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COVER

14 Brandi Carlile

NEWS:

- 4 Nearly 300 Protest at Metro City Church for 'Conversion Therapy' Classes
- 6 Wayne County Celebrates Diversity, Contributions by Immigrants – LGBTQ Included
- 6 Sexual Assault Survivor Collects and Spreads Messages of Support
- 10 Court: DOJ to Defend New Trans Military Police After Feb. 21
- 10 Eric Radford Becomes First Out Athlete to Win Gold at Winter Olympics
- 11 Progressive Group Hosts Forum on LGBTQ Issues

OPINION

- 8 Parting Glances
- 8 Viewpoint
- 9 Creep of the Week

LIFE

- 12 BTL Hosts 8th Annual Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo at MotorCity Casino
- 14 Brandi Carlile: Singing for Our Lives

COOL CITIES: ROYAL OAK/ BIRMINGHAM

- 16 Steve Aoki Comes to Royal Oak Music Theatre
- 20 Happenings
- 24 Classifieds
- 25 Puzzle and Crossword

RESIST!



Fighting Discrimination p. 4

Educating about Sexual Assault



p. 8

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



- 22 Meet Emcee Motormouth of Sudden Death Syndrome
- 22 Michigan Residents Encouraged to Prevent Child Abuse by Simply Checking a Box While Filing Taxes
- 23 Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce Hosts Workshop on Earning LGBT-Owned Business Designation
- 23 Travers City LGBTQ Community Center Seeking Two New Board Members

NATIONAL NEWS



Lawmakers Demand a Meeting with Trump Over Anti-Transgender Policies

p. 10

HAPPENINGS



20 Best of LGBT Events



Comedy Fest March 3, p. 12

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Nearly 300 Protest Church's 'Conversion Therapy' Classes

BY DREW HOWARD

RIVERVIEW – Close to 300 community members braved the cold Thursday night to peacefully protest an “Unashamed Identity Workshop” at the Metro City Church Riverview Campus, a class many are calling a form of conversion therapy.

Organized by the Metro-Detroit Political Action Network, the protest saw a strong turnout with enthusiastic support. LGBTQ allies protested on the church's sidewalk as passing cars honked in support, waving signs reading “Love is Love,” “God Never Makes Mistakes” and “Self Hatred Is Not Therapy,” among many others.

“Conversion therapy is what it is, and Metro City Church is trying to repackage it as conversation therapy,” said Brianna Dee Kingsley, an organizer of the protest with the Metro Detroit Political Action Network. “But the basic premise is you are broken and you need to be fixed and that something is wrong, and we stand against that – we are here to show support for the LGBTQIA community.”

Public backlash against Metro City Church erupted after leadership advertised an “Unashamed Identity Workshop” for girls (by birth) ages 12 to 16 struggling with thoughts that they are “Trans – Bi – Gay or other.” The post was met with thousands of comments on social media condemning the church as anti-LGBTQ.

Rev. Roland Stringfellow of the Detroit area attended Thursday night's protest. He told BTL that he is concerned over how Metro City Church will conduct such “conversations.”

“I understand their purposes and goals through their religious lens, but we have to consider if there's a motive,” Stringfellow said. “Are they focusing on something they think is a problem, or are they legitimately helping someone who's struggling with their identity.”

“I'm completely against forcing someone to conform to a culture,” he added.

The workshop, which is scheduled to take place every Thursday night at 6 p.m. from Feb. 8 to April 18, is advertised to cost \$200.

“If it's so vital, why not make it free,” Stringfellow argued. “To profit off a change is always something I've wrestled with.”

Transgender advocate and Oakland University professor Char Davenport spoke to protestors through a megaphone, emphasizing that the fight for justice doesn't end at Metro City Church.

“This protest, yes it's about this church, and it's about these kids – but let me tell you that this is a much bigger issue than this street corner,” Davenport said. “Only nine states



House Bill 5550 was introduced on Feb. 8, which would prohibit mental health professionals from engaging in efforts to change the sexual orientation and gender identity of a minor. If passed, Michigan would be the 10th state with the District of Columbia to have similar statutes. There are currently only nine states with similar statutes – California, Nevada, Oregon, New Mexico, Illinois, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Jersey. BTL photo: Drew Howard

have banned this practice. We can make a difference here in Michigan, and we're going to make a difference here in Michigan. So pay attention, and you're going to be a part of it.”

The fight against conversion therapy hit close to home for Bakri Newton and Liam Vella, two protesters who waved one of the night's biggest signs reading “We Are Here Because We Love You.”

“I was threatened by conversion therapy when I was 18 when I came out to my mom,” Newton told BTL. “That was basically the start of a snowball effect of mental illness issues – depression, anxiety, dysphoria. All of it was precipitated by the fact that I thought I was wrong for existing and that people were going to try and hurt me for who I was, so I couldn't stand by and let that happen to other kids.”

Vella, who identifies as a queer non-binary trans person, also has a personal experience with conversion therapy.

“I went through conversion therapy at a local church when I was 15,” Vella said. “I wanted to come out and basically make sure these kids know that there are people out there

outside of your parents' house and outside of your parents' religion who will be there for you.”

Vella continued: “I want them to know that they don't have to give in to what their parents say – they can make it through this even though it's probably hard right now going through all this.”

Schossau told BTL that there are no plans to stop workshops so long as people continue to sign up. As a traditionally-minded Christian, he stands by his belief that homosexuality is a sin and a choice.

Schossau insists that no one in the workshop is being forced to attend.

“These are folks who are seeking us out,” Schossau explained to BTL in an email. “These are folks who are questioning their sexual identity or are maybe in the gay or lesbian community and they are just not comfortable there. They think that maybe they don't want to be there, and they are seeking out conversation and potentially help and guidance.”

State Reps Introduce Bill to Outlaw Conversion Therapy

Amid the controversy surrounding Metro City Church's conversion therapy classes, State Reps. Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor) and Darrin Camilleri (D-Brownstone Township) have spoken out about the church's practices.

House Bill 5550 was introduced on Feb. 8, which would prohibit mental health professionals from engaging in efforts to change the sexual orientation and gender identity of a minor. This marks Zemke's third attempt to pass legislation prohibiting conversion therapy. If passed, Michigan would be the 10th state with the District of Columbia to have similar statutes. There are currently only nine states with similar statutes – California, Nevada, Oregon, New Mexico, Illinois, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Jersey.

“It is wildly inappropriate to offer conversion therapy classes in our communities, and doing so is misrepresentative of our values as a

“Only nine states have banned this practice. We can make a difference here in Michigan, and we’re going to make a difference here in Michigan. So pay attention, and you’re going to be a part of it.”

- Char Davenport



The next peaceful protest is scheduled to take place during the hours of the second “Unashamed Identity Workshop” on Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. For more details, please visit the protest’s official Facebook page.

welcoming state,” Zemke said. “I am proud to sponsor a bill to prohibit these practices in Michigan. Not only has scientific evidence overwhelmingly found that these approaches fail to accomplish their purported task, but they are also profoundly destructive and painful for the participating individual and his or her loved ones. It’s time to put an end to this terrible practice once and for all.”

Zemke said HB 5550 would only have power to govern mental health professionals, not places of worship like Metro City Church. However, he explained to BTL that the church could still be investigated by Attorney General Bill Schuette for violating the Michigan

Consumer Protection Act.

“Metro City Church is advertising a service that is not able to be produced,” Zemke said. “Conversion therapy is a fake science. Selling a course in a pseudoscience violates consumer protection issues.”

Zemke and Camilleri with Reps. Tim Sneller (D-Burton), Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield), and Jon Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo), penned a letter

to the attorney general’s office urging that he open an investigation into Metro City Church and FORGE Ministries, the organization supplying the service.

The letter aims to discredit the validity of the workshops. It reads: “There is a long-standing consensus among our nation’s leading mental health experts, including the American Psychiatric Association, the

American Psychological Association, the American Counseling Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of Social Workers, that these practices are extremely dangerous and often lead to depression, decreased self-esteem, substance abuse, and even suicide.”

Co-signer Hoadley told BTL that conversion therapy should not be a partisan issue.

“Seeing conversion therapy being advertised toward children reminds us that there’s a sense of urgency here,” he said. “It’s time to move forward, and the question now is who in legislature will be willing to put the interests of children and the LGBTQ community first.”

Moss echoed similar feelings, and said Michigan is “backwards” in terms of laws that embrace and protect the LGBTQ community.

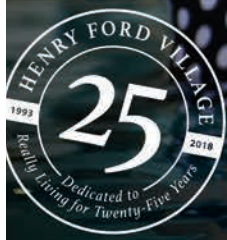
“This is a wake-up call to all Michigan representatives that fight for equality,” Moss said. “The fight didn’t end in June 2015 with marriage equality. People can change this if they vote for LGBTQ interests in 2018 based on what candidates support our community.”

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Commissioners passed resolution declaring Wayne County "Welcoming County" for immigrants.

Wayne County Celebrates Diversity, Contributions by Immigrants — LGBTQ Included

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

DETROIT — Commissioners have passed a resolution declaring Wayne County a "Welcoming County" for immigrants.

The county says a special presentation made Thursday in Detroit recognizes contributions made by immigrants and celebrates the importance of diversity and inclusion.

The county is partnering with Welcoming Michigan, a chapter of Welcoming America. Welcoming America's website says it is a Decatur, Georgia-based nonprofit that supports communities interested in becoming more inclusive toward immigrants and all residents.

Wayne County says it will communicate messages of unity and shared values while working to improve inclusion and access to government.

County Executive Warren Evans said that "there's a climate today where many people don't feel welcome and that's hurting us as a society."

When asked if the "Welcoming County" resolution was inclusive for LGBTQ people, Evans gave a resounding "yes."

"It's inclusive for everybody, and anybody who thinks that in this day and age that we should be making distinctions about any of those issues, I think is crazy," he said. "So, yes, it is supportive of everyone in Wayne County, the diversity of Wayne County and, certainly, that's diversity."

This story originally appeared as part of an Associated Press report.

Sexual Assault Survivor Collects and Spreads Messages of Support

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Pass 49-year-old Ron Blake on the street and he's hard to miss. The Arizona-based activist will likely be stocked up with Sharpie markers and he'll be carrying a large poster board. Look closer, and you'll see it's filled with wishes of good luck, messages of encouragement, poetry and more. The board he'll be holding is one of almost 400 that he's filled to near completion on a quest for visibility and a trip to "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert".

