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Protesters gather in front of the Supreme Court building on the day the court is to hear the case Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission Dec. 5 in Washington, DC. Craig and Mullins filed a complaint with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission after conservative Christian baker Jack Phillips refused to sell them a wedding cake for their same-sex ceremony. Photo: Olivier Douliery/Abaca Press (Sipa via AP Images).

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Corktown Health Center Holds Donor Reception, Announces Partnership with WSU

New Era in LGBTQ Healthcare Begins

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

While they've been seeing patients since July, a private reception to thank donors and announce a collaboration with Wayne State University was held Dec. 7 at the Corktown Health Center, Michigan's first health center focused on the LGBTQ community.

"We want to really change the healthcare environment for the LGBT community, and that will change the healthcare environment for all people," said Anthony Williams, chief executive officer for Corktown Health Center.

The opening marked the culmination of five years of talks and planning for Health Emergency Lifeline Programs. The agency, which was founded in 1986, announced plans to open the center early last year. Originally slated for a September 2016 opening, construction and other delays pushed back the opening by almost a year. Now, however, it's all systems go.

"I am excited," said Loretta Bush, chief executive officer of the Michigan Primary Health Care Association. "I have known the organization HELP for many years and I know the fine work that the organization has done in the HIV and AIDS arena.

"I remember the conversations many years ago with Patrick Yankee [Corktown Health's chief development officer] saying that there needed to be a clinic focused on the LGBT community and that we needed to do it here in the city of Detroit," Bush continued. "Never

“For far too long the people who make up the patient core of the center have been ostracized, abused, mistreated and have been forced to live often in fear and shame, forced to forgo consistent health care for no other reason than for being who they are.”

– Dr. Jack Sobel, dean of the Wayne State University School of Medicine.

was there a doubt that it could happen. The only question was where and when. But we knew one day we would be here celebrating this day.”

Bush said she is sure the clinic will be a resounding success.

"We know you're going to have a great impact on all of the health disparities that we know about – the delays in getting primary care treatment, delays in behavioral health treatment – all the things that we know impact this population," she said. "To be able to provide comprehensive high quality culturally competent care to this community is so important."

Dr. Diane Levine, vice chair for education for the Department of Internal Medicine for the Wayne State School of Medicine, Dr. Diane Levine, vice chair for education for the Department of Internal Medicine for the Wayne State School of Medicine, announced the medical school's new LGBT medicine track in WSU's Internal Medicine and residency program to be housed at Corktown Health Center in early 2018.

"When I heard about this opportunity I was so incredibly excited to be a part of something that was going to make a difference," Levine said. "The way that I see Wayne State University and this clinic being involved together is not just about a track for internal medicine residents but actually about providing an opportunity to train the medical students at Wayne State University, and there's 300 every year. That's 1200 in the school, and they all graduate to be good physicians but they're not all good physicians in providing care for the LGBT community. We need to train physicians who are ready to practice and take care of our people. In my vision, we will have every student at the university, every



Corktown Health Center, Michigan's first health center focused on the LGBT community, held a donor reception Dec. 7. Picture here are (from left) Dr. LaTonya Riddle, Corktown Health's medical director, Dr. Diane Levine, vice chair for education for the Department of Internal Medicine for Wayne State University, Patrick Yankee, chief development officer for Corktown Health, Teresa Roscoe, chief operating officer for Corktown Health, Dr. Jack Sobel, dean of the Wayne State School of Medicine, Dr. Jennifer Mendez of the Wayne State School of Medicine and Anthony Williams, chief executive officer for Corktown Health. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

medical student, come here and serve in some capacity to make a difference.”

Dr. LaTonya Riddle is Corktown Health's medical director. She spoke about how happy she is to be a part of the center.

"I want you to know what an honor and a privilege it is to serve as the first medical director for Corktown Health Center," said Riddle. "If you know anything about LGBT health education the average medical student only gets five hours of education in any health related items when it comes to the LGBT community. And that is a travesty.”

Riddle introduced Dr. Jack Sobel, dean of the Wayne State University School of Medicine.

"For far too long the people who make up the patient core of the center have been ostracized, abused, mistreated and have been forced to live often in fear and shame, forced to forgo consistent health care for no other reason than for being who they are," Sobel said. "This will stop with the existence of this clinic and we are committed to its success. For too long we have refused to recognize that our

patients, all our patients, are our daughters, and our brothers and our sisters and our family and everyone deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. We are committed to our fingertips to [Corktown Health's] continued success.”

Lesley Welch, a consultant to Corktown Health, spoke from personal experience about the need for the clinic.

"It was 2009 and my partner and I had just lost a baby," Welch recalled. "We lost a pregnancy at five months. I was needing some grief counseling. I was having a really hard time. I looked on the back of my insurance card and I go to a provider and this provider recommended by my insurance seemed to be more interested at that time in understanding how a woman like me, in a relationship like mine, got pregnant and was having a family. So, in that session, I was doing more education for her about who I was and what my family had gone through than I was getting anything that I needed in the way of grief counseling and support. I walked out and never looked back.

See Corktown Health Center, page 12

Networking Made Accessible

Affirmations and Stand with Trans Hosts Career Fair

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Mercedes-Benz, Wayne State University, Henry Ford Health System and Ally Bank. On the face of it, these businesses and institutions have nothing in common, but on Dec. 8, representatives from each of them, and 16 more organizations, joined together at Ferndale's Affirmations LGBTQ community center for its first-ever career fair.

"The Youth Workforce Development Program existed before I came into the position, but I've been working to grow it a little bit," said Youth Program Coordinator Ian Unger. "Kind of my little brain child was that a career fair would be cool, because the youth do get to meet business professionals, but don't get to network quite like adults do."

That youth is part of the Affirmations' XTL, Cross the Line, Youth Workforce Program, in which LGBTQ teens between the ages of 13 and 20 have an opportunity to develop skills necessary for future employment. The 16-week program involves interactive, on-the-job training as well as practical and theoretical application of important concepts. Still, Unger was interested in broadening the scope of attendees, too.

"So, I talked with Roz Keith from Stand with Trans about pairing up and doing this as an event," Unger said.

Soon, she was on board. Keith is the founder and board president of Stand with Trans, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that is dedicated to helping transgender youth as they transition. The fair was also opened up to community members who wanted to network. A skill that Unger said is invaluable in today's job market.

"Networking, getting to know more about different businesses, getting to know the people at those businesses (is important)," Unger said. "Because we're in an age where networking is how you get jobs. It's not as easy as it used to be."

Unger is right, networking plays a huge role in one's job search. In an interview with NPR, president of Career Horizons, an organization that specializes in career advice for professionals, Matt Youngquist said that "at least 70 percent, if not 80 percent, of jobs are not published" on hiring websites. That

means that the old adage of 'who you know' is truer than ever.

But feeling at-ease enough to effectively speak with employers, especially at a young age, that's the tricky part. That's why Unger said he hopes that Affirmations can make these career fairs a regular occurrence.

"They get them to be able to do that, to learn to talk to business professionals and to get rid of that intimidation," Unger said. "Because, it's very intimidating the first time that you're talking to a business professional."

And people like 17-year-old career fair

attendee Oliver Connolly recognize that. Connolly said he drove 30 minutes from Detroit to get to the fair, but that the drive was worth it.

"I love Affirmations as a center, and as an organization. I really love having networking opportunities and opportunities to meet and be involved with the community," Connolly said. "I'm at an age where I need these opportunities to get my name out there to meet people where I could benefit and then later, benefit them. I loved talking to all the people that I've met."

Unger said that that attitude of positivity surrounding networking is one he hopes to cultivate.

"So, it's getting that idea out, and then getting used to the idea of getting into the workforce, and learning what that takes. And, if you need to get a degree in something, what is that," Unger said. "And, in a way, it's definitely less intimidating because you're not coming here thinking that you're trying to get a job. It's not as much pressure, but if you do get one, that's even better."

The Affirmations LGBTQ community center is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. More information about it can be found at goaffirmations.org.



Oliver Connolly is 17 and drove 30 minutes to be a part of the Affirmations career fair. BTL photo.

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Supreme Court Cake Argument: Kennedy Leaning Toward the Baker?

BY LISA KEEN

Many media reporting on the oral arguments in Dec. 5 U.S. Supreme Court case *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado* said the court's always pivotal vote from Justice Anthony Kennedy seemed to be leaning away from the pro-LGBT trend he has established for years. The Associated Press said Kennedy seemed "conflicted." The New York Times said he said things favorable to both sides in the case. The scotusblog analysis by Amy Howe headlined it most bluntly: The majority was "leaning toward ruling for Colorado baker."

LGBT legal activists and their organizations were quieter than usual. Those who did comment on the record seemed cautiously optimistic. But the court's transcript of the proceeding betrayed how unnervingly unpredictable the outcome of this dramatically important case is.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor asked the most questions of the morning, primarily aimed at shooting holes in the arguments of the attorney for the Colorado baker, Jack Phillips. Phillips was just one of several business owners the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) recruited who was willing to refuse service to a gay couple. In 2012 Colorado, same-sex marriage was not yet legal but it was also against state law to discriminate based on sexual orientation in public accommodations.

Chief Justice John Roberts posed the second greatest number of questions Tuesday. A moderately conservative member of the bench, he was occupied with bolstering the arguments of the baker's ADF attorney, Kristen Waggoner.

Joining Sotomayor in challenging the ADF arguments were Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Elena Kagan, along with occasional remarks by Justice Stephen Breyer.

Justices Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch joined Roberts on the baker's side. With Justice Clarence Thomas being an historically reliable vote against the interests of LGBT people, the tally stood at 4 to 4, leaving Kennedy, once again, as the uncertain but decisive vote.

Kennedy has been a fairly reliable vote in support of equal rights for LGBT people in recent years. But during oral argument, he seemed to turn the tables. He singled out an LGBT activist on the Colorado Civil Rights Commission for admonishment, saying she had been disrespectful and intolerant

of Phillips' stated religious beliefs. He wondered out loud whether the gay couple could not have just gone to another bakery to avoid the conflict. He expressed concern about the Commission's order that Phillips require his staff to undergo training to ensure compliance with the state law. And he asked U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco, representing the Trump administration in support of the baker, "If you prevail, could the baker put a sign in his window, 'We do not bake cakes for gay weddings?'"

Ria Tabacco Mar, an ACLU attorney and counsel of record for the gay couple Charlie Craig and David Mullins said she thought Kennedy's questions gave "no indication" of how he will vote in the case. She took heart from Kennedy's comment that putting a sign in the bakery's window might be an "affront to the gay community."

"He did not express any concern about applying anti-discrimination laws to conduct motivated by religious beliefs in general, which is the broader question at stake," said Mar. But Kennedy's comment about the LGBT member of the Colorado Commission, she said, raises the "possibility" that he might urge fellow justices to send the case back for reconsideration.

All of the justices (with the exception of Thomas, who almost never speaks during oral arguments) were very actively engaged in the discussion Dec. 5, which ran 30 minutes longer than the one hour allotted.

The specific legal question was whether a person's First Amendment right to speech, religion, expression, or association trumps laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations. The implications go much broader than the single issue of marriage licensing. Public accommodations include a wide variety of businesses serving the general public: restaurants, hotels, taxicabs and funeral homes, to name a few.

The conflict between discrimination and the First Amendment has arisen before in the context of white business owners in the south



who said their religious beliefs prevented them from serving black customers the same as white customers.

"The reason we're asking these questions," said Justice Stephen Breyer at one point Tuesday, "is because, obviously, we want some kind of distinction that will not undermine every civil rights law including [those protecting] African Americans Hispanic Americans [and] everybody who has been discriminated against in very basic things of life food, design of furniture, homes and buildings."

Justice Sotomayor asked about this possibility most bluntly.

"Is your theory that public accommodation laws cannot trump free speech or free exercise claims in protecting against race discrimination?" she asked ADF's Waggoner.

"That is not my theory," replied Waggoner. She started to explain, as she had in written briefs, that she was trying to say that the free exercise or speech claim could trump the public accommodation laws when the business owner's objection is not about the "person" but about the conduct the person is engaged in.

Baker Phillips has said numerous times that he refused to sell the gay couple a cake not because the men were gay but because they were celebrating their marriage. And Phillips said his understanding of the Bible is that marriage between same-sex partners is wrong.

But Waggoner struggled to answer Justice Kagan's question about whether the same sort of argument would work, "If your client instead objected to an interracial marriage?"

