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Illustrator: Kenni Adams

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The Choices We Make

BY SUSAN HOROWITZ AND JAN STEVENSON

It has never been more important to make informed choices when spending your dollars. This year we face a debate in the highest court in the land – the U.S. Supreme Court. It's a case that will decide whether bakers and others have the right to refuse us services because of their religious beliefs.

In this issue of BTL we mark the 25th anniversary of the paper. With it we begin a journey looking back to remember our history, with an eye to how we might move ahead to finally achieve full equality.

During the next year, the paper will hold a number of events that look at the progress we have made, make note of the challenges that remain, and continue to commit resources that tell our stories and report on the inequality we still face. We will once again be fully engaged in helping you make informed decisions at the voting booth this November with our extensive voter guide.

One of the other projects we love doing here at BTL is the annual LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo. Now in its 8th year – we return once again to our Expo Grand Sponsor – MotorCity Casino & Hotel this

Sunday, from noon to 4 p.m., where nearly 100 vendors will be on hand to welcome you and help you with all your event planning needs – all in one place.

It has never been more important to make informed choices when spending your dollars. This year we face a debate in the highest court in the land – the U.S. Supreme Court. It's a case that will decide whether bakers and others have the right to refuse us services because of their religious beliefs.

The current climate around the country – indeed the world – has been challenging, and at times alarming. It is difficult to find a ray of hope some days. For those of you who are planning to wed or celebrate an anniversary, each of our vendors on hand are what we have come to call equality-minded. They most definitely provide that ray of hope for all the attendees – treating us with

the respect and dignity we most certainly all deserve.

And, whether you are already wed and need other services, please consider choosing among the vendors at this year's Expo. In addition to party planning we have services that range from adoption to home buying with LGBT-friendly businesses. In fact, all the businesses and services that advertise in BTL all year long are deserving of consideration when you plan a purchase. Without their support this publication would not be possible.

So please come down, enjoy the energy that is always high at this event and share in some 25th anniversary cake with all of us here at BTL – and be sure to say thanks to the vendors who want nothing more than to make our special occasions the best possible experience.

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Therapist Decides Not to Move into Huntington Building Over Signage Issue

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Royal Oak-based psychotherapist Joe Kort has decided not to move his practice into the Huntington Medical Building in Huntington Woods as a result of a disagreement over signage in the building. Kort said that after he signed his lease that the complete name of his practice – Joe Kort & Associates and the Center for Relationship & Sexual Health – would be included on signage both inside and outside the building.

But when another tenant in the building complained about the words “sexual health” on the directory, the building’s owners Ara and Darren Atesian of Atesian Realty/Atesian Properties, Inc., decided to take them down.

“If you were a patient for the tenant upstairs you are now uncomfortable, because you think there are sexual predators in the building. Because (the space) is now a sexual therapy clinic,” Darren Atesian told *Between The Lines* when the paper first broke the story in January. “It just seemed to come off that they’re servicing people who are sexual predators. We’re not the only ones who felt



“I’m not about to whisper the word LGBT and I’m not about to whisper the words ‘sexual health.’”

– Joe Kort

this way. Forget our tenants. We asked other people if this could be misconstrued and they said yes.”

Kort was initially confused as to what to do. “It wasn’t an easy thing,” said Kort in an online video posted to his YouTube page. “I really fretted about this.”

However, he said he was left with no other options.

“We decided not to move into that building,”

Kort said. “Those of you who know me know that I’m very much an advocate of LGBT issues and sexual health issues. And a neighbor of ours telling us that we can’t usage the verbiage ‘sexual health’ was too much for me. I couldn’t do it.”

Just days before the anticipated move-in date, Kort told the building’s owners he wanted out of his lease. He chose to stay put in the Woodward Building in Royal Oak, where his practice has been based for the last 19 years.

“They never had a problem with our signage,” Kort said. “The only reason we weren’t staying originally was there wasn’t space available to take over, but it looks now like there might be. So, I’m really looking forward to that possibility.”

Kort said the dispute has taken a lot out of him.