"It's such a symbolic goal. I've spent now, about 6,000 hours to get on a TV show for five minutes," Blake said. "To me, it's not wasted time."

Blake spends anywhere from four to eight hours a day walking up to complete strangers and asking them to sign his poster boards in support of sexual assault survivors. So far, he's done this for more than 800 consecutive days, and he wants to give survivors an opportunity to share a piece of their own stories. Blake, who is openly gay, also wants to raise awareness about sexual assault in the LGBTQ community — especially among men, who may be unwilling to talk about their experiences because of stigma.

"They'll start opening up to me, and that was unexpected. A lot of psychologists said that the reason people have been opening up is because I've been vulnerable," Blake said. "Especially within the LGBT community, people are really opening up because people are not talking about this. When it comes to national media, it's not discussed a lot."

And, the statistics don't paint a positive picture for men in the LGBTQ community. The Human Rights Campaign found that 40 percent of gay men and 47 percent of bisexual men have experienced sexual violence other than rape, and 26 percent of gay men and 37 percent of bisexual men have experienced rape in some form.

And, unfortunately, Blake's drive to reach a national audience through TV stems from his personal experience of sexual assault. Almost six years ago, Blake was asleep in his loft. He had been feeling sick, so he decided to call it an early night. Soon after, his front door opened. Three men came in.

"One of those guys was my domestic partner of many years. He let the guys in and he was drunk, and that was the most devastating part for me," Blake said. "All three of the guys participated. I was held down, I was sexually assaulted and it was horrific for me."

The police were called, but the moment they arrived, Blake was already beginning to



Since his journey's start, Blake has met over 23,000 people, done a TedX talk about his experience and even met open, LGBTQ public officials from Michigan. "I met the mayor of Southfield, Michigan, Kenson Siver and (Rep.) Jeremy Moss. They were at a spring festival in central Phoenix," Blake said. "It was really cool."

question his account of the events.

"I did fight at some point to try to get away, I did run away to the balcony and, then, actually when the police got there, I went through the freeze portion of it. It's hard to process all that. I don't know if anybody in their right mind can really process what's going on and especially (from) three people that I knew," Blake said. "And just because they're drunk or on drugs, it doesn't matter to the victim or the survivor. You don't care, you know what's happening to you. That's what happened to me that night."

However, before Blake could even begin to speak about his situation with such calm and collected analyses, he would have to come to terms with the deep post-traumatic stress disorder with which he would be diagnosed.

It was so crippling that he said he felt like a "zombie." Blake said that not only did his partner not understand why the experience had caused him so much pain, he ended up leaving Blake, after he began showing symptoms of the assault — like social isolation and "incredible bursts of anger."

"He said that, 'You just really don't want to be around people anymore,' and, 'You're just always upset with the world,'" Blake said.

After the separation, Blake hit rock bottom and was contemplating suicide one night, when "The Late Show" came on.

"My TV was always on, and a lot of times I didn't even know it was on. I was staring

Ron Blake, who is openly gay, also wants to raise awareness about sexual assault in the LGBTQ community — especially among men, who may be unwilling to talk about their experiences because of stigma.

straight through it and my mind was in a loop all the time," he said. "At some point I laughed. It was really the fact that I recognized that I laughed. That was what saved my life. I used to laugh, I saw pictures of myself laughing with friends, or a video of myself laughing, but when you don't recognize it, it's like it didn't exist."

The next day, Blake walked into a Staples store and he got the idea to use the positive energy the show had given him to give back, and made it his goal to be a guest.

"I said, 'I'm going to meet strangers every day, I'm going to start talking about this, I'm not going to hide this anymore, I'm going to share my story and I'm going to have a fighting chance, because if I don't talk about it's going to kill me,'" he said.

Since his journey's start, Blake has met over 23,000 people, done a TedX talk about his experience and even met open, LGBTQ public officials from Michigan.

"I met the mayor of Southfield, Michigan, Kenson Siver and (Rep.) Jeremy Moss. They were at a spring festival in central Phoenix," Blake said. "It was really cool."

Now, even though he hasn't made it on the show yet, Blake said that he will continue trying to spread the word about his project if he can. Having already displayed the poster boards in exhibitions around Arizona, he is considering having them displayed across the country — even in Grand Rapids' ArtPrize festival. But, at the end of every day Blake's campaigning, he has one main goal: get on the show to spread his message.

"I'll have people ask me, 'Do you really want to get on this show?'" Yes. It's not the only goal, but it's a major goal for me," Blake said. "You have to ask people, 'Why is something important?' For me, this is my Mount Everest. To me, everyone has something that I would call a Mount Everest."

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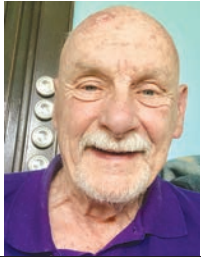
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A Fairy Tale for T and P Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Once upon an evil time, when darkness began to gather, hate by political hate, at rainbow's near end of tunnel, those anointed LGBT and Q by special life's enchantment and DNA calling, began once more to tremble.

Some to hide, in fear and trepidation of an evil twosome. Hydra Heads of political abuse and biblical bigotry. Hydras T and P.

Terror and Propaganda indeed seemed everywhere menacing in high places of politics and misguided pulpit prayer.

Some shrill, some crazed in egotistical, political monomania. Left behind winds breaking noxious wind! Terrors on the LGBT and Q horizon of hope!

Their leader T — surely, surely, by default or manipulation by thugs of alien slavic dress, shores and sinister intent — and in spite of those who tried in vain to warn of his innate bigotry and hate-mongering, whim by whim, day by day in degraded office of once high esteem — T foamed and fabricated!

He lied, lied, lied about specific and sundry. Lies told again, and again and again. So repeated, these lies began to be believed. Accented in fine print and billboard roadside display. These all simply stated for simple-minded believers.

Some lies were told to the sounds of military flutes. Some lies told to the tones of weeping violins. Some, to rhythms of tyranny, Twitter, and tuba P, as in oom-pah-pah dispensation.

“Onward Xtian soldiers marching as to war! With the double cross of Jesus going on before!” So sang P and his followers, dispensers of foreclosure and blinding faith. (While T absentmindedly hummed along his hallelujahs, and oftimes spoke in unknown tongues.)

It seems, said many nervous rainbow comrades and allies — who had been around and survived tribulations, plagues and abuses of all shapes, sizes and colors — that time is again turning back on us to dark, darker days. They asked, “What must we do? Where shall we turn?”

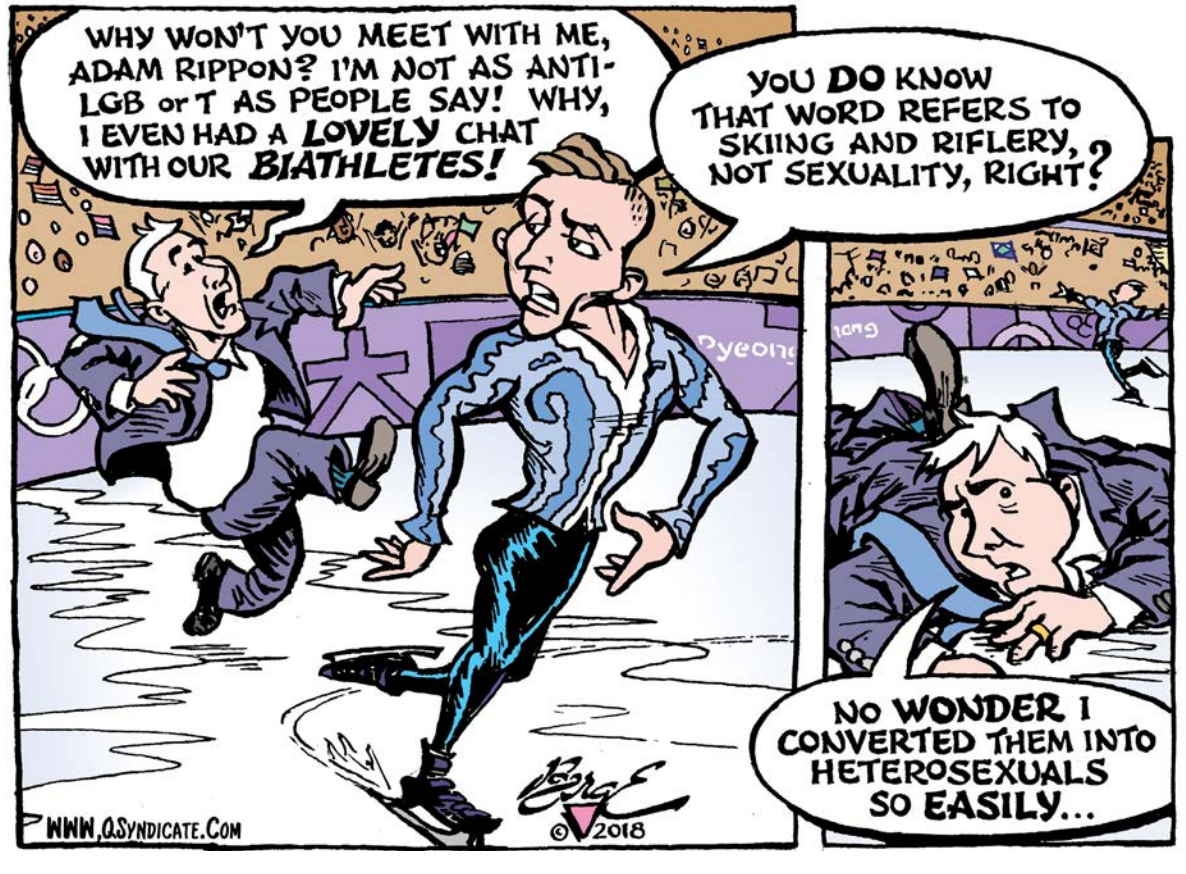
Then from a multi-colored illumination, conjoined with many similar shining lights, at the end of the LGBT and Q tunnel of time and traditions came a chorus of many other challenging voices singing.

“You are not alone! No, you are not alone. In spite of hateful T and pompous P. Be who you are. Yes! Be! See: we too are many. Faiths! Colors! Fortitudes! Visions!

