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# GLORIA ESTEFAN'S VERY GAY YEAR

Pop Icon Has a Queer Movie, Queer Award  
and Now a Queer Daughter

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JANUARY 11, 2018 | VOL. 2602 | FREE

In adults with HIV on ART who have diarrhea not caused by an infection



## Tired of planning your life around diarrhea? Enough is Enough

Get relief. Pure and simple. Ask your doctor about Mytesi.

### Mytesi (crofelemer):

- Is the **only** medicine FDA-approved to relieve diarrhea in people with HIV
- **Treats diarrhea differently** by normalizing the flow of water in the GI tract
- Has the same or fewer side effects as placebo in clinical studies
- Comes from a tree sustainably harvested in the Amazon Rainforest

### What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

### Important Safety Information

Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

For Copay Savings Card and Patient Assistance, see [Mytesi.com](http://Mytesi.com)

Please see complete Prescribing Information at [Mytesi.com](http://Mytesi.com).

NP-390-32

**Mytesi**  
(crofelemer) 125 mg  
delayed-release tablets

**RELIEF, PURE AND SIMPLE**

### IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at [Mytesi.com](http://Mytesi.com) or by calling 1-844-722-8256. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

#### What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

**Do Not Take Mytesi** if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

#### Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

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

#### Should I Take Mytesi if I Am:

##### Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

##### A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

##### Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

##### What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi

##### With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

##### What if I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at [Mytesi.com](http://Mytesi.com) or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.

#### Rx Only

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Mytesi comes from the *Croton tchleri* tree harvested in South America.

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## COVER

22 Gloria Estefan's Very Gay year

## NEWS

- 4 Democratic Candidates for AG Speak Out on LGBTQ Issues
- 9 Being Paula Holly
- 16 Fight for Restaurant Worker Wages and Tips Extended 30 Days
- 17 Nominee Would be First Openly Gay State Chief Justice
- 18 Supreme Court Won't Hear Challenge to Mississippi Anti-LGBT Law
- 19 Judge Rejects Request to Bar Trans Kids from Restroom at Ill. School
- 20 These Two Anti-LGBT Republicans May Run for Senate in 2018

## OPINION

- 14 Parting Glances
- 14 Viewpoint
- 15 Creep of the Week

## LIFE

- 24 Slipstream's 'Tales from The Mitten' Sends Up Acting with Laughter and Truth
- 25 The Ringwald Theatre Presents Midwestern Debut of 'Let the Right One In'
- 26 Happenings
- 28 Classifieds
- 29 Deep Inside Hollywood: The Best of 2017
- 31 Puzzle & Crossword

## POLITICS



## SAVE THE DATE



Jobs, Peace & Justice is Theme of 2018 Detroit MLK Day p. 30

## COMMUNITY CONNECTION



- 32 Lansing Rapper Talks Social Justice With New Mixtape
- 30 Jobs, Peace & Justice is Theme of 2018 Detroit MLK Day
- 33 Affirmations Offers Self-Breast Exam 101 Session With Gyneca
- 33 Assembly Line Theatre to do Staged Reading of Sean Paraventi's 'Seven Castaways'

## VIEWPOINT



The Social Media Exposure of Perpetrators Leads to the Catalyst of Sexual Assault Social Change p. 14

## HAPPENINGS



26 Best of LGBT Events

## FERDALE



Ringwald: 'Let the Right One In' p. 25

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## Election 2018

# Democratic Candidates for AG

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Democrats are fielding candidates this year as they seize their moment to win back the state of Michigan before the next round of redistricting starts in 2020. Four statewide offices are up for election in 2018 - senator, governor, secretary of state and attorney general.

While several attorneys general nationwide have been proactive in the fight against anti-LGBTQ efforts, for the last five years in Michigan, Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette has derailed any efforts made to extend rights to LGBTQ citizens.

He is prevented by term limits from seeking a third term in 2018, but whoever fills this position - which has been held by Republicans since 2003 - will continue to have

a tremendous amount of influence over issues relevant to LGBTQ people and their families.

That's why the MDP's nomination for attorney general is so important for the LGBTQ community. Accepting and voting for a person who believes in anything less than full equality for all people irrespective of sexual orientation or gender identity is not an option.

There is no primary election this year for down ballot races so the MDP will nominate under state law their attorney general candidate during a nomination convention Aug. 25-26 in Lansing. The nominee - which will be predetermined during an endorsement convention on April 15 in Detroit - will face statewide voters in the Nov. 6 general election.

In the race are Democratic candidates Dana Nessel, Patrick Miles and William Noakes who filed to run just before press time. The

Republican candidates so far are House Speaker Tom Leonard and state Senator Tonya Schuitmaker.

Nessel is recognized as one of the premier litigators of LGBTQ issues in the state and is known for taking the precedent-setting case *DeBoer v. Snyder* to the Supreme Court to win same-sex couples the right to marry in 2015.

She has been adversarial at times, pushing the LGBTQ community to take risks in the fight for equal rights. While not everyone has agreed with her strategy or tactics along the way, Nessel said, "No one can question my commitment to helping the community in any way I possibly can."

Since announcing her run in August last year, Nessel has been pushing back against any notion that the MDP shouldn't have an all-female ticket in 2018. U.S. Sen. Debbie

## Patrick Miles

**Age:** 50

**Occupation:** Of Counsel and a member of the Litigation Department at Barnes & Thornburg in Grand Rapids

**Education:** Graduate of Aquinas College and Harvard Law School

**Experience:** Appointed as the first African American to the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2012 during the Obama administration, serving as the chief federal law enforcement officer covering 49 counties.

**Personal note:** Miles is a lifelong, fifth generation Michigander who grew up in a family that believes in hard work and service to others.

**Noteworthy:** As U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan, Miles prosecuted the first-ever child sex trafficking case in the district and went on to prosecute 11 other defendants for sex trafficking minors.

**Priorities:** Fighting government corruption, protecting the vulnerable (children, seniors and veterans), combating the opioid crisis, safeguarding consumers and improving police and community relations.

**Some endorsements:** Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights; former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan Barbara McQuade; U.S. Senator Carl Levin

*Follow Pat Miles' campaign online at*



**Tell me how you are going to play a major role in helping the LGBTQ community achieve full equality?**

The attorney general position is a very powerful position. It's the second most powerful in the state, after the governor. You have the ability to speak out as well as the ability to question laws that are not constitutional, and not in the public interest, and challenge those laws, both laws coming out of Lansing, and out of Washington D.C. We've seen in many instances things coming out of the Trump Administration or things that were done by Attorney General Schuette that were contrary to equality for all people, especially our LGBTQ community. We saw an interference with the civil rights commission coming out of Washington, affecting the LGBTQ community as well as where the

Attorney General Bill Schuette interfered in the Civil Rights Commission interpreting Elliott-Larsen to include protections for Michigan LGBT residents. I believe that interference was inappropriate. I believe we should advocate for amending ELCRA to cover LGBT residents specifically, but certainly the Commission can give its interpretation.

**What would you say to those who don't share that same opinion in light of the current administration?**

I would say that we have a Constitution and the Constitution gives people protection for all and we have to follow the Constitution and follow what the law says. And when you selectively deny those rights to groups then we're not following our American heritage.

**Discuss a time personally or professionally when you've assisted the LGBTQ community? Have you ever prosecuted a person for a hate crime against the LGBTQ community?**

One instance where as U.S. Attorney I helped convene a meeting between law enforcement in Grand Rapids and the LGBT community to talk about the treatment of LGBT residents by law enforcement and that was a very candid discussion. It was a very productive discussion as I think both sides needed to hear the concerns of the other, but it's particularly law enforcement that needed to hear how the LGBT community felt that it was being harassed and mistreated and not fully served by law enforcement so that was a very important discussion that we had

while I was U.S. Attorney and I've really always wanted to foster open communication between law enforcement and the various communities that it serves because if you don't have a relationship you can't have trust and if you have a breakdown in trust, then bad things can happen in the community and bad things can be made worse if an incident arises. In terms of the Matthew Shepard hate crimes law, frankly is very limited in jurisdictions with the federal government. We investigated several hate crimes, but there was really more authority at the local level for the county prosecutors and for the state to bring cases then at the federal level. There were instances that if we felt the county did not do something, we would find a way to take action. The job of the U.S. Attorney just like the job of Attorney General - the number one mission - is to protect the public and we have to protect everyone and ensure justice for all.

**Do you believe that the government and private businesses can deny goods and services to LGBTQ people, same-sex couples and their families?**

No, of course not. Once you've entered commerce, to discriminate is wrong. That's to me an absurd example of an ideology that's run afoul. Where again, it's contrary to our U.S. Constitution where we have equal protection laws for a reason in the Constitution and especially with someone that's entered commerce and is in business and to be able to discriminate is just wrong. I, as an African American have been on the

See AG: Patrick Miles, page 10

# Speak Out on LGBTQ Issues

Stabenow is up for re-election and Democrats Gretchen Whitmer and Jocelyn Benson are both front runners in their races for governor and secretary of state, respectively.

Nessel sent a bold message via YouTube recently to elect more women. Her campaign ad to vote for candidates “without a penis,” she said is meant to address the barrage of sexual harassment allegations making headline news. It has garnered national attention and has received mixed reviews.

**Miles**, the former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan, is known for combating gang violence, child exploitation, financial fraud and organized crime, among other civil and criminal matters. Miles said as attorney general he will prevent and prosecute crimes against the most vulnerable members of society, but he has been silent on LGBTQ rights and lacks a pro-LGBTQ

record. Prior to his confirmation as U.S. Attorney by the Senate, he served more than two dozen charitable and professional boards and committees, some of which champion anti-LGBTQ causes. One might question how his past – intertwined with homophobic religious affiliations – has informed where he is today. While many politicians “evolve” for the sake of political expediency, Miles said he “has a heart for these issues” and “have been on the wrong end of discrimination myself so I definitely empathize with what’s happening.”

If elected, Nessel would be the first lesbian and the second woman (Jennifer Granholm was the first) in the attorney general’s office. Miles would be the state’s first black attorney general. Beyond adding diversity to the Democratic ticket, both Nessel and Miles agreed to answer various questions about what they can and will do as individuals to advance

the needs of the LGBTQ community. They were asked to make their best arguments about where they stand on particular issues such as fighting against hate crimes, adoption, religion, anti-bullying, and decriminalizing HIV.

It is the attorney general’s job to protect and serve the people and interests of Michigan through a broad range of duties as the state’s top lawyer and law enforcement official. While overseeing more than 500 lawyers, investigators, and other employees, the attorney general’s responsibilities include safeguarding the public from violent criminals, helping victims of crime, leading the fight against human trafficking and opioid abuse, preserving Michigan’s spectacular natural resources, protecting consumers and addressing illegal business practices.

## Learn More About Michigan State Conventions

Inside the Michigan Democratic Party, state conventions are a yearly occurrence that offer members an opportunity to collectively make decisions on the future of the MDP. The nomination convention will take place Aug. 25-26 in Lansing. To allow candidates more time to campaign, the MDP has added an endorsement convention on April 15 at 9 a.m. at Cobo Center in Detroit. The nominee will be pre-determined at this endorsement convention. While state conventions are open to all Democrats, only those who have been members for at least 30 days prior to the convention may vote or run for party office. Members of the community who wish to vote must fill out an MDP membership application via mail or online before March 15. Still have questions? Contact the MDP by phone at 517-371-5410 or by email at [midemparty@michigandems.com](mailto:midemparty@michigandems.com). The state convention is explained online at [michigandems.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/guide-to-convention.pdf](http://michigandems.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/guide-to-convention.pdf).

## Dana Nessel

**Age:** 48

**Occupation:** Managing partner of Nessel & Kessel Law in Detroit; president and co-founder of Fair Michigan

**Education:** Graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School

**Experience:** Nearly 25 years of legal experience covering a vast array of disciplines as both a defense and prosecuting attorney.

**Personal note:** Nessel lives in southeast Michigan with her wife, Alanna Maguire, their twin sons, Alex and Zach, along with various cats.

**Noteworthy:** In less than a year the Fair Michigan Justice Project has secured eight convictions for hate-based crimes against members of the LGBTQ community.

**Priorities:** To protect the environment, senior citizens and consumers while addressing marijuana laws and fighting for civil rights.

**Some endorsements:** LPAC; Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy; Ellis Stafford, retired Deputy Chief of the Michigan State Police and president of the Metro Detroit Chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Executives

Follow Dana Nessel’s campaign online at [dana2018.com](http://dana2018.com).



**You’re not the only LGBTQ candidate running for a statewide office, but you are the most visible. Yet people are far more concerned with you being a woman than being a lesbian. Thoughts?**

I was very taken aback by that, and all I can think about is one giant step forward for the gays and one backwards for women. Of course that’s very concerning and upsetting to me, but I honestly believe that if the most qualified and the most progressive and the most exciting ticket that the Democrats could come up with is an all-female ticket then I think that that is going to be a winner in the November elections because I think people are tired of seeing women so vastly underrepresented in office. In the state of Michigan only 20 percent of the legislature is represented by women so we have an enormous amount of underrepresentation and we know that when

we have underrepresentation of women in office it’s not just bad for women, it’s bad for families...The fact of the matter is I think I’m the best candidate to this office and I think that I’m the most exciting candidate to this office and I’m going to be the most aggressive in terms of protecting the rights of all minorities including the LGBTQ community.

### Why should the LGBTQ community vote for you?

As an openly gay person, I represent over half a million Michiganders. I think that number is higher, but we know it’s at least half a million people who have never had that representation at the statewide level before. I’m bringing diversity to the ticket in a way that has never existed before ... I think some people are excited about that. Some people aren’t. What bothers me is that for people who don’t support my candidacy, they consider me a one-trick pony as though I have no ideas about anything else, as though I’ve never practiced in any other field. I have more experience in practicing criminal law both as a prosecutor and a defense attorney than anyone whose ever held the office of attorney general. I’m the only person who has this amount of experience not just as a prosecutor, but also representing indigent people who were too poor to ever afford an attorney. I’ve represented people who were addicted to crack and opioids and alcohol. I’ve represented veterans who have post-traumatic stress disorder. In terms of criminal reforms or alternative programs I know more about this than just about anybody who has been in this position because I’ve practiced on both sides so I know the flaws in the system that exist on both sides in both

people in the court room. So, for people to say, oh, she’s just an LGBTQ rights advocate, that’s all she is, not only is it unfair but it’s untrue and I have far more experience than my democratic opponent who’s never tried a criminal case in his career. So, to say all I know is about LGBTQ rights despite the fact that I’ve tried dozens and dozens of first-degree murder cases both as a prosecutor and a defense attorney, I think it diminishes me as a candidate.