“This has been very stressful for me,” he said. “I’m trying to really take it easy and get my bearings. But those of you who know me know that I’m not about to whisper the words ‘LGBT’ and I’m not about to whisper the words ‘sexual health.’ If I’m going to be in a building it’s going to have that language.”

There’s no way I wasn’t going to have it on the directory. The directory is very important.”

What’s in a name?

Kort created the Center for Relationship and Sexual Health more than a decade ago in an effort to distinguish itself from his main practice.

“I wanted my name off of it,” he said. “My name is synonymous with LGBT, so when people hear my name they don’t think I work with straight people. I do work with straight people. I always have. So, I created the Center for Relationship and Sexual Health to help people understand that we do much more than that.”

Kort said that today more than ever, sexual health is an important topic to be discussed.

“We need to be talking to our children about it,” he said. “We need to be talking to teenagers about it, and we need to be talking about it as adults. This is an important conversation. Right now, porn is our sex education. Let’s just get that straight: porn is our sex education these days.”

Mother Seeks Justice Following Daughter’s Assault at School

BY DREW HOWARD

A Michigan mother said staff at Duncan Lake Middle School in Caledonia ignored taking punitive action after her daughter was assaulted and called a “fucking faggot” by a fellow student.

Adrien Mahoney, 14, was celebrating National Hug Day with friends the night of the incident last year on Aug. 31, according to a sheriff’s report filed by Caledonia School Resource Officer Patrick Frederick. Mahoney claims a male student at a high school football game assaulted her after she asked him for a hug, resulting in a black eye as well as bruises and scratches on her face.

Mahoney’s mother Sarah, along with her attorney Christine Yared, have been fighting to get an answer from school leadership for six months regarding punishment. Yared believes the sluggish response is due in part to Mahoney’s gender expression.

“Adrien is a girl but has a gender expression that is male,” Yared said. “And to us that’s a significant part of this and why they think it’s fine.”

According to GLSEN research, incidents of physical assault (e.g., punched, kicked, or injured with a weapon) are less often reported, but nevertheless, more than a third of middle school students (39 percent) have been assaulted in school because of their sexual orientation and about a quarter (24 percent) because of their gender expression.

Many middle school students who were harassed or assaulted in school never reported the incident to adult authorities – 57 percent never told school staff and 50 percent never told a parent or other family member. Among middle school students who did tell

school authorities about an incident, less than a third (29 percent) said that reporting resulted in effective intervention by school staff.

Following months of unanswered questions, Mahoney’s mother and Yared brought their concerns to the Caledonia school board meeting on Feb. 27. Yared said a couple other attendees also spoke up in support of Mahoney.

Caledonia Community Schools Interim Superintendent Dirk Weeldreyer told WOODTV8 the night of the meeting that the incident is being handled.

“I believe the appropriate steps were taken,” Weeldreyer said. “It certainly hurts us

whenever there is someone who feels they are being unfairly targeted or whatever and so it’s something we take very seriously and we will continue to look into.”

Weeldreyer made similar comments when



he spoke with BTL.

“We did follow our processes on this case,” he said. “We will certainly continue to speak with the parent and try to work through remaining issues.”

Yared was surprised and confused by Weeldreyer’s statement from Tuesday night.

“We don’t know what that means,” Yared said. “This week was the first time we’ve heard that in six months.”

The school’s student handbook states

students should receive a minimum two-day suspension for aggressive behavior that is considered a major offense. Yared is unsure if Weeldreyer’s statement means the alleged assailant will be suspended.

Mahoney’s mother said she heard rumors that her daughter went in for a hug without asking. She doesn’t believe this is the case.

“I’ve been her mom for 14 years – she doesn’t act that way,” she said.

The school district will ultimately be responsible for disciplinary action.

After receiving a petition on Feb. 20 for charges of assault and battery against the male student, Kent County Undersheriff Michelle Young explained the criminal justice process “rarely” handles assaults between middle school students.

Mahoney’s mother and Yared plan to bring the matter to the Kent County Board of Commissioners next where they’ll make public comments and discuss issues with deputies. Mahoney’s mother told BTL the initial deputy who her daughter reported the assault to also failed in following up.