That was a "very different case," said Waggoner.

"You are just saying race is different?" asked Kagan.

"I think race is different for two reasons," said Waggoner. One reason, she said, is that, with race, the objection is over "who the person is, rather than what the message is." The other reason, she said, is that courts require "compelling" reasons for treating people differently based on race. There has been no such heightened scrutiny for discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Justice Sotomayor asked Waggoner how she would address the claim that "actually, what is happening here may superficially look like

Supreme Court Won't Hear Case Seeking Title VII Protection for Gays

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday announced it won't hear a case seeking protecting for lesbian, gay and bisexual workers under existing civil rights law barring sex discrimination.

The court announced it denied a writ of certiorari in *Evans v. Georgia Regional Hospital* as part of an order list Monday reflecting decisions made by justices at a conference last week Friday. It takes a vote of four justices to agree to take up a case, although the vote isn't made public.

The petition, filed in September by the LGBT group Lambda Legal, sought clarification of the nationwide prohibition on sex discrimination in the workplace under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 applies to cases of lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

Greg Nevins, Lambda Legal's Employment Fairness Project Director, expressed disappointment in a statement the Supreme Court refused to take up the case.

"By declining to hear this case, the Supreme Court is delaying the inevitable and leaving a split in the circuits that will cause confusion across the country," Nevins said. "But this was not a 'no' but a 'not yet,' and rest assured that Lambda Legal will continue the fight, circuit by circuit as necessary, to establish that the Civil Rights Act prohibits sexual orientation discrimination."

Although the order list indicates the Supreme Court denied certiorari in the case, the court allows the filing of the friend-of-the-court briefs from 76 business and organizations, anti-discrimination scholars, LGBT groups including GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders as well as legal scholar David Boyle.

Nevins told the *Washington Blade* the Supreme Court allowed the filing of these briefs even though it didn't take up the case as "a courtesy kind of thing," but that has no bearing on the merits of the case or the issue itself.

Lambda Legal filed the petition after the U.S. Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against Jameka Evans, a security guard who claims she was targeted for harassment and effectively terminated from her job at Georgia Regional Hospital for being a lesbian.

Bucking a nationwide trend of court rulings, a three-judge panel on 11th Circuit determined Title VII afforded Evans no basis for relief because sexual orientation is separate from sex discrimination. Earlier this year, the full 11th Circuit refused to reconsider the decision "en banc," or before the full court, prompting Lambda Legal to file the petition.

The 11th Circuit ruling stand in contrast

to a decision by the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in the case of *Hively v. Ivy Tech Community College*, which found gay protections under Title VII. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the U.S. agency charged with enforcing federal employment non-discrimination law, determined in 2015 sexual-orientation discrimination amounts to unlawful sex discrimination under Title VII.

However, the U.S. Justice Department under U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has argued against gay protections under Title VII. In a separate case on the same issue before the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals, Deputy Assistant Attorney General Hashim Mooppan argued the prohibition on sex discrimination doesn't apply to lesbian, gay and bisexual people because Congress for decades has resisted spelling out sexual-orientation discrimination is illegal.

Nevins said he was uncertain why the Supreme Court denied review of the case because similar Title VII vehicles aren't often ripe for review.

"I can't imagine they didn't think the issue was important, I can't imagine they didn't see the circuit split," Nevins said. "They may have thought there will be a whole bunch more opportunities to address this issue, and I can't tell you from my experience that that's not necessarily the case, but they have been under that impression."

In the aftermath of the Supreme Court decision, Nevins said LGBT rights advocates seeking gay protections under Title VII may "have to do a circuit-by-circuit slog" until justices agree to consider the issue.

"The Supreme Court could have done it all in one fell swoop, but they chose not to, so the fight continues on a circuit-by-circuit basis," Nevins said.

Anthony Kreis, a visiting assistant law professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology, said he thinks the Supreme Court didn't take up the case because other legal avenues are available to Evans.

"Jameka Evans' lawsuit alleged she was mistreated by her supervisors because she didn't appear feminine enough for their liking," Kreis said. "The Eleventh Circuit said she could file suit under that theory, but she could not go forward with her lawsuit under the theory she was mistreated because of her sexual orientation. The Supreme Court is unlikely to grant cert in a case where the petitioner still has a viable claim, albeit under a different theory than she'd like."

Kreis added Georgia Regional Hospital refused to defend itself in the case because it

felt like it wasn't properly served, which he said adds "a thorny procedural quirk that the court wouldn't want to have in a case with such major ramifications like this."

As for Evans, Nevins said Lambda Legal has filed an amended complaint in trial court on her behalf seeking relief on the basis of gender non-conformity claims, not sexual-orientation claims.

"That case will go on, but until there's a change in the law, her allegations of discrimination on the basis of being a lesbian won't be allowed in that case," Nevins said.

The Supreme Court may get another chance very shortly to determine whether Title VII bars sexual-orientation discrimination. The Second Circuit may render a decision in the Zarda case soon, enabling the losing party to file a petition of certiorari before the Supreme Court for relief.

But Nevins said he's uncertain whether the Zarda case would, in fact, be a potential vehicle for the Supreme Court to make a nationwide ruling.

A Second Circuit win would preclude the ability of LGBT rights advocates to seek review from the Supreme Court, Nevins said, and the defendant in the case, Altitude Express, was arguing against Zarda on simply a technical basis and would be unlikely to carry the case further if it loses.

"We will have another great circuit win, but we won't have a great Supreme Court vehicle," Nevins said. "I hope the court wasn't suffering under that misimpression, but at any rate, right now we're right back where we were at the circuit-by-circuit slog and we've always been prepared to roll up our sleeves and do that, and we still are."

Sarah Warbelow, legal director for the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement the Supreme Court refusal to hear the Evans case demonstrates the need for Congress to enact legislative LGBT non-discrimination protections in the form of the Equality Act.

"By refusing to hear this important case, the Supreme Court is delaying the inevitable fix and leaving the civil rights of LGB people to be inconsistently applied according to conflicting rulings by circuit courts," Warbelow said. "This further underscores the need for Congress to pass the Equality Act to provide consistent and explicit non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people across all civil rights laws."

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



it's about the message [religious beliefs about marriage for same-sex couples] but it's really about the person's identity [being gay]."

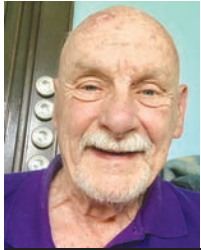
Waggoner said the state had the power to decide "what speech is offensive and what is not" and that it was the state that discriminated against Phillips' viewpoint.

The constantly turning tables

The idea that it was the baker, Phillips, who suffered discrimination rather than the one who inflicted it gained some traction with Kennedy and the conservative justices.

Justice Kennedy singled out one of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission members LGBT activist Heidi Hess for criticism. He said he read in the ADF's appendix that Commissioner Hess, "Says freedom of religion used to

See *Cake Argument*, page 12



Repeat the Joyful Sound (Pt. 1)

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

There are paths that by strange chances on Christmas Eve mix up in time, space, thought, crazy activation. Some fact. Some fantasy. Who knows? So it happened once upon a near but distant whimsical time in a universe that was hoodwinked into crisscrossing paths. Five companions on one. Three, on the other. Switching both respective destinations.

Our first group of travelers, names familiar to young and old alike - Dorothy and Toto, Tin Man, Scarecrow, Cowardly Lion - were following the fabled Yellow Brick Road to Oz when the unexpected celestial switcheroo occurred.

Quite suddenly, they were sideswiped by a brilliant klieg light that seemed to whisk them through December's winter gloom. Giddy. Very, very young. Exuberantly naive at heart. They forgot all about Oz, which isn't an easy thing to do. Ask any LGBT grown up or drag queen.

(Our second regal sojourners: Caspar, Balthasa, Melchoir - bearing gifts for someone deemed eventually of high political estate - were baffled to find themselves in a poppy-infested countryside, traveling only heaven knows to where. A neon sign pointed MGM: "Much Grander Make-Believe!")

Along the way, Dorothy and her rerouted friends found themselves waved at by shepherds tending flocks by night. "It seems we're celebrities," giggled Scarecrow, as Tin Man, Cowardly Lion and little barking Toto busied themselves (bravely to be sure) in chasing off wolves in sheep's clothing howling too close for comfort.

Yea, verily, readers, the night was radiantly clear. And the starry light got even brighter. "No doubt!" ventured Scarecrow, with newfound mental acumen, "This star is of -1.44 magnitude. A biggie."

Inspired by their dreamlike mood, Dorothy, who had palatial lyrical gifts - she hoped someday to perform in Off Broadway musicals - started to sing. And, belting out of the celestial blue, she sang lyrics she had never heard before but somehow knew by heart, with Tin Man, Cowardly Lion and Scarecrow crooning in. Surprise of surprise, a heavy choir of non-union angels actually hummed along.

How quickly the miles rolled and reeled by. And before they could finish their twelfth joyful rendition of "Meet Me in St. Louis, Louie," they unexpectedly found themselves among a small crowd gathered in front of a tiny, makeshift manger. It's bubble lights twinkled merrily.

There were shepherds, seven celebrity hi-ho! dwarves, a newly awakened princess, her adoring prince and in the center of it all, a smiling mom, a proud carpenter dad and a small baby wrapped in hand-me-down swaddling clothes.

And so, most probably because this was an awe-inspired, opening-night crowd applauding gaily, the little guy began to cry. Not too loudly. But authoritatively audible nonetheless. And in a moment of exquisite improv, Scarecrow pulled straw from his thump-thump-thumping, make-believe heart and blushing gave it to gently cradle the small kid's head.

Dorothy, with perfect on-stage presence, sang another lullaby that again popped magically into her head. "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" she sang. The baby hushed. Smiled. Gave the tinniest of - so a Macy's movie Santa years later claimed - technicolored laughs. (The baby's own over-the-rainbow-time would come another day.)

Alas! Alas! In the twinkling of an eye, Dorothy, Tin Man, Scarecrow, Cowardly Lion and tail wagging Toto were suddenly whisked away, back to timeline 1939! "Well, I wonder what Auntie Em would say?" sighed Dorothy, shaking her newly halo'd head from side to side.

"And why in heaven's name would a shepherd be wearing Ruby Red slippers and clicking his heels? Is he funny that way?" camped the Cowardly Lion, with a roaring, "AH-men!" Plus an I-just-got-lucky wink. (And one presumes those ecumenical, lucky wise men got high and enlightened on the poppies.)



Viewpoint



BY JAY KAPLAN

Denying Services to Same-Sex Couples Would Have Far-Reaching Impact

The U.S. Supreme Court finished hearing arguments this week in the case of a Colorado business owner who refused to sell a wedding cake to a same-sex couple. How the Court rules on this case, Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, could have far reaching consequences: Will a commercial business have the legal right to not only deny service to same-sex couples, but to anyone because of who they are?

The Case

The ACLU represents Dave Mullins and Charlie

Craig, who began planning their wedding in 2012. The couple, along with Charlie's mom, went to the Masterpiece Cakeshop to order a wedding cake. When the owner learned that it was Dave and Charlie getting married, he refused to sell them a wedding cake, claiming it violated his religious beliefs.

It has long been the law of the land that when a business opens its doors to the public it must serve everyone. Colorado law is no different. In fact, it states that a business cannot pick and choose who it serves based on race, sex, religion, disability and sexual orientation and gender identity.

Dave and Charlie filed a discrimination complaint

See next page

Creep of the Week

Republican Party

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

► Viewpoint: Jay Kaplan

Continued from p. 8

Masterpiece Cakeshop argues that their constitutional rights to free speech and religion allow businesses with an expressive or creative element to refuse service to same-sex couples. Otherwise, the bakery attorney claims it would be forced to endorse something it does not support.

with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission and they ruled that Masterpiece Cakeshop violated Colorado law. The Colorado state courts upheld that decision, and Masterpiece Cakeshop appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Masterpiece Cakeshop argues that their constitutional rights to free speech and religion allow businesses with an expressive or creative element to refuse service to same-sex couples. Otherwise, the bakery attorney claims it would be forced to endorse something it does not support.

Oral Arguments

At oral arguments, at least five justices were skeptical of the Masterpiece Cakeshop's free speech argument. Justice Breyer expressed concern that this theory would allow all businesses to make this same free speech claim as justification for discrimination. He observed that a decision in favor of Masterpiece Cakeshop would not only impact civil rights laws for the LGBTQ community, but laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, sex, national origin and religion.