### What would you say to LGBTQ people who you haven’t always seen eye-to-eye with on how to best pursue equal rights for the community?

I guess the statement that I want to make to everyone in the community is that I understand there are people in the LGBTQ community here in Michigan that have not always appreciated my methodology when it came to achieving LGBTQ rights. And people who are allies, people who are in the community – like any community of people, like any group of activists – we have our differences of opinion of how best to support the community and how to best achieve rights that don’t exist.

So people have questioned my process of doing that. But no one can question my commitment to helping the community in any way I possibly can. Just know this – I am going to do everything I possibly can to be supportive of the LGBTQ community and to ensure that voices are heard.

At a time where the community is under assault, if the worst thing you can say about me is that I’m too aggressive in my efforts

See AG: Dana Nessel, page 12

## What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

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

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

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

#### Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

#### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

#### TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

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

## Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# I'm passionate, not impulsive.

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.

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

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

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

GILEAD

Learn more at [truvada.com](http://truvada.com)

 **Truvada**  
emtricitabine 200 mg / tenofovir  
disoproxil fumarate 300 mg tablets  
for **PrEP** pre-exposure prophylaxis



(tru-VAH-dah)

## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

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

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

## ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

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

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

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

## HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

## IMPORTANT FACTS

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

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

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

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

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

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

## BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

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

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

## HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

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

## GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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Paula Holly, 63, came out two years ago as a trans woman. BTL Photo: Alex Godin

# Being Paula Holly

## A Trans Woman, Long-Suppressed, Reclaims Her Time

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

**P**ain wells up in Paula Holly's eyes as she recounts the life that she was never meant to live. As early as 3 years old, she remembers trying to articulate what it meant to be misgendered.

"I was a disappointment to them," Holly says of her devout Eastern European parents. Her birth name, Gary – which she now calls her "dead name" – was as ill-fitting and uncomfortable to her as boy's clothing. And, though she was caught many times in her sisters' clothing, she was never confronted or comforted.

The time was the late '50s, early '60s, when people were largely intolerant of LGBT community, much less of the T.

"They still are!" Holly adds with frustration.

In the eyes of her family, Holly's true identity was something to be stowed away and ignored. And, with no one to confide in

for guidance, she went on to suppress her true self for more than six decades. Now at 63, Holly is just beginning to reconcile her life (after coming out two years ago) by getting involved in her community. Her hope is to inspire others to not let their harsh realities be the norm.

"What my community needs is for more to come out to be visible," says Holly, who thanks the weekly Senior Koffee Klatch discussion group at Affirmations in Ferndale for bringing her out of her shell and into the community. "I owe that group a lot, and I love them dearly. These are my chosen family."

Holly recently joined SAGE Metro Detroit as a board member to help advocate for the rights of other LGBT older adults who may be in isolation.

"My belief is you have to be willing to be visible and you have to be able to open up and answer all the questions no matter how personal they are because that's how

you're teaching them," she says. "I want to educate people."

Holly came of age in northwest Detroit around the Castle Rouge neighborhood. After her father – "the SOB," she said, – took off when she was 16, she quit school and started working full-time as a mechanic in a garage to help support her mother and sisters.

"Here I am a girl, and I have this mechanical ability," she recalls. "That caused some kind of inner turmoil within me. But I liked pushing a wrench."

Holly would go on to work in the automobile industry as a mechanic, but not before the death of her mother.

"She said, 'Gary, you're not a hippie. You're worse,'" remembers Holly.

From that moment, she made an attempt to live the life her parents wanted. She found a wife and started drinking to dull the pain of suppressing who she was.

"I did all my drinking at my house," says

Holly made an attempt to live the life her parents wanted. She found a wife and started drinking to dull the pain of suppressing who she was.

Holly, who hasn't had a drink in 29 years. "It was a short-term ride for me. I started drinking at work because of where I worked. I found that I was not only able to suppress who I was but it also gave me false courage to be super macho."

Holly was roughly 25 and a virgin when she started dating. "That's when I met my wife," she says.

In the 31 years of their marriage, the few precious moments when Holly felt like herself were behind closed doors in women's clothing.

"I told her exactly who I was, and she understood off and on," says Holly. "She pierced my ears, bought me makeup, bought me clothes; hot and cold, going in and out of understanding. I think she understood, but I think she just didn't like it. She accused me of ruining her life, which I take full responsibility for."

Emotionally torn over her own identity, Holly says she was in no position to be a proper role model for her two children.

"I feel very guilty because of this," she says. "I feel I got more out of it than the kids did."

As painful as the realization is, Holly said her story is hardly unique in the trans community.

"In the trans community, you hear only two or three stories because it's the same story only different names and different times. The backgrounds parallel so close," says Holly. Accepting herself has enabled her to better accept others and forgive, she explains. "I've also come to notice, we are all flawed."

Soon, Holly will undergo gender confirmation surgery. Although the surgery won't make her flawless, she will finally be whole.

"I am not changing my gender. I am only correcting a birth defect," said Holly, in a matter of fact tone. "So I consider myself trans woman now, and, after my surgery, I will just be a woman."

*This story is two of 50 in the BTL "50 Shades of Gray" Aging Series, dedicated to sharing the stories of LGBT older adults in Metro Detroit.*

## ► AG: Patrick Miles

Continued from p. 4

wrong end of discrimination myself so I definitely empathize with what's happening.

### **Can you tell me how your experience being on the wrong end of discrimination will influence the way you address some of the problems faced by LGBTQ African Americans who live at the intersection of racism, homophobia and transphobia?**

Oh, no question they do. And I even addressed some of those issues when I was a U.S. Attorney. I was co-chair of the Michigan Alliance Against Hate Crimes as a U.S. Attorney and I spoke at all of the [MIAAHC] conferences. And, I also, as I mentioned, helped convene a session between the LGBTQ community and law enforcement to talk about police harassment, and re-victimization, and how that community feels like it really doesn't have support from law enforcement – in fact, feels the opposite, feels sometimes persecuted by law enforcement as well – the discrimination that people in the community face day to day in their lives and the struggles they face in housing, and employment, and in other facets of daily living. And so, I'm very much aware of those challenges. And, I don't just see them once in a while. That's my framework. That's my prism. I can't help that, being an African American, seeing racial discrimination when it's happening.

### **Can you discuss why you didn't support same-sex marriage in 2010 and why you've changed your mind since then?**

Like a lot of people, my views have changed. My position in 2010 was the same as many elected Democrats at the time, including President Obama. Just like the President, my position has evolved on that, where I believe in full equality under the law for everyone and that includes the right of same-sex couples to get married.

### **You have talked about being a devout Christian. Is it possible to close the chasm between the LGBTQ community and some religious communities?**

It should be possible because the basis for unity is love and loving other people as yourself. It's also not to be judgmental of others. Judge Not, Lest Ye Be Judged. So, that's to me – those fundamental tenants really should be the basis of reconciliation and should be the basis of embracing all people even if there are differences. I also, again have come to the realization that we cannot enforce religious belief through government. We really need to keep church and state separate. The church's job is to evangelize, and the governments job is to make sure that we have equal justice for all people.



Patrick Miles campaigning. Photo courtesy of Patrick Miles campaign.

### **Can you talk more specifically about how you believe SCOTUS should rule on the Masterpiece Cakeshop case?**

Oh, I absolutely believe that someone in a commerce like a bakery, they're not a church, they're not a religious institution, they're a business. And, they certainly should be serving everybody equally under the law. And, so that is something that is, to me, very objectionable that a bakery would say, "We're not gonna do a cake for a same-sex couple." That's just absurd to me, and that should be given strict scrutiny by the Supreme Court. Because, I do believe that LGBTQ people should be classified as a suspect class, and they should be given rights under Elliott-Larsen, as well. So, I hope that's clear.

### **The conservative strategy will continue to be pitting religious freedom against LGBTQ equality. With that in mind, please explain your time at Aquinas in 2008 when you supported the decision to uninvite Dr. John Corvino, "The Gay Moralizer," to speak on campus. Why did you think that was a good decision?**

Well, at the time, I was the chairman of the board of trustees and was supporting the president who made the decision. But then, Aquinas, it's a faith-based institution. And what I did, personally, I went and heard Dr. Corvino give his speech, which he did off campus and spent time with him. And because I felt it was important to hear his viewpoint, and I believe very strongly in that and I think it's important to have the freedom to speak like that. Now, I personally, am not Catholic, but Aquinas is a Catholic institution. And so I wasn't really in a position to say to the Catholic deities and others that they were wrong in terms of how they were gonna handle their institution. But, I went and heard Dr. Corvino and I was very impressed by him.

### **If you were attorney general right now how would you handle the case the ACLU has brought against the state of Michigan alleging the 2015 adoption bills are unconstitutional?**

Right, well I would say that the attorney general – and I don't want to get into too many specifics on what I would do with individual cases without having all the facts and evidence, but I would definitely say that the point of adoption is something that again, to be parents, it benefits both children and parents who are loving and want to provide a loving and nurturing environment for children. I don't think that I would support the current position of the state government. I would say that it should be constitutional.

### **Would you support the decriminalization of HIV status? More specifically, State Rep. Jon Hoadley's (D-Kalamazoo) legislation that would repeal Michigan's HIV specific felony law and replace it?**

I have a tremendous respect for Rep. Jon Hoadley and would definitely look to support the legislation he is sponsoring based on that respect. Michigan's current law was passed in 1988. I support updating the law to reflect current science on HIV transmission.

### **Would you enforce laws you don't agree with?**

I think the attorney general has to enforce the law of the people, but he doesn't have to enforce unconstitutional laws. So you can't bring your personal beliefs – I think we've had too much of that with Bill Schuette – where he's had personal beliefs and he's gone on some of these ideological crusades and wasted taxpayer dollars based on them and not based on what is constitutional and not constitutional, based on his own personal

beliefs. I would enforce laws that I personally don't agree with, but not that I believe are unconstitutional. There is a difference there.

### **Why should the LGBTQ community choose to vote for you over someone who helped the LGBTQ community win the right to marry?**

The attorney general's job is definitely one of a broad scope of challenges and issues. Whether it's fighting crime, protecting consumers, restoring the consumer protection division to where it needs to be and was formally, and looking at the experience of the individual running to do the job and to know what will work and what won't work in terms of implementing policies and programs. I've been U.S. Attorney so I've done the job and I'm able to have a record of not what I say I will do, but what I've done and so I hope that carries the day with every community, but particularly the LGBT community to trust that my values are in alignment with theirs and that I will work to protect their rights.

### **Can you be more specific about what you've done?**

I guess I would refer back to the example of the Grand Rapids law enforcement – that would be one example and then say that again that I was a very proactive, progressive U.S. attorney in terms of a variety of policies and so whether it was on the reentry programs or reaching out to various communities – and I did this proactively, reaching out to various communities to say when I became U.S. Attorney that if there are civil rights issues in your community, let me know as U.S. Attorney and that's something that really hadn't been done before in this Western District and we increased a number of civil rights cases – more than doubled them in my tenure other than in the prior few years. We definitely wanted to work with every community to make sure that they were protected.

### **On Off the Record recently, you said you were "satisfied" with Attorney General Bill Schuette's OK2Say program...**

*The program, created in December 2013, is a multimedia outlet for students to confidentially report acts of violence among their peers, themselves or in their surroundings.*

Satisfied that Attorney General Schuette had begun it, but it certainly can be better and we can do better. We definitely need to look at schools discriminatory policies and especially when they're coming out of the education department in D.C., and that's again where the attorney general can push back against the Trump administration. Bullying definitely affects the LGBT community and children to a great degree and that's something I'd like to see the OK2Say program expanded to specifically address that challenge. I don't think that's something that has been done and

needs to be done.

The Matt Epling Safe School Law passed in 2011 without religious exemption language. Many LGBTQ community members say that without enumeration, it has no real teeth against bullying based on bias. What is your view on the current law and should it be expanded to include enumeration?

I think that I would agree with you on that. So, yeah, I think that bullying is obviously something that youth who are discovering who they are, those are tough years, those teen years, especially. And so, for someone who's different, is expressing themselves and then being bullying for it, that's wrong. And, that can lead to suicide, it can lead to a lot of bad things. And so, I was subject to bullying myself when I was a teen, so I know how that can be...In some ways, even the teachers would even, you know when the popular kids do what they want to do, the teachers support the popular kids, right? It was almost like, you really feel helpless when even the teachers and the people who are supposed to be there to protect you and help you aren't supporting you. So, I have a heart for these issues.