“Adrien had bruises on her cheekbones, eye, and I think her soul honestly,” she said. “You can’t always see any bruise someone has, and it’s really sad to watch her go through this.”

Federal student privacy laws prevent district officials from commenting on an ongoing investigation, but Weeldreyer said the district is committed to providing a safe and protective environment for all its students.

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White Nationalist Event Turns Violent at MSU

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Protests over a speech by Richard Spencer at Michigan State University turned violent Monday night as dozens of supporters clashed with hundreds of anti-racist protesters. Spencer is the head of the white supremacy group the National Policy Institute.

Twenty-five people were arrested during melees outside the MSU Pavilion, Capt. Doug Monette of the MSU Police Department said. As of Tuesday morning, he was uncertain of the ages of those charged, or where they were from. Charges, he said, ranged from misdemeanors to felonies and included weapons charges as well as obstructing police.

The violent conflicts were exactly what MSU officials had hoped to avoid when they refused to rent university properties for Spencer in August.

“After consultation with law enforcement officials, Michigan State University has decided to deny the National Policy Institute’s request to rent space on campus to accommodate a speaker,” MSU said in a statement issued at the time. “This decision was made due to significant concerns about public safety in the wake of the tragic violence in Charlottesville last weekend. While we remain firm in our commitment to freedom of expression, our first obligation is to the safety and security of our students and our community.”

The request to rent a space for Spencer to speak was made by Cameron Padgett,

a self-described Identitarian activist. It was made days after the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville turned violent. One protester against white nationalism was killed when she was struck by a car driven by a supporter of Spencer’s. The clashes between white nationalists and protesters in Charlottesville have been widely attributed by media, nationalists, protesters and some law enforcement to allowing the opposing groups to come into close contact with each other.

MSU cited both that instance and other examples of violence at events featuring Spencer when it originally announced it would deny the request from Padgett.

Padgett sued in federal court arguing the university was violating the First Amendment. Late last year MSU settled with Padgett, agreeing to pay legal costs for his attorney Kyle Bristow. Bristow himself is an MSU graduate and white nationalist leader. The university also allowed Spencer to rent a facility at MSU to speak during spring break. Below is an overview of the protests on March 5.

Tensions Rise

Approximately 600 of Spencer’s opponents gathered at a commuter lot near the MSU Pavilion, and at least 150 law enforcement officers from 10 different agencies were on hand. Many of them greeted protesters in full



An arrestee with a bloody forehead waits for processing before transport to jail with two others and officers. BTL Photo: Todd Heywood

riot gear.

Police, under the command of MSU Police Department, created a security checkpoint at the far end of the lot where anti-Spencer protesters were gathered. This checkpoint was the only access point to the event which forced speech-goers to confront an angry mob of people. Many of the protesters were dressed in black, wore masks or bandanas and screamed: “Nazis go home!”

Few made it past this crowd, and at least two had to be protected by officers on bikes when the crowd cornered them.

Protesters took over Farm Lane, with some laying down in front of an armored vehicle. Two laid down behind the vehicle as well and

were subsequently arrested. Officers from the Ingham County Sheriff’s Department Mounted Division subsequently moved in, and once the vehicle had been cleared, police receded

Violence Ensues

With a clear line of entry, a group of roughly 35 white nationalists, led by Matthew Heimbach from the Traditionalist Workers Party and Gregory Conte of the National Policy Institute, marched in formation from the commuter lot down Farm Lane. Police

See MSU, page 16

White Nationalist Leader Posts Photo of Himself with Vice President Mike Pence

BY TODD HEYWOOD

White nationalist leader and Michigan attorney Kyle Bristow posted an image of himself with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence on Twitter last Thursday. The image appears to have been taken about a decade ago when Bristow was leading the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) chapter at Michigan State University.

During that time, Bristow was being trained by the Leadership Institute in Virginia. That organization which trains young conservative activists was one which trained Pence, according to its website. Pence, when a Congressman from Indiana, spoke to new activists as well.

Bristow, at that time, was already fomenting dissent on campus. He’d been elected to the Associated Students of Michigan State University student government to represent the James Madison College. But he was

recalled by his peers when his agenda included rescinding financing for students of color student groups, the LGBT groups and others, all while advocating the creation of a white student group.