Justice Kennedy's questioning lead to an

admission by the U.S. Solicitor General that a victory for Masterpiece Cakeshop would allow any bakery to post signs that they do not make cakes for gay weddings. Kennedy said this would be an "affront to the gay community."

While Kennedy did not appear to be persuaded by Masterpiece Cakeshop's free speech argument, he voiced concern about the bakery's freedom of religion claim. His questions pointed out that there may have been anti-religious bias in Colorado Civil Right's Commissions treatment of Masterpiece Cake Shop, and the court may consider sending this claim back to the Commission to reevaluate.

In an equally divided court, this landmark decision likely will rest with Justice Kennedy. Hopefully his concerns that a victory for Masterpiece could harm LGBTQ people will prevail. But we will have to wait until the end of June when the Court is expected to issue its decision.

Jay Kaplan is the staff attorney at the ACLU Michigan Nancy Katz and Margo Dichtemiller LGBT Project. He can be reached at jkaplan@aclumich.org



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Between THE Lines™

I debated whether I should make Donald Trump or Roy Moore my Creep this week. Both are super creepy in so many ways. But ultimately Moore may or may not be elected by the people of Alabama to the goddamned Senate by the time you read this, but Trump will, sadly, most definitely still be the president. And every Republican is culpable.

The current state of the Republican Party: 100 percent morally bankrupt. It's not like they had a great track record before, but the party has truly sunk to new lows ever since nominating a b-rate reality show host and "business man" for president. And now that Trump is actually the president (insert vomit emoji here), the party has done everything it can to sink to his level.

Roy Moore is a prime example. A terrible candidate from the get-go, Moore has been accused by multiple women of sexual assault and harassment, including claims that he sexually assaulted a 14-year-old when he was in his 30s.

The Republican response? It's okay for a grown ass man to make a child touch his dinger so long as he's not a Democrat. The people of Alabama have a choice: an alleged pedophile and serial abuser, or a Democrat and they're torn. Because that's how polarizing politics has become in this country, and how completely disposable girls and women are in the quest for political power.

"Well," say so-called family values conservatives, "even if he DID molest kids, it was a long time ago, so it doesn't count." As if every man is allowed to molest a child or two, because NBD.

If they aren't excusing his crimes they flat out deny that it ever happened. All women are liars and all accusations of sexual abuse against powerful males is obviously fake news.

And yet even Mitch McConnell has said, "I believe the women." But he won't go so far as to speak out against Moore. Because McConnell is awful.

There have been some Republicans who

The Republican response (to Roy Moore)? It's okay for a grown ass man to make a child touch his dinger so long as he's not a Democrat.

have come out publicly against Moore, but most of it is too little too late. And a lot of this last minute denouncing seems to be little more than a way of covering their asses.

Trump, however, is all in. He has endorsed Moore and is telling Alabama to vote for him.

If you would have told me a couple of years ago a Republican President would be stumping for an alleged pedophile to become a Senator, I would have been shocked. Just kidding. I wouldn't have been shocked. I would have said what I'm saying now: "I've said all along that the Republican Party's claim to be the party of family values, is and always has been bullshit."

"Family values" has always been a dog whistle meaning anti-gay and anti-reproductive choice. It has never meant caring about families, unless those families are very, very rich and write big checks.

At least 19 women have accused Trump of sexual harassment and abuse, and the Republican Party's response is to shrug and call those women liars. All of them. Case closed.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said of the accusations, "This took place long before he was elected to be president. The people of this country had a decisive election supported President Trump, and we feel like these allegations have been answered through that process."

There's so much to unpack here. First of all, this was hardly a "decisive" election. Probably she meant "divisive." But anyway, she's basically saying that Americans knew Trump was a sexist piece of garbage when they elected him and thus he is cleansed. But no, he is still garbage.

In fact, put this whole party in the trash. They are rotten.

"Family values" has always been a dog whistle meaning anti-gay and anti-reproductive choice. It has never meant caring about families, unless those families are very, very rich and write big checks.

Pentagon to Allow Trans Enlistments Jan. 1 After Latest Court Order

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The Pentagon has affirmed it will allow transgender enlistments starting Jan. 1 on the same day a federal judge asserted her order against President Trump's ban on their service means they can accede into the military on that target date.

U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, a Clinton appointee, issued the order Monday in response to a request from the U.S. Justice Department for a temporary stay on the portion of her order requiring the Pentagon to admit transgender service members starting Jan. 1.

"For more than a year preceding the summer of 2017, it was the policy and intention of the military that transgender individuals would soon begin to accede," Kollar-Kotelly said. "Moreover, the court issued the preliminary injunction in this case approximately six weeks ago, and since then defendants have been on notice that they would be required to implement the previously established policy of beginning to accept transgender individuals on January 1, 2018. In other words, with only a brief hiatus, defendants have had the opportunity to prepare for the accession of transgender individuals into the military for nearly one and a half years."

Kollar-Kotelly also takes a jab at the Justice Department over the process in which it requested a stay, saying the "portrayal of their situation as an emergency is belied by their litigation tactics." She notes the appeal of her initial decision didn't come until weeks later and the request for a partial stay didn't come until December.

"If complying with the military's previously established January 1, 2018 deadline to begin accession was as unmanageable as defendants now suggest, one would have expected defendants to act with more alacrity," Kollar-Kotelly writes.

The judge had already clarified in response to a request from the U.S. government that her order against Trump's transgender military ban, issued in response to a lawsuit filed by GLBTQ Advocates & Defenders and the National Center for Lesbian Rights, means transgender enlistments must begin Jan. 1.

That was the target date Defense Secretary James Mattis established for transgender enlistment in a memo he issued in June delaying that change in policy for another six months in response to a joint request from military service chiefs. Transgender enlistments were initially scheduled to begin June 30 as a result of a change initiated in the Obama era under former Defense Secretary Ashton Carter.

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said in a statement the Trump administration's

assertion "our highly sophisticated military is unprepared to implement a minor policy change after more than a year of preparation are simply not credible."

"The military has studied this issue extensively and determined that permitting qualified transgender people to enlist and serve will only strengthen our nation's armed forces," Minter writes. "This administration's claim that allowing transgender people to enlist will lessen military preparedness is contradicted by



The Pentagon under Defense Secretary Jim Mattis will allow transgender service members to enlist starting Jan. 1. (Photo courtesy Department of Defense)

the military's own conclusions."

The Justice Department has already appealed Kollar-Kotelly's decision against Trump's transgender ban as well as her clarification it means transgender enlistments must begin Jan. 1 to the U.S. Federal Circuit Court of Appeals in D.C. Meanwhile, the Justice Department has also appealed an order against the transgender ban issued by a federal judge in Maryland as a result of a separate lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union to the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Lauren Ehram, a Justice Department spokesperson, is quoted in the Washington Post as saying the department disagrees with the ruling and is "currently evaluating the next steps."

"Plaintiffs' lawsuit challenging military service requirements is premature for many reasons, including that the Defense Department is actively reviewing such service requirements, as the president ordered, and

because none of the plaintiffs have established they they will be impacted by current policies on military service," Ehram reportedly added.

Prior to the ruling, as reported by the Associated Press, the Pentagon announced Monday it's preparing to admit transgender people into the armed forces starting Jan. 1 despite the Justice Department's continued efforts to fight the court orders.

Maj. David Eastburn, a Pentagon spokesperson, told the Washington Blade the U.S. military "will begin processing transgender applicants for military service on January 1, 2018" as legal opportunities to challenging the court orders are evaluated.

Eastburn said the Pentagon will still disqualify potential recruits with "gender dysphoria, a history of medical treatments associated with gender transition and those who underwent reconstruction."

However, those recruits, Eastburn said, will be allowed into the military if a medical provider certifies they've been clinically stable in their gender identity for 18 months and "are free of significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other important areas."

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, questioned on the Pentagon announcement by NBC News during the daily briefing, said the change reflects the requirements of court orders against Trump's transgender military ban.

"As of right now, they're simply complying with a court order and preparing to implement a previous policy to remain in compliance," Sanders said.

Sanders added, however, the Justice Department is "currently reviewing the legal options to ensure that the president's directive can be implemented," deferring additional questions to the department.

Matt Thorn, executive director of OutServe-SLDN, said his organization is "very pleased" the Pentagon is preparing to admit transgender enlistments on Jan. 1 as required by court order.

"The lawsuits filed by all organizations and the injunction by Judge Koller-Kotley should definitively be a sign to this administration that discrimination will not be tolerated in our armed forces," Thorn added. "The Pentagon never wanted this ban, it was moving ahead with this policy until Trump irrationally tweeted his bigotry about trans service members. We are eager to get back on track with the policy and with the Department of Defense complying with this court order we hope to do that."

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

McCain and Cardin: Trump 'Largely Silent' on Human Rights Abroad

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

U.S. Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Ben Cardin (D-Md.) on Friday said the U.S. has been "largely silent" on human rights abroad since President Trump took office.

"For much of the past year, our national voice on international human rights issues has been largely silent," said McCain and Cardin in a letter they sent to Trump.

McCain and Cardin said this silence "was strikingly apparent during" his trip to Asia last month "where our delegation failed to raise major human rights concerns or name dissidents who languish in dark prisons across the region for no other reason than their brave defense of democracy and human rights."

"The administration's silence combined with confusing statements from Secretary (of State Rex) Tillerson, who has suggested that our country's fundamental values can be separated from the foreign policies we pursue, sows confusion both at home and abroad," wrote McCain and Cardin. "At this time of increasing uncertainty and growing security challenges, it is imperative that we reassert the United States' commitment to our human rights obligations, and ask other countries to join us in reaffirming the centrality of human rights as the cornerstone of peace and security."

The letter, among other things, notes LGBTI people "are deprived of their basic human rights in dozens of countries." McCain and Cardin also highlight "countless repressive governments around the world" are shutting down organizations that promote human rights.

"Protecting human rights at home and abroad is important not only to our national character, but also to our security interests as countries that respect their citizens are less likely to breed terrorism and are better able to focus on political and developmental problems that otherwise undermine stability," they wrote. "Governments who respect human rights also serve as more capable and reliable partners when facing common security threats, and they help provide business climates in which bilateral

See next page



From left; Venezuela National Assemblywoman Tamara Adrián, Peruvian Congressman Alberto de Belaunde, Guatemalan Congresswoman Sandra Morán and Brazilian Congressman Jean Wyllys take part in a panel at the Victory Institute's International LGBTQ Leaders Conference in D.C. on Dec. 8, 2017. Photo: Washington Blade Michael Key.

trade and investment interests grow.”

“We need your voice”

McCain and Cardin wrote their letter on the eve of International Human Rights Day, which commemorates the ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the U.N. General Assembly on Dec. 10, 1948.

Activists from Egypt and other countries around the world attended OutRight Action International’s annual conference in New York that coincides with the International Human Rights Day. Tamara Adrian, a transgender woman who was elected to the Venezuelan National Assembly in 2015, gay Irish Sen. Jerry Buttimer and Guatemalan Congresswoman Sandra Moran are among the hundreds of people who attended the Victory Institute’s International LGBTQ Leaders Conference that took place in D.C. from Dec. 6-9.

Tillerson on Sunday in his International Human Rights Day statement said the U.S. renews “our commitment to our core democratic values and to advocating for the human rights, freedom and dignity of all people.” Tillerson did not specifically mention

LGBTI rights in his statement, even though the U.S. has continued to promote them abroad since Trump took office.

“The United States urges all nations to respect their commitments enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and apply them equally to all,” said Tillerson. “The world is safer when every person can live up to his or her full potential, and every nation is free from tyranny.”

Trump has yet to publicly acknowledge International Human Rights Day.

“As president, we need your voice in strongly asserting our country’s respect for human rights at home and abroad,” wrote McCain and Cardin in their letter. “We ask that you use the upcoming anniversary of the Universal Declaration to reaffirm that no government can be legitimate if it abuses the people it is meant to serve – and that this rule is universal, without exception.”

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



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► Cake Argument

Continued from p. 7

justify discrimination is a despicable piece of rhetoric.”

“Suppose we thought that, in significant part, at least one member of the Commission based [her] decision on the grounds of hostility to religion,” said Kennedy to Colorado Solicitor General Fred Yarger. “Suppose we thought there was a significant aspect of hostility to a religion in this case. Could your judgment [against Phillips] stand?”