“ I would definitely say that the point of adoption is something that again, to be parents, it benefits both children and parents who are loving and want to provide a loving and nurturing environment for children. I don't think that I would support the current position of the state government. I would say that it should be constitutional (for same-sex couples to adopt.) ”

- Democratic Candidate for Attorney General Patrick Miles

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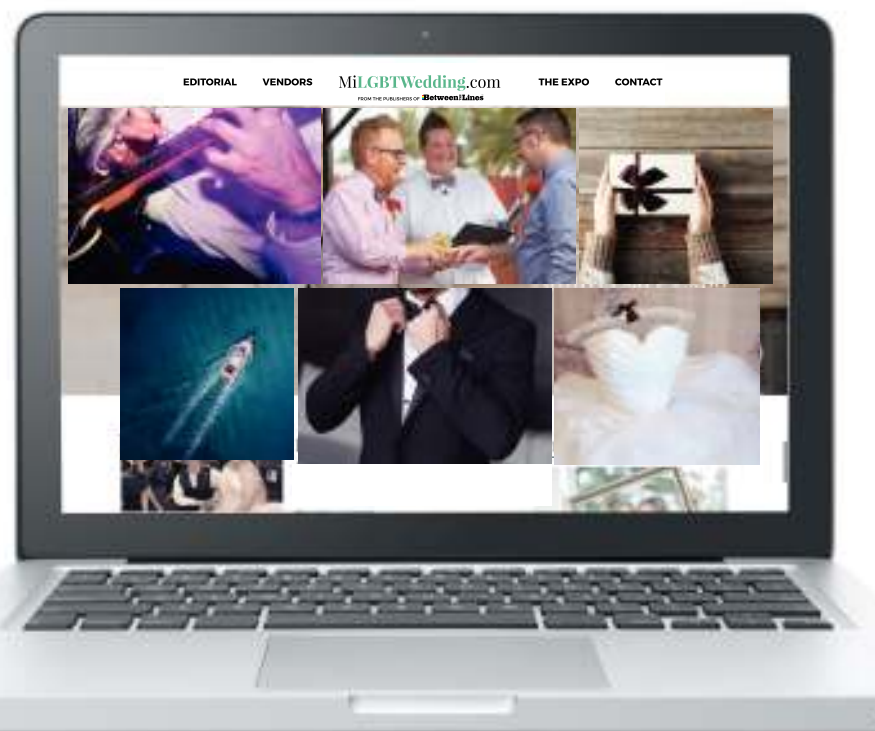
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## ► AG: Dana Nessel

Continued from p. 5

to support the LGBTQ community, same-sex couples, their families, etc., then maybe that's what we need right now. I'm not backing away from it ... There's about a hundred other issues that I think are incredibly important, but if people see me as being incredibly eager and interested and anxious to assist the community in terms of protecting the community then so be it. That is who I'm gonna be and I'm not gonna shy away from it. No matter who you are in the community, even if you're a person who has not seen eye-to-eye with me on how to best proceed in terms of gaining protection, I will always do everything I can to protect the lives of LGBTQ residents in this state.

### **What have you learned while prosecuting people for hate crimes against the LGBTQ community and representing LGBTQ people who have been discriminated against that will help in your role as AG? Is there something about the way in which our system currently works that you would like to change?**

How many hours do you have? There are so many things that I think the AG needs to take an active role in. I certainly think that the way we treat people who are addicts and the way we treat people who have mental health issues – putting people in jail or prison – is not a viable solution to many issues which plague the criminal justice system and it's not cost-effective either. There's a human cost and then there's a financial cost and we're not being smart about it in either accord.

So, I would like to advocate as much as possible the expansion of sobriety courts, drug courts, mental health courts, veterans courts ... There are a lot of people that are not inherently bad people, but they're people who have some sort of, again, a mental illness or an addiction and we can treat those things. That's something that's very important to me – programs for individuals once they've served their time, once they've been paroled from a prison sentence and we're going to do everything that we possibly can to support and expand those programs. We know that for a lot of convicted felons it's very hard for them to find gainful employment and that leads to recidivism. We need to have as many programs as possible that permit people, once they've served their time to become part of our communities again.

And I know you've heard me talk about this before, but I really want to do a full-on attack on hate groups and against hate crimes. Not just for the LGBTQ community. Of course, for them as well, but I mean African Americans, Muslims, ethnic minorities and people of different national origins. People are under attack in this state and across the country. I know that the office of the attorney general can be utilized as a tremendous force,



Dana Nessel holds up the U.S. Supreme Court decision affirming same-sex marriage June 26, 2015. BTL file photo.

an arsenal, to combat the rise in hate crimes that we're seeing.

### **What can an attorney general do to help with the amendment of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act?**

Take the current challenge by the ACLU in regards to challenging the adoption bills of 2015 – as attorney general, I take an oath to uphold the Michigan Constitution, but also to uphold the United States Constitution. My job is to protect the residents of the state of Michigan. Not to persecute them, but to protect them.

This is a perfect example of a case where there is no doubt in my mind that this cluster of laws that allows state-funded adoption agencies to discriminate, not just against same-sex couples, but you can also discriminate against people of different faiths – even a Christian agency who discriminates against somebody who is Christian that just practices Christianity differently.

Well, I absolutely agree with the ACLU's contention that this practice violates the establishment on equal protection clause in the Constitution. As such, if I was the AG, I would concede their argument. I would concede that these laws are unconstitutional, and I would not defend them because I think it's my obligation as the attorney general to defend the United States Constitution, and not to arbitrarily defend any law that state legislature passes and the governors signs irrespective of its unconstitutional nature.

So, if the governor, or if the House or the Senate, if they wanted to, themselves, hire and pay for an attorney in order to defend this law, they are still welcome to do so, but I would not defend it on behalf of the people of the state of Michigan. I absolutely would not. So, there's an example right there of something that the AG can do.

### **Will you support legislation to repeal and replace Michigan's HIV-specific felony law?**

I support repealing and replacing it. I support [State Rep.] John Hoadley's [D-Kalamazoo] legislation.

### **Michigan was named the state with the biggest bullying problem in the nation in September 2016. What can you do as AG to address GISEN's findings, which show that many LGBTQ students are still reporting discriminatory policies and practices in their schools?**

The AG's office can always be used as a bully pulpit in order to educate on these issues. There's no question about that. In the same way that you have the AG's office work on education in human trafficking issues or opioid issues I think they have to do the same thing on issues of bullying.

Bullying in schools, obviously it's an incredibly important area, but I happen to know that when you look at a lot of the kids in the LGBTQ community that end up being homeless, sometimes all of that starts from being bullied – or kids who have drug or alcohol problems, and so forth – it starts at the school, often times. At home, too – I mean, I'm not diminishing the importance of having a safe home, but it's hard. I think, nowadays even when you're at home you can't get away from school bullying because of the internet, because of Facebook and Instagram, text messaging and all the rest of it.

We need to make sure that anti-bullying laws are being enforced. There's a lot of laws that are stalking-related laws, for instance, or harassment over use of telecommunication devices, that can be prosecuted and are not being prosecuted right now. I think we need to use every tool we have in our tool belt to aggressively ensure protection of students who are being bullied. No students are bullied worse, frankly, than LGBTQ kids. We know that.

### **With the Masterpiece Cakeshop case in mind, do you think it's possible to close the chasm between the LGBTQ community and some religious communities?**

Boy, that's a tough one. We just added to the board of Fair Michigan a woman by the name of Kelle Shepherd and she is also a pastor. I know something that we're seeking to do is to educate religious communities as much as possible on the importance of accepting LGBTQ people and there are a lot of religious organizations that have changed their views on this over the course of time, right? More times than not, they've changed their policies and I think there is room for growth...I've seen it, and I've seen it happen pretty rapidly.

I do think that we need to continue to work on education as it pertains to religious organizations and religious people of various religious faiths. One of the things that I saw publicly about Patrick Miles was as the chairman of the board for Aquinas College, I know there was that issue where they refused to allow a speaker [Dr. John Corvino] in who wanted to basically say that the belief that homosexuality or being LGBTQ is not inconsistent with Christian faith. They refused to allow him to come in to speak and Patrick Miles supported that decision and to me, that is not furthering the education process. You ought to be able to have a debate and be able to have both sides present on that issue and I think when you stymie education on LGBTQ issues you're doing a disservice to everyone in the community – whether you're LGBTQ or an ally, or you're not – to at least be educated on the issues.

In terms of this position, anyone can say I support the LGBTQ community...But the question is what have you ever done to support the community? If the answer is nothing, especially if you have a history of taking stances that are harmful to the community, that is worrisome and troubling to me.

### **While there are some benefits to endorsements, it's up for debate whether or not they help gain votes. Are you at all concerned about being winnowed out of the race because of your opponents big endorsements?**

It depends. Endorsements can be important, however the way those endorsements were secured is also important. I think it's more important that we listen to the candidates and see what their points are more importantly then to see who specifically has endorsed them. You never know what political favors people are paying off behind the scenes and that's a lot of times what happens with these political endorsements by the way.

But the fact of the matter is, what utility does an endorsement from someone have if you don't even know what the positions are of the candidate who's being endorsed? And I think that's the most important thing. What I've tried to do with my candidacy is

I've tried to be as transparent as possible. A lot of that stems from the fact that I'm not a politician. I don't know that the office of the attorney general really should be a political one anyway because you're there to enforce the law and I don't know that that should be a political position. I don't know if it should be a partisan position, which is what it's become unfortunately ... If you look at many of my contributors, you see a lot of everyday, working-class folks who are supporting me or public defenders or assistant prosecutors that support my candidacy. Yeah, you don't see many CEOs or you don't see people at the silk-stocking law firm, that are the same law firms, by the way, that [Gov. Rick] Snyder and [Attorney General Bill] Schuette employ. Maybe that's important to take a look at. Who are those lawyers that are supporting other candidates?

So, do you want the candidate that's willing to work hardest to protect everyday working people in this state? I think that that should be of greater importance, and at the end of the day, the people of this state, the voters of this state, will have the biggest say who the next attorney general is, and I think they should want somebody that is devoted to working on behalf of everyday people, and not just who was able to raise the most corporate money.

**“** I would like to advocate as much as possible the expansion of sobriety courts, drug courts, mental health courts, veterans courts ... There are a lot of people that are not inherently bad people, but they're people who have some sort of, again, a mental illness or an addiction and we can treat those things. That's something that's very important to me – programs for individuals once they've served their time, once they've been paroled from a prison sentence and we're going to do everything that we possibly can to support and expand those programs. **”**

- Democratic candidate for Attorney General Dana Nessel



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## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### Ex-Gay Fairy Farewell

This is the story of Dorian Lavender who has vanished from the party scene of music, stimulants, sex and is now ironically beyond the saving grace of suddenly-discarded friends of which there are many. (Perhaps you knew him too.)

While no tracing of his family tree to Victorian times exists, it's rumored that Lavender is related to fabled youth made famous by Oscar Wilde in "The Picture of Dorian Gray". I, for one, believe it to be so.

Dorian Lavender was gifted of looks so well-proportioned, so stunning in effect, as to be spellbinding upon all who met him. (I was too old to consider inviting him out for an evening of adventuring.)

Surprisingly, Dorian was not spoiled by his looks. "My looks are pleasant," he'd laugh. "If faces are fortunes, my bank account's modest but drawing interest at the ATM."

Dorian wrote poetry. Composed songs. Painted. He line danced superbly. His dinner parties were wonderful. He went to the gym three times a week. He was golden in the summer. Fashionably, seductively tinted in winter.

His fate was sealed at an office party. "You're gay," said an artist whom he met. "Would you mind if I did a portrait of you, and how heaven must see you? I specialize in portraits of the soul. I'm sure you have one."

Intrigued, Dorian agreed. It was Dorian's undoing. When the portrait arrived weeks later he was shocked. It was framed in mortice black, and quite ugly.

"Why have you done this to me," he texted the artist. "That Dorian is how God sees your soul. You're lost, damned, must mend your wicked ways."

For weeks the portrait haunted Dorian, He was mesmerized. "He's right," said Dorian, returning home from a night of dancing and toked ecstasy. "I'll pray. Go to church. Be born again. My gaiety's over with."

Dorian proved resolute. The portrait scared him. He hid it away. Each day he prayed. Each day the portrait began to change. As did he.

It crossed my mind when passing his condo that I had not seen him in months. I buzzed. A vaguely familiar but hideous man appeared. "Yes?" he hissed. "Is Dorian home?" I asked. "Dorian is banished forever!" he snarled. "Good riddance to my past forever!"

As I turned to go, the miscreant shouted, "Hey there! Wait. This image scares me. Take it." Alone that night I opened the package. It was a portrait of Dorian. Young. Beautiful. Smiling. Serenely radiant. Obviously gay.

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



## Viewpoint



BY JACQUELYN HIPPE

### The Social Media Exposure of Perpetrators Leads to the Catalyst of Sexual Assault Social Change

The lack of moral decency in this administration and their supporters has reenergized social activists and advocates here to maintain those rights. Social justice leaders working for people who have been stripped of their voice and power are mobilizing, especially advocates for survivors of violence.

Human rights and the ability to control our lives is not afforded to everyone contributing to society. Within the current administration, the rights of the survivors of violence, LGBTQ communities, immigrants, the economically disadvantaged and people of color are back on the chopping block. Nonetheless, we are standing

together to strategically address the next steps to take control of the abuse and violence in our communities.

Sexual assault is an instrument perpetrators use for power and control over their victims. Many believe that strangers perpetrate sexual assaults, but the Department of Justice shows that eight out of 10 rapes in the U.S. are perpetrated by someone the survivor knows. They also report that one in five women are raped within their lifetime. Approximately 45 percent of women in abusive relationships will also face sexual abuse within

See next page

## ► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 8

the duration of their relationship. Survivors dealing with sexual abuse may suffer from severe and long-lasting physical and mental health complications.

Sexual assault has long been embedded in our culture. Even before the sexual assault movement started showcasing the issue in 1978 at the first American Take Back the Night marches in New York and San Francisco. Nonetheless, 40 years have passed while sexual assault and harassment are still major issues. Today, this issue has been at the forefront of the media due to quick access of information. The movement and people like Tarana Burke, the creator of the #MeToo movement, allows women to find community with others affected by this issue; to know they are not alone.

This bravery of women disclosing sexual harassment and assaults has ended the careers of many, from entertainment to political figures, for their decades of abusive and inappropriate behavior. Many are in disbelief of the problem's scope. Identifying individuals and their patterns of abusive behavior while making them accountable for their actions is very important for survivors seeking justice. But to end the prevalence of violence occurring in the workplace, classrooms, on the streets and in our bedrooms takes an entire nation. To have a larger impact on the prevalence of violence, we must re-evaluate how we are socialized and how we teach the next generation about relationships, consent and respecting one another as human beings.