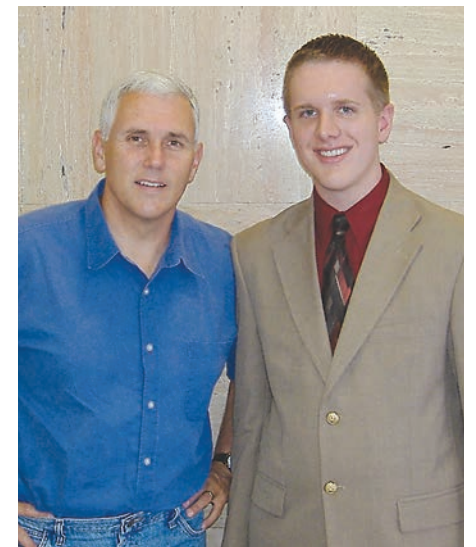
Unphased, Bristow went on to announce plans to run a “Catch an Illegal Immigrant” day on campus, which was ultimately dropped but not until then MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon condemned the action. Under his leadership, YAF was listed as a hate group in 2007 by the Southern Poverty Law Center. During his leadership tenure, he brought in racist speakers such as Chris Simcox of the Minutemen Civilian Defence Corps, an armed vigilante “border patrol” group; and Nick Griffin, head of the British National Party, a white nationalist party in the UK. Neo-Nazi organizer Preston Wigginton served as security for Griffin at the event.

Bristow has since become a leading voice in the so-called “alt-right” movement, which

is a name given to a new breed of white nationalists and backed the campaign of Donald Trump for President. Bristow has created the Foundation for the Marketplace of Ideas. The nonprofit has represented numerous white nationalists in civil litigations, most notably in lawsuits against public universities such as Michigan State University forcing them to allow National Policy Institute leader Richard Spencer to speak on those public properties. In fact, Bristow’s lawsuit against MSU, filed on behalf of Cameron Padgett, resulted in the university paying Bristow tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees as well as the university being forced to allow Spencer to speak on campus.

That speaking engagement occurred Monday afternoon, during MSU’s spring break. Spencer joined Bristow and other white nationalists for the Foundation for the Marketplace of Ideas’ conference in metro Detroit.

See related story above.



Kyle Bristow posted an image of himself with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence from a decade ago on Twitter last Thursday.

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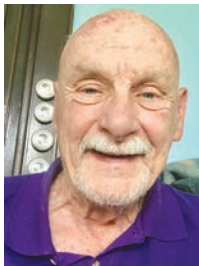
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My 10 Minutes in Heaven (Pt. 3)

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

My out-of-body guide, Archangel Diva Deluxe tapped me three times with her magical wand of LGBTQ truth and saving grace circumstance on my D&G-designed choir robe. It was coupled with my leased-for-10-minutes, no-charge angel wings. For the next 120 seconds of free-floating afterlife reverie, my life history flashes before me.

It seems unbelievable. Many moments I had long forgotten like crushes, anxieties, repentances, name callings, embarrassments, arguments, shames, glimpses as a Southern Baptist, altar calls and teenage explorations pass by. Guilt. Guilt. Guilt.

And, seemingly at long last, a life-changing decision to be who I am: gay – eventually proudly so.

“To hell with pretense,” I see and hear myself declare in a dramatic Academy Award flashback.

“OK. Mary,” said Archangel Diva Deluxe. “I think you get the general idea of what it’s all about for you. Take it from me, someone who’s been there, done that and still made it big time, so to speak. Had you not made the decision to be who you really are, more than likely you’d have wound up as one more blue-eyed, no-pension missionary in inland China.”

My final moments of this out-of-body experience concluded with a glimpse of what my long-ago decision to be who I am keeps me from being admitted to.

Namely ... fellowship with Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, Fred Phelps, Billy Graham, Donald Trump, Michael Richard Pence, a host of tax-free televangelists, a blue-eyed Jesus and assorted Jehovah’s Witnesses. Also, Latter-day Saints, Seventh-day Adventists, Episcopalians, Lutherans, Southern and American Baptists, Independent Methodists and Christadelphians. All of them are arguing with each other for time and eternity as to who gets to sit at the right hand of Creator, God-the-Father ... without the celestial intercession of the BVM.