(It is worth quoting here what Hess actually said: “Freedom of religion and religion has been used to justify all kinds of discrimination throughout history, whether it be slavery, whether it be the Holocaust we can list hundreds of situations where freedom of religion has been used to justify discrimination. And, to me, it is one of the most despicable piece of rhetoric that people can use to use their religion to hurt others.”)

Yarger said there might be a problem if the “entire proceeding” against Phillips “was begun because of an intent to single out religious people.”

But, “That was not the fact here,” he said.

Justice Neil Gorsuch jumped in to say that there had been a second commissioner out of the seven who had said something similar to Hess.

Yarger again said he didn’t think the complaint against Phillips originated out of a desire by the state to punish religious people and noted that the state law also prohibited discrimination based on religion. But Justice Samuel Alito interjected that he believes there, “Appears to be a practice of discriminatory treatment based on viewpoint.” As evidence, he noted that the Colorado commission did not take any action against three bakers who refused to decorate cakes with a message opposing same-sex marriage.

“But when the tables are turned and you

have the baker who opposes same-sex marriage, that baker may be compelled to create a cake that expresses approval of same-sex marriage,” said Alito. Yarger reminded the justices that the Commission at no time compelled Phillips to create a cake that expressed approval of same-sex marriage. It said only that he had to sell to same-sex couples the same things he made available to male-female couples.

“Do you disagree with the fact that [Phillips] would not sell to anybody a wedding cake that expresses approval of same-sex marriage?” asked Alito.

“What he may not do, as a public accommodation that offers to the public,” said Yarger, “Is decide that he won’t sell somebody a product that he would otherwise sell because, in his view, the identity of the customer changes the message.”

When Alito protested that Phillips didn’t discriminate based on the couple’s identity but because of their “message,” Yarger said the message, “Depended entirely on the identity of the customer.”

Kennedy, when he rejoined the discussion he initiated about a commissioner’s statement he perceived to be hostile to religion, waxed philosophic.

“Tolerance is essential in a free society, and tolerance is most meaningful when it’s mutual. It seems to me,” said Kennedy, “that the state in its position here has been neither tolerant nor respectful of Mr. Phillips’ religious beliefs.”

Then in a somewhat strange addendum, Kennedy seemed to suggest that the gay couple should have shown some tolerance and respect, too: “We assume there were other shops other bakery shops available.”

Yarger said the state legislators had spent years working on the legislation and made various exceptions for places of worship. But ultimately, he said, the legislators, “Decided we can’t make exceptions here for same-sex people who deserve the same protections if we wouldn’t make those same exceptions

for discrimination based on race and sex and religion.”

(It is worth noting here that Kennedy wrote the 1996 decision in *Romer v. Evans* that struck down a Colorado law (Amendment 2) because it barred LGBT people, “From securing protection against the injuries that these public accommodations laws address.” David Cole, the ACLU attorney representing the gay couple in Tuesday’s argument, was echoing Kennedy’s *Romer* decision when he told the court that to allow a business to refuse service to a couple because they are gay, “Would be to constitutionally relegate gay and lesbian people to second-class status.”)

Cake is Art, Hair and Make-Up are Not

As uncertain as Kennedy’s vote is in *Masterpiece*, there was still much to enjoy in the sparring by the other justices, with the attorneys in the case and with each other.

In response to Waggoner’s claim that baker’s cake made him a de facto speaker at the gay couple’s wedding, Justice Ginsburg asked for more. She noted that, certainly it can be said that the couple who is marrying speak at a wedding, as does the officiant.

“But who else speaks at a wedding?”

“The artist speaks,” said Waggoner. “It’s as much Mr. Phillips’ speech as it would be the couple’s.”

“Who else, then?” asked Ginsburg. “Who else is an artist [engaging in speech at the wedding]? Say, the person who does floral arranging, owns a floral shop? Would that person also be speaking at the wedding?”

Yes, said Waggoner, assuming the floral arrangements are custom-made.

“How about the person who designs the invitation?” asked Ginsburg.

“Yes,” said Waggoner.

“Or the menu for the wedding dinner?”

Again, Waggoner said yes.

But when Justice Elena Kagan asked about

the hair stylist, Waggoner replied, “Absolutely not.”

“There’s no expression or protected speech in that kind of context.”

Why not, asked Kagan. “It’s the makeup ‘artist.’”

Waggoner tried to explain the difference. She said that, when the court, “Is looking at whether speech is involved, it asks the question of, ‘Is it communicating something and is it analogous to other protected forms of speech.’”

Kagan said a makeup artist, “Might feel exactly as your client does that they’re doing something that’s of great aesthetic importance to the wedding and that there’s a lot of skill and artistic vision that goes into making somebody look beautiful.” What’s the difference, she asked.

Waggoner said the difference is that make-up is “not speech.”

“Some people may say that about cakes, you know,” said Kagan.

Waggoner proceeded to say that, not only was a hairstylist and a make-up artist not engaged in “speech,” neither was a tailor or a wedding dinner chef.

“Whoa!” said Kagan. “The baker is engaged in speech but the chef is not engaged in speech?!”

Solicitor General Francisco had to navigate a tightrope, too. He expressed concern about the right of artists to be able to control the message of their work and suggested Colorado’s law might force an African-American sculptor to design a cross for use in a KKK event. But then he seemed to suggest that the baker could refuse to sell a wedding cake to a gay couple only if the couple asked for a custom-made cake.

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said he was, “Optimistic that a majority of the court will not create any new constitutional exceptions to anti-discrimination laws.”

► Corktown Health Center

Continued from p. 4

“I went and opened my *Between The Lines* newspaper and found myself an identified gay friendly provider and got the counseling that we needed at that time,” Welch continued. “I should not have had to do that and, none of us should have to do that. Especially, those of us who don’t have the type of resources to pay out of pocket to make it happen. So, it is that experience for me that fuels my passion for this work.”

Funding for Corktown Health Center has so far come from over \$500,000 in direct financial support from HELP, about \$200,000 in in-kind contributions and \$891,000 in new grants from eight local foundations, including Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the Michigan Department



Blue Cross/Blue Shield presented a \$75,000 check to Corktown Health Center to support the new LGBT health center. Pictured (l-to-r) are Julie Griffith from BCBS, Corktown’s CEO Anthony Williams, HELP’s CEO Teresa Roscoe and Kim Krantz from BCBS. Photo courtesy of Corktown Health Center.

of Health and Human Services, the Detroit Health Department and The Jewish Fund.

Yankee announced the launch of a new \$3 million campaign. Funds will be used to expand administrative and program development capacity, finalize the purchase of the building, expand media and marketing and complete the community education training center. He said Corktown is seeking to kick start the campaign by raising \$200,000 by the middle of January. BCBS representatives presented a large check for another grant of \$75,000 toward this new goal.

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Positive Thoughts: Justice for All

Immigration Equality Advocates on Behalf of Both LGBT Immigrants and All Immigrants Living with HIV

BY ORIOL R. GUTIERREZ JR.

Aaron C. Morris is executive director of Immigration Equality, a New York City-based immigration rights organization. The nonprofit group advocates for people from around the world fleeing violence, abuse and persecution because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or HIV status. Since it was founded in 1994, the group has won asylum for hundreds of LGBT and HIV-positive immigrants with a 99-percent success rate.

Before becoming executive director in 2016, Morris was legal director of Immigration Equality. He joined the organization in 2008 as a staff attorney after two years as a staff attorney at the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He earned his law degree in 2005 from American University Washington College of Law.

Gridlock in Congress over comprehensive immigration reform led President Obama to sign an executive order to protect from deportation at least some individuals who were brought to the United States as minors by parents who were undocumented immigrants. President Trump rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), but that order won't be effective until 2018.

The fate of the Dreamers – which refers to DACA enrollees who would eventually attain permanent residency if the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act bill were to become law – is yet to be determined. Add in concerns over the effects of an executive order from President Trump commonly known as the Muslim travel ban, which was challenged in court, and immigration is one hot topic. Morris offers insights on what it all means for LGBTs and for HIV/AIDS.

Tell us about Immigration Equality.

We were founded with a three-part mission. The first was to find ways for same-sex couples who didn't have access to marriage equality to plan their families. Unlike different-sex couples, you couldn't get a green card yet through marriage. The second was to establish the American asylum system as a way for foreign nationals who were going to be persecuted or tortured to stay safely and legally in the United States and have a pathway toward citizenship. The first year that the federal government formally recognized sexual orientation as a protected ground under asylum law was 1994. The first case was with gay men, so we devoted ourselves to expanding that protection to lesbians, bisexual people, transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

The third part of our mission was to overturn the statutory ban on travel for people living with HIV to the United States. Until 2010, if you were HIV positive, you could not get a visa to come to the United States or get a green card.

If you were LGBT and found to be here living with HIV, it was a reason to deport you from the United States. That was blatantly anti-LGBT because they created a waiver for different-sex couples who were married, and that waiver was not available to our community.

We worked very heavily starting in the mid-2000s to lobby Congress with coalition partners to overturn that discriminatory ban. To see the parallels between the defunct HIV ban and the Muslim and refugee ban is disturbing.

All of the nations affected by the new ban

are also countries from where we have clients seeking asylum or refugee status. To foreclose the possibility of offering them protection is a nightmare, and it's a gross human rights violation.

What are some of the effects of the Muslim travel ban?

The number of refugees America will accept has been reduced from 110,000 to 50,000. We reached that quota in July, so we are currently not accepting refugees from anywhere in the world, which is obscene. To reduce the number by more than half sends the wrong message.

I spoke with a Libyan man who had been resettled right before the ban was instituted. He told me that one of the few things that keeps a refugee camp a tolerable place is the hope that you might be resettled out of there. The ban squashes the hope of the refugees in those camps.

A lot of people have no choice but to leave their country, so there are many judges and asylum officers who have given our clients protection based on their HIV status, but we have yet to see a case declaring HIV as a protected ground in the way we did for sexual orientation or gender identity. We're working on it. We'll probably get there eventually.

Give us an update on DACA.

When DACA was signed in 2012, we were in a position to advise potential DACA recipients of the benefits and the risks. We did a lot of safety planning for people, but most young people wanted to take the risk, particularly since this is the only nation they've ever known.

The Dreamers now feel like all of their security has been pulled out from under them, that they're being attacked, when all they did was everything right. They obtained degrees, got jobs, paid taxes, started businesses and careers.

We have a client who is midway through nursing school. He's asking himself, "Should I finish this? Is it worth it? Will I get licensed at the end? What am I supposed to do with my life now?"

If Congress moves quickly in a bipartisan way, which it should because there is support throughout the United States and within Congress to solve this problem through passing the DREAM Act, then these young people will not have taken a leap of faith for nothing.

What's happening with comprehensive immigration reform legislation?

Let's start with a brief overview of what used to happen versus what happens now. When we started heavily lobbying Congress, often it would be the queer voices in the room that were not being included among other immigrant groups.

There were various reasons. Some of the groups were conservative or religious or just

not wanting to take a chance on adding queer people because they believed it would hurt a broader coalition. Today, it's almost the opposite.

President Trump has galvanized a coalition of the middle and the left and even people who years ago would never have given me the time of day. We are eager to have the biggest unified voice possible in seeking immigration reform.

Having said that, it's always a battle. We haven't had a real immigration reform bill since 1996. We are well overdue, but there are lots of other things that we could do to reform the immigration system that do not require a bill.

For example, there are about 300,000 immigration cases backlogged in a court that has just over 300 judges. That system is on the verge of collapse. There need to be more judges. There need to be more adjudication officers.

Another example: If you are threatening people with deportation to places where they're going to get killed because they have HIV, they should have lawyers to represent them. The law does not provide that. It allows it only if you can pay for it yourself or if you have pro bono counsel like Immigration Equality.

The executive branch could do more on its own, independent of Congress, to make the immigration system fairer, more expedient and more humane.

Are the challenges LGBTs face different from those faced by people with HIV?

There are logistical concerns and issues with the legal merits of a case. When we meet people living with HIV, the first thing on their minds is often logistical, related to health care or housing or their children's needs.

Regarding the law, if it's dangerous to be a queer-identified person in a country, it's probably more dangerous to be queer and HIV positive. So in some way, it often makes the case stronger to be both.

