF

The holiday season is in mid-swing and the need for holiday gifts is fast-approaching. For those stuck in a gift-buying rut, Affirmations' Holiday Arts and Crafts Bazaar could be the solution. The weekend-long bazaar will feature 12 vendors, offering a variety of last-minute holiday gifts, such as art, jewelry, painting, knitting/crocheted items and pottery. The bazaar will be hosted by members of Affirmations' XTL (Cross the Line) Youth program, which focuses on career building for LGBTQ and ally youth, over the course of 16 weeks.

The Holiday Arts and Crafts Bazaar will be held inside the Affirmations Community Center on Friday, Dec. 15, from 4-9 p.m., and Saturday, Dec. 16, from 1-6 p.m. The center is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.

JFON Provides Legal Help for LGBTQ Immigrants

Although immigration issues are often featured prominently in U.S. news, rarely are the struggles of the LGBTQ people within that community taken into account. GLAAD estimates that across the nation, there are nearly 300,000 people who fall into this category, not all of whom fall within the requirements of immigration policies like the 2012 Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals.

Dissecting issues of this nature can be difficult, but organizations like the Justice for Our Neighbors United Methodist Immigration Ministry are providing resources for LGBTQ immigrants. On the second Thursday of every month, the Grand Rapids Pride Center hosts JFON West Michigan office hours for anyone seeking help.

Walk-in appointments are welcome, and JFON-WM features free, immigration legal services for people who are at or under 200 percent of the poverty level – in 2017, U.S. federal poverty guidelines listed people making \$12,060 or less at the poverty threshold. JFON focuses its work on humanitarian-based immigration cases. This can include cases for people seeking asylum in the U.S., refugees, unaccompanied minors, DACA, victims of domestic violence, human trafficking and family reunification.

Grand Rapids Pride Center 343 Atlas Ave., S. E. Grand Rapids, 1-4 p.m.

Local Support for the Transgender Community Needed

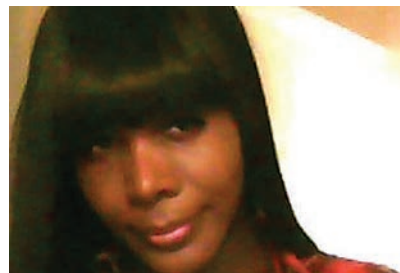
BY BTL STAFF

Last month, the Detroit transgender community was hit with two tragedies. Here are two fundraising campaigns that seek to benefit those affected.

Chocolate's Medical Expenses

When Chocolate was walking in the 17800 block of Woodward Avenue, near Worcester last November, she couldn't have predicted what would happen. Two men pulled up in a red GMC Yukon and threatened the transgender woman with a semi-automatic rifle. After sustaining three shots to her back and arm, Chocolate has lost the feeling in her left side.

Although her attackers have since been



Chocolate is a transgender woman who was attacked while walking on the 17800 block of Woodward near Worcester. A GoFundMe campaign on her behalf is raising money for her medical expenses.

Emani Love is a local transgender activist whose mother recently died. A YouCaring fund is raising money to help Love with her expenses while she is between jobs.



apprehended, Chocolate is still in critical condition. TG Detroit is sponsoring a GoFundMe campaign to help her with her medical expenses. So far, the group has raised \$1,300 of their \$5,000 goal.

Visit gofundme.com for more information about how to help with Chocolate's Medical Expenses.

Grief & Healing Fund for Emani Love

After Emani Love was expelled from high school at 15, she felt lost until she made her way to the Ruth Ellis Center. There, she not only was able to solidify her own identity as a transgender woman, but began youth-oriented activism at the center. Today, Love maintains her

activism and remains a vocal advocate for poor, black and LGBTQ people in Detroit. She has also travelled across the nation to teach about gender and transgender liberation.

In mid-November, Love's mother died, leaving Love to grieve while she transitioned between work. To aid Love while she goes through this difficult time, a YouCaring campaign was started. Currently, it is still shy of its \$5,000 goal.

"If anyone would like to donate in anyway (a dish, monetary or words of encouragement) to assist my family please reach out, Facebook is fine," Love said in a post on her campaign. "Thank you and all is appreciated during this difficult time. I need all my warriors to build a prayer fence around us."

Local Transgender Activist Throws Holiday Party for a Cause

BY BTL STAFF

Julisa Abad isn't originally from the Detroit area, but since she moved here, she's been an outspoken activist for the local transgender community.

In BTL last March, Abad emphasized the lack of awareness surrounding transgender issues.

"There is a lack of attention to the very real issues that are placing trans women of color in danger to begin with," she said. "We need to increase the service options available to support us as we are some of the area's most vulnerable people."