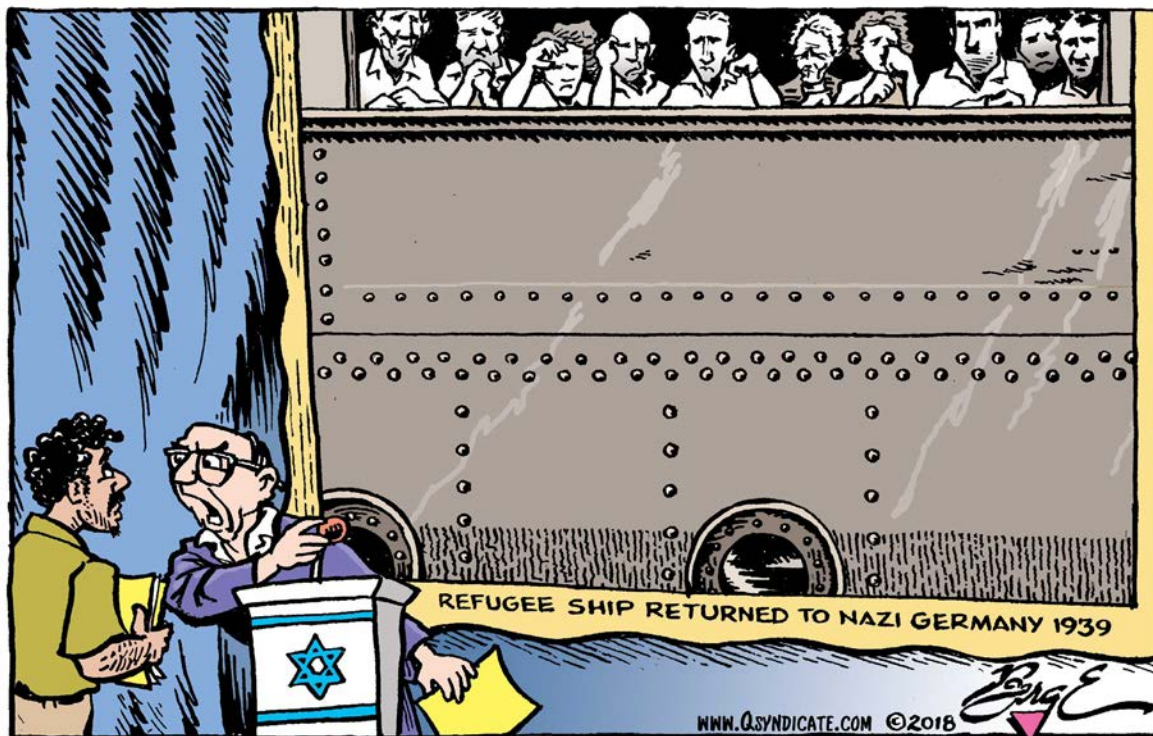
Of course, the truth of the matter is that our out-of-body experiences are but one more of the mind’s creative fictions to amuse and amaze us during our daily waking moments. Yet, I wonder

For what it’s worth, I awoke from my afterlife adventure only to find my room filled with the light scent of cleansing patchouli. And, from out of nowhere, what seemed to be the voice of the Archangel Diva Deluxe reminding, “It’s never too late to get a life, Mary! For Heaven’s sake, or otherwise.”

Footnote: Following recent BTL publication of Pt. 1 and Pt. 2, several big-time book publishers called me with contractual offers. Modestly, I said that as a renegade ecumenical moral standards commentator, with far-reaching readership privilege, I was somewhat tempted. Somewhat.

I gave assurance to all interested publishing parties I would pray about it, if the proffered price from each is right, and an accompanying flyleaf photo of me with a 32-inch waist attests to the otherworld sincerity of my 10 minutes in Heaven occasioned by a Michigan Snyder-neglected, pothole repair misadventure.