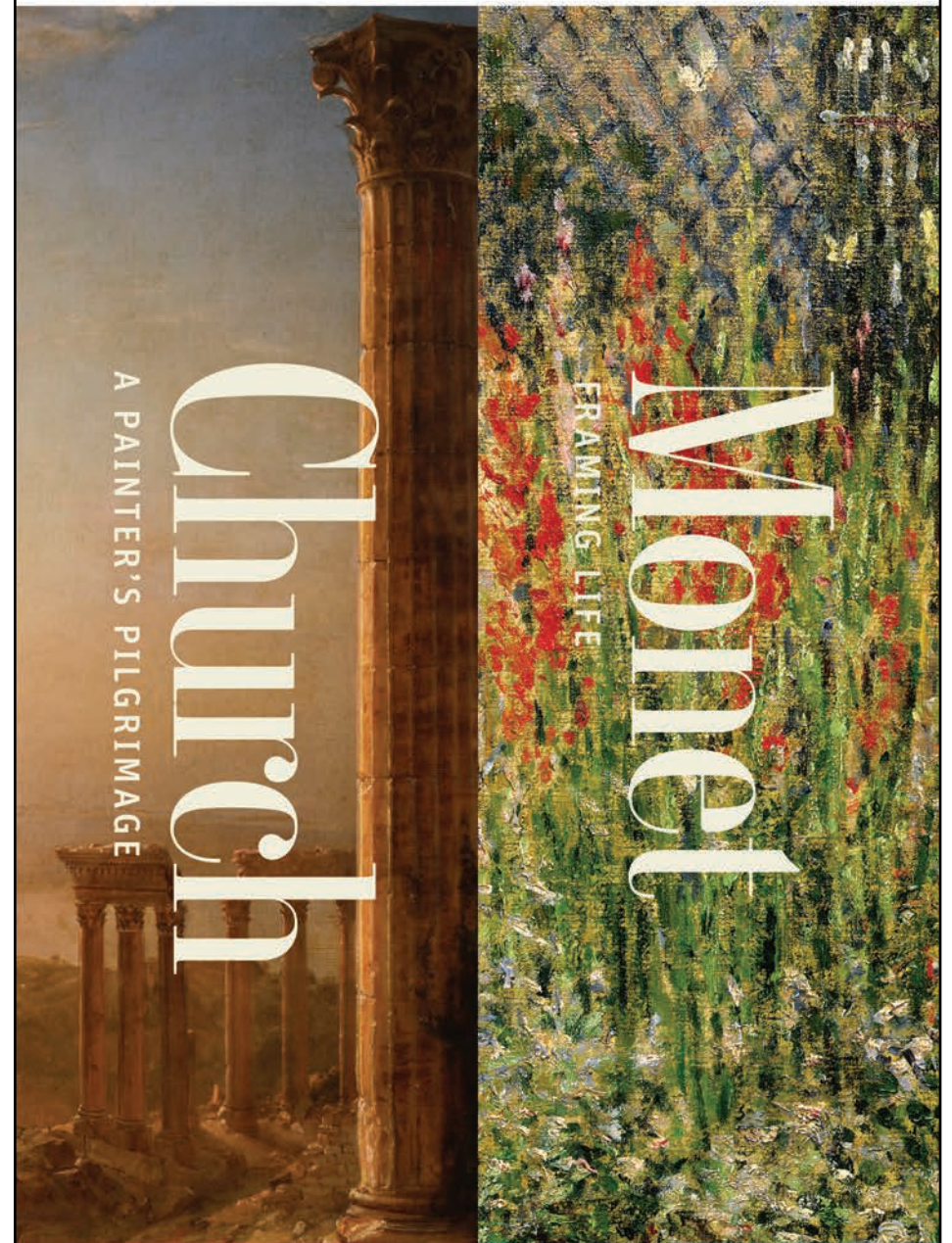
That said, many straight people living with HIV are at risk for persecution in countries that have a lot of HIV stigma. Judges take that into consideration.

Currently, the U.S. government puts trans women in men's detention facilities. A lot of our clients living with HIV who have been detained have had terrible health care in detention facilities.

Our goal is always to empower people, to support them and to encourage them to speak out in a safe way.

Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr. is the editor-in-chief of POZ magazine. Find him on Twitter @oriolgutierrez. This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, The Body and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites — <http://hivplusmag.com>, <http://positivelyaware.com>, <http://poz.com> and <http://thebody.com> — for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.

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Slipstream Theatre Initiative Hosts Season 4 Preview and Fundraiser

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Slipstream Theatre Initiative's name was not chosen accidentally. The word Slipstream itself has three meanings. The initiative's website describes it in this way: "1. In Physics: A force attaching itself to another force and pulling needed elements along with it. 2. In Literature: work that has elements of several literary genres but cannot be defined by a singular one. 3: in metaphysical (sic): the state of the subconscious mind, often experienced during dreaming, where one can access past lives and pull lessons learned from them into the present in order for the conscious mind to avoid repeating mistakes." And that's exactly what the theatre initiative does, it interprets old works with a brand-new



twist that both modernizes, and teaches new lessons from the classics.

Now, four years after the initiative came into view with a very sparse, but hopeful, production of Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale," it is 24 full-scale productions deep, and ready for that start of its fourth season.

Fans of the company's works can join it in celebration on Saturday, Dec. 16, for a

fundraiser and season preview. There is no admission charge and there will be plenty of food, drinks and activities.

Guests are welcome to bring friends and enjoy vignettes from each show this season, like Luna Alexander and Dan Johnson, who will take the stage with a "Tale from the Mitten." The evening's show will kick off with a number from company "heartthrob,"

Steve Xander Carson. Then, attendees can say hello to Slipstream's newest company members: Torri Lynne Frances and Manning Goldman. Frances and Goldman will show off their Othello and RuPaul, respectively. Mandy Logsdon will present a piece from her directorial debut of the classic "Tartuffe," and guests can expect Victoria Rose Weatherspoon's jazz stylings. Weatherspoon will present a number from "Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill."

And, of course, attendees should brace themselves for some surprises. It wouldn't be Slipstream without some twists and turns, 'tis the season to enjoy and support local theatre. Join Slipstream in celebrating not just its new season, but the talent in the Metro-Detroit theatre community.

The Slipstream Theatre's Season 4 Preview Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Slipstream Theatre Initiative at 460 Hilton Road, Ferndale. For more information about the theater's fundraiser, reach out to InsideTheSlipstream@gmail.com. Event details can also be found online at gaybe.am/fs.



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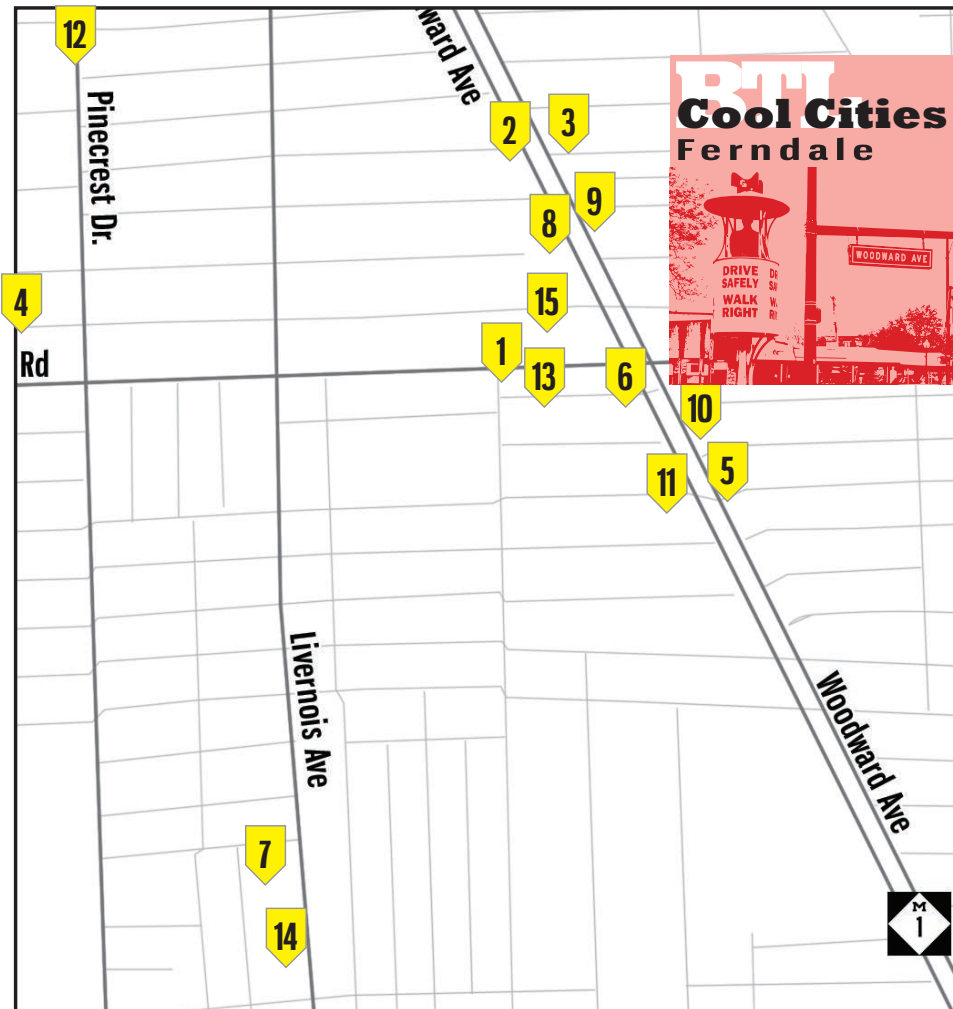
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Holiday in Stereo(type): Gift Ideas for 8 Types of Queers in Your Life

BY MIKEY ROX

Holiday gift buying for LGBT people is difficult at best, anxiety-riddled at worst. What do you get the him, her or them who already have everything with specific tastes to boot? Play into stereotypes – that’s what. Identify where your favorite queers fall on the spectrum of zero to glittered unicorn then shop this list of cherry-picked presents.



The Instagram Thirst Trap

2(X)IST’s soft, muscle-hugging Essential Cotton One-Piece Union Suit – the horizontal printed stripes of which optically flatter waists slim or a bit wider – accentuates all the right areas for maximum thirst-trap potential, but gay-owned Sheehan & Co.’s thigh-bearing Drop Shoulder Onesie is for the real showoffs. \$59, 2xist.com; \$140, sheehanandcompany.com

The Millennial Culture Vulture

Hundreds of classic and contemporary works were cultivated to create a revolving gallery of established and emerging artists for Depict Frame, a 49-inch 4K Ultra HD digital canvas that works with a subscription-based app (\$20/month but a complimentary collection is included) to instantly turn any living room into the Louvre. \$899, depict.com

The Host With the Most

Tequila gets a more sophisticated treatment than it’s used to in Pernod

Ricard’s limited-edition Avion Collection by Waterford, featuring a luxury decanter and rocks glasses crafted by the famed crystal manufacturer, plus a 750ml bottle of Avion’s award-winning Añejo. \$399, reservebar.com

The Perpetual Activist

Raising respectful children who turn into respectful adults is harder than it looks (at least in Hollywood, and Washington, D.C. and most red states), but The Little Feminist hopes to reverse that trend with its children’s book and activity subscription focused on diversity and gender equality – a much-needed resource given that over the past five years only 31 percent of children’s books featured female-centered characters while a paltry 13 percent featured a person of color. Change the world one kid at a time with three- or six-month subscriptions. \$105-\$200, thelittlefeminist.com

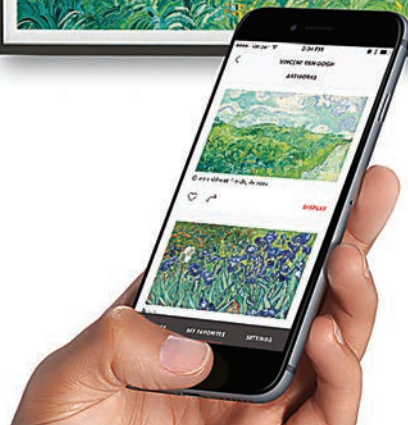
The Dapper Dandy

Leather-strap embossing allows you to personalize the modern minimalism of newly launched Washington Square Watches (the navy-faced Greenwich Gold is a piece to behold), or stick to tradition with London-based Oliver Coen’s

polished subdial pieces presented in a signature black box. \$155, washingtonsquarewatches.com; \$190, olivercoen.com

The Gotta-Have-It Gaymer

The only mobile device controller to connect directly to Apple’s Lightning and Android’s USB-C ports for zero latency gaming, Gamevice – compatible with over 1,000 games and apps, including “Street Fighter IV,” “NBA2K18” and “The Walking Dead” – also works as a controller for drones and robots (or so the AIs let you think). For stay-at-home console players, pick up holiday hot-tickets “Destiny 2” and “Call of Duty: WWII,” based on the historical events of Operation Overlord and set in the European theater. \$100, gamevice.com; games



- \$60/each, gamestop.com

The Loveable Lush

Craft beer connoisseurs can enjoy their hobby in the comfort of their homes thanks to Pico Model C, a countertop-brewing appliance that delivers five liters of liquid gold in about two hours, while the amateur mixologists on the other side of the bar whip up precisely portioned jigger-free cocktails with the Perfect Blend Smart Scale (which is great for healthy smoothies, too). \$549, picobrew.com; \$100, makeitperfectly.com

The Uber Gay

Before he starts kissing ass and taking names at the 25th Winter Party in Miami Feb. 28 to March 6 (this is your cue to buy him tickets!),



he’ll tap into his inner gayby to style the queens in RuPaul’s Drag Race Paper Doll Book, featuring 10 illustrated punch-out dolls plus costumes for eight winners and two all-stars, including Sharon Needles, Bianca Del Rio and Alaska Thunderfuck 5000, among others. \$25-\$2,000, winterparty.com; book – \$13, amazon.com

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He splits his time between homes in New York City and the Jersey Shore with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.