This year, Abad hopes to chip away at that need throughout the holiday season. She is also a transgender advocate at Fair Michigan, and has cooperated up with the Detroit Police Department LGBT Advisory Board to put on A

Trans Holiday Soiree. The event is also partially sponsored by her organization TeamABAD, which is dedicated to addressing the high rates of homelessness in the transgender community, particularly regarding trans women of color.

On TeamABAD's GoFundMe page, Abad cites that 60 percent of trans women of color earn less than \$10,000 annually, and are four times more likely to be experiencing homelessness or violence than cisgender people. Along with it being a party meant to raise awareness of these issues, the Soiree will include HIV testing, raffles, holiday giveaways, food, music and winter essentials to aid the local transgender community.

A Trans Holiday Soiree will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16, at Menjos Entertainment Complex, located at 928/950 W. McNichols Road, Detroit, from 5:30-8 p.m.

#teamABAD

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Saturday, December 16, 2017
5pm - 8:30pm

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Detroit, MI 48203

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Give-Aways
Raffles

Wrigley's

Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'WOW Presents Plus' is going to be extra

Randy Barbato and Fenton Bailey, the gays behind World of Wonder production company, have a streaming service that plans to answer the question, "What are Bob The Drag Queen and Jinkx Monsoon doing right now?" The service recently launched with a slate of original programming tailor made for fans of "RuPaul's Drag Race" (translation: you). Shows will include "Bobbin' Around with Bob the Drag Queen," travelogue of sorts where Bob TDQ zooms around the globe being Bob; "Marco Marco's Models," which follows the adventures of the Los Angeles designer's army of alt-models in their underwear; "Detox's Life Rehab," in which Detox helps you live your best life – and presumably lip sync better – and "Cool Mom with Jinkx Monsoon," where Jinkx and her 29 year-old gay son talk about smoking weed and hooking up with guys. In other words, it's an all-queer Viceland in the making and we're here for it. Take our \$3.99 a month, WOW.

GLAAD funds 'TransMilitary'

GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, is moving in a new direction. The organization's Media Institute is giving a grant to finance its first feature film, a documentary called "TransMilitary." The film will follow four service personnel, all transgender, as they perform their jobs and also join the fight against Donald Trump's proposed ban on transgender soldiers. The film will be co-directed by Fiona Dawson and Gabriel Silverman, and produced by Jamie Coughlin. The three previously created the 2015 doc "Transgender, At War and In Love." No word on when the project will be finished and ready to make the queer film festival rounds and make Republicans lose their minds, but its urgency and timeliness couldn't be more real, so we'll assume they're working round the clock to get it on screens.

Eva Longoria's 'Lucky Boy' aims for cable fortune

Eva Longoria's UnbeliEVable Entertainment production company is currently developing a series based on the book "Lucky Boy," based on Shanthi Sekaran's book about two female immigrants who fight to protect an American child. David Schulner ("Do No Harm"), who worked with Longoria on "Desperate Housewives," will write, and lesbian filmmaker Nisha Ganatra ("Chutney Popcorn," "Transparent") is signed on to direct. The story follows a woman named Soli, an undocumented