“Worldwide we struggle too, as do you. Shine and share. Shine and share! Be proudly who you are! Be free!”

And, one by one, by 100 and one, by 1,000 and one, by 1 million and one, the voices echoed and re-echoed, as hydra heads T and P drained downcast, downward, detonated and disappeared into infinity.

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.



BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Viewpoint

Trans Sistas of Color Activists Make Positive Change in Peoples' Lives

Five days a week I pass a building whose facade is marred by a bullet hole. The reality of gun violence in our community sends chills down my spine. The fact that this bullet hole came from a gun aimed at someone I know haunts me.

I still remember watching the news clip Nov. 17 showing a transgender woman being shot during a robbery on Woodward Avenue in Detroit. It happened right before we memorialized those lives lost at the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance ceremony.

For me, it's a haunting feeling, a sadness, but for members of the transgender community it's a reminder of the trauma of living with the reality that just living

your authentic life can mark you as a victim for hatred, violence and even death.

“I don't think people realize how traumatizing it is to just exist right.” Bre Anne Campbell, one of the co-founders and Executive Director of Trans Sistas of Color Project (TSOCP), told me in a recent interview.

Bre had lost her driver's license and went to the Secretary of State to replace it. She recalled.

“They printed my copy and it had the wrong gender. I wanted them to correct it. And then it turned out to be this whole big thing that I wasn't expecting. I just remember at

See next page

TSOCP's priority is the day-to-day existence that keeps Trans women of color alive, so they can use/benefit from programs that other organizations offer.

some point just standing there and like wanting to disappear or pass out and just leave," she said. "And I said to myself you can't do any of that. You have to get this. You have to get this driver's license."

She had her passport with the correct gender, that was all they needed. After some inappropriate questions and whispers, her driver's license was corrected. It should have been easy, but it wasn't.

Campbell added, "I know what I went through is not the process. So, I would never tell a girl it's easy. I would tell her, 'Hey take your passport. They're going to push back and it's probably going to make you uncomfortable, but just know that they can't tell you no.'"

It's that trauma, living in the shadow of transphobia that binds many in the transgender community and builds family/friendships that otherwise might not have occurred. It can manifest itself in every aspect of a girl's life from getting driver's license, to getting a job, to just surviving.

The larger organizations locally and nationally deal with the political issues, the legal barriers, but to handle day-to-day issues, the Trans Sistas of Color Project steps in filling the gap between political activism/advocacy and the day-to-day realities of living.

Founded in 2015 by Campbell and a group of concerned Detroit community activists in direct response to the growing number of murders of trans women and gender non-conforming people, the Trans Sistas of Color Project (TSOCP) works to uplift, influence and impact the lives and wellbeing of trans women of color in Metro Detroit.

Initially, TSOCP had planned to do programs like resume-building, name changes, legislative issues, HIV work, etc., but life took the organization in another direction. The organization is truly representative of the community and is led completely by Trans women of color.

What evolved was a response to life issues filling in the gaps that organizations are not addressing - programming based on life experiences this can include trouble paying their bills, with housing, getting medication, transportation and even including burial of members of LGBTQ community - anything keeping a girl out of the system.

According to Campbell, TSOCP's priority is the day-to-day existence that keeps Trans

women of color alive, so they can use/benefit from programs that other organizations offer.

"We had a plan when we started TSOCP. We just thought about life in this community and said this is what's not happening," Campbell said. "We wanted to do programming. We were thinking about a kind of holistic, year-long thing that women would go through and graduate at the end. We were going to respond to political issues."

But it went in a different direction.

"When we had a meeting with some of our members they said no. They said they were going to use whatever bathroom they wanted to, and fight for the right to do so. What they wanted from TSOCP was to know that we would come, help even get them out of jail if they were incarcerated for standing for their rights," Campbell said. "Creating this space was necessary for the women in Detroit to start feeling like their narratives matter."

Just founding and funding TSOCP has required an almost unyielding devotion to the project. "It been a labor of love that came with some sacrifice," Campbell admits.

Through trans centric programming, services, resources and community building efforts, TSOCP is a safe space where trans advocacy and activism lives and trans sisterhood thrives.

What would help the lives of trans people, especially trans women, includes companies hiring trans people, or advocating to make sure that people are hiring trans people.

Politically, she said there are several things that can be done. One, is to decriminalize sex work.

Campbell added, "I'm only saying that because I think it's just really asinine to live in a state that can prevent trans people from working, and then criminalizing the only source of income that they have access to," Campbell said.

"We're working on expunging the girls' records if they have any type of sex work tickets, and making sure that trans people have the right to work, the right to housing and advocating for some type of legislation that holds people accountable for harming us," she said.

TSOCP's future plans are to acquire a physical location that would provide a 24 hour drop-in center for trans women but at the top of the list each and every day is protection for members of the transgender community from violence.

Contributions to support TSOCP programs can be made in care of the Ruth Ellis Center (Be sure to write TSOCP on the memo line) 77 Victor Street, Highland Park.

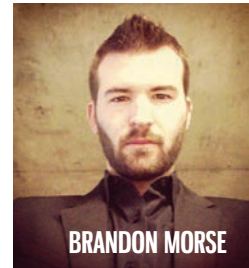
Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. Her blog radio podcast "Collections By Michelle Brown" airs every Thursday at 7 p.m. Current and archived episodes can be heard on Blog Talk Radio, iTunes, Stitcher or SoundCloud. Follow her on Facebook at facebook.com/CollectionsByMichelleBrown.

Creep of the Week

Brandon Morse

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Confession: I haven't been watching the Olympics. I'm not against it or anything, I just have other shit to do.



But I've been seeing on the internets that a certain Adam Rippon has been ice skating on rainbows, and skier Gus Kenworthy is also out and proud in Pyeongchang representing the U.S.

In fact, Rippon and Kenworthy make quite the pair on Instagram where they've posted some unbelievably handsome/adorable/are-these-men-even-real-how-can-they-look-so-perfect photos.

Under a shot of the men with their arms around each other Kenworthy wrote, "I feel incredibly honored to be here in Korea competing for the U.S. and I'm so proud to be representing the LGBTQ community alongside this amazing guy! Eat your heart out, Pence. #TeamUSA #TeamUSGay" followed by American and rainbow flag emojis.

Kenworthy's dig at Pence caused some understandable controversy. Telling Pence to "eat his heart out" is incredibly unfair as there's no evidence that he has a heart to begin with. I mean, a fleeting glance at Pence's long anti-LGBTQ history as Indiana governor, in Congress and now as vice president will show you that Pence is cruel and hateful little man.

But cruel and hateful men are running the country right now, so that's fun. GOOD WORK AMERICA. Please Jesus go vote for Democrats in every election for the rest of your life because it's doubtful any of us will live long enough to see the Republican party redeem itself in any meaningful way. (Note to Log Cabin Republicans: Get everyone out of the cabin safely and burn it down.)

Anyway, the Rippon/Kenworthy bromance (or maybe more, who knows? That's their business. But I've heard rumors about what happens in the Olympic Village that would make Pence go running for mother) has angered some.

One such person is Brandon Morse, writer for Red State. In a Feb. 12 piece Morse writes that "the shock value of being homosexual is pretty much all but dissipated. A man announcing he's gay in today's society is worth about a shrug."

In other words, gay Olympians are so boring that Morse had to spend 700+ words

I mean, a fleeting glance at Pence's long anti-LGBTQ history as Indiana governor, in Congress and now as vice president will show you that Pence is cruel

writing about them, but OK.

Morse laments that "the two men turned their sports expedition into a political one, and every action they had there was tainted with it."

As if the Olympics isn't already infused with politics. And anyway, "tainted" is an ugly word. Here, I fixed it: "every action they had there was FABULOUS with it." Much better.

Morse writes that Kenworthy and Rippon, "seem to believe themselves to be special due to their homosexuality. Furthermore, they seem to believe that many people are aghast at this, particularly vice-President Mike Pence, whom Kenworthy and Rippon use their platform to denounce regularly."

In an effort to defend the vice president, Morse posts a Tweet from Pence to Rippon that reads, "I want you to know we are FOR YOU. Don't let fake news distract you."

But the thing is, Pence's long anti-LGBTQ history isn't fake news. It's real life. Expressing support for Olympic athletes is also, like, the bare minimum a vice president can do. It's hardly a repudiation of his anti-LGBTQ agenda. Besides, Pence is one impeachment away from the presidency and he's hand-picking anti-LGBTQ judges for Trump to give lifetime appointments to. Pence has the power in this dynamic.

But Morse appears to see Kenworthy and Rippon as a couple of mean girls.

"It seems to them," Morse writes, "their sport was just the ticket to the political platform from which they now grandstand."

Granted, Olympic athletes start training when they're practically still in diapers, but sure, Kenworthy and Rippon probably decided to dedicate their lives to their respective sports because they hoped one day that the country they live in would elect leaders who hate them and they'd be able to swing their medals around in defense.

Morse might think that being a gay athlete is boring, but what's really boring is another straight guy's take on how gays need to shut up. After all, the shock value of being a homophobe is "pretty much all but dissipated."

Lawmakers Demand Meeting with Trump Officials on Anti-Trans Rollbacks

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Decrying the rollback of transgender rights in the Trump administration, lawmakers led by Rep. Joseph Kennedy III (D-Mass) are seeking a meeting with civil rights officials in federal agencies “to end the current pattern of publicly-funded and government-sanctioned discrimination.”

The letter, dated Feb. 13 and obtained Monday exclusively by the Washington Blade, is addressed to the heads of eight federal departments and calls for a roundtable meeting on transgender issues with each of those agencies’ directors of the Office of Civil Rights.

Included in the letter as evidence of transgender rollbacks are the withdrawal of guidance assuring transgender kids access to school restrooms consistent with their gender identity, Trump’s transgender military ban and the Justice Department’s disavowal of Title VII protections for transgender people.

“During the first year of the this administration, transgender Americans have endured a systematic attack on their dignity, rights and freedom,” the letter says.

Specific attention is given to the creation of a Conscience & Religious Freedom Division within the Department of Health & Human Services and reports the Education Department isn’t investigating transgender civil rights claims in school.