From Harvey Weinstein to Roy Moore, the number of perpetrators being exposed of sexual assault and harassment is growing. The women speaking out stand together to reclaim their voice and remove the shame and confusion they felt while enduring those assaults. Yet, what about those who do not have the agency or ability to speak out? What about those who have been marginalized due to their race, sexual orientation, or lifestyle? Partner abuse and violence in the LGBTQ community is unique and affects our community in extensive ways. Our voices are often left out of the conversation and narrative, especially people of color, undocumented individuals and people with disabilities who identify as LGBTQ.

These rates are similar or even higher for LGBTQ individuals, like bisexuals and lesbians. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated that 61 percent of bisexuals and 44 percent of lesbians experience rape, physical violence and stalking by an intimate partner within their

**This bravery of women disclosing sexual harassment and assaults has ended the careers of many, from entertainment to political figures, for their decades of abusive and inappropriate behavior. Many are in disbelief of the problem's scope. Identifying individuals and their patterns of abusive behavior while making them accountable for their actions is very important for survivors seeking justice.**

lifetime.

Gay and bisexual men experience sexual violence other than rape at rates of 40 percent and 47 percent, respectively. The 2015 Transgender Survey found that 47 percent of transgender people are sexually assaulted in their lifetime. We must ensure that resources and supports for survivors of abuse or sexual assault affirm and support all sexual orientations so that survivors are less likely to be retraumatized when seeking help.

As a community advocate and counselor for survivors of violence by the hands of their partners, traffickers or discriminatory systems, I believe community advocates are fighting intensely for those who have been stripped of their voice or power. LGBT Detroit informs the larger community about the intricacies of the LGBTQ culture through education, cohesion and advocacy that affords one to identify, accept and honor their truths, sense of self and foster humanness. Our crisis intervention services assist LGBTQ individuals, specifically people of color, with a space for healing and support. LGBT Detroit has empowerment-based services to help with survivor-centered counseling and community advocacy. If this is happening to you, your story matters and we believe you. When you are ready, we are here to support you.

*Jacquelyn Hippe, LLMSW, has been working with LGBT Detroit as a counselor and community advocate since December 2017. Learn more about LGBT Detroit at [LGBTDetroit.org](http://LGBTDetroit.org).*

# Creep of the Week

## Brian Brown

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Imagine you are in a grocery store parking lot loading groceries into your car when up behind you comes an old man. He looks confused, seems agitated and his clothes don't fit him right. He says to you, "Don't worry. I am mentally stable. In fact, I'm a genius." Chances are good that your first impression will be that the man before you is, in fact, not mentally well.



So when the President of the U.S. taps America on the shoulder by way of Twitter to make such a pronouncement, it is, to say the least, very worrying.

And yet we have Trump, the idiot that millions of Americans were dumb enough to vote for. I didn't think we could do worse than George W. Bush. But I was wrong.

And let me stop you right there if you're about to make a "I never thought I'd miss George W. Bush" comment, spare me the nostalgia. I don't miss him. At all. The man lied in order to start a war that we're still god damn fighting. Not to mention the fact that he was terrible for LGBTQ rights. Many of the right-wing movers and shakers currently wreaking havoc on civil rights on behalf of Trump were fed and watered during the W. reign.

Like Brian Brown, for instance. Brown is the president of National Organization for Marriage, which was founded in 2007 in order to combat the scourge of marriage equality. And though that battle seems over with equality on the winning side, Brown and his ilk are still fighting.

And Trump has been a real gift to them. Not just Trump, though. Mitch McConnell as well. Stealing a Supreme Court appointment from Barack Obama, McConnell managed to tee up the appointment for Trump to make in-between trips to the golf course. Which is how we wound up with Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch. He's 50, so assuming he doesn't eat Big Macs in his bed and watch TV all day like the president, he'll likely be on the bench a long, long time.

Brown sees it as a good step toward overturning *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the decision that made marriage equality the law of the land. "The Supreme Court is not our ruler, so we don't view the *Obergefell* as legitimate law, it's illegitimate law," Brown said on a Jan. 5 podcast.

**Brown and other Trump cheerleaders are very determined. They want to re-criminalize homosexuality and ban same-sex couples from getting married or having children ... They want to abolish abortion. And of course they want tax cuts for the richest people in America.**

As far as he's concerned, it's just a matter of time before he gets a "friendly" (read: anti-LGBTQ majority) court.

"[We are] working to the point where we can get another court decision by a friendlier court that can overturn *Obergefell*. And that may take some time, although one important success over the last year was the appointment of a good justice to the Supreme Court," Brown said, referring to Gorsuch, "and ultimately *Obergefell* is going to be overturned by getting a decision to the Supreme Court."

The thing is, he's not wrong. Overturning *Obergefell* could absolutely happen. I once read a post on Twitter by a woman assuring a gay friend worried that Trump being elected would lead to the reversal of marriage equality decision. She assured him that such a thing could never happen because once a Supreme Court ruling is made, that's it, no going back. Except that's not how the Supreme Court works. It is a good advertisement for why civics classes are important, however.

Brown and other Trump cheerleaders are very determined. They want to re-criminalize homosexuality and ban same-sex couples from getting married or having children. They want to punish transgender people for having the temerity to challenge their precious male/female binary. They want to abolish abortion. And of course they want tax cuts for the richest people in America.

And they will literally stop at nothing to make these things happen. They are willing to literally risk the fall of Democracy, the failure of the U.S. as a country. They are happy with a dictator, which Trump so desperately wants to be.

The only way to stop them is to throw the Republicans out of office. You. Must. Vote.

# Fight for Restaurant Worker Wages and Tips Extended 30 Days

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

In a bustling restaurant mid-shift, a server's main focus is to get orders filled, food served and checks resolved. But in the middle of that, it's also not uncommon to hear a phrase like, "Hey, baby. Would you get me a cup of coffee?" Because restaurant workers often have low-paying jobs and rely on tips, rarely will they have an option to do anything else but continue filling that order, though they'd most likely want to respond with something along the lines of, "No problem, jackass."

That specific scenario is part of a video filmed in Michigan by media site Attn., titled "This is what servers would say if they didn't rely on tips." The video features actresses Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin undergoing sexual harassment as restaurant wait staff, and firing back verbal and sometimes physical retorts.

"Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin chose to stand with us to promote One Fair Wage, which is raising the minimum wage to \$12 and eliminating the lower wage for tipped workers," said Saru Jayaraman, co-founder of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United union. "There's a whole campaign to put that on the ballot and pass that in November 2018 in Michigan."

In fact, ROC found in a 2014 study called "The Glass Ceiling," that 37 percent of "all sexual harassment claims to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) come from the restaurant industry." And although sexual harassment is fairly difficult to track, labor economist and former waitress Dr. Sylvia A. Allegretto said that it's definitely an issue especially for jobs with low benefits.

"This is a problem that's deeply ingrained in our culture to begin with, and then certainly embedded in something that all working women have to deal with," Allegretto said.

But as huge and as complicated as ROC's joint campaign to end sexual harassment is, it became even more tangled on Dec. 4 2017. That's when the U.S. Department of

“These are jobs that don't even get time off when you're sick, no vacation pay, no retirement pay. I doubt if all of those benefits are suddenly going to appear and make these jobs a little bit better.”

– Dr. Sylvia A. Allegretto

Labor proposed a new rule that could allow employers to pool and take their employees' tips, so long as they pay minimum wage. According to Allegretto, this would only exacerbate difficulties like sexual harassment in the workplace.

"Some people actually do very well on tips, but they're making it legal to make sure that all of these jobs are low-paying jobs. This is really important that (these jobs) typically have very low benefits if benefits at all," Allegretto said. "These are jobs that don't even get time off when you're sick, no vacation pay, no retirement pay. I doubt if all of those benefits are suddenly going to appear and make these jobs a little bit better."

If bosses are given freedom to decide what can happen with employee tips, they could decide to share tips with back of house workers. However, they could also choose to pocket the money. Gage Domke has held several positions as a tipped worker. He was also a former dishwasher at a Lansing brewpub that was investigated for illegally pooling tips before the proposed rule. He said that he wouldn't be surprised if many business owners began taking all tips.

"Maybe not family restaurants where the 'Mom and Pop' are there the whole time, but from what I've seen, when people who make money are given the opportunity to make more money, they take that opportunity," Domke said.

Currently, Michigan's minimum hourly wage rate is \$9.25, but only \$3.52 for tipped workers assuming that hourly employee tips average at least \$5.73. In order to "cash in" on this potentially new law, employers might give their servers a "raise" to minimum wage, only



"Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin chose to stand with us to promote One Fair Wage, which is raising the minimum wage to \$12 and eliminating the lower wage for tipped workers," said Saru Jayaraman, co-founder of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United union. "There's a whole campaign to put that on the ballot and pass that in November 2018 in Michigan." Photo courtesy of ROC.

to take all of their potential extra income. For servers like Marcelle Wallace, that's a difficult reality to face.

"I've been a server for the past three years and tips supplement all of my income. If it came to be that I would just be getting paid minimum wage, I am better off working at McDonald's," Wallace said. "That's so scary to think about working 40 hours a week, I can usually make about \$1,000 to \$1,300. That just shows you how much of a difference it would be."

Since visiting Michigan in September 2017 to campaign for a higher minimum wage, both Fonda and Tomlin have made a series of similar tongue-in-cheek videos in an effort to raise awareness about the disproportionate levels of harassment that tipped workers must face for their low wages and lack of benefits, along with media about the importance of tips to supplement income. Jayaraman said that the well-known duo was a perfect pick for the campaign, particularly Tomlin.

"She's not just a Michigan native, she's a former waitress herself, so she's got some experience," Jayaraman said. "She shared a lot of that when she was with us in Michigan."

ROC is now making sure to include the issue of employer tip pooling on a ballot

measure, in addition to their One Fair Wage campaign.

"So, this made the need for a ballot measure much more important than before, because now, federally, tips will be the property of employers, but in Michigan, if our ballot measure passes, we're completely protected from that rule," Jayaraman said.

Jayaraman now encourages supporters of the measure to publicly comment on the Department of Labor's Tip Regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act on regulations.gov. Though the original commentary period was scheduled until Jan. 4, it has been extended to Feb. 5. So far, over 100,000 people have commented on the proposed rule.

"Trump is unlikely to listen even if you submit hundreds of thousands of comments, (but) we have to try," said Jayaraman. "And if he doesn't listen, then it's really the state ballot measure that will overcome that federal law. So, we need people to come out and support and move this ballot measure to not just raise the minimum wage from \$3.52 to \$12, but also ensure that tips are the property of workers in Michigan."

The U.S. Department of Labor did not respond to a request for comment before the publication of this story.

## TAKE ACTION

If you would like to leave a public comment for the U.S. Department of Labor to review, go to [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), or find the page directly at [gaybe.am/AE](https://www.gaybe.am/AE). All comments are due before Feb. 5 at 11:59 p.m.



# Nominee Would be First Openly Gay State Chief Justice

**HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)** – Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy’s nominee for state chief justice would be the first openly gay leader of a state Supreme Court.

The Democratic governor announced Monday that longtime friend and current Associate Supreme Court Justice Andrew McDonald was his nominee for the court’s highest post. Chief Justice Chase Rogers is retiring next month after more than 10 years on the job.

While McDonald would be the first openly gay state chief justice, Puerto Rico Chief Justice Maite Oronoz Rodriguez became the first openly gay Supreme Court leader in U.S. history in February 2016.

The 51-year-old McDonald has served on the Supreme Court for five years and was nominated by Malloy. Before that, he was general counsel for the governor’s office under Malloy, a state senator from Stamford and corporation counsel for the city of Stamford when Malloy was mayor.

McDonald was co-chairman of the legislature’s Judiciary Committee in 2005 when lawmakers approved same-sex unions. Gay marriage in the state was legalized by a

2008 state Supreme Court ruling.

McDonald, who must be confirmed by the legislature, thanked his family, teachers, colleagues and husband Charles Gray during Monday’s announcement with Malloy.

“When I was born here in Connecticut a little more than 50 years ago, loving relationships like the one Charles and I cherish were criminal in 49 states including Connecticut,” he said.

“When I came out in the early 1990s, I had family members who loved me deeply but still counseled me against pursuing either a career in law or in public service because of the deeply ingrained prejudices held by some people at that time,” he said. “But now, because of changes brought about by evolving understanding of people, new statutes passed by legislators and important court cases – indeed by the rule of law – this day was made possible.”

Malloy called McDonald a long-time friend who “has proven himself to be a consummate, revered jurist who has an exceptional ability to understand, analyze, research and evaluate legal issues.”



**Michigan Non Profit Resource**

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If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, intimidation, harassment or violence because of sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity, contact Equality Michigan’s Department of Victim Services at : **report@equalitymi.org** or call **1-866-962-1147**

Equality Michigan is working with state legislators to update the Ethnic Intimidation Act to include proper protections for the gay and transgender community.

To get involved in the movement for better hate crimes law, contact [policy@equalitymi.org](mailto:policy@equalitymi.org).

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# Supreme Court Won't Hear Challenge to Mississippi Anti-LGBT Law

BY CHRIS JOHNSON,

The U.S. Supreme Court won't take up legal challenges to a Mississippi "religious freedom" law enabling sweeping discrimination against LGBT people, leaving extremely limited recourse to combat the anti-LGBT statute.

In an orders list on Monday, the Supreme Court announced it had rejected two petitions for certiorari – one filed by legal groups in the lawsuit *Barber v. Bryant*, the other filed by legal groups in *Campaign for Southern Equality v. Bryant* – as well as a series of other petitions pending before the Supreme Court.

Both petitions sought Supreme Court review of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals decision in favor of the Mississippi anti-LGBT law, which enables businesses and individuals to discriminate in the name of "religious freedom." The law was signed in 2016 by Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant, who has vowed to defend the statute against legal challenges in court.

The orders list provides no explanation for the rejections of these petitions, nor the vote by they were rejected. It takes a vote of at least four justices to grant certiorari, or agree to take up a case.

The law, HB 1523, prohibits the state from taking action against religious organizations that decline employment, housing or services to same-sex couples; families who've adopted a foster child and wish to act in opposition to same-sex marriage; and individuals who offer wedding services and decline to facilitate a same-sex wedding.