I invite all sincere PG true believers to join me in like supplication, (although I cannot guarantee financial reimbursement to any or to all – saint or sinner alike – for such efforts). My beyond-belief experience continues. With four Trump/Pence-free heavenly minutes remaining



“SCHLUMIEL! I CAN’T ANNOUNCE ISRAEL’S DECISION TO RETURN LGBT ASYLUM SEEKERS TO RWANDA AND UGANDA IN FRONT OF A PHOTO OF THE M.S. ST. LOUIS! TAKE IT DOWN!”

Viewpoint



BY ANURIMA BHARGAVA AND ADELE KIMMEL

Trump Attacks Transgender Students Through Title IX

The Trump Administration’s attacks on the transgender community come with real consequences. Earlier this year, Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the Department of Justice no longer considers it problematic for transgender employees to be fired because of their gender identity or expression. Weeks before that, the President announced his intention to fire transgender patriots serving in our armed forces. And the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights has now admitted it has no plans to investigate complaints from transgender students who are denied access to school facilities because of their gender identity. As advocates

for students, we are alarmed.

First and foremost, we can all surely agree that every student is entitled to a safe learning environment. School officials have a legal and an ethical responsibility to create and maintain such an environment for all students. Also, parents have a right to expect that their children will be treated with dignity and respect, and be able to learn in an environment free from discrimination, bullying and harassment.

A few years ago, school districts asked for help and guidance in creating a safe learning environment for

See next page

The Trump Administration's attacks on the transgender community come with real consequences. Earlier this year, Attorney General Jeff Sessions said the Department of Justice no longer considers it problematic for transgender employees to be fired because of their gender identity or expression.

► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 12

transgender students. Transgender students are far more likely than their peers to experience discrimination and harassment at school. A recent national school climate survey showed that 75 percent of transgender students felt unsafe at school simply because of their gender identity. In response to these requests, the federal Departments of Justice and Education sent guidance to school districts across the country to explain what schools should do to ensure that transgender students are safe and supported and to summarize schools' obligations to students under federal law.

The Departments' guidance specifically set forth schools' existing obligations under Title IX — a federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education. Courts have ruled that denying transgender students access to bathrooms, locker rooms and other sex-segregated facilities that correspond with their gender identity violates Title IX. Courts have also found that transgender students are protected from discrimination by the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Despite Title IX's broad prohibition of sex discrimination in education and the strong legal precedent established by federal courts across the country, in February of this year the Trump administration rescinded the Departments' guidance. In doing so, the Trump administration placed politics ahead of supporting schools and the well-being of students.

The result has been, at best, a confusing and misleading message to schools about their obligations under federal law to protect transgender students. At worst, the Trump administration's actions have put a target on the backs of transgender students while signaling to school officials that it's okay to discriminate against them. The Departments of Justice and Education are charged with investigating the failure of schools to live up to their obligations to protect all students. By signaling that these agencies may no longer enforce federal civil rights laws, the Trump administration is abdicating its duty to protect

students who may be under attack.

In the wake of the rescission of the guidance, Public Justice, Lambda Legal and a coalition of 50 civil rights and legal advocates sent a letter to each state's Title IX coordinator with the following core message: The law has not changed. Schools continue to have a legal and ethical obligation to treat transgender students fairly and in accordance with Title IX and the Constitution. The Trump administration did not change the law by rescinding the previous administration's guidance. Instead, it took away a tool and a resource that school districts had asked for, and that explained Title IX and how it would be enforced with regard to transgender students.

Unfortunately, the withdrawal of the guidance also emboldened numerous states to introduce legislation that would limit transgender students' access to school bathrooms and locker rooms. Each of these bills is designed to prevent transgender students from using facilities that match their gender identity. Singling out transgender students for different treatment is stigmatizing and discriminatory. It also puts their safety at greater risk.

Every public school in America must continue to enforce the rights of transgender students. When schools fail to protect transgender students from discrimination and harassment — or when they deny transgender students access to bathrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity — they are not only violating Title IX and risking being sued, they are undermining a basic principle we can all agree on. Schools must be a safe learning environment for all students.