“The Trump administration should no longer encourage doctors to deny health care services to patients in need, promote an education systems that make children feel unwelcome in their own schools, allow employers to deny jobs to workers simply because of their gender identity and turn away patriots from serving in the military simply because of who they are,” the letter says.

The letter is public on the same day as a BuzzFeed report quoting a spokesperson affirming the Education Department won’t take up civil rights complaints of transgender kids who say their school is barring them from the restroom consistent with their gender identity.

See Lawmakers Meeting, next page

Eric Radford Becomes First Out Athlete to Win Gold at Winter Olympics

BY MARIAH COOPER

Canadian Eric Radford has made history as the first openly gay athlete to win gold at the Winter Olympics.

Radford, 33, and his partner Meagan Duhamel won the medal for team figure skating for their free skate to “Hometown Glory” by Adele. The first ever openly gay athlete to win gold was Australian diver Matthew Mitcham who received the honor at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

“This is amazing! I literally feel like I might explode with pride. #Olympics #outandproud,” Radford tweeted about his historic win.

Radford also celebrated with Adam Rippon who contributed to Team USA’s bronze medal win for team figure skating.

“So proud to be wearing these medals and showing the world what we can do! #Represent,” Radford captioned a photo of them both along with a rainbow flag.



Eric Radford (Photo courtesy of Instagram).

Court: DOJ to Defend New Trans Military Policy After Feb. 21

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The Trump administration is set to unveil a new policy on transgender people in the U.S. armed forces on Feb. 21 that the U.S. Justice Department expects to defend in court, according to a court document.

U.S. District Judge Marvin Garbis, who’s adjudicating the lawsuit against President Trump’s transgender military ban filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, disclosed the Justice Department’s plans in a memo dated Feb. 6 on the process for disclosure in the case. BuzzFeed was first to report the news.

According to the memo, although the ACLU is calling on the Justice Department to comply with an initial disclosure request, the Trump administration is seeking to get out of it because a new policy will soon be on the table.

“Defendants’ counsel contend that they cannot now comply because they will not be defending the policy now at issue but will be defending the policy to be disclosed on Feb. 21, 2018,” Garbis writes.

After Trump announced via Twitter in June he’d ban transgender people in the military “in any capacity,” he followed up in August with a directive to the Pentagon on implementing the exclusion of transgender people from the military.

The Feb. 21 date identified in the court

memo is consistent with the due date set in the Trump directive for a report from the Pentagon to Trump on transgender military service. The directive designates the report as an “implementation plan” and didn’t say new policy would follow per se.

The Justice Department declined to comment on the nature of any new policy. The



White House didn’t immediately respond to the Washington Blade’s request to comment.

Maj. David Eastburn, a Pentagon spokesperson, said he’s “not sure what policy they’re referring to,” but the Pentagon will prepare “recommendations” for the president.

“I know the SECDEF will be making his recommendation to POTUS this month, then POTUS announces the new policy next month, but that’s all I’m tracking,” Eastburn said.

The litigation before Garbis is one of four pending lawsuits challenging Trump’s

transgender military ban. Each of the judges in those cases have issued preliminary injunctions blocking enforcement the ban as litigation continues. The Justice Department has given up on appealing those injunctions, focusing instead on defending Trump’s ban in trial court.

Joshua Block, the attorney litigating against the ban on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, said any new policy barring transgender people from service will be challenged in court.

“If the ‘recommendations’ exclude transgender people serving, we will be ready to argue that the allegedly new policy is just a continuation Trump’s old ban with window dressing,” Block said.

Sarah McBride, a spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement any new policy other than allowing transgender people to serve would be discriminatory.

“There are currently thousands of transgender people serving in the U.S. military with many more enlisting and their skills and service are already proving invaluable to our national security,” McBride said. “In their repeated attempts to implement and justify this cruel and unconstitutional policy, the Trump-Pence Administration has been the only source of disruption on this issue.”

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

Progressive Groups Host Forum on LGBTQ Issues

Democratic Candidates' for Attorney General Invited to Answer Questions About Protecting Civil Rights

BY BTL STAFF

On Sunday afternoon, the Young Democrats of Michigan and Stonewall for Revolution hosted a forum in the city of Jackson so members of the community could hear directly from their Democratic candidates for attorney general about LGBTQ issues.

Candidates Dana Nessel and William Noakes attended to answer questions about issues like expanding the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, protecting LGBTQ people from religious discrimination, shutting down Enbridge Line 5, fighting against hate crimes, the legalization of marijuana, protecting the rights of LGBTQ prisoners, human trafficking, and others.

Noakes said he intends to continue moving the community forward.

"For those of you who are part of the LGBTQ community, it's incumbent upon the attorney general to stand for your rights as he or she would for any other person," he said.

As the first ever lesbian candidate running for Michigan's attorney general position, Nessel is proud to represent the more than half a million people in the state that openly identify as LGBTQ.

"This is an extensive group of people that have never had representation in this state," she said. "They have never had someone willing to fight for them and will finally have that in a very important office."

Pat Miles was invited, but did not attend. Jen Eyer, communications manager for his campaign, said, "Due to scheduling constraints, the campaign at this time is only doing forums organized by Michigan Democratic Party-affiliated

groups. While he isn't attending this particular forum, he has done several other forums with the other candidates, and addressed issues of concern to the LGBT community at each one."

Nessel and Miles were previously asked by BTL (Noakes had entered the race just before press time) to make their best arguments about where they stand on these same issues, which can be read online at pridesource.com.

For more information about the Dana Nessel campaign, visit dana2018.com/. For more information about the Bill Noakes campaign, visit noakesforag.com/. For more information about the Pat Miles campaign, visit milesformichigan.com/

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. The state convention is explained online at michigandems.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/guide-to-convention.pdf.

► Lawmakers Meeting

Continued from p. 10

Joining Kennedy, who's chair of the Congressional Transgender Task Force, in signing the letter are fellow task force members Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), Raul Grijalva (D-Ariz.), Mike Quigley (D-Ill.) and A. Donald McEachin (D-Va.).

The letter requests a response from the federal agencies on setting up an appointment for the roundtable meeting no longer than Feb. 23.

A House aide said the White House wasn't included in the letter because lawmakers wanted to speak to the directors of each department's civil rights offices.

The Blade has placed a request for comment in with each of the eight federal departments on whether a meeting will be granted. State Department and Justice Department officials confirmed receipt of the letter and said a response will follow in due course.



Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-Mass.) is calling for a meeting with Trump officials on anti-trans rollbacks. (Washington Blade photo by Michael Key)

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

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Michigan LGBT Comedyfest March 3

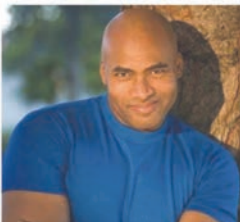
BY BTL STAFF

On Saturday, March 3, four comedians will grace the stage at Dearborn's Ford Community & Performing Arts Center for the 22nd annual Michigan LGBT Comedyfest. The festival is put on by Motor City Pride and will feature four LGBT comedians, Julia Scotti, Andre Kelley, Pat Regan and Suzanne Westenhoefer.

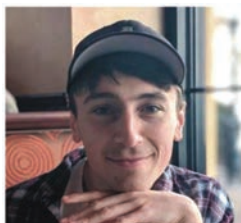
Each of the four will bring their own unique blend of laughs, not shying away from talking about their sexual identity or orientation. But, of course, there will be plenty more to laugh about than that.



Julia Scotti is a New Jersey-based comic nationally-headlining comedian who was a quarter-finalist and fan favorite on season 11 of "America's Got Talent" in 2016. In 2012, she was also named one of the top five transgender comedians in the U.S.



Andre Kelley lives in Los Angeles and is open about his sexuality in his comedy. He talks about family dynamics and his daily experiences as a gay man. His jokes have been featured on Comedy Central and Comics Unleashed.



Pat Regan's brand of humor excels in the observational. From plastic surgery, the afterlife, to office equipment, Regan can crack relatable jokes on nearly any topic.



Suzanne Westenhoefer has been a standup comic since the '90s, and, since then, has been unafraid to talk about being a lesbian. Her jokes run a fine line between truth and hilarity.

For tickets and more information about the Michigan 22nd Annual LGBT Comedyfest, visit comedyfest.org. Tickets are \$30 and \$35 at the door. The venue is located at 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn.



Attendees at last year's expo. This year BTL will be kicking off the publication's 25th year with a 4-tier cake starting at 2 p.m..

Coming March 11: The 8th Annual LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo Back at MotorCity Casino

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

DETROIT – It's a long process to pick a venue, a photographer, make the guest list and worry about the floral arrangements – among countless other responsibilities. But, whether large or intimate, two people join together in a celebration of love. Undeniably, marriage can be a beautiful thing and most of America thinks so too. A 2013 Pew Research Study found that almost 90 percent of Americans rank love as the best reason to get married, and Pew also found that in the last 10 years, support for LGBTQ marriages shot up from 37 percent to 62 percent. Still, among all that support, there lies significant opposition.

In the wake of 2017's Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission Case, increasing pushes to discriminate against LGBTQ people in healthcare, social services, employment and even more, it's still as important as ever to ensure that one's wedding vendors are LGBTQ-affirming. Between The Lines' 8th Annual Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo guarantees just that.

The Expo is a great opportunity for LGBTQ couples and individuals planning events to enjoy themselves while connecting with over 80 inclusive vendors that continue extending themselves to the LGBTQ community.

Jan Stevenson is the co-publisher of BTL and co-producer of the event with her co-

The Expo is a great opportunity for LGBTQ couples and individuals planning events to enjoy themselves while connecting with over 80 inclusive vendors that continue extending themselves to the LGBTQ community.

publisher and wife, Susan Horowitz. She said she is excited to create a welcoming environment for everyone in attendance.

"We know a lot of people are concerned about LGBTQ rights under the Trump Administration, but this is a day where people can come together in a safe space to celebrate how far we've come," Stevenson said. "There will be plenty of work to do in the next three years, but the Expo is the place to come for a day of fun, planning the celebrations of our lives."

At eight years old, the Expo is Detroit's only LGBTQ-specific destination for couples looking to meet with the inclusive vendors that respect their upcoming unions. But, it's also the perfect place for straight allies to show their support for these vendors and the LGBTQ community. By considering inclusive vendors for all the special occasions in their lives – like weddings, anniversaries,

vow renewals, graduations, bar and bat mitzvahs, adoptions, baby showers and more – allies can make a stand for progress in the face of discrimination.