Additionally, the bill allows individuals working in medical services to decline to afford a transgender person gender reassignment surgery. The bill also allows state government employees who facilitate marriages the option to opt out of issuing licenses to same-sex couples, but the person must issue prior written notice to the state government and a clerk's office must not delay in the issuing of licenses.

Masen Davis, CEO of the LGBT group Freedom for All Americans, said in a statement the denial of certiorari "is a missed opportunity to swiftly strike down the nation's most extreme anti-LGBTQ law."

"The court's inaction today means that LGBTQ Mississippians will continue to face harassment and discrimination," Davis said. "HB 1523 fails to honor the tradition of religious freedom in America – instead, it allows people to use religion as a license to discriminate. The LGBTQ community remains in harm's way every single day that this law is in effect, and we are committed to working with our legal partners to strike this draconian measure once and for all."

LGBT legal groups filed petitions for



certiorari seeking review of the law before the Supreme Court last year after a three-judge panel Fifth Circuit upheld the anti-LGBT law on the basis plaintiffs lacked standing. The full court refused to review that decision in an "en banc" review.

Those decisions overturned a ruling from U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves, who determined the law violates the Establishment Clause by endorsing a particular religious view on LGBT issues and the Equal Protection Clause by enabling anti-LGBT discrimination.

Both the district court and the appeals court rendered those decisions as a result of a consolidated case of two lawsuits, although the legal groups behind the litigation filed two petitions for certiorari for review separately before the Supreme Court.

Representing plaintiffs in the *Barber* case – LGBT people, Mississippi ministers and the Joshua Generation Metropolitan Community Church – are Lambda Legal, Mississippi civil rights attorney Rob McDuff and the Mississippi Center for Justice.

Beth Littrell, counsel for Lambda Legal, said the Supreme Court rejection of the petition "is not an endorsement of HB 1523 or the wave of similar discriminatory laws across the country" and doesn't change rulings in favor of same-sex marriage nationwide.

"Twenty years ago we fought a similar battle in Colorado against an anti-LGBT law that singled out LGBT people for unequal treatment, in *Romer v. Evans* and we won," Littrell said. "We will keep fighting in Mississippi until we overturn this harmful law, and in any state where antigay legislators

pass laws to roll back LGBT civil rights. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court's decision today leaves LGBT people in Mississippi in the crosshairs of hate and humiliation, delaying justice and equality."

Representing the Campaign for Southern Equality in other lawsuit is Roberta Kaplan, the lesbian New York-based founding partner of Kaplan & Company who successfully argued against the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act before the Supreme Court.

Kaplan said in a statement an additional legal opportunity to challenge may emerge despite the Supreme Court's action.

"While we are obviously disappointed that the Supreme Court denied cert in our case, the ruling below was based on standing, not the merits so the fight is not over," Kaplan said. "Every day that HB 1523 remains in effect in Mississippi, we will keep fighting to ensure that this blatantly unconstitutional law is relegated to the dustbin of history."

The Supreme Court rejects the challenge to the Mississippi anti-LGBT as it considers arguments in the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* case, which was filed by a Colorado baker asserting a First Amendment right to refuse to make custom-made wedding cakes for same-sex marriages. The court in that case has yet to render a decision, which is expected in June.

Although some issues in the case are similar because the Mississippi law would enable the baker to refuse to make case for a same-sex weddings, the lawsuit against the Mississippi law is different because the law is broader and challenges the law on the basis of the Establishment Clause and Equal Protection

Clauses.

Kaplan told the *Washington Blade* she's "not in the business of trying to understand or read tea leaves" into the Supreme Court's actions, but said the denial of cert may be related to consideration of the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* case.

"They're specifically different, but they both raise at a very high general level issues about religious freedom and civil rights protections," Kaplan said.

One narrow opportunity remains for LGBT legal groups to challenge the law in the court. At the district court level, Reeves in October allowed up to five written interrogatories to identify which of the 82 clerk's offices in Mississippi have sought to recuse themselves from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples HB 1523 and the process by which they intend to handle those recusals.

If a Mississippi clerk was found to have recused themselves from issuing marriage licenses or if any such recusal impaired the ability of a same-sex couple to obtain a marriage license, that could form the basis for a new challenge to HB 1523.

Kaplan, however, said the order is more about creating a "uniform system" to allow clerks to opt out of issuing same-sex marriage licenses while ensuring no couple is denied one as required under the law.

"I think a much more greater concern, frankly, is that a couple goes into a clerk's office somewhere and they make a big deal about the fact that the person who's supposed to be giving them a license is recusing, and the couple and their family are humiliated, but the law makes it very clear that no county can deny a marriage license to a couple on the basis that their gay," Kaplan said.

The Mississippi anti-LGBT law took effect on Oct. 10. The *Washington Blade* wasn't immediately able to find reports of anti-LGBT discrimination as a result of the law.

Littrell encouraged LGBT people in Mississippi facing discrimination as a result of the law to seek legal recourse.

"The government-approved beliefs outlined by HB 1523 target LGBT Mississippians and leave the state's most vulnerable in harms way," Littrell added. "If you are among those targeted for unequal treatment by the state of Mississippi and have experienced discrimination based on HB 1523 or fear that you will be, please contact Lambda Legal's Help Desk."

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

# Judge Rejects Request to Bar Trans Kids from Restroom at Ill. School

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

A federal judge over the holidays rejected a request from an anti-LGBT legal group to block transgender kids from using the school restroom in a Chicago-area high school consistent with their gender identity.

On Dec. 29, U.S. District Jorge Alonso in a 14-page decision rejected a request from parents who objected to the policy at Township High School District 211 to overturn a magistrate judge's determination in favor of the school allowing trans kids to use the restroom of their choice.

"Notably, District 211's practice of allowing transgender students to use the restrooms of the gender with which they identify was implemented nearly three years before the filing of this action," Alonso writes. "As the magistrate judge observed, either student plaintiffs did not notice that transgender students were using restrooms consistent with their gender identity, or they knew and tolerated it for several years. The passage of time therefore further undermines plaintiffs' claim of irreparable harm."

Citing the ruling of the magistrate judge, Alonso writes he agrees "[t]here is no indication that anything has negatively impacted girl plaintiffs' education."

A group calling itself Students and Parents for Privacy as well as five current or prospective students of Township High School District 211 initiated the complaint after the Obama administration issued guidance requiring schools to allow transgender kids to use the restroom consistent with their gender identity. The basis of the guidance was Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, which bars sex discrimination in schools.

Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Gilbert upheld the policy last year. Although much of the magistrate decision's decision was rendered moot after the Trump administration subsequently revoked the Obama-era guidance last year, the plaintiffs continued their objections in federal court.

Alonso, however, rejected the request for relief on the basis of rulings from the U.S.

Supreme Court broadly interpreting federal prohibitions on sex discrimination to apply to sex stereotyping as well as a U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals decision in favor of allowing a transgender kid in Kenosha School District to use the restroom consistent with his gender identity.

"The school district in Whitaker unsuccessfully defended its policy with the same argument as plaintiffs advance here, i.e., that allowing transgender students access to restrooms based on their gender identity infringes on the privacy rights of other students with whom they do not share biological anatomy," Alonso writes. "The court here is similarly unpersuaded. This case does not involve the forced or extreme invasions of privacy that the courts addressed in the cases cited by Plaintiffs."

Alonso also points out each of the school restrooms at Township High School District 211 has privacy stalls that can be used by students seeking an additional layer of privacy and single-use facilities are also available upon request.

"Given these protections, there is no meaningful risk that a student's unclothed body need be seen by any other person," Alonso writes.

Representing the plaintiffs who sued over the school policy was Alliance Defending Freedom, an anti-LGBT legal group designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Gary McCaleb, a senior counsel with Alliance Defending Freedom, said in a blog post an appeal to the 7th Circuit was likely after the decision.

"School policies should promote the rights and safety of all students, no matter who they are, but the school district placed its political preferences ahead of that and ahead of the law," McCaleb said. "Because the court should have suspended the district's privacy-violating policies, we will likely appeal."

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



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## NEWS

# These Two Anti-LGBT Republicans May Run for Senate in 2018

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Shakeups in the U.S. Senate led to news Tuesday that two prominent Republicans and former presidential candidates who have anti-LGBT records — Mitt Romney and Michele Bachmann — may run in 2018.

Following passage of tax reform legislation, Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) announced he'd retire after four decades in the Senate, opening the door for Mitt Romney, who had publicly mulled the idea of running for the seat.

Meanwhile, former Rep. Michele Bachmann said on the Christian Broadcasting Network she's considering a run for the seat in Minnesota being vacated by Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) amid allegations of sexual misconduct against him.

Bachmann, however, said she's not certain and would consult God on whether she's being called to pursue the open seat.

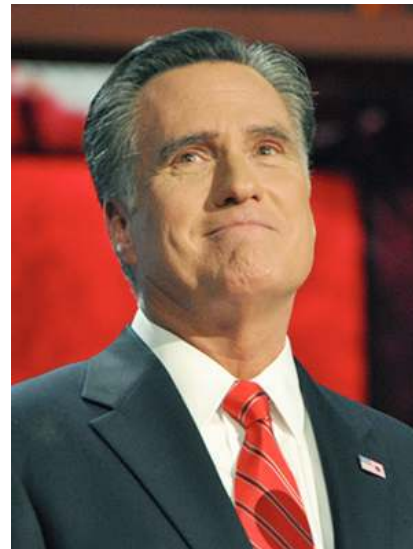
"If you're going against the tide in D.C., if you're trying to stand for biblical principles, and you stick your head up, the blades come whirring and they try to chop you off," Bachmann said during the interview. "We're trying to be wise. Should we do this? Shouldn't we do this?"

Both Romney and Bachmann have extensive anti-LGBT records as public officials.

As Massachusetts governor, Romney most famously sought to limit the 2003 Goodridge decision at the Massachusetts Supreme Court making the Bay State the first with marriage equality and became a national spokesperson in favor of the Federal Marriage Amendment, which would have banned same-sex marriage nationwide.

According to MassEquality, Romney abolished the Governor's Commission on GLBT Youth and rescinded an executive order prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination in the state workforce.

True to his reputation as a flip-flopper, Romney has also stated contradictory positions on LGBT issues. As a U.S. Senate candidate in 1994, Romney told Log Cabin Republicans he'd co-sponsor the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and would seek to expand it to include housing and credit, but later in



Mitt Romney and Michele Bachmann may run for U.S. Senate. (Washington Blade file photos by Michael Key)

2006 said he doesn't support ENDA and in 2007 called it a state issue.

A longtime favorite of social conservatives, Bachmann has an anti-LGBT record that has animated her career as far back as 2004 when she also championed the Federal Marriage Amendment and said "Gays live a very sad life" and "it's part of Satan."

In the course of her career in Congress, Bachmann voted against hate crimes protections legislation, repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and a version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. She was elected to Congress too late to have voted on the Federal Marriage Amendment in either 2004 or 2006.

In 2012, both Romney and Bachmann in pursuit of the Republican presidential nomination staked out anti-LGBT positions and continued their push for a U.S. constitutional amendment that would have banned same-sex marriage nationwide. Bachmann ended up losing the nomination to Romney, but Romney came up short in his bid to unseat President Obama, who went on to serve a second term.

Both candidates signed a pledge with the anti-LGBT National Organization for Marriage committing themselves to back a Federal Marriage Amendment; defend the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in court; support legislation allowing D.C. residents to vote on its same-sex

marriage law; and appoint a presidential commission to "investigate harassment of traditional marriage supporters."

But after his defeat in the 2012 election, Romney made some surprising statements that struck a different tone in contrast to his anti-LGBT record. Romney recommended Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer veto a "religious freedom" bill seen to enable anti-LGBT discrimination. (Brewer took that advice and vetoed the bill, unlike Mike Pence, who as Indiana governor signed a similar measure and was forced to sign a "fix" amid criticism from the LGBT community and business advocates.)

After the mass shooting in 2016 at the gay nightclub in Orlando, Fla., that killed 49 people and wounded 58 others, Romney took to Twitter to say he and his wife would "say a special prayer for the LGBT community that was the focus of this attack."

But Romney hasn't publicly turned around from his opposition to same-sex marriage. In 2014, Romney said he still opposes same-sex marriage and it could be "generations" before the negative impact of marriage equality is determined.

Fred Karger, a gay consultant to Republican presidential candidates and

See next page

► **Anti-LGBT Republicans**

Continued from p. 20

himself a candidate for president in 2012, said Hatch is retiring to make room for Romney because the Mormon Church pushed out the former “in favor of a more obedient Mormon Church member.”

“Mormon Church leaders have been on a full-time mission for over a year to do just that,” Karger said.

Noting the history of antagonism between President Trump and Romney, who has called him unfit to serve in the White House, Karger predicted friction between the two if Romney is elected.

“It’s a case of the Mormon Church trumping Trump and his desire to keep Mitt Romney 2,000 miles away from Washington,” Karger said. “It will be fun to see Romney try and take on President Trump as he has in the past, only to be annihilated by the far more savvy politician.”

Bachmann hasn’t changed her tune at all. Earlier this year, Bachmann said President Trump was elected to the White House despite the odds against him because the Obama administration issued guidance requiring schools to allow transgender kids to use the restroom consistent with their gender identity, or as she put it “just issued a sheet of paper and said, overnight, every single public school

in the country would have to have the girls’ bathrooms open to the boys and the boys’ bathrooms open to the girls.”

The advancement of transgender rights, Bachmann said, was too much for God, whom she “answered the prayers of believers beseeching him, and he’s given us a reprieve.”

Both Romney and Bachmann would be running in a mid-term when Democrats have considerable momentum amid discontent with Trump. But Romney might be a shoe-in to win in the conservative state of Utah. Bachmann would likely run against Minnesota Lt. Gov. Tina Smith, whom Gov. Mark Dayton tapped to succeed Franken on an interim basis.