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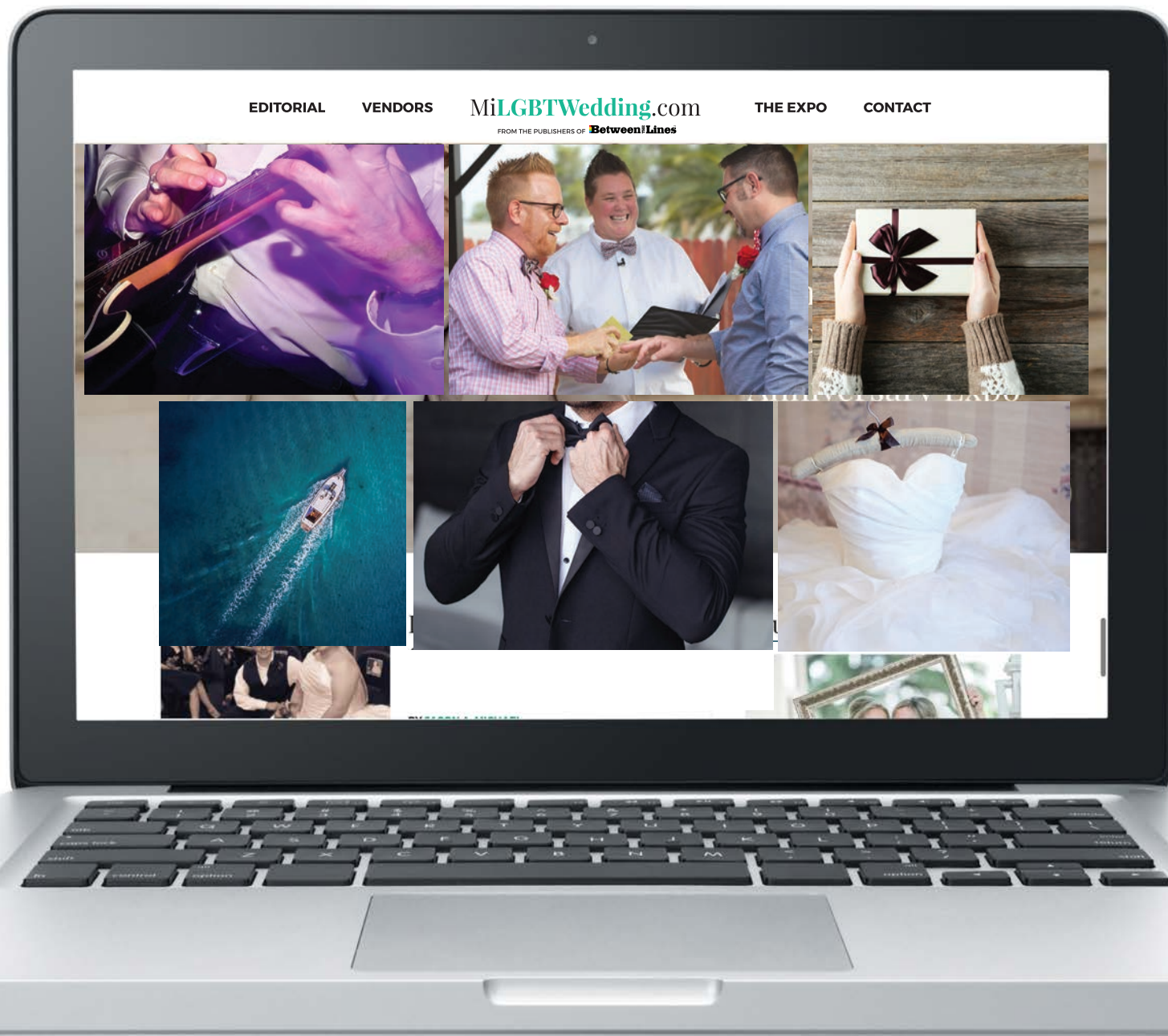
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Trixie Mattel: Ages 3 and Up Detroit

Hard Candy presents Trixie Mattel's (RuPaul's Drag Race, YouTube's Uhhhhh series, upcoming Vice cable series) one woman comedy show "Ages 3 and Up" at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 17 at Saint Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress St. in Detroit. VIP Meet and Greet ticket (\$75) includes photo with Trixie Mattel. General admission (\$35), Gold Circle (\$65), main Floor and balcony available. Visit www.saintandrewsdetroit.com/ for more information or to purchase tickets.

Happenings

OUTINGS

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

Friday, Dec. 15

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

A Trans Holiday Soiree 5:30 p.m. Along with it being a party meant to raise awareness, the Soiree will include HIV testing, raffles, giveaways, food and music. Call for more information. Fair Michigan/Detroit Police Dept. LGBT, 928/950 W. McNichols, **Detroit**. 313-863-3934.

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

Sunday, Dec. 17

PFLAG Meeting 2 p.m. Info and Support Meeting PFLAG Tri-Cities, 2525 Hemmeter 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/

Monday, Dec. 18

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/

Tuesday, Dec. 19

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

Ann Arbor TNG 8 p.m. For the kink and fetish community Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-995-9867. www.jimtoycenter.org/

Wednesday, Dec. 20

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

Thursday, Dec. 21

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

Saturday, Dec. 23

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 24

Transcend 4 p.m. For transgender and gender non-conforming individuals OutFront Kalamazoo, 340 S. Rose St., **Kalamazoo**. 2693494234. www.outfrontkalamazoo.org

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

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

Monday, Dec. 25

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

FtM Detroit Support Group 7 p.m. Support is limited to transmasculine, AFAB people who no longer identify as female, or are questioning, and

Editor's Pick

Michigan Stories: Mike Kelley and Jim Shaw

Experience Michigan stories told through the many signs, symbols, and rituals that Mike Kelley (1954–2012) and Jim Shaw (b. 1952) accumulated through their work, in a meticulous if not obsessive manner. This is the first exhibition to place these artists' practices alongside each other in historical context, approaching their work as parallel visual meditations on midwestern culture in particular, and on American culture more broadly. The exhibition, organized by the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University, runs now through Feb. 25, 2018 at 547 East Circle Drive in East Lansing. Visit <https://broadmuseum.msu.edu/> for more information.



Jim Shaw, *Untitled (Obliterated High School Self Portrait)*

their guests. FtM Detroit, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. ftmdetroit@gmail.com

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

Tuesday, Dec. 26

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, Dec. 27

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, Dec. 28

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

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

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

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

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

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MUSIC & MORE

Affirmations "Affirmations Holiday Arts & Crafts Bazaar" This weekend long bazaar will feature 12 vendors offering holiday gifts, such as art, jewelry, painting and pottery. Check the website for details. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. Dec. 15 - Dec. 16. 248-398-7105. www.goaffirmations.org/

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

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

Detroit Symphony Orchestra "Art @ The Max III Performance" An evening with Marsha Music and collaborator, DJ Adam Stanfel. Pay what you can general admission. VIP Tickets: \$49 (includes reserved section premium seating and a free drink). Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 7 p.m. Dec. 19. 3135765111. www.dso.org

Hug Detroit Day "The Billie Holiday Tribute starring Sky Covington & Club Crescendo at The Tangent Gallery" The 17th Annual Billie Holiday Tribute! And The Seventh Annual Coat & Blanket Drive. Join us to celebrate one of the most daring stylists of our time. The doors will open at 4 p.m. Enjoy our special guest band, Dream Element, vendors available for holiday shopping and our art exhibit Love Letter to Jazz, featuring fine artist Kunle. Performances are aired with a delicious food menu & cash bar. Also celebrate the spirit of giving with this years Seventh Annual Coat & Blanket drive. The Billie Holiday Tribute will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now \$20, slightly higher at the door. Tangent Gallery, 715 East Milwaukee Avenue, City. 7 p.m. Dec. 17. 2484451277. www.eventbright.com

January 20, 2018

6p-9p

Join the FIA in celebrating the 11th Annual Community Gala and the opening of the exhibition *Ubuhle Women: Beadwork and the Art of Independence*.

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See Happenings, page 22

Editor's Pick

98° at Christmas

Just 20 years after famed boyband 98° released their self-titled debut album, band members Nick Lachey, Drew Lachey, Jeff Timmons and Justin Jeffre are celebrating by returning to the stage for a tour to support their upcoming second Christmas album, "Let It Snow." The performance is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 17 at the Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit. Visit www.soundboarddetroit.com for ticket information or call Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000.



for details. Theatre & Dance at Wayne, Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through Dec. 17. 313-577-2960. www.theatreanddanceatwayne.com

A Year Without Panto Claus 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. Contact for ticket info. Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron Street, Ann Arbor. Dec. 8 - Dec. 31. 734.635.8450. www.theatrenova.org

Swimming Upstream Tickets: \$20. World Premiere by Rich Rubin, Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodward 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. 734.635.8450. www.artful.ly/theatre-nova/store/events

ART 'N' AROUND

ArtLab J "ArtLab J Winter Party" ArtLab founded in 2012 is hosting a winter party at their new location. This event give emerging & professional choreographers an opportunity to present their work. Winter party tickets \$25, performance only \$15 See website International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit, 111 E. Kirby, Detroit. 4 p.m. Dec. 16. www.artlabj.com/detroit-dance-race/

Detroit Institute of Arts "Church - A Painter's Pilgrimage" One ticket sends you on 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 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

Happenings

Continued from p. 21

Michigan Opera Theatre "Too Hot To Handel" The Jazz Gospel Messiah, a hand-clapping, soul-stirring holiday celebration. Tickets start at \$20. Contact for more info. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16. 313-237-SING. www.michiganopera.org

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>

Sound Board "98 Degrees" Sound Board welcomes 98 Degrees! Tickets are \$55, \$45 and \$43. All guests must be at least 21 years of age with valid photo ID. Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17. 866-782-9622. www.motorcitycasino.com

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

THEATER

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

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'The Santaland Diaries' and 'Season's Greetings' Come back for 11th Run at the Ringwald Theatre

BY ENCORE MICHIGAN STAFF

FERNDALE – David Sedaris' delightful anti-holiday double feature *The SantaLand Diaries* & *Season's Greetings* makes its annual return to the Ringwald stage for another round of twisted Christmas fun. This year the theater's 11th annual production, Richard Payton takes over both roles for a limited five-show run. Performances will begin Thursday, Dec. 14 and play through Dec. 18. Showtimes are Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Monday nights at 8 p.m., with one Sunday matinee at 5 p.m.

For one week only, Ringwald fan favorite Richard Payton will be taking on both roles in Sedaris' classic messed-up monologues: the disgruntled department store elf Crumpet in *SantaLand* and the warm and welcoming matriarch, Jocelyn Dunbar, in *Season's Greetings*. This year's all-new production is directed by Dyan Bailey.