This year's Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo will be held at the MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit. Besides the vendors, the expo will feature a fashion show, live entertainment, prizes, special guests, the celebration of BTL's 25 years in publication and plenty of fun surprises. All of this will be held in MotorCity's state-of-the-art ballroom.

"We know some couples with wedding plans have been moving up their ceremonies since Donald Trump was elected," said Horowitz. "And we know a lot of couples – including straight ones – feel more determined than ever to live their lives out loud and support the people and communities they care about."

The 8th Annual Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo will be held on Sunday, March 11 from Noon to 4 p.m. The MotorCity Casino Hotel is located at 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. More information about the event can be found online at milgbtwedding.com. Tickets can be purchased on the site also, for \$10 in advance, or for \$15 at the door. For updates, follow the event's Facebook page at facebook.com/UlimateLGBTExpo, @BTLExpo on Twitter and @BTLEXPO on Instagram.

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With Some of the Most Moving Songs of Her 13-Year Career, the Grammy-Nominated Artist Instills Power in the Powerless

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Brandi Carlile knew the kid from somewhere. She'd seen him before – not this particular one, but others like him. Nervously pulling at his T-shirt, worn under a chic blazer that stuck out amid a sea of casual tracksuit bottoms and hoodie sweatshirts, Carlile recalls, “He just wanted to disappear inside of it.”

“It’s a lot of kids – it’s all of us,” the Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter laments, offering the impetus for her transformative orchestral-augmented rouser, “The Joke.” Carlile’s impassioned ode to queer kids soars during its pick-you-up chorus, when a tender tip-toe of piano balladry erupts into a fiery rocker with Carlile’s Chrissie Hynde-level wail, enkindling the spirit of all that is empowering and celebratory about individuality.

Here, Carlile – openly gay, and once an “eccentric” kid herself – is a galvanizing boost of encouragement, lifting the outsiders, the outcasts, the unwelcome, the kids in blazers, a young girl who still dreams of being the president to new enlightened heights on the sturdy wings of her robust voice. Her lived words help too: “Let ’em laugh while they can, let ’em spin, let ’em scatter in the wind. I have been to the movies, I’ve seen how it ends, and the joke’s on them.”

Growing up 40 miles outside Seattle, Washington, in a small town called Ravensdale, where her family lived in a single-wide, three-bedroom mobile home, Carlile transcended real life through the surrealist lens of 1984’s beloved childhood fantasy about a bullied outcast, “The NeverEnding Story.” (The aurnyn symbol – snakes biting each other – is tattooed on both of her shoulders, a testament to the film’s significance during her youth.)

Later, as an Elton John-enthused teen who came out at age 15 (in the album’s liner notes, she calls Elton her “constant muse” and “very clearly a living angel”), she discovered queer cinema – first watching 1993’s “Philadelphia,” starring Tom Hanks as an AIDS-stricken gay man, then buying the soundtrack. She learned Neil Young’s “Philadelphia” and Bruce Springsteen’s Grammy-winning theme song, “Streets of Philadelphia,” on the guitar. The soundtrack also introduced Carlile to the Indigo Girls, whom she’d later collaborate with on numerous occasions (she also collaborated with Elton, who plays piano on “Caroline,” from 2009’s “Give Up the Ghost”). Roy Orbison and the Carpenters came to her courtesy of 1995’s lesbian-inclusive road movie “Boys on the Side,” “another gay movie that hugely impacted me.”

In 2005, when Carlile was 23, that arsenal of folk-rock idols assembled a foundation for

her own roots music: a polished self-titled collection of campfire sing-alongs with mass appeal released on Columbia Records. Four studio albums followed, including 2007’s “The Story,” which elevated her musical profile and led to TV spots on shows such as “Grey’s Anatomy” and an Adele cover of the album’s hidden track, “Hiding My Heart.” Produced by Americana staple T Bone Burnett, Carlile let the rougher edges of her booming instrument catch the light, particularly during the title track, her voice a tsunami of raw, thrashing power.

But you’ve never heard Carlile quite like you do on “By the Way, I Forgive You,” an early contender for album of the year and her most accomplished, heartfelt set to date, her stunning voice carrying more weight than ever.

With Grammy Award-winning producer Dave Cobb, best known for his work with famed roots-music fixtures Jason Isbell and

Shooter Jennings, who co-producers, Carlile hunkered down with twin bandmates Phil and Tim Hanseroth in Nashville's historic RCA Studio A. In the same studio where Dolly Parton, Nancy Sinatra and Willie Nelson once recorded, Carlile went for the same kind of impulsive intimacy of her live shows, and she achieves it: This album most wholly captures Carlile as if she's singing to you from across the room. Her front-and-center voice conveys an abundance of in-the-moment spontaneity, making it impossible not to envision tears she might have shed while singing the wistful standout among standouts "Most of All," a touching tribute to her forgiveness-instilling father and her mother, who "taught me how to fight." On "Whatever You Do," her restlessness is manifested through her heavy-hearted timbre and a cathartic gut-punch of a scream.

"(Dave) sent me out there and was like, 'Just wail on the end of it and take half steps all the way up and just sing until you get to the end of it,'" she recalls. "I just kept holding the note out and letting it break apart and he loved it. It felt good, and I was really feeling the pain of that song and wanting to show that even though the lyrics had just ended and I had come to some kind of peaceful resolve, there was still a part of me that wasn't letting it go."

Fade outs are to be expected at a Carlile live show, but generally not on a Carlile album – not until Cobb insisted outros could exist in both places. With earlier albums, the set's peace offering, "Party of One," may have been cut just after her recurrent line of devotion, "I am yours, I am yours," but the cinematic ebbing of a mounting string arrangement by the late Paul Buckmaster is soothing and graceful – a warm bath after a long day. "Harder to Forgive" flips the script midway, morphing a familiar backwoods Carlile sound into a pummel of drum-smacked, piano-flecked rock, marked by a tremendous vocal that, again, ends with a delectably charged howl.

"I've always been mild to moderately inconvenienced when making albums," the singer admits. "I always feel like they're kind of an uncomfortable break in my live journey, and Dave Cobb particularly really wasn't having that. He was not impressed with that at all, and he started asking me uncomfortable things like, 'How have you never made an album that's as good or unabashedly kind of what you do on stage live?'"

She has now. Nearly fifteen years into their recording career, "By the Way, I Forgive You" is a thrilling sonic turning point for Carlile and her band, with the revelation that their live presence can indeed translate to the studio.

"I just always thought of myself as two different artists – there was a recording artist and a live artist, and it's not the case," she explains. "There are a lot of things I would record differently if I could go back and do it now, but I don't know that I should because it's like trying to change what you were wearing in a photograph in the '80s – you kind of don't want to because it captures the moment. Even if I had affectation in my voice or even if I was

crowd-pleasing with some of my lyrics now and then, it was still where I was emotionally at that time."

Carlile is 36 now. She's a wife (to Catherine Carlile, whom she married in 2012), and a mother. And with that, the desire to nurture and be nurtured in a time of political discontent and total world chaos is apparent both in conversation and on the tender, soul-nourishing surface of these vulnerable compositions. Family has changed her.

"I've been a lot more honest with myself about what's worth writing about and what's not worth writing about and what my motive is," she says. "Do I care anymore about mass appeal? Do I care about universality if it's not moving people?"

The answers are clear on "By the Way, I Forgive You," as she turns her artistry outward and shines some light on the people who need it most: kids in blazers, a forgotten Jane Doe ("I'll always save some room for you / I won't let you get left behind") and Carlile's own dear friend whose drug addiction cost him his life. Called "Sugartooth," Carlile's elegy for her late friend will resonate beyond its direct muse, with all castaways, when she offers a hard truth: "What in the hell are you going to do when the world has made its mind up about you?"

Since 2008, Carlile has enriched marginalized lives through the charity she co-founded with the Hanseroth brothers, called the Looking Out Foundation, which funds oft-overlooked causes and organizations related to the arts, gender equality and civil rights. Now more than ever, her music pledges the same: to give a voice to the voiceless.

"At the end of the day, the thing that I've learned the most since having Evangeline is that everybody is somebody's baby," she says. "I know that should just be a given and we should just know that, but for some reason I don't think I did know it until I had one."

Addressing parenthood as a lesbian mom, "The Mother" is a love letter to her nearly-4-year-old daughter, with an irrefutable declarative statement sung during the chorus – "I am the mother of Evangeline" – that suffuses undeniable humanness into its significant political assertion. "The world has stood against us, made us mean to fight for you," she acknowledges, pointing to the queer parent struggle. "And when we chose your name, we knew that you'd fight the power too."

With "By the Way, I Forgive You," Carlile's show of compassion and mercy – passed from her parents down to her and now her daughters (Elijah is on the way), as the album's threaded narrative goes – challenges that same power by merely existing. The message here is one of love: the love we learn, the love we lose, and the love we leave.

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



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Steve Aoki, courtesy of YouTube.

Steve Aoki Comes to Royal Oak Music Theatre

Famous for his work with and remixes of influential artists like Kid Cudi, Lenny Kravitz and Duran Duran, Steve Aoki has a unique blend of electronic music all his own. Since the Grammy Award-nominated artist began his foray into the music industry in the '90s, Aoki has built up a loyal following of fans for his innovative music and willingness to break from the norm. Just in the beginning of February alone, Aoki became the first DJ in the world to do a set in zero gravity on a specially converted A310 aircraft.

Aoki is also the creator of Dim Mak, a brand founded in 1996 that focuses on releasing music in the punk, indie rock,

hardcore, hip-hop and electronic genres. The company has promoted various artists like The Chainsmokers, Klaxons and more. Dim Mak is also a fashion brand.

Aoki is now in the middle of his U.S.-wide tour and will be visiting the Royal Oak Music Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 22.

Doors open at 8 p.m. The show is for ages 16 years and older and tickets start at \$31. For more information on Aoki and the show, visit royaloakmusictheatre.com and steveaoki.com. The Royal Oak Music Theatre is located at 318 W. 4th St., Royal Oak. 248-399-2980.