Anurima Bhargava served as the Chief of the Educational Opportunities Section of the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice under the Obama Administration and is currently a Leadership in Government Fellow at Open Society Foundations. Adele P. Kimmel is a Senior Attorney and the head of the Anti-Bullying Campaign at Public Justice.

Creep of the Week

Mike Huckabee

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

I don't listen to a lot of country music. In fact, since Trump's "election" I haven't listened to anything other than heavy metal (it's honestly the only music that makes sense right now). Still, I do love me some Johnny Cash and Dolly Parton.



So, when I heard that former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee had joined and then resigned from the

CMA Foundation, I first thought that he'd been invited to be a presenter at the Country Music Awards, but then someone was like, "Wait, he tells terrible jokes and is also a very terrible person," and he was struck from the list.

It turns out CMA stands for Country Music Association, not Awards, and the CMA Foundation supports music education in schools. But other than that my imagined scenario turns out to be pretty accurate.

Lots of people were unhappy with Huckabee's appointment, including Monument Records and Sandbox Entertainment owner Jason Owen, whose roster includes names like Faith Hill and Kacey Musgraves. Owen, who is gay, made it clear to the CMA that so long as Huckabee was on board, he wasn't.

"Huckabee speaks of the sort of things that would suggest my family is morally beneath his and uses language that has a profoundly negative impact upon young people all across this country," Owen wrote in a letter. "Not to mention how harmful and damaging his deep involvement with the NRA is. What a shameful choice. I will not participate in any organization that elevates people like this to positions that amplify their sick voices."

Clearly the CMA saw how unwise it would be to essentially trade Huckabee for Faith Hill. Also maybe not a good look to have an NRA lapdog on board after the largest mass shooting in the U.S. just happened at a country music concert a few months ago.

Understandably, Huckabee got his anti-gay feelings hurt.

"Someone who has never met me threatens to wreck valuable programs of the CMA Foundation because of a personal contempt for my faith and politics," Huckabee wrote in his resignation letter, apparently not seeing the irony that his so-called "faith and politics" is in part based on

Lots of people were unhappy with Huckabee's appointment, including Monument Records and Sandbox Entertainment owner Jason Owen, whose roster includes names like Faith Hill and Kacey Musgraves. Owen, who is gay,

his contempt that is, indeed, very personal for LGBTQ people.

"Until recently, the arts was the one place America could set aside political, geographical, racial, religious, and economic barriers and come together," Huckabee wrote. "If the arts community becomes part of the polarization instead of bridging communities and people over the power of civil norms as reflected in the arts, then we as a civilization may not be long for this earth."

I don't know what Huckabee's definition of "recently" is, but that nonsense has literally never been true. While the arts can build bridges between people, art is hardly apolitical. Art has always been a means of resistance against oppression and a way to fight the silencing of diverse voices.

As for civilization not being "long for this earth," wait until he finds out who his daughter works for. Ha ha just kidding. Huckabee loves Trump almost as much as he loves guns.

"The message here is 'Hate Wins,'" Huckabee wrote in his letter. "Bullies succeeded in making it untenable to have 'someone like me' involved."

So a gay man who refuses to be quiet about about his own dehumanization by a very public political figure is a bully. Got it. What about an entire party that has embraced a racist, sexist and homophobic agenda that values guns and money above human lives? Then again, "bullies" isn't a strong enough word to describe the Republican Party.

In his letter, Huckabee outlines his long support for music education. And it's true, he's done some good in this area. But he's literally a proud member of a party that's against public education and thinks higher ed is liberal indoctrination. Trump, the dumbest man on the planet, is their leader.

So please allow me to play the world's smallest violin to accompany Huckabee's tears. Actually, to keep with the country music theme here, make that the world's smallest fiddle.

House Dems Step Up Efforts Against New Anti-LGBT Division Within HHS

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Amid the widespread view a new conscience division at the Department of Health & Human Services would enable medical practitioners to refuse treatment to women seeking abortions and LGBT people, House Democrats are stepping up efforts against the office.

The initiatives from House Democrats this week consist of a joint letter led by Rep. Charlie Crist (D-Fla.) seeking clarification on the purpose of the Conscience & Religious Freedom Division and legislation from Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-N.M.) seeking to abolish it.