Tickets are \$20 for Thursday, Friday & Saturday performances. Sunday matinees are \$15. Monday nights as always at the Ringwald are \$10. Five dollar student discount is available on Friday and Saturday performances, with valid student ID (Available at the box office on the day of the show). Tickets can be purchased at www.TheRingwald.com or at the theatre box office. The Ringwald box office opens 45 minutes before performances and tickets can be purchased with cash or credit card. The Ringwald Theatre is located at 22742 Woodward Avenue in the Times Square of downtown Ferndale.

Visit www.theringwald.com for more information.

Vendor Registrations Open for Ferndale Pride 2018

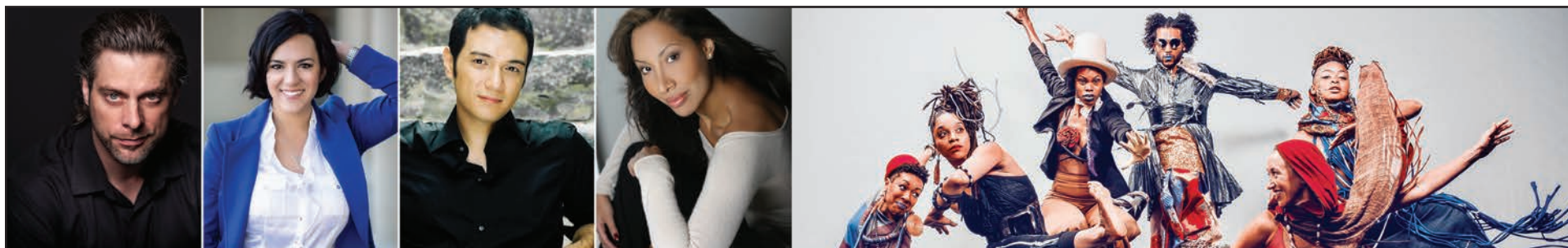
A chill may be in the air but Ferndale Pride is thawing out and warming up in preparation for its eighth annual celebration. The upcoming event will take place on June 2, 2018, on West Nine Mile, and as usual, Pride will have booths, activities, two stages of entertainment, a children's area and roughly 20,000 visitors nearly the size of the city's population.

Although it's less than a decade old, Ferndale Pride's popularity has skyrocketed. The website *After Ellen* listed the event as a "Small City Pride That is Worth the Trip." But Ferndale Pride couldn't be as successful of an event and safe space for LGBTQ people if it wasn't for the financial support of local businesses and community members.

Although the event itself is six months away, businesses can get the jump on reserving sponsorship opportunities that come with a variety of promotional perks like naming rights, logo distribution around Pride and exposure on the main stage alongside artists like *The Clicks* and *Goddess & She*. Each of these opportunities will last the length of the week-long event.

Sponsorship gifts can range in price from \$200 to \$15,000. Sponsors to date include MotorCity Casino Hotel, Suburban Buick GMC of Ferndale, The Candle Wick Shoppe and Rosie O'Grady's.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities, visit gaybe.am/n6, or contact Julia Music who is the event chair at 248-906-8683 or julia@ferndalepride.com. Send all mail inquiries to 430 E. Saratoga St., Suite B, Ferndale.



What's in a Song Martin Katz, piano and curator

Singers to include:
Nicole Cabell, soprano
Daniela Mack, mezzo-soprano
Nicholas Phan, tenor
John Relyea, bass
 Saturday, January 6 // 8 pm
 Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

One of the highlights of the 2015-16 UMS season was the opening of the first Song Biennial, in which Martin Katz curated a wonderful evening featuring a variety of singers examining the different components of a song. This second edition features a different cast of characters, with Katz's inimitable knowledge of the vast song repertoire guiding the evening.

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Jawole Zollar, founder
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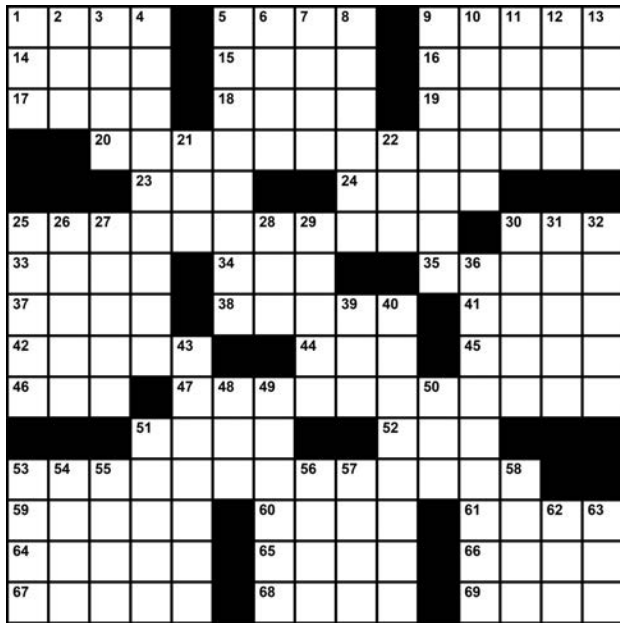


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Q Puzzle



- 42 Loads of
44 CBS forensic drama
45 Those, to Gomer
46 Castro Street, on BART
47 President who threatened to only let one of the two birds go
51 "Spamalot" writer Eric
52 Bill written by Alice Paul
53 1982 Meryl Streep film
59 Think tank output
60 Hazard for Sheehan
61 Clothing designer Chow
64 "Lesbians ignite!" e.g.
65 Nathan of "The Birdcage"
66 Will off the set
67 Fuss over feathers
68 2000 gay flick "___ and Charley"
69 Result of getting rear-ended
- 13 Jazz singer Anita
21 Siegfried's partner
22 However, in verse
25 Gets hard
26 Bonehead
27 Sporty Mazda
28 Hail Mary path
29 Lover of Dali, perhaps
30 ___ Picchu (ancient Incan commune)
31 "The Deep Six" actor
Zimbalist
32 Result of overzealous circumcision?
36 Withdrawn, like an eagle's talons
39 Night school subj.
40 Like welcoming thighs
43 Dr. Montgomery of "Grey's Anatomy"
48 Grand ___ Opry
49 Joan of Lesbian Herstory
50 Angular opening
51 Cole Porter's "___ Men"
53 Gullible guy
54 Febreze target
55 Guitarist Townshend
56 Fiddler on the reef
57 "The English Patient" nurse
58 Land of Sinead O'Connor
62 Anais, who went both ways
63 ___ UP

Down

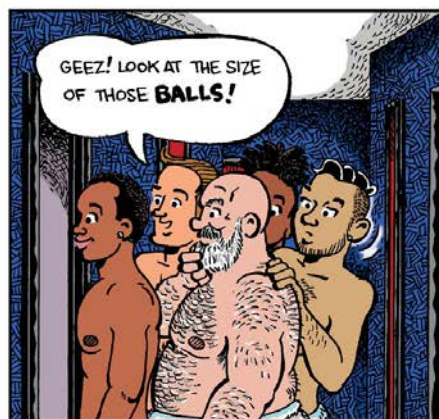
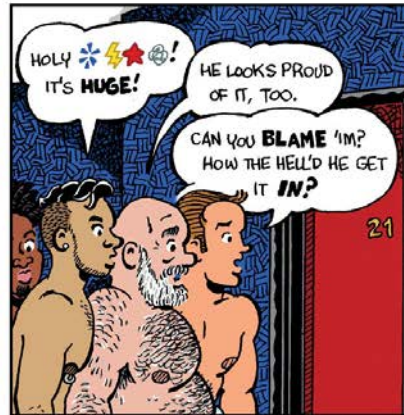
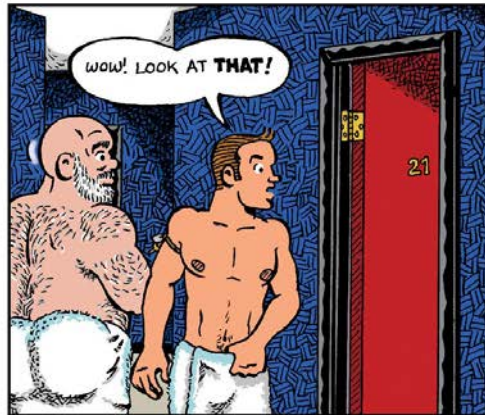
- 1 Figure skater Babilonia
2 Home st. of Harper Lee
3 Drag queen's shoe
4 Professionals on "Six Feet Under"
5 Exchanges in David Kopay's sport
6 It's sold in bars
7 "Dawson's Creek" type
8 Illegible letters
9 Pricking
10 It arouses you in bed
11 Button's place
12 South Beach's Miami-___ County

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Clemency at Thanksgiving

Across

- 1 Strip in the locker room
5 Sexual attraction, with "the"
9 Don of game shows
14 David Hyde Pierce, to Yale
15 Actor Mapa
16 Homer-erotic tale?
17 Shakespeare's foot
18 Not e'en once
19 LGBT briefing follow-up, for short?
20 Traditional Thanksgiving
- gesture by the president
23 Gielgud's john
24 Passing fancy
25 Comedian who said that 47-Across had turned Thanksgiving into 53-Across
30 Month for Kahlo
33 Warhol pal ___ Sedgwick
34 One of two ways
35 Shoot off another plant
37 One with flaming pants?
38 Stick it to
41 L'eggs shade



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Chef Nourishes Minds, Bodies and Souls of Saginaw Community

Tina Saycosie Carries on Mother's Values and Traditions at Pasong's Cafe

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

For many, a love of food is learned, but for Chef Tina Saycosie, 42, it was in her blood. After all, not only is her mother a retired chef, but she comes from a food-minded family.

“My grandfather was a colonel and my grandmother was a doctor in Savannakhet,” Saycosie said. “When my mother was young, they had five cooks: Chinamen, a cook from Vietnam, from Malaysia, a cook from Thailand – because my grandmother and my grandfather loved food.

Food brings people together. They were very adamant in keeping people together.”

This food-centric mindset would follow the family in 1979, after an escape to the U.S. from war-torn Laos, and manifest itself physically in 1986 with the opening of Pasong's Chinese Express restaurant. Fast forward through 30 years, two moves and a rebranding to Pasong's Café, and you'll find the restaurant is still going strong. According to Saycosie, its mix of more than just Laotian cuisine is because of her mother, who was the driving forces behind the restaurant's success.

“It's a fusion of a lot of different flavors from southeast Asia – such a vast area of similar, but different foods. It's a lot of different techniques, and the ingredients we use to bring life to the dishes that come from all areas,” Saycosie said. “She's famous for her spring rolls because that's what took care of us after our father passed away. Those are very similar to the Filipino lumpias, so this is just a little bit of everything in our food.”

After her mother's retirement in 2010, Saycosie and her sister, Nonnie, were forced to take the reins and begin cooking their mother's lauded food. The food was something Saycosie had been exposed to all her life, but this time it was different. Although she had always been an active part of the restaurant, Saycosie had largely aided with kitchen prep and cleanup; she had never been solely responsible for the entrees she made before.

“And even though when [mom] and I were partners, she still did a lot of the cooking and I was front of the house. When our schedule started to change, I had to get back in the kitchen more and learn mom's food more,” Saycosie said. “Everything that I witnessed and learned at a young age, that I didn't think I had learned, suddenly it just came to the



Chef Tina Saycosie from Pasong's Cafe in Saginaw. Courtesy photo

surface. It just kind of took over. I found a real fondness in doing so. I really enjoyed it. I take a lot of pleasure in making something that brings someone else happiness.”

And that shows. In its Yelp ratings, 83 percent of users give the restaurant four stars or higher – not to mention the 97 percent of people who rate the restaurant as high on Facebook.

Saycosie's philosophy of happiness enters every facet of her life as well – as a part of the LGBTQ community, she said that it took some time for her realize she was gay, but her self-discovery was an important part of achieving peace within herself.

“I met a girl when I was 19 and she liked me and it just went from there. I had my first kiss with a girl. That formed into a relationship. We lived together for a while. My mother, I think it was easier for her to accept her as my friend and roommate, more so than my girlfriend. But then, I never really came out to her either,” Saycosie said. “My little sister,

Nonnie, took me aside. We went to go have our usual blueberry pie and coffee and talk time and she asked me if she was my girlfriend out of the blue. I came out to my sister and she was my first. And Nonnie was very, very accepting and it was wonderful.”

Now, although you won't find Saycosie listed as the leader of any local LGBTQ groups, she is responsible for activism on a personal, one-on-one basis.