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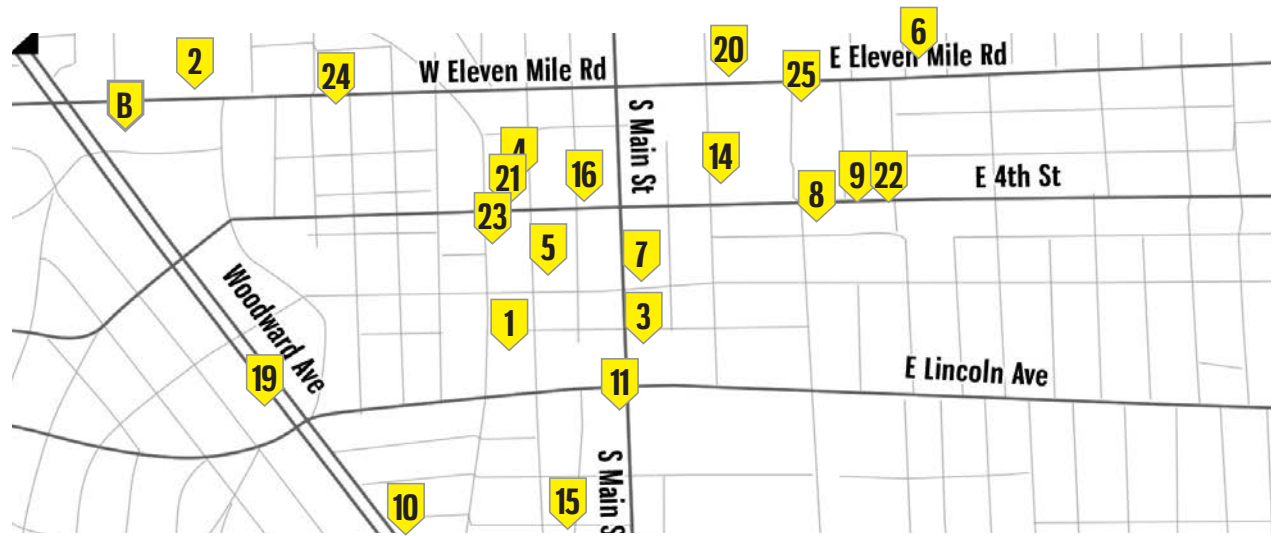
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Ringwald Opens Their Sondheim Spring Season with ‘Merrily We Roll Along’

BY ENCORE MICHIGAN STAFF

FERNDALE — The Ringwald Theatre’s Sondheim Spring begins with a five-week run of “Merrily We Roll Along” on Feb. 16, playing through March 19.

“Merrily” – aka the show they were doing in Greta Gerwig’s “Lady Bird” – marked the reunion of legendary composer/lyricist Stephen Sondheim with librettist George Furth, who had previously teamed for the Broadway landmark company. Sondheim and Furth turn the traditional showbiz musical on its head in this thrilling and compelling tale of friendship, compromise, and the high price of success.

The Ringwald will present a fresh take on this new classic, directed by Joe Bailey. Told in reverse, “Merrily We Roll Along” expertly blends the excitement and energy of a backstage musical with a poignant and emotional contemporary story about the importance of staying true to one’s ideals. With a brilliant “Broadway-style” score and that deep insight one expects from any Sondheim endeavor, Merrily We Roll Along is a spirited and moving cautionary tale for anyone who

has ever pursued a dream.

The cast of this production includes Ashlee Armstrong, Jordan Gagnon, Jerry Haines, Kyle Mitchell Johnson, Kevin Kaminski, Ashley M. Lyle, Anna Morreale, Nicole Pascarella, Brandy Joe Plambeck, Donny Riedel, Liz Schultz, and Matthew Wallace, with music direction by CT Hollis and accompaniment by Ben Villaluz.

Friday, Saturday and Monday night shows are at 8 p.m., plus 2 Sunday twilight shows at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for Friday and Saturday performances; Sundays are \$20, Monday nights — as always at the Ringwald — are \$10. Student discounts are \$5 off regular ticket price and available on Friday and Saturday performances, with valid student ID (available at the box office on the day of the show). Tickets can be purchased at www.TheRingwald.com or at the theater box office. The Ringwald box office opens 45 minutes before performances and tickets can be purchased with cash or credit card.

The Ringwald Theatre is located at 22742 Woodward Ave. in Ferndale and can be reached at 248-545-5545. Visit the website: theringwald.com.

Douglas Macmillan Play at The Wharton Feb. 15-18

EAST LANSING – A new production of the play “Lungs” will round out Wharton Center’s new Illuminate series this February. “Lungs” will be performed in Wharton Center’s Pasant Theatre Thursday, Feb. 15 through 18.

On a trip to IKEA, a young couple tries to navigate the question of whether to have a child. The conversation spirals into a series of existential and often funny discussions about what they know life to be, revealing an emotional, real and fiercely honest love story.

Written by English playwright Duncan

Macmillan, this Wharton Center production features minimalist staging, with the audience sharing the Pasant stage with the performers.

Tickets are available at the official source to purchase Wharton Center tickets online, whartoncenter.com, at the Auto-Owners Insurance Ticket Office, or by calling 1-800-WHARTON.

Wharton Center for Performing Arts is located at 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing. Visit www.whartoncenter.com.



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Michigan Opera Theatre brings '27 to Detroit Stage

In "27" the audience is taken back in time to the early 20th century to join Gertrude Stein and her partner Alice Toklas in their Paris Salon located at 27 rue de Fleurus. The famous dwelling is where Stein hosted artists like Pablo Picasso, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Henri Matisse and many more. Composed by Ricky Ian Gordon and Royce Vavrek, it is an exploration of love, loss, change and art across the span of two World Wars. From March 2 and 3, the performance will be held at the Arthur Miller Theatre in Ann Arbor and at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts on March 10 and 11. Tickets start at \$30. More information about show times and pricing can be found online at michiganopera.org, or by calling 313-237-SING (7464).



Happenings

OUTINGS

Friday, Feb. 16

Le Ciné Cube 10:30 pm Film Shorts + Live Music by the Andrew Alden Ensemble Silent French films come to life with live music performed by the Andrew Alden Ensemble. From 1920's Avant-Garde horror to famous shorts by French Filmmaker Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4765&prod=4764>

Saturday, Feb. 17

Le Ciné Cube 5:30 pm Screening of Round Midnight + Q&A Bertrand Tavernier's 1986 American-French musical drama film Round Midnight stars legendary jazz saxophonist Dexter Gordon, François Cluzet, and Herbie Hancock and captures the Paris jazz scene of the 1950s. Martin Scorsese, Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4762&prod=4761>

Thursday, Feb. 22

Ravel's "The Child and the Spells" and Poulenc's "The Breasts of Tiresias" 7:30 pm Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 students Jam Handy, 2900 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-451-0806 <http://www.operamodo.com>

Friday, Feb. 23

Ravel's "The Child and the Spells" and Poulenc's "The Breasts of Tiresias" 7:30 pm Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 students Jam Handy, 2900 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-451-0806 <http://www.operamodo.com>

Saturday, Feb. 24

Afternoon of Spirituals 2:30 pm Join me for An Afternoon of Spirituals! In honor of Black History Month, I am continuing my "Favorite Things" concert series with a

compilation of all of my favorite spirituals. Experience heartfelt melodies to touch Walled Lake United Methodist Church, 313 E. Northport St., Walled Lake. <https://www.facebook.com/events/274419413088758/>

Ravel's "The Child and the Spells" and Poulenc's "The Breasts of Tiresias" 7:30 pm Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 students Jam Handy, 2900 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-451-0806 <http://www.operamodo.com>

Les Nubians + DJ Cambeaux 9:30 pm

Vocal Duo Les Nubians, comprised of sisters Hélène and Célia Faussart from Paris France, brings their distinctive Afropean, Urban, R&B sound to The Cube for an evening not to be missed. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4749&prod=4748>

Sunday, Feb. 25

A2CT's 9th Annual Chili Cook - Off 2:00 pm Ann Arbor Civic Theatre announces

Editor's Pick

Trevor Noah at the Fox Theatre

Trevor Noah can be caught regularly on Comedy Central's Emmy and Peabody Award-winning "The Daily Show," but on Feb. 23 he's making his way to the Fox Theatre. The South Africa-born comedian will be performing material from his ninth comedy special "Afraid of the Dark," which debuted in Feb. of 2017.

Tickets range from \$35 to \$75. More information can be found online at 313presents.com. The Fox Theatre is located at 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit.



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Editor's Pick

Basquiat Before Basquiat at the Cranbrook Art Museum

Before renowned bisexual artist Jean-Michel Basquiat could become famous studio artist, he got his start doing art on the street. Cranbrook Art Museum's exhibit "Basquiat Before Basquiat: East 12th Street, 1979-1980" explores his work during his stint in three different apartments with his friend Alexis Adler. During this time, many assert he developed his signature style.