Lucas Acosta, director of LGBT media for the Democratic National Committee, said voters won’t forget the anti-LGBT records of Romney and Bachmann as they head to the polls in the congressional mid-terms.

“Americans have already rejected the anti-LGBTQ extremism of Republicans like Michele Bachmann and Mitt Romney,” Acosta said. “Not only are their hateful views out-of-step with the country, but with a majority of Utahns and Minnesotans alike. Voters deserve candidates who will fight to protect their freedom to serve, work and love whomever they choose regardless of gender.”

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

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# GLORIA ESTEFAN'S VERY GAY YEAR

## Pop Icon and Emblem of Perseverance Has a Queer Movie, Queer Award, and Now a Queer Daughter

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Why of course global queer icon Gloria Estefan – subject of Broadway musical “On Your Feet,” muse to drag queens worldwide – has a daughter who is not straight.

To close out 2017, Gloria’s 23-year-old daughter, Emily, celebrated – for the first time publicly – her one-year anniversary with girlfriend Geremy Hernández via Instagram. Emily’s snap of the couple was captioned, “Happy anniversary to my delicate, bold, intelligent, important, honest, loving, funny (but not funnier than me), brave, compassionate, patient, badass, talented, and the most beautiful... Moon Flower. I love you.”

Considering Gloria’s everlasting love and support for the LGBTQ community, Emily’s refreshingly matter-of-fact coming out, then, must’ve been the sweet, sweet icing on her pop-legend mother’s already-queer year.

Gloria, who left an indelible stamp on ’80s pop music with trailblazing crossover hits like “Conga” and “Rhythm is Gonna Get You,” starred in last year’s seemingly made-for-Trump-voters, empathy-spurring dramedy “A Change of Heart,” winner of the OUTshine Film Festival Audience Award for

Best Feature. The Queen of Latin Pop portrays Dr. Fajardo (her “alter ego,” as she originally studied psychology at the University of Miami and planned to be a doctor), the therapist who advises Jim Belushi’s bigoted, Fox News-watching dad character, Hank, as he comes to terms with the foolish possibility that his new heart from a recent transplant is, as Gloria puts it, “pumping gayness into him.”

Hank’s youngest daughter, Josie (Aimee Teegarden), also just happens to be a lesbian, but neither Estefan nor her husband Emilio (both produced the film, while longtime Gloria-collaborator Kenny Ortega directed) never mentioned Emily’s own queerness when we met up at a red carpet event at the festival in late April in their hometown of Miami to discuss the queer-themed project – the woke Estefans know you let your children make that statement when they’re good and ready. But they did express, as always, their passion for equality, with Gloria acknowledging – because she is officially Global Mother to the Gays now – “I just felt natural in the role.”

“To us we’re allies because we’re human beings,” Gloria simply stated. “That’s the bottom line. Everybody is a human being. We’re all the same. We always see everyone as the same, whatever their preference is for love, sex, religion, culture. That’s always been important to us.”

That creed extends to their roles as equal-opportunity business owners. Regarding Estefan Enterprises, which comprises their entertainment company, restaurants, hotels and a beach resort, Emilio says, “(Whether) you’re Latino or gay – you have to see somebody based on the kind of work they’re gonna do, and I think that’s happening now. I think it’s a lot better – much, much better.”

Gloria’s life- and career-long commitment to stand for racial and economic justice, immigration equality and marriage equality, culminated in October 2017, when Gloria was honored by the National LGBTQ Task Force (Miami) with the National Leadership Award for being a staunch LGBTQ ally and “for her work to support ... the issues that affect their lives every day,” the press release noted.

“Her recent work, such as ‘A Change in Heart,’ serves as a testament of her humble beginnings as a Cuban immigrant and as an artist who has always held her LGBTQ fan base in her heart,” said Josue Santiago, chair of the Task Force’s Miami Gala.

Gloria’s gay-aligned ventures don’t stop there: Given her 2017, the singer’s contribution to the queer update of Netflix’s endearing reboot of “One Day at a Time” – the show’s theme song, advising that you “keep doing what you do” – seems right in step with her gay-adjacent career. Her musical roots are, after all, steeped in queer fandom.

“The gay community was one of the first communities that supported us because we were huge in the clubs and in the gay clubs, particularly, because the gay community is usually a little bit ahead of trends and musical trends and fashion trends,” she recalls.

DJ Pablo Flores, remixer of Gloria’s megahits “Dr. Beat” and “Conga,” spun songs she produced with Emilio at a Puerto Rican gay club during the onset of her career with the Miami Sound Machine, when she joined in 1977 as the band’s frontwoman (talk about gay – the band was originally called the Miami Latin Boys). Gloria describes Flores and the gay clubs who took them under their wings in the ’80s as “cutting edge and very supportive of us and our music in the beginning.”

Gloria was spurred to action on behalf of the LGBTQ community around that time, when AIDS took the lives of many of her dearest friends and music-business colleagues.

“In the ’80s, when the AIDS epidemic was huge, we were losing a lot of our top people and people were becoming even more scared,” she recalls. “We lost many close friends and coworkers. I just think when someone is under attack, anything I can do to support them is a good thing.”

In a statement to press, Gloria said, “I feel incredibly honored to be receiving the National LGBTQ Task Force’s Leadership Award and feel doubly blessed that it (is) in my beautiful hometown, Miami Beach. I look forward to the day when no task forces are necessary in order to ensure that each individual is considered equal in every respect.”

On Dec. 26, 2017, Gloria was recognized yet again for her unwavering support and empathy for every kind, becoming the first Cuban-American to receive the prestigious Kennedy Center Honor Award during the event’s 40th year.

Her now-out daughter, Emily, a fellow musician, attended with her girlfriend and performed Gloria’s inspirational official song for the 1996 Summer Olympics, “Reach,” a dreamer anthem with strong ties to people within the queer community. Two of Gloria’s biggest singles, “Always Tomorrow” and “Coming Out of the Dark,” have also long served as LGBTQ lifelines.

“(Gay people) tell me wonderful things, but not just because they happen to be gay, but because they were going through tough things in their lives and my music inspired them to push forward or to stay positive in a situation,” Gloria reflects, passionately. “My fans – I have a lot of gay fans. I still look out into the audience and I have fans from 2 years old to 80. I have very young kids on my Twitter – young gay kids who for some reason my music speaks to them. Maybe the empowerment, or they use it to get through tough moments. That’s what music is about. That’s what makes me happy about getting to make music.”

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

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# Slipstream's 'Tales from the Mitten' Sends Up Acting with Laughter and Truth

BY PATRICE NOLAN, ENCORE MICHIGAN

**FERNDALE** – Slipstream Theatre Initiative has created an original, home-grown theatrical experience that explores the unique aspects of pursuing an acting career in the Pure Michigan manner. *Tales from the Mitten* was created by – and is performed by – the talented duo of Luna Alexander and Dan Johnson. Both are native Michiganders; both come with serious theater creds.

In lieu of a formal plot, the play cycles through a succession of scenarios culled from the actors' personal and collective experience as theater professionals. The device used to unify these *Tales from the Mitten* is that gut-wrenching, demoralizing ritual known as the audition. The scene opens as Luna runs in late for an audition for Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." She is curtly told to take a seat, where she discovers her friend Dan waiting his turn. Each scene begins with the same exchange – hoping the job will at least cover a month's phone bill, if not the cost of commuting to and from rehearsals. (It never does.) Over the 90-minute running time, these scenarios unspool with remarkable variation.

Most bits are wryly funny – focusing on truisms of the trade: the casting director's need



to stamp the actor as a "type;" the challenge to switch things up just as the actor launches into a prepared monologue; the physical and emotional stamina required to make it work. The actors invite us to laugh and cry at the all too familiar reality of the starving artists who work a day job in order to pursue their true craft by night ... second-guessing themselves and their chosen metier along the way.

These stories are clearly about life in the stage trade – with some pretty meta humor. There's a funny piece probing the Catch-22 of joining Actors' Equity. There's some audience interaction with a warm-up game of tape-ball. That said, if you like theater enough to attend this show in the first place, you will certainly find the actors' emotional journey

universal and relatable. There is plenty of self-effacing humor and crushing self-doubt. There are the awkward exchanges and professional occasions that require a faux bon homie. And there are some dark moments – chillingly relevant – when the actors must decide what they are willing to forfeit for a shot at the brass ring. Sexual favors? Playing to demeaning ethnic stereotypes? These are choices

that can deflate dreams and cripple careers. There are sweet moments – Luna Alexander describing her first time seeing a play – at the late great Boar's Head – when she was six. There are poignant moments – Dan Johnson's soul-baring analysis of what drives him as an actor. And there are tender moments – when a silly, over-the-top reading of *Romeo and Juliet* magically becomes an intimate, sensitive and sparkling gem.

Between each of these "audition" scenes, we are treated to a palate-cleansing Pure Michigan commercial parody. These folksy audio clips progress through the seasons with the expected references to favorite Michigan attractions. But, each concludes with a description of the

traffic standstills clogging the major freeways that theoretically connect the tri-county cities and the small professional theaters they support. Michigan has a thriving professional theater community, but it spreads from Detroit to Jackson and sweeps north to the U.P. Enjoy the commute.

Luna Alexander and Dan Johnson carry this fast-paced production with compelling energy, creative invention and emotional integrity. STI Artistic Director Bailey Boudreau directs, Ryan Ernst provides Technical Direction and undisclosed artists handle the convincing voiceovers.

This is a play for people who have a heart for theater, a begrudging love for the Mitten State and an empathetic understanding of what it means to put everything on the line for the chance to do that one thing we are meant to do. Very few of us understand what it takes to make a living as an actor in our fair state. But most will appreciate and enjoy these "Tales from the Mitten," presented with unfiltered, unflinching veracity by two actors who transform the personal sacrifice into an act of joy.

Find more theater reviews and information at [www.encoremichigan.com](http://www.encoremichigan.com)

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# The Ringwald Theatre Presents Midwestern Debut of 'Let the Right One In'

BY BTL STAFF

Usually horror and romance don't mix, but they blend perfectly in the classic Swedish story, "Let the Right One In." Originally a novel, the story has been adapted into two films, a television show and a stage production.

The story follows a 12-year-old boy named Oskar in Stockholm, who makes friends with a young girl named Eli after she moves in next door. Now, the production, which has been described as "dark" and "visceral," makes its way to Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre for its Midwestern debut.

Internationally lauded, the 2008 film adaptation has received a 98 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes and much critical praise. John Ajvide Lindqvist, the novel's author, said he wrote the story because he wanted to portray the suburb where he grew up.

"It's set in 1981 so that the protagonist of the story is the same age as I was, and



I want to portray the suburb at this time, and let something terrible at that time come there, to see what happens with

the people and the society," he said. "It turned out that the vampire was the best creature to use, and I was also fascinated by the concept which is where the title comes from which is a lesser-known fact of vampire mythology that the vampire, in order to enter a building or a house, has to be invited."

The play is directed by brandy Joe Plambeck, and stars Shane Nelson and Tiaja Sabrie as Oskar and Eli. An ensemble cast features Sarah Burcon, Sean Ceglarek, Ryan Ernst, Artun Kircali, Jeffrey Shawn Miller, Joel Mitchell and Mike Suchyta. Greg Eldridge is stage manager, Casey Hibbert is set designer, costume design is by Vince Kelley and fight choreography is by Sydney Lepora.

"Let the Right One In" will be at the Ringwald Theatre from now until Jan. 29. Tickets range from \$10 to \$20. Show times on Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays are at 8 p.m., with 5 p.m. Sunday showings.

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## The Fisher Theatre Presents The Bodyguard

Grammy Award nominee Deborah Cox stars as Rachel Marron in the award-winning musical "The Bodyguard." Cox stars alongside Judson Mills who plays Frank Farmer, a Secret Service Agent who is tasked with protecting Marron from a stalker. When both Type A characters meet, conflicts arise. The show will be at the Fisher Theatre from Tuesday, Jan. 16 to Sunday, Jan. 28. Tuesdays through Saturdays, doors open at 8 p.m., 7:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings, and Saturday and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Tickets start at \$39. The Fisher Theatre 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit.

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### January 11, 2018

**45+ Club** 12:00 pm 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 <http://www.goaffirmations.org>

### January 13, 2018

**Friends and Families** 12:30 pm Support group for friends and families of LGBTQ identifying persons. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 <http://www.goaffirmations.org>

### January 16, 2018

**Safe and Effective Management of Pain and Addiction** 7:30 pm By Carl Christensen, MD, Ph.D., D-FASAM; and Mark A. Weiner, MD, D-FASAM. Learn techniques for effective pain management for people in recovery from addiction. Free. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725 <http://www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series>

### January 18, 2018

**45+ Club** 12:00 pm 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 <http://www.goaffirmations.org>

### January 20, 2018

**Friends and Families** 12:30 pm Support group for friends and families of LGBTQ identifying persons. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 <http://www.goaffirmations.org>

**LGBTQ with HPV** 6:00 pm Support, discussion and activity group for anyone with HSV1/2 and HPV. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 <http://www.goaffirmations.org>

**Winter Gala** 7:00 pm Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 South Park St., Kalamazoo. 269-349-4234 <http://wintergala2018.eventbrite.com>

### January 23, 2018

**How to Support Recovery and Not Support Addiction** 7:30 pm By Chuck Gehrke, MD, FACP, FASAM. Simple, effective

actions for family, friends and others to avoid enabling addiction and support recovery. Free. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725 <http://www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series>

### January 24, 2018

**2018 Creating Change Conference** 1:00 am Alexa Elizabeth Rodriguez, Ben de Guzman, Eliot Sutler, Rodney McKenzie, Jr., and Terrance Laney will be serving as host committee co-chairs. Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington, D.C.. <http://www.thetaskforce.org>

### January 25, 2018

**2018 Creating Change Conference** 1:00 am Alexa Elizabeth Rodriguez, Ben de Guzman, Eliot Sutler, Rodney McKenzie, Jr., and Terrance Laney will be serving as host committee co-chairs. Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington, D.C.. <http://www.thetaskforce.org>

**45+ Club** 12:00 pm 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 <http://www.goaffirmations.org>

### January 26, 2018

**2018 Creating Change Conference** 1:00 am Alexa Elizabeth Rodriguez, Ben de Guzman, Eliot Sutler, Rodney McKenzie, Jr., and Terrance Laney will be serving as host committee co-chairs. Marriott Wardman

Park, 2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington, D.C.. <http://www.thetaskforce.org>

### January 27, 2018

**2018 Creating Change Conference** 1:00 am Alexa Elizabeth Rodriguez, Ben de Guzman, Eliot Sutler, Rodney McKenzie, Jr., and Terrance Laney will be serving as host committee co-chairs. Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington,

D.C.. <http://www.thetaskforce.org>

**Friends and Families** 12:30 pm Support group for friends and families of LGBTQ identifying persons. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 <http://www.goaffirmations.org>

### January 28, 2018

**2018 Creating Change Conference** 1:00 am Alexa Elizabeth Rodriguez, Ben de Guzman, Eliot Sutler, Rodney

## Editor's Pick

### The Devil Makes Three at St. Andrews Hall

Founded almost 20 years ago, the Santa Cruz, California band The Devil Makes Three is famous for an interesting musical blend. Classed as Americana, the group vacillates between bluegrass, country, folk, jazz and many more genres. On Sunday, Jan. 22, The Devil Makes Three will be at St. Andrews Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Doors open at 7 p.m. More information can be found online at [ticketchfly.com](http://ticketchfly.com).