“Unfortunately, being part of the family business, it takes a lot of my waking hours. I was never able to dedicate any actual time to being a key member in any group, but I would always share my time whenever I could. I'm just a freelancer advocate, if you will,” she said with a laugh. “I try not to be angry, that doesn't really change anybody's mind – I learned that one at a young age. Instead, you just try to remind them to find peace. This sounds so cliché, but being in a family business in a small town, too, you have to be careful of the words you choose. I didn't want to hurt my

mother's business.”

Thankfully, Saycosie said she found tremendous support in the Saginaw community. She said she's glad to be a visible member of the LGBTQ community locally, and part of other programs like the Downtown Saginaw Harvest Table. The DSHT showcases the work of local farmers and chefs in hopes of making the Downtown Saginaw Farmer's Market a year-round tradition.

“It's been really remarkable and it's been an awesome thing to see grow over the course of two years. The support that comes in. All these little great treasures, these Saginaw natives,” she said. “I'm trying to keep up.”

Visit Pasong's Cafe online at <http://pasongs.com>, for more information about how to feed your mind, body and soul. Located at 114 Michigan Ave. in Saginaw, Pasong's Cafe is open Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. and 5-8 p.m.; Saturday 5-8 p.m.; Closed on Sunday and Monday for rest and recharge.

Mike Flores Steps In as New Affirmations Board President

BY BTL STAFF

Affirmations LGBTQ community center in Ferndale announced that Board President, Brad Bell, has stepped down. Bell has been a member of the Affirmations board since 2012, and was appointed president in May of 2017.

“After four years serving on the Affirmations Board, I have decided to step down from the board,” Bell said. “During that time the center has seen improved financial stability under Susan Erspamer’s leadership, the development of many new programs, and has recently completed a new strategic plan.”



Mike Flores

Bell’s replacement will be current Vice President Mike Flores, who will take over the remaining months of the term. Flores was first appointed as a board member in January 2016 alongside Eric Martin.

“I think one of the things that I want to bring to the position as of right now, is to make sure that we have a robust 2018 budget, that we’re currently working on,” Flores said. “And I will be the chair for Spring Bash 2018, so I hope that in 2018 we will have another successful Spring Bash, which is our premier fundraising event at Affirmations.”

Flores’ background is in finance, strategy development and program management. He is a graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy and Oakland University. Before his appointment, he held several positions within Michigan’s automotive industry and in the

aerospace industry in Rhode Island. Flores returned to Michigan in 2015. That year he learned of Affirmations and began to support several of its events.

“(When) I moved back to the Metro Detroit area in 2015, I had been looking at several organization to support. I support several financially, but I wanted to select one where I could offer my time,” Flores said. “I elected Affirmations once I learned more about the board, more about the vision and mission of Affirmations, but more importantly, about the next phase of Affirmations. I decided that I really wanted to get involved.”

Flores said that he aims to improve on the efforts of his predecessor.

“I look forward to building on Brad’s efforts, and to work with the board through the center’s next phase,” Flores said.

Flores said that if the opportunity arises in May, he may consider running for board president again.

“It would be possible, I’ll definitely leave that up to the board at large to determine if my five months as president were good, and if they would want me to continue as president,” Flores said. “Of course, anyone on the board is open to run for any position during general elections, and if the board decides that I’ve done a good job, I’d be honored to accept the position again.”

Affirmations is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.

Hug Detroit Day Coat and Blanket Drive Arrives Sunday

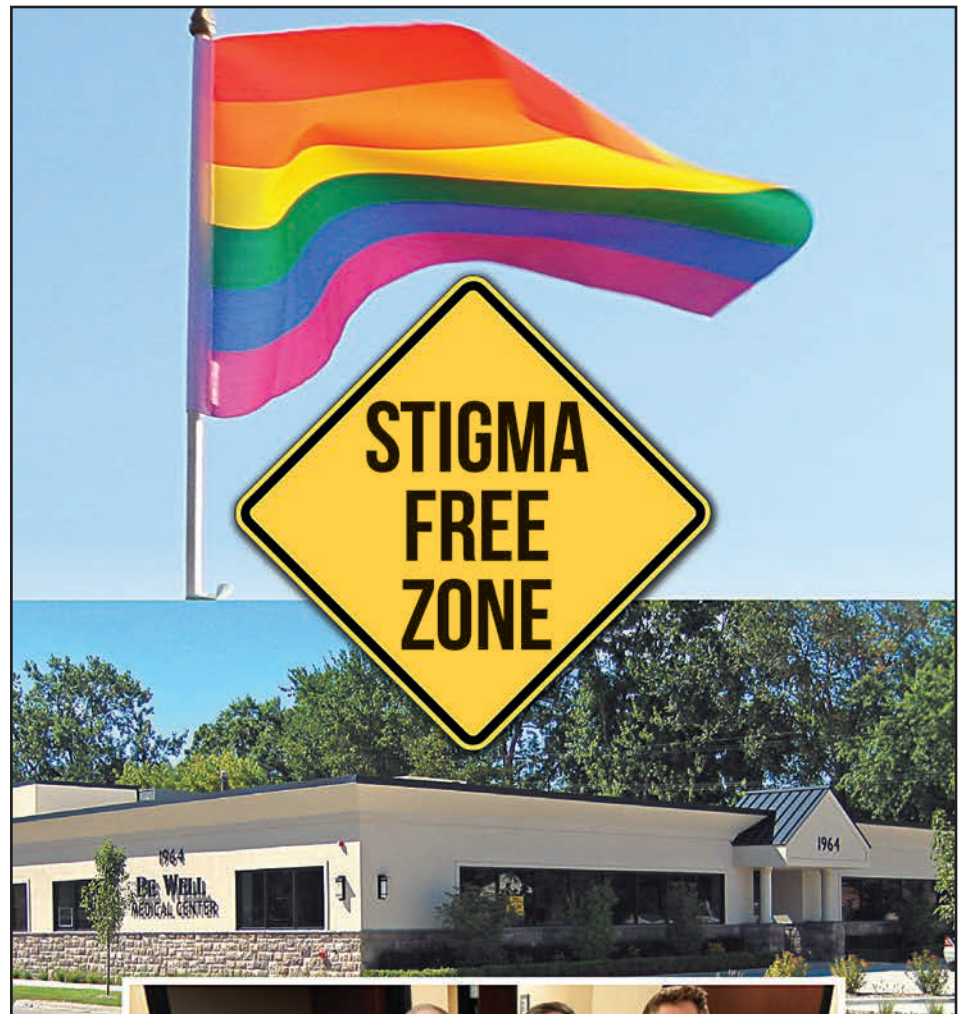
Billed as, “One good deed can change everything,” on Sunday, Dec. 17 the Billie Holiday Tribute starring Sky Covington and Club Crescendo will perform at the Tangent Gallery as it kicks off the Seventh Annual Coat & Blanket Drive. Join in celebrating one of the most daring stylists of our time.

The doors open at 4 p.m. with a special guest band, Dream Element, along with vendors who can help out with your holiday shopping. The event also showcases an art exhibit – Love Letter to Jazz – featuring artist Kunle. You

can also enjoy performances from the Hug Detroit Community Choir. Delicious food and a cash bar will be available. Come celebrate the spirit of giving with this year’s coat and blanket drive. Please bring coats, blankets, hats, gloves and socks.

The Billie Holiday Tribute will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are on sale now for \$20 and will be slightly higher at the door. Tangent Gallery is located at 715 E. Milwaukee Ave., in Detroit. 7 p.m.

For more information call 248-445-1277



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Left: Curt Tofteland listens while Rachelle Oppenhuizen and Kendall Harmening recite Shakespeare. BTL Photo; Jim Larkin.



Right: Shakespeare Beyond Bars participants (left to right) Kendall Harmening, Rachelle Oppenhuizen and Elisha Toth explore the bard's words. BTL Photo; Jim Larkin.

From Prisons to the Community

'Shakespeare Beyond Bars' Comes to Holland LGBT Community Center

BY JIM LARKIN

Kendall Harmening said part of what drew her to "Shakespeare Beyond Bars" was that it was being offered at a safe place: Out On The Lakeshore Community Center in Holland.

So, while reading through one of William Shakespeare's sonnets about love and loss, in the homey confines of the new LGBTQ community center, at 451 Columbia Ave., she felt comfortable sharing that she too experienced love and breakup with her ex-partner.

"This is a safe place and I love that we have this available to the community," Harmening said, prior to taking part in the 'Shakespeare Beyond Bars' experience at the center.

"It allows people to speak about their lives in a place where they feel safe," added Rachelle Oppenhuizen, another 'Shakespeare Beyond Bars' participant.

Indeed, since the Out On The Lakeshore Community Center opened in May, it has provided a number of safe opportunities to people in the Holland area, and some unexpected alliances with people and organizations it might not have otherwise formed.

The experience of exploring and better understanding Shakespeare's works while simultaneously plumbing personal depths, through Curt Tofteland's 'Shakespeare Beyond

Bars,' is one example.

Another is committee members from the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance stopping in the center and asking OOTL if it would join efforts to stage a Jan. 20 Women's Anniversary March in Holland.

Then there was Pathways of Holland holding a focus group at the center to explore the issue of homeless youth, the Big Read Holland Area hosting one of its book club discussion groups there, a comics art class being held and an Art Drop-In planned for next year and a number of organizations simply connecting with the center.

Hardly what the OOTL Board expected when it held its OOTL Community Center open house in May, with dreams dancing in their heads of LGBT youth dropping in to connect with one another.

"Some of what's happening is we're becoming more a resource to the community than we originally thought we would be," noted the Rev. Jen Adams, an OOTL board member. "Just our existing has brought people to us that I didn't think would be connecting with us.

"It's grown in ways we didn't expect and we decided to let it organically develop rather than pre-determining what it should be."

The OOTL community center still isn't centered on LGBTQ issues, and it has reached out to gay straight alliances at local

schools, will hold pop-up hours for Equality Michigan's Department of Victim Services beginning the second Monday of February, holds a Gender Safe transgender support group the first Saturday of every month and has hosted such LGBT events as LGBT Reads, a gay book club.

And the unexpected new alliances allow OOTL to broaden its base in Holland – known as one of the most conservative areas in the state – and build toward a future when LGBTQ people will be better accepted in a city that has rejected attempts to protect LGBTQ people against discrimination.

Then there are those occasions when art and LGBTQ issues just naturally align, such as this program.

Love is Love, Even in Shakespeare

Curt Tofteland, a Holland resident, founded "Shakespeare Behind Bars" more than 20 years ago as a program that could help prisoners transform themselves while incarcerated. It combines art, theatre and the works of Shakespeare to create Restorative Circles of Reconciliation in prisons, a step in Tofteland's program.

When OOTL Community Center opened, he thought it presented a great opportunity to

pilot his program, then taking it and offering it outside of prisons. While reading and exploring the meaning behind Shakespeare's works, participants also go through their own self-discovery – such as Harmening, relating her own personal loss to a Shakespeare sonnet.

While participants read Shakespeare out loud, Tofteland gently prods them, encouraging them to "learn self-truths from the verse" and explaining that understanding our mistakes allows us to grow as human beings.

"It's confusion that shuts us down," Tofteland said.

It matters not, he explains, that Shakespeare may have written his verses about a man and a woman's relationship. Love is love and loss is loss, he notes. They know no gender boundary.

Through the process of exploring Shakespeare and discovering how his works personally relate, Tofteland wants participants to answer several key questions: Who am I? What do I love? How will I live my life knowing I will die? What is my gift to humankind?

"The process of self-reflection just helps you work out a lot of stuff," Tofteland said. "You learn to live with it and move on."

For more information on Out on the Lakeshore, go to facebook.com/outonthelakeshore/, outonthelakeshore.org or email outonthelakeshore@gmail.com

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

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

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

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

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

Ferndale, MI
248-398-7105

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

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

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

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

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
- Religious & Spiritual
- Senior Living
- Seniors
- Social/Community Organizations
- Sports
- Substance Abuse
- Transgender Groups/Services
- Women's Health
- Youth Services



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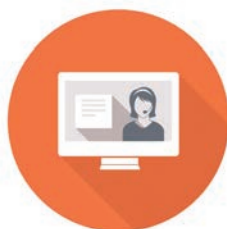
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FIND SUPPORT GROUPS.



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WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG



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