Basquiat in the apartment, 1981. Photo by Alexis Adler.

its ninth Annual Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 2-5 pm at The Wolverine State Brewing Company at 2019 West Stadium Blvd, A2, MI, 48103. Tickets for the event Wolverine State Brewing Company, 2019 W. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor. 734-369-2990 www.wolverinebeer.com <http://www.a2ct.org>

Ravel's "The Child and the Spells" and Poulenc's "The Breasts of Tiresias" 7:30 pm Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 students Jam Handy, 2900 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-451-0806 <http://www.operamodo.com>

Sunday, March 11

BTL's LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo! 12:00 pm It's back! Don't miss the fun! Watch for details! 2 Free tickets with code: BTL2018. Register @ MILGBTWedding.com Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 866-782-9622 donelle@pridesource.com donelle@pridesource.com

Saturday, March 17

Blue Cathedral 7:00 pm Higdon Blue Cathedral Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 1 Schumann Symphony No. 1 "Spring" Hear for yourself why American orchestras perform the music of American composer Jennifer Higdon more frequently than scores by any other contemporary Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St. Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 <http://www.a2so.com/events/blue-cathedral/>

ART 'N' AROUND

Monet - Framing Life 9:00 am 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. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-833-7900 <http://www.dia.org>

The Art of Containment 12:00 pm 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. 810-234-

1695 <https://flintarts.org>

Penny Stamps Series presents Jaime Hayon: Design Follows Function, and then What? Feb. 15, 5:10 pm Spanish artist-designer Jaime Hayon was born in Madrid in 1974. From his very first collections, Hayon has been at the forefront of a new wave that blurs the lines between art, decoration, and design, leading Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/jaime_hayon

Penny Stamps Series presents Chico MacMurtrie: Border Crossers - Part 2 Feb. 16, 5:30 pm Special Event: Friday, Feb. 16 at 5:30 pm / Helmut Stern Auditorium, UMMA, 525 S State St, Ann Arbor 48109 Chico MacMurtrie is an award-winning artist, renowned internationally for his large-scale sculptures, whose work combines Helmut Stern Auditorium, UMMA, 525 S State St, Ann Arbor. 734.764.0395 <https://umma.umich.edu/plan-your-visit#hours> https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/chico_macmurtrie1

The Erotic Poetry & Music Festival Feb. 24, 8:00 pm "An eclectic celebration of the erotic arts!" The infamous "Erotic Poetry & Music Festival" is Detroit's oldest community arts festival. "An eclectic celebration of the erotic arts!" it features provocative poetry, dirty spoken word, erotic Tangent Gallery, 715 East Milwaukee Avenue, Detroit. 2484451277 <http://www.facebook.com/EroticPoetryandMusicFestival>

Social Healing Film Event Feb. 25, 12:00 pm This first-time networked LIVE online event features ministers and leaders from multiple New Thought centers around the U.S. who will view and discuss a timely film by author and producer, Tim Wise. The documentary explores Unity of Livonia, 28660 Five Mile Road, Livonia. 734-421-1760 events@unityoflivonia.org unityoflivonia.org

Penny Stamps Series presents Giorgia Lupi: Data Humanism March 8 5:10 pm Giorgia Lupi is an award-winning information designer, author, and co-founder of Accurat, a data-driven design firm where she serves as design director.

She is also the co-author of Dear Data, an aspirational hand-drawn data visualization Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/giorgia_lupi

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Our Lady of Poison Feb. 15, 8:00 pm Giulia Tofana and her daughter Girolama are beloved apothecaries, and skilled poisoners. This mother-daughter team run an infamous underground operation to provide unfortunate wives with an escape from untenable marriages. Based on historical events. Check Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. 517-655-SHOW <http://www.williamstontheatre.org>

The Accidental Magician: Music, Magic & Film Feb. 16, 7:00 pm Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 <https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4771&prod=4769>

A2CT Presents a Sneak Peak of the Musical First Date Feb. 21, 7:00 pm Ann Arbor Civic Theatre will be presenting a sneak peek of their upcoming production of the musical First Date on Wednesday, Feb. 21 from 7:00-8:30 PM at The Session Room, 3685 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, The Session Room, 3685 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor. 734-585-7300 <http://www.a2ct.org/shows/first-date>

Bug Feb. 23 8:00 pm Tickets \$20 Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. 2485418027 <http://www.stagecrafters.org>

First Date @ A2CT March 8, 7:30 pm Chronic Singles Aaron and Casey meet up for their arranged blind date and invite every doubting voice in their heads along for the ride. How will it go, and where will it lead? First Date One event on March 9 at 8:00pm One event on March 10 at 8:00pm One event on March 11 at 2:00pm Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538 http://smt.d.umich.edu/about/facilities/north_campus/walgreen/arthurmiller/

Steel Magnolias March 9, 8:00 pm Tickets \$20-\$23.50 Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. 2485418027 <http://www.stagecrafters.org>

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Meet Emcee Motormouth of the Sudden Death Syndrome

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

As a musician, especially as the frontman of a group, it's important to be bold, and to hold nothing back while performing. For Sudden Death Syndrome's Emcee Motormouth, that's no problem at all.

Born Jeff Lupinski, he said he got his stage name when the bassist for a group he was in, Kubrick's Message, thought he spoke a lot, so he gave him his moniker: Emcee Motormouth.

"It was due to the fact that I'm a very talkative person," Lupinski explained. "I tend to elongate my conversations, like, I'll explain very thoroughly."

The bassist didn't let up, and Lupinski took a liking to it.

"And after a few weeks, I decided that I am kind of an emcee. So I might as well take that and use it to my advantage. So, since then, I have always used Emcee Motormouth in any band or group I was in."

When Kubrick's Message disbanded after eight years of performing around Detroit, Lupinski decided he wanted to change his musical style. Lupinski said Kubrick's Message sounded like "The Deftones meets Alice in Chains."

Eventually, Lupinski landed on the self-described "ghetto tech/hip-hop." Now, his group just needed a name.

"I decided that I wanted to create a new group that was going to purposely piss people off," he said. "I don't know

why, but I find bands and artists that purposely do this to be exciting and fun. It's almost like avant garde art in itself."

It was in 2009 that Lupinski paired up with his friend Jared to create the group that would become Sudden Death Syndrome.

"I just wrote down five names and

love with a fiend / What you see is what you get boy."

The effect of this boldness has been a double-edged sword, however. On the one hand, it's been the first time that Lupinski has been able to truly express himself, and the group has gained a cult following; on the other, Lupinski says it's hurt his ability to be visible everywhere he wants to be.

"I find it very hard in the Detroit music scene to find gigs," he said. "Most booking agents or promoters do not want to take the chance on an artist who fits in a supposed subculture unless it's already a fad. I always end up finding gigs but not at the level that I think we could and should be at. I also don't ever want to be associated with 'weird' bands or 'joke' acts. For some reason, some booking people see what my lyrics are about and pin this image up of me as a sideshow or something, sadly."

Still, Lupinski has no regrets about being out and makes no apologies for it.

"Stereotypes of gay, bi, trans people have been so played out, even in music," Lupinski said. "I want people to know you can perform whatever kind of music or make any kind of art form you choose. No matter what you are, you should never feel ashamed. Because it sucks to have to hide the truth from everybody, even yourself."

For more information on Emcee Motormouth and the Sudden Death Syndrome, visit suddendeathsyndromedetroit.com.



picked one," Lupinski said, explaining how the group got its unusual name. "I think it was more of something that looked different in the eyes of any hip-hop head that I was shooting for. Plus, it sounds dope."

Lupinski, openly gay, also isn't afraid to use his latest platform to talk about his homosexuality. His LGBT-centric lyrics don't shy away from using male pronouns, like in "In Love With A Fiend" when he raps "I'm in

Michigan Residents Encouraged to Prevent Child Abuse by Simply Checking a Box while Filing Taxes

BY BTL STAFF

The Children's Trust Fund is reminding people filing their state income taxes to remember to check a box that will help prevent child abuse.

A checkoff box on a state income tax return form allows residents to donate \$5, \$10 or more to fund programs in local communities that prevent child abuse. Through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, the Children's Trust Fund serves as a voice for Michigan's children and families and promotes their health, safety and welfare by funding local programs and services statewide that prevent child abuse and neglect.

The checkoff box can be found on both the online and paper versions of the Voluntary Contribution Schedule Form 4642.

"It's imperative that Michigan supports the local programs and services that protect children and prevent abuse and neglect," said Michael Foley, executive director of the Children's Trust Fund. "By simply checking a box, tax filers have the power to directly impact those services and ensure the health, safety and welfare of the children in their communities. Every dollar donated through the tax

campaign has generated \$31.64 in grants to local communities."

Grants from the CTF support a wide range of programs and services through the statewide network of Child Abuse and Neglect Councils. Based on local priorities, local councils use funding for initiatives such as shaken baby and safe sleep education, parent support and child sexual assault prevention and education. CTF also funds 37 competitive grants that target at-risk families with services such as home visitation, support for families with incarcerated parents and respite care.

The CTF relies heavily on the contributions donated through the state income tax campaign to fund direct service and local prevention programs across the state of Michigan that help build families and keep children safe. Since its creation in 1982, the CTF has raised more than \$70 million and provided support to over 7 million children and families.

Michigan income tax return forms are available on the website for the Michigan Department of Treasury. For more information about the Children's Trust Fund, how to contribute and the tax campaign, visit michigan.gov/ctf.

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Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce Hosts Workshop on Earning LGBT-Owned Business Designation

BY BTL STAFF

Today more than ever, paying attention to the diversity of one's customer base is vital to maintaining a thriving business. America is rapidly changing not only in its racial and ethnic makeup — Pew Research Center found that by 2055 no single racial ethnic majority will exist in the U.S. — but in its acceptance of the LGBTQ Population. Pew also found that in 2016, 63 percent of people believed that homosexuality should be accepted in society — a 12 percent jump from 2006. However, even with the overall positive shift in opinion, not every business is LGBTQ-affirming — as evidenced by the Masterpiece Cakeshop trial.

To combat this antiquated mindset, the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce is hosting a workshop to help local, LGBT-owned businesses earn an LGBT Business Enterprise Designation, or an LGBTBE. According to the chamber of commerce president Kevin Heard, it's an absolute must.

"If your business is an LGBT-majority owned business, we encourage you to learn more about how this certification can set you apart from your competitors, especially as more corporations and businesses become inclusive and take steps to diversify their supply chains," said Heard. "All businesses can benefit and should work together to build strong coalitions to compete for contracting opportunities."

Participants in the workshop will learn how to increase sales as minority-suppliers by accessing a network of local and national corporate partners, special events and

conferences, and other certified businesses. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. The workshop, which is free of charge to DRLGBTCC members and \$10 for all non-members, will be held at Affirmations LGBT Community Center located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road, in Ferndale.

The two-hour session will cover several topics, like how certification can help build new business relationships and sales opportunities, a review of the certification process and how certified companies network both locally and nationally.

The workshop will be led by Pride Source Media Group Owner Jan Stevenson and Henry Ford Health System Supplier Diversity System Coordinator Lillian Lowery.

"We see companies that actively seek LGBT and other minority vendors, but find it difficult to identify LGBT-owned businesses," said Stevenson. "Certification is a clear way for LGBT owned businesses to connect with buyers at some of the largest companies in Michigan."

In order to become a certified LGBTBE, businesses must: be at least 51 percent owned, operated, managed and controlled by an LGBT person or persons who are either U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents; exercises independence from any non-LGBT business enterprise; has its principal place of business (headquarters) in the U.S. and has been formed as a legal entity in the U.S.

To register or for more information, contact Jan Stevenson at 313-515-9839 or email jan@pridesource.com. For additional information on the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce, visit detroitlgbtchamber.com.