McKenzie, Jr., and Terrance Laney will be serving as host committee co-chairs. Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington, D.C.. <http://www.thetaskforce.org>

## MUSIC & MORE

**The Novi Home Show January 24-26, 2018** 2:00 pm Suburban Collection Showplace, 4, Novi. 5867526381 [gmonette@allseasonscommunications.com](mailto:gmonette@allseasonscommunications.com) [www.novihomeshow.com](http://www.novihomeshow.com)

**41st Ann Arbor Folk Festival** 6:30 pm The 41st Ann Arbor Folk Festival, a fund-raiser for The Ark, Ann Arbor's non-profit home for folk, roots, and ethnic music. Doors Open: 6:00 pm Show Starts: 6:30 pm Ticket Price: \$42.50-\$200 (one night); \$75-\$360 One event on January 27, 2018 at 6:30pm Ann Arbor Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 555-555-5555 <http://www.theark.org>

**Valentine's Day With Cyrille Aimée** 7:00 pm "A massively talented international chanteuse," exclaims the New York Observer. Spend this Valentine's Day with your special someone and French cabaret vocalist Cyrille Aimée. TICKETS: \$49 – VIP Experience -Includes reserved section premium seating and Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center,

3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4760&prod=4759>

## ART 'N' AROUND

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

**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>

## THEATER

**The Explorers Club** by Nell Benjamin 7:30 pm It's London, 1879, and the hapless members of the Explorers Club must confront their most lethal threat yet: the admission of a woman into their hermetically-sealed ranks. But the intrepid Phyllida Spotte-Hume turns out to be One event on January 12, 2018 at 8:00pm One event on January 13, 2018 at 8:00pm One event on January 14, 2018 at 2:00pm A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228 <http://www.a2ct.org>

**A2CT Presents The Explorers Club** Presenting: The Explorers Club by Nell Benjamin, directed by Brodie H. Brockie. Tickets are available online at [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org), by calling the office at 734-971-2228 or at the door. Additional information is available by visiting [www.a2ct.org](http://www.a2ct.org). Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Arthur Miller, 1226 Murfin Ave, Ann Arbor. Jan. 11 - Jan. 14. 734-971-2228. [www.a2ct.org/shows/explorers-club](http://www.a2ct.org/shows/explorers-club)

**Into The Woods** Tickets \$23-\$26.50. Stagecrafters, Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. Jan. 19 - Feb. 11. 2485418027. [www.stagecrafters.org](http://www.stagecrafters.org)

## Editor's Pick

### FIA Hosts The Scale 2

Physical labor can be rewarding, but push the body too far, and it can easily turn into punishment. Artist Kawita Vatanajyankur explores just this concept with her 2015 piece *The Scale 2* while commenting on the prevalence of manual labor, particularly performed by women, in her native Thailand. Her work can be seen at the Flint Institute of Arts from now until January 31. The FIA is located at 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 810-234-1695. [Flintarts.org](http://Flintarts.org).





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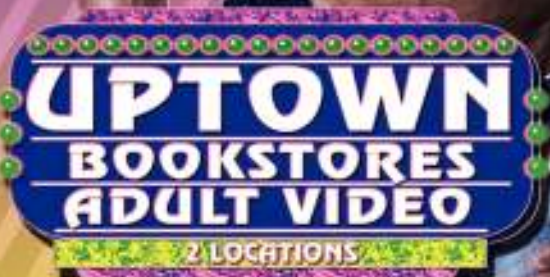
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Photos: "Call Me By Your Name"(credit: Sony)

## Deep Inside Hollywood

### The Best of 2017

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

The past 12 months have seen us finding refuge in our own queer selves. The sheer volume of LGBT-themed cultural content allowed a lot of us to see taking the occasional break from the harsh political and social climate of this year as a form of self-care, even if it was just to swoon to the "TRL"-endorsed, girl-loves-girl pop of upstart singer Hayley Kiyoko. Her summer single "Feelings" was the bounce we needed and we want 2018 to make her a household name.

And on the subject of amazing lesbians, if you haven't had a chance to get into Netflix's "Godless," a western that involves a town populated almost entirely by women, then you're late to the romance between Mary Agnes ("Nurse Jackie"'s Merritt Wever) and Callie (newcomer Tess Frazer). Michelle Dockery ("Downton Abbey") is in this one, too, so stop what you're doing and watch. They have rifles.

We're also very here for the bisexual journalist and herbal healer Nova (Rutina Wesley) on the amazing and gorgeous "Queen Sugar" (not to mention transgender actor Brian Michael who played a trans male police officer on that show), for the comics-nerd-power lesbian Maggie Sawyer (played by Floriana Lima) on "Supergirl," and for Melanie Chandra on CBS's "Code Black." The medical drama is, OK, fine, kind of for your parents, but we can't get enough of Chandra's lesbian doctor. And she's the only Indian lesbian character on network TV, so she's vital (also crush-worthy, as several woman-loving women we know have informed us).

Lesbians behind the camera made a dent in year-end critic's polls, with Dee Rees's "Mudbound" (also on Netflix, see how easy this is?) earning acclaim and a Golden Globe acting nomination for Mary J. Blige, while Angela Robinson's ambitiously polyamorous "Professor Marston and The Wonder Women" earned critical respect if not the huge audience it deserved. We also loved the powerful documentary "Whose

Streets?" from directors Sabaah Foleyan and Damon Davis. It told the stories of Ferguson, Missouri, protestors, some of whom were queer people of color putting their beliefs into actions for the cause of justice.

In theaters, the gay hot ticket was (and still is) "Call Me By Your Name," a beautiful post-"Brokeback" love story between young men not having to hide their affection quite as much as those vintage cowboys. Making a smaller cultural splash was the UK indie "God's Own Country," but it was no less moving or sexy. When it hits home video, go find it (and turn on the captions because those Yorkshire accents are tough).

"Will & Grace" came back, as though it had never left the '90s, and it felt like comfort food; "American Gods" gave us two queer Muslim characters (Omid Abtahi and Mousa Kraish) and a mind-blowingly tender and wildly explicit sex scene that scorched its way into our hearts while serving a big, erect, middle finger to the current belch of anti-immigrant ideas swirling around the cultural swamp; "Talk Show the Game Show" was the weirdest, queerest, big-word-havingest thing on deep cable thanks to creator and host Guy Branum refusing to dumb it down for you; a middle-school-aged character (Joshua Rush) came out in a sweetly moving sequence on the hit Disney Channel show "Andi Mack"; "Star Trek: Discovery" finally put gays in space, and "The Exorcist" finally gave us a priest making out with a man on national television. Triumphs, all.

Last but not least, Broadway, which matters deeply if you can afford the ticket prices. "Dear Evan Hansen" won Tony Awards, made audiences cry, and turned Ben Platt into a Millennial heartthrob, which works for us. And the Spongebob Squarepants musical (yes, automatically queer, don't argue with us) has people all turned on by the guy who plays the plankton.

So here's to 2018, which promises more queer rebellion, an all-Cher jukebox musical, and the possibility of a Trump indictment. Now, why did Hulu have to go and cancel "Difficult People"?

Romeo San Vicente is accepting champagne donations for New Year's Eve.

## Emotive Expressions of Light by Karen Dorgan



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# Jobs, Peace & Justice is Theme of 2018 Detroit MLK Day

BY BTL STAFF

When the civil rights movement began in the mid-1950s, Martin Luther King Jr. likely could not have imagined the scope of the social progress achieved today, almost 70 years later. Many might not know that part of that success was because of the LGBT community's role in the movement.

"We've always been a part the civil rights movement, going back to the behind the scenes, with organizers of the March on Washington like Bayard Rustin. I think he went around the country," said Martha Grevatt, vice president of Pride at Work Michigan — an organization that represents LGBTQ union members. "Our community has always been part of the many celebrations that take place, but I think we'd like to increase our visibility now and in the future, because the struggle for civil rights is the essence of our struggle. I'm convinced that if Martin Luther King was here today, he would be on our side. In fact, his widow, Coretta Scott King, was very much a supporter of the LGBTQ community and our struggle for marriage equality before she died."

In addition to Grevatt's activism for the LGBTQ workforce, she is also a member of Detroit's Martin Luther King Day

March Committee, working to coordinate LGBTQ outreach this year. She said that this year's march, for both LGBTQ people and allies alike, is exceedingly important.

"It is especially relevant, given the attacks on the civil rights of every single oppressed group in this country. You know, the acceleration of hate crimes, deportations, reversals of rulings and laws that benefitted our community. And, the rolling back of many, many gains, and the attempt to chip away at the right to marry with these religious freedom bills that deny same-sex couples access," she said. "All this that's going on makes this year's march particularly relevant. And, it's happening just five days before the one year anniversary of the inauguration of Mr. 45."

According to Grevatt, both the timing of the event, and the turmoil surrounding the civil rights of the nation's minorities has created a sense of "urgency" among people. The theme of this year's rally and march is "Jobs, Peace & Justice." She said that ideally, she would love to see attendance along the lines of 1,500 to 2,000 people at the 2018 Detroit MLK Day march.

"There's people that come and come back again and again each year, but then, each year we find new groups that are interested," Grevatt said. "Youth groups, we have a



delegation from the Arab community, and we're stepping up our LGBTQ outreach this year. It varies, and the weather is a factor always, but like I said, the urgency people feel varies from year to year (too)."

This year, the event will begin with a rally at the Central United Methodist Church at 23 E. Adams and Woodward at Noon.

"This is a historic church in the forefront of the struggle for justice, going back to the abolitionist movement. Martin Luther King himself had preached there on more than one occasion, and even today it's very much a social justice ministry," Grevatt said. "We'll have a rally with speakers and music. At 1:30, we'll have a march that's about a mile or a mile and a half around downtown. We'll end up at another historic church, St. John's Episcopal Church, where we will have a meal and a cultural program beginning at 3 p.m."

Event goers can also expect food, music and poetry. Along with a presentation from guest speaker Rev. Dr. Bernard Lafayette, who was once a special assistant to MLK. The event should finish around 5 p.m., and attendees are encouraged to bring winter clothing items to donate to the homeless at either the march's starting or stopping point.

Grevatt said that even if one is unable to attend the entirety of the day's events, stopping by for even a portion of the march can be worth it.

"We recommend people bring friends. There is free parking by the way, across from Central United, do dress warmly, dress in layers and be prepared for the cold and the wind," she said. "If the roads are bad, give yourself extra time, but don't let the weather keep you away. And be prepared to have a good time, be inspired, and if you come once, you'll want to come back year after year. If you can't come all day, come for the rally or the march or the afternoon events."

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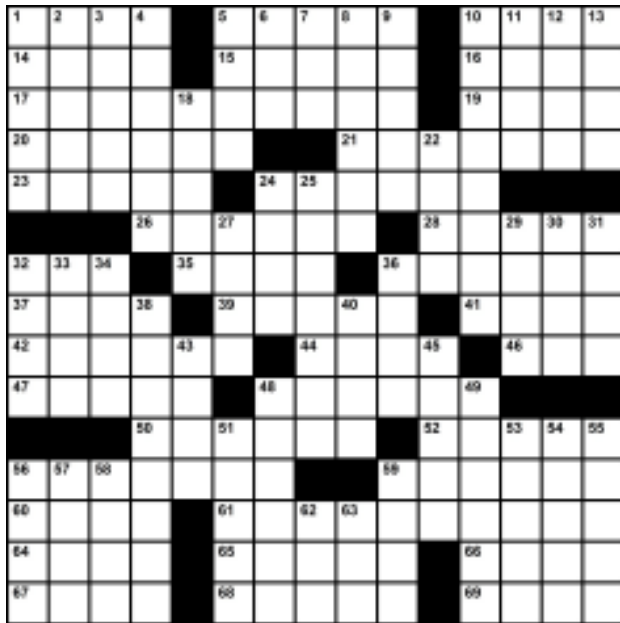
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# Q Puzzle



## My Father Would Lift Me High

### Across

- 1 Old news agency of Nureyev's land
- 5 Rock Hudson roles, usually
- 10 Band that goes either way?
- 14 A word from Pilate
- 15 Any song by Patsy Cline
- 16 Trick
- 17 2nd number one hit of Luther Vandross
- 19 Janis Joplin's "Down \_\_\_\_"

- 20 Of the season after Mardi Gras
- 21 Reaction to a hottie
- 23 "Do" equivalent for the von Trapps
- 24 Dorothy's home
- 26 Subway vehicles
- 28 Like phone sex
- 32 Bentley of "American Beauty"
- 35 Bedfellow
- 36 Etheridge instrument
- 37 Rosie O'Donnell's "Exit to

### Down

- 1 "Bust a Nut" band
- 2 Emulated Miriam Margolyes
- 3 Triangular treat
- 4 Disney dwarfs, e.g.
- 5 Bird in a simile about being nuts
- 6 Eliza Doolittle's 'ades?
- 7 Busy activity
- 8 Love seats
- 9 Voyeurs, e.g.
- 10 With 38-Down, Dionne Warwick song covered by Vandross
- 11 \_\_\_\_ mots (witticisms)
- 12 Tallulah's home state, for

- short
- 13 Jump for Doug Mattis
- 18 Nero's land
- 22 Surfer's paradise
- 24 "To \_\_\_\_ a Mockingbird"
- 25 Number one hit for Vandross in 1988
- 27 It's for skin
- 29 The whole shebang
- 30 Grating sound
- 31 Pull a boa behind you?
- 32 Have an emotional discharge
- 33 John Travolta's "Hairspray" role
- 34 Religious offshoot
- 36 Will of "The Waltons"
- 38 See 10-Down
- 40 LGBTQ people can now say them in Australia
- 43 Latvia's capital
- 45 Ripley portrayer Matt
- 48 Cut
- 49 More charitable
- 51 Get straight
- 53 "\_\_\_\_ with My Father" (Vandross song quoted in the puzzle title)
- 54 Seat in a gay bar
- 55 Of the Cowardly Lion's hue
- 56 Tiny speck
- 57 Thespian rapper
- 58 Burn a bit
- 59 Suckers
- 62 "Ready to Wear" actor Stephen
- 63 Cont. of gay Paree

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



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## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

# Lansing Rapper Talks Social Justice With New Mixtape

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Never one to take it slow, 21-year-old Lansing rapper Mikeyy Austin has released a full-length album, a mixtape and multiple singles in two years. Now, the emerging artist is cooking up another project, a mixtape called Art4Sale. Always lyrically-minded, the self-described storyteller is using Art4Sale as a platform to bring social justice issues to the forefront.