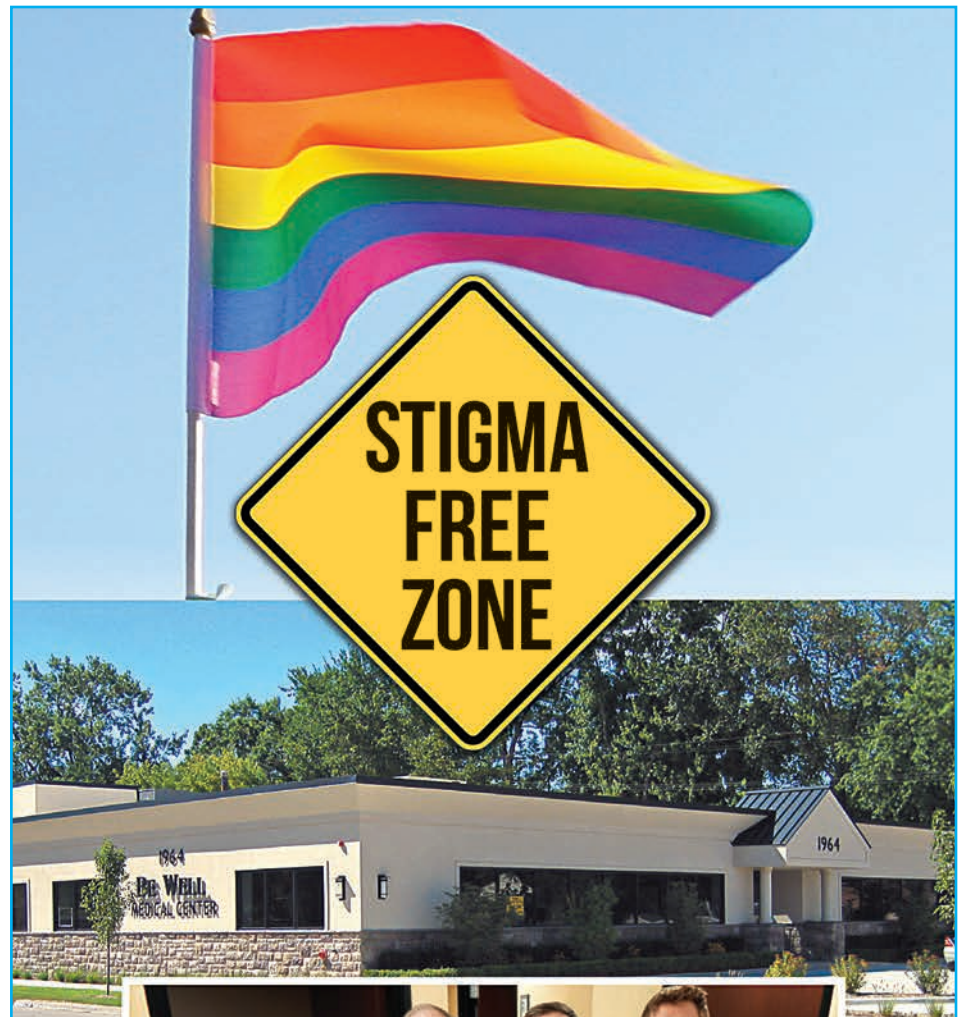
Leslie Jordan. Photo: S. Buckley

immigrant, whose life intersects with an Indian-American woman named Kavya, who is trying to conceive a child. This is a pilot, of course, so nothing is certain, but when it's finished it will be shopped to streaming channels as well as premium cable, where all the interesting stories seem to go these days. The topic of immigration is once again a political football (or sledgehammer if you're on the xenophobic right), so let's hope this one gets a shot.

Leslie Jordan is at the 'Cool Kids' table

"The Golden Girls" meets "It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia" in the pilot for Fox's new retirement community comedy, "Cool Kids." And we say "Always Sunny" because the show is being co-created by "Sunny" star Charlie Day and co-produced by fellow cast members Rob McElhenney and Glenn Howerton. The pilot stars Leslie Jordan ("Will & Grace"), David Alan Grier ("In Living Color"), Martin Mull ("Roseanne") and Vicki Lawrence ("The Carol Burnett Show") as four friends jockeying for position as top dogs at their retirement home. We'll just assume that Jordan's character is gay, because a specific sort of brash queerness is pretty much his trademark across all sorts of comedy media, and that's also why we love him. And we could use a senior queer sitcom regular on TV these days, if for no other reason than LGBTQ Baby Boomers are entering their retirement years and about to fill up the nation's senior facilities. Sitcoms help push these realities forward. Meanwhile, the idea of Vicki Lawrence back on network television brings joy to our hearts, and now she's the right age to actually play a Mama-like character.

Romeo San Vicente is partly cloudy in Los Angeles.



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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

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

AIDS/HIV

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

AIDS Walk Detroit

Contact info@aidswalkdetroit.org or 248-399-9255 for more information.

The walk takes place this year on Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Royal Oak Farmers Market

Macomb County STD Clinic

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

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

Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

120 Parsons Street
Detroit, MI 48201
888-226-6366
248-545-1435

www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/ryanwhite/

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

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

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

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

Campus

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

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

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

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

U-M Ann Arbor

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

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

Eastern Michigan University

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

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp

Wayne State JIGSAW

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

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor
www.jimtoycenter.org
www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter
or follow them on Twitter @JimToyCenter.

319 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI
734-995-9867

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

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

Ferndale, MI
248-398-7105

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

Fair Michigan

PO Box 6136
Plymouth, MI 48170
877-432-4764, 313-556-2300
fairmichigan.org

[Facebook.com/fairmichigan2016](https://www.facebook.com/fairmichigan2016)

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

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

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

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

Stonewall for Revolution

www.facebook.com/stonewall4revolution

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

Ties Like Me

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

Suits And The City

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

Transgender

FtM Detroit

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

FtM A2 Ypsi

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

Transgender Michigan

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

Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

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

Ozone House

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

Stand With Trans

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



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

- Adoption Services
- AIDS/HIV Hotlines
- AIDS/HIV Organizations
- Alzheimer's Association
- Animal Shelter
- Anti-Violence
- Archives/Collections
- Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
- Cancer Support Groups
- Choruses
- Community Centers
- Employee Resource Groups
- Families and Parents
- Foster Care
- Foundations and Funders
- Hotlines & Switchboards
- Labor Union
- Legal Organizations
- Museums
- Music Groups
- National Organizations
- Political Organizations
- Professional Organizations
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