Traverse City LGBTQ Community Center Seeking Two New Board Members

BY BTL STAFF

Although the northern part of the mitten is considered to be remote by some, it is home to many of Michigan's most recognizable places and to a vibrant LGBTQ community. Currently, The Polestar LGBTQ+ Community Center has a team of five board members who are working to acquire the 501(c)(3) organization a regular meeting space. The community center currently serves the Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Kalkaska and Antrim Counties and is seeking two additional board members to aid their team.

"We believe at this point, the potential for

an LGBT+ Community Center is virtually infinite. We envision a central hub in Traverse City, but one that would serve people in the surrounding 5-county+ area. We envision offering services to full time and seasonal residents, as well as the many tourists who visit our area every year," said the community center's website. "In the end, you, the larger LGBT+ Community, will define the center. Your voice and your input counts!"

Interested candidates should reach out to the board's secretary, Zack Gentz at zgentz@tcpolestar.org for more information. For more information about the community center, visit tcpolestar.org.



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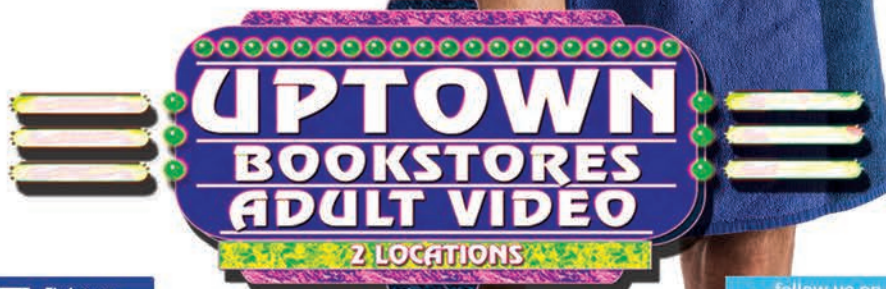
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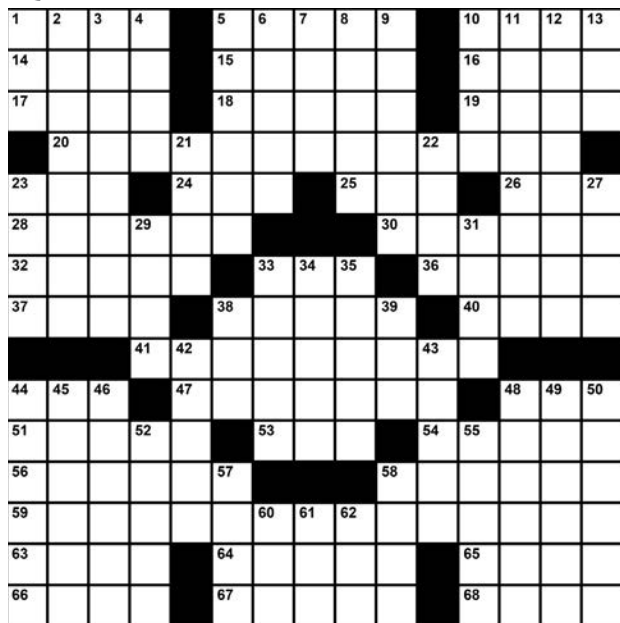
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Q Puzzle



- 32 Say without thinking
- 33 Org. for Dr. Susan Love
- 36 Mapplethorpe models, often
- 37 Boxers eat it on the floor
- 38 Bodies of soldiers
- 40 Cincinnati team
- 41 More of the quote
- 44 Atlantic City casino, with "the"
- 47 Blow job with a twist?
- 48 Up to, for short
- 51 In-your-face
- 53 Market tail?
- 54 Seine feeder
- 56 "What Will Mary Say" singer Johnny
- 58 Where a top puts it?
- 59 End of the quote
- 63 One that attacks a fly
- 64 Where a queen may rule
- 65 Elizabeth of "Transamerica"
- 66 Janis Joplin's "Down ___"
- 67 Montezuma, for example
- 68 Parker of "South Park"

Down

- 1 "___ Spartacus!"
- 2 One of Frosty's pair?
- 3 Get slick in the shower
- 4 "Showboat"s "Nobody ___ But Me"
- 5 Sated
- 6 Be unfaithful to
- 7 Piercing rebuke from Caesar?
- 8 Sassy kid
- 9 Aileen Wuornos' kind of killer
- 10 Porter's "Well, Did You ___"
- 11 Close role in "Hamlet"
- 12 Got
- 13 Deer in Maria's song
- 21 Nureyev's refusal
- 22 Guy under Hoover
- 23 "Mamma Mia!" band
- 27 Opera villain, typically
- 29 Fast food pioneer Ray
- 31 Richard Simmons, to fitness
- 33 "Corydon" author Gide
- 34 A. A. for children
- 35 One may shed this
- 38 One, to Frida
- 39 Gay Games VI site (abbr.)
- 42 Top floor
- 43 Sex appeal
- 44 Red fruit used as a vegetable.
- 45 "DeDe Dinah" singer Frankie
- 46 It's tossed off a ship
- 48 Bear or bull
- 49 Chant
- 50 Street named for writer Harper?
- 52 James Beard partner William
- 55 Roll with the punches
- 57 Felder or Teasdale
- 58 Gomer Pyle's branch
- 60 "___ who?!"
- 61 Inked decoration, for short
- 62 Heady stuff

The Left Hand of Darkness

Across

- 1 Lesbos, even to straight people
- 5 Bodies of sailors
- 10 "How queer!"
- 14 Sphincter opening?
- 15 It can cut your pole
- 16 Kill, as a bill
- 17 Words from Rimbaud
- 18 Playful aquatic critter
- 19 Michelangelo's David, and such

- 20 Beginning of a quote from "The Left Hand of Darkness" author Ursula Le Guin (1929-2018)
- 23 "Guys and Dolls" co-creator Burrows
- 24 Long, to a Samurai?
- 25 Robin William's "Mork and Mindy" partner Dawber
- 26 Poke fun at
- 28 Spoke like Sparky on "South Park"
- 30 Boom Boom Room beach



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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

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

AIDS/HIV

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

AIDS Walk Detroit

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

Macomb County STD Clinic

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

Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

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

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

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

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

19641 W. 7 Mile, Detroit, MI
313-537-7000
equalitymi.org
Facebook.com/equalitymichigan

Campus

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

U-M Ann Arbor

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

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

Eastern Michigan University

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

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp

Wayne State JIGSAW

Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW
wsujigsaw@gmail.com

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

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

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

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

Ferndale, MI
248-398-7105

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

Fair Michigan

PO Box 6136
Plymouth, MI 48170
877-432-4764, 313-556-2300
fairmichigan.org
Facebook.com/fairmichigan2016

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

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

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

Facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP

Stonewall for Revolution

www.facebook.com/stonewall4revolution

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

Ties Like Me

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

Suits And The City

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

Transgender

FtM Detroit

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

FtM A2 Ypsi

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

Transgender Michigan

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

Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

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

Ozone House

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

Stand With Trans

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



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

Find these resources online

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

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

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

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

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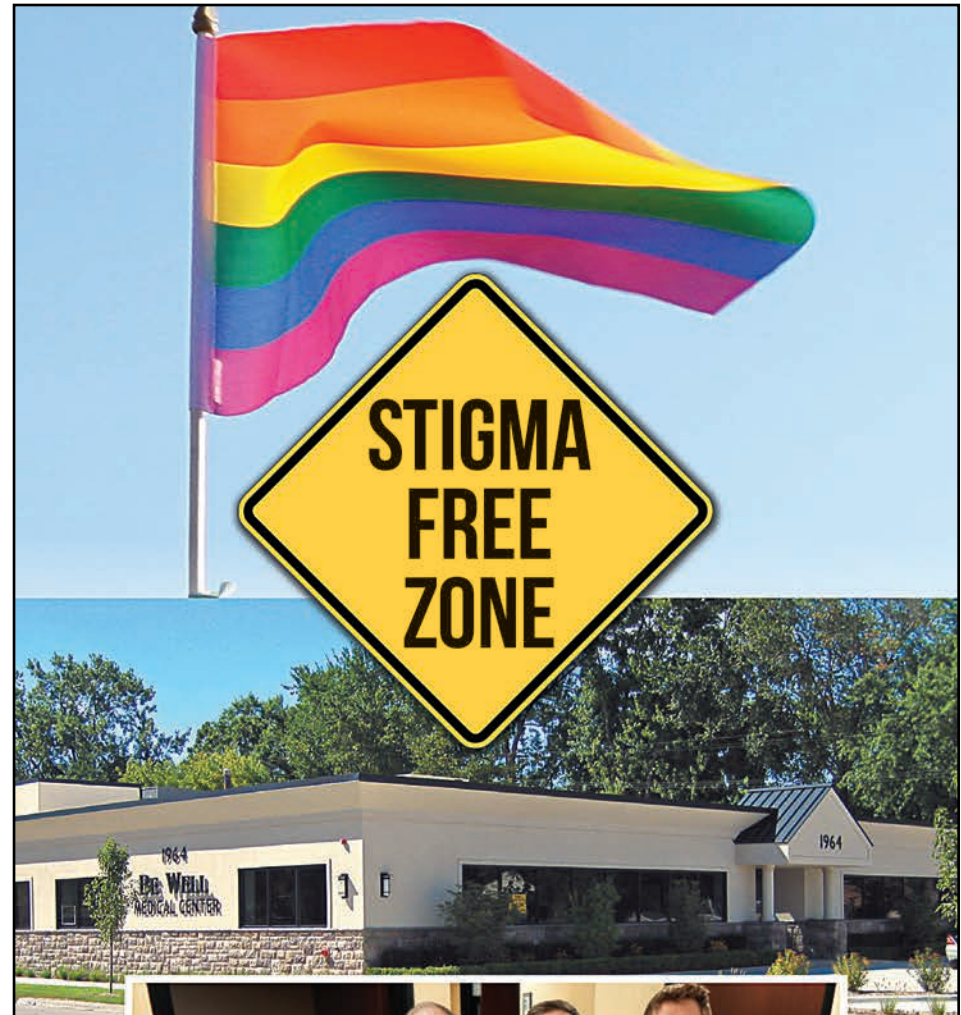
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