“A lot of it is kind of inspired by my experiences,” Austin said. “So, I kind of wanted to talk about real issues, whether it’s stuff in my personal life, or things that I’ve seen with family or friends.”

Some of those topics include mass incarceration and gentrification. Austin is unafraid to broach difficult topics, and he said that he rejects the idea that Hip-Hop doesn’t come with a message.

“I hear people saying the same statement a lot, but I think what it is, is a lot of times people base the artist’s truth off of their truth, so they say there is no message in a song, because it’s not something that the listener



might have experienced,” he said. “For me, being a fan of what Hip-Hop is, and the origins of it, it was meant to be a platform to talk about real-life issues.”

Austin said that although his current project’s themes are drawn from a variety of experiences throughout the course of his life, he got his inspiration for the project when he

“For me, being a fan of what Hip-Hop is, and the origins of it, it was meant to be a platform to talk about real-life issues.”

met a man named Carleton in Washington D.C. a few years ago.

“... (he is) a homeless street artist who once lived on H St., but the district’s ‘renovations,’ increase on property taxes and rent and new

See next page

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# Affirmations Offers Self-Breast Exam 101 Session With Gyneca

BY BTL STAFF

Rarely are formal medical examinations comfortable, but seeing a qualified medical practitioner is key to maintaining good health and preventing the spread of potentially deadly diseases. Luckily, even for those without access to a doctor, there are steps that one can take to screen for abnormalities.

Affirmations in Ferndale is teaming up with Gyneca Health Educators Detroit, a group that teaches medical students how to make medical examinations more comfortable, to teach people about the importance of self-breast examinations. As a part of its Healthy Living Series, on Saturday, Jan. 13, Affirmations is inviting anyone, regardless of gender identity or expressions, to join a Gyneca representative in learning about breast health and disease

prevention. In the Journal of Women's Health, a 2011 study found that self-detection remains an important means of cancer detection for U.S. women. The research found that 25 percent of women asked were able to detect breast cancers through self-examination, while 18 percent did so by accident. In addition, 57 percent of women in that study reported a detection method of breast cancer other than traditional mammographic examination.

*Self-Breast Exam 101 with Gyneca will be held at Affirmations at 10 a.m. to Noon at 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. More information about the event can be found online at [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org). The event's contact for questions is Heather Aymer, who can be reached at [haymer@goaffirmations.org](mailto:haymer@goaffirmations.org) or at 248-398-7105.*

# Assembly Line Theatre to do Staged Reading of Sean Paraventi's 'Seven Castaways'

BY ENCORE MICHIGAN STAFF

FERNDALE – Assembly Line Theatre Company is kicking off the new year with a staged reading of the musical, "The Seven Castaways" by Sean Paraventi. The performance is a fundraising effort to help the 501(c)(3) produce its second full-length production in fall of 2018.

"The Seven Castaways" is a full-length, modern parody of an iconic, 1960s sitcom that many grew up watching.

"I don't want to give too much away, but it involves seven castaways stuck on an island. It's raunchy and fun and it is not your parent's 'Gilligan's Island,'" said Paraventi.

The cast is loaded with local acting veterans including Allison Megroet, Andrea Konsoer, Dez Walker, Jason Bowen, Jeff Priscorn, Mitch Koory and Sonja Marquis. The staged reading will be directed by Patrick Nelson Hanley.

*"The Seven Castaways" will be performed on Jan. 12, at 8:00 p.m. at ComedySportz Detroit. The venue is located at 1100 Woodward Heights, Ferndale. Reach out to [assemblylinetheatrecompany@gmail.com](mailto:assemblylinetheatrecompany@gmail.com) for more information about the show, or call 734-788-3457.*

## ► Lansing Rapper

Continued from p. 32

homes/businesses catered towards middle-class and business professionals forced him and many others out," Austin wrote on his Facebook page. "He now sells his paintings at the corner of what used to be his home, in hopes of small dollars for food for the day."

Still a little unsure of the scope of his project at that point, after meeting Carleton Austin began taking note of issues he should write about. Soon after, Austin got the sign he needed to convince him of the project's validity.

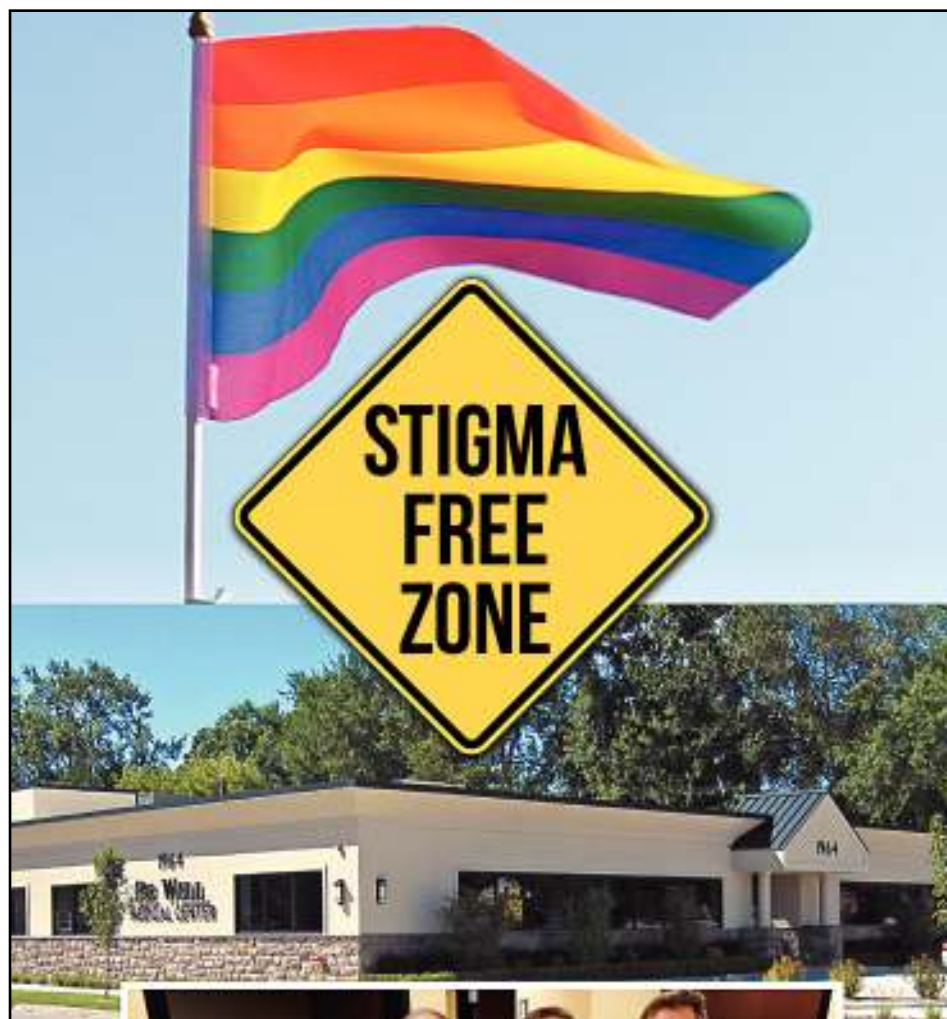
"I think I was watching 'She's Gotta Have It' which is a Netflix original series by Spike Lee, and there's a guy named Pablo. He's a street artist, and he's just like the guy who is a victim of gentrification. He once lived in

this Brooklyn neighborhood," Austin said. "Now he's homeless and a street artist, and seeing that confirmed that Art4Sale route."

Austin doesn't yet have a release date locked down, but he plans to have the mixtape ready by the end of January. Whether someone begins listening to his newest project because of its message or simply because they like the music, Austin hopes that he can shed a little awareness with each play.

"Because it's more than just trying to talk about issues and making people feel good, it's using a platform to bring light on issues that need to be talked about," Austin said. "At the end of the day, no matter what accomplishments might come from what I do, that's my ultimate goal."

*For more information on Art4Sale's release, music videos and more, visit [mikeyyaustinmusic.com](http://mikeyyaustinmusic.com).*



## Healthy Sexual Care

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# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

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

## AIDS/HIV

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

### AIDS Walk Detroit

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

### Macomb County STD Clinic

27690 Van Dyke  
Warren, MI 48093  
586-465-9217  
<http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDSCounselingTesting>

### Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

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

### UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

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

## Advocacy

### Equality Michigan

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

## Get Listed, Promote Your Events

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

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

## Campus

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

### U-M Ann Arbor

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

### Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

### Eastern Michigan University

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

### The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

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

### Wayne State JIGSAW

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

## Community Centers

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

### Jim Toy Community Center

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

### LGBT Detroit

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

### Affirmations

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

## Legal

### American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

### Fair Michigan

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

### Know Your Rights Project

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

## Older Adults

### SAGE Metro Detroit

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

## Political

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

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

### Stonewall for Revolution

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

## Professional Groups

### Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

### Ties Like Me

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

### Suits And The City

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

## Transgender

### FtM Detroit

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

### FtM A2 Ypsi

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

### Transgender Michigan

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

### Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

## Youth

### Ruth Ellis Center

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

### Ozone House

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

### Stand With Trans

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



Find a digital version of PrideSource Magazine online under Our LGBT 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

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**TRACY MORGAN**  
MARCH 24

*Air Supply*  
MARCH 30



*Pat Benatar  
& Neil Giraldo*  
MARCH 31

*Average White Band*  
APRIL 13



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# No Safety Net

JAN 17—FEB 3, 2018  
ANN ARBOR, MI

PROVOCATIVE THEATER.  
COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS.  
SAFE SPACES.

RENEGHUT

UMS presents *No Safety Net*, a three-week look at stage work that tackles social issues and draws diverse voices into focused conversation. These theater pieces will ask us to confront our own opinions and biases, with an eye toward better understanding, resilience, and an ability to move beyond our comfort zones and lean in to the complexities of our global society.

In addition to these mainstage performances, UMS will host an extensive residency with many opportunities to engage in the topical content. Visit [ums.org/NoSafetyNet](http://ums.org/NoSafetyNet) for details.



## UNDERGROUND RAILROAD GAME ARS NOVA

Wednesday, January 17 - Sunday, January 21  
Arthur Miller Theatre

Two middle-school teachers incorporate an interactive role-playing game into their lesson on the history of the Underground Railroad. Outside the classroom, their relationship turns romantic, offering the audience their own lesson about the cross-sections of race, sex, and power.



## US/THEM BRONKS AND RICHARD JORDAN PRODUCTIONS

Wednesday, January 24 - Sunday, January 28  
Arthur Miller Theatre

Belgium's BRONKS theater company presents a compelling work about the hostage drama in a school in Belsan in 2004, when more than 1,200 people, mainly children and their mothers or grandmothers, were taken hostage. "Work of this quality and intelligence and tenderness reminds us that this is why we make theatre; this is why we watch theatre. And breathe..." (*Total Theatre*)



## THEY, THEMSELVES AND SCHMERM

Written and performed by **Becca Blackwell**  
Wednesday, January 31 - Saturday, February 3  
Arthur Miller Theatre

Part classic standup comedy special, part confessional memoir, and part performance art, *They, Themselves and Scherm* is trans actor Becca Blackwell's disturbingly hilarious personal tale of being adopted into a Midwestern religious family, trained to be a girl, molested, and plagued by the question "How do I become a man, and do I even want that?"



## (I COULD GO ON SINGING) OVER THE RAINBOW FK ALEXANDER AND OKISHIMA ISLAND TOURIST ASSOCIATION

Friday, January 26 - Saturday, February 3  
Stamps Gallery (201 S. Division St.)

In a moment of undivided love and attention, Glasgow-based performance artist FK Alexander takes your hand, fixes your gaze, and sings directly to you alongside a distorted version of Judy Garland's final recording of "Over the Rainbow," played through a wall of noise by the abrasive noise band Okishima Island Tourist Association. "Desperate, moving, distressing, and beautiful too." (*The Guardian*)

No Safety Net is funded in part by the **Building Audiences for Sustainability** initiative of **The Wallace Foundation**

Media partners: **Ann Arbor's 107one**, **Between the Lines**, and **Metro Times**

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