In the letter dated Feb. 26, House Democrats seek clarity on whether the Trump-era division — widely seen as a tool for anti-LGBT discrimination in the name of “religious freedom” — would enable discrimination against women, LGBT people and people with HIV in medical services.

“Given the administration’s extremely troubling application of ‘religious freedom’ doctrines, from the guidance issued by the Department of Justice allowing federal agencies and contractors to discriminate on the basis of religious beliefs to the removal

of the provision in the Affordable Care Act requiring employees to cover contraceptives, our concern is not without cause,” the letter says. “While peoples of faith can have honest disagreements, religious beliefs should not be used to further roll back access to health care.”

The letter seeks clarification from HHS on whether the Conscience & Religious Freedom Division would allow a medical provider to refuse services in 13 possible situations, including birth control, in vitro fertilizations, medical care to LGBT people, medical care to people with HIV/AIDS, gender reassignment surgery and PrEP, or Pre-exposure prophylaxis, for HIV.

Among the more than 40 lawmakers who signed of the letter are Reps. Mark Pocan (D-Wis.), Dan Kildee (D-Mich.), Alan Lowenthal (D-Calif.), and Mike Quigley (D-Ill.).

Meanwhile, the new legislation introduced by Lujan Grisham would abolish the Conscience & Religious Freedom Division and the accompanying Trump administration rule that enabled its creation.

Lujan Grisham said in a statement the Trump administration “has no business facilitating discrimination and creating barriers” for

individuals to receive medically necessary care.

“This division was created with the sole purpose of allowing hospitals, doctors, nurses, and even administrative staff to determine a patient’s care based on their personal religious beliefs, not on what is best for the patient,” Lujan Grisham said. “I am proud to introduce this legislation to ensure that every American, regardless of their gender identity, reproductive health care choices or need for any type of medical care, has access to quality, comprehensive health care.”

Among the group endorsed by the American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the National Women’s Law Center, the American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico, Equality New Mexico, the Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico and the New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice.

Adrian Carver, executive director for Equality New Mexico, said in a statement use of religion to justify discrimination is “not a new concept, but to extend it to the health care system puts lives at risk.”

“This bill is an effort to put the needs of



House Dems led by Reps. Michelle Lujan Grisham and Charlie Crist are stepping up efforts against an anti-LGBT division within HHS. Photos public domain

patients first, regardless of their religion, race, ethnicity, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, family status, or age,” Carver said. “Everyone should have the dignity to access the health care and social services that they need to lead healthy, productive lives.”

The Washington Blade has placed a request in with HHS seeking comment on the letter signed by more than 40 lawmakers.

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

11 Michigan Politicians Sign #NoNRA Money Petition to Reject NRA Donations

BY BTL STAFF

On March 2, the deadline ended for the #NoNRA Money candidate pledge. The national pledge targeted both candidates and existing legislators to renounce funding by the National Rifle Association — a nearly 150-year-old organization that advocates for the rights of gun owners, and provides funding for pro-gun legislators. In Michigan, 11 officials and candidates signed on.

The campaign was launched within days of the mass shooting in Parkland, Florida, and has gained momentum online and across the country. A growing roster of businesses, politicians and the public increasingly are rejecting the NRA and advocating for gun control legislation at state and national levels. Minority Speaker Nancy Pelosi, joined the pledge and urged her colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join her.

“We are at a tipping point because of your activism to end gun violence in our schools, churches and communities,” Pelosi said in remarks to the California Democratic Convention. “The Stoneman Douglas students of Florida are holding public officials accountable to save lives. Let us salute those students for their courage and clarity; and let



Pulse nightclub shooting survivor Brandon Wolf stands with the #NoNRA Money movement.

us salute them by pledging not to take any NRA money!”

Nadine Smith, executive director of Equality Florida and one of the campaign co-founders, said that the NRA “doesn’t speak for the majority of voters.”

“Not even the majority of gun owners who overwhelmingly believe we need common sense gun laws not the normalization of mass shootings,” Smith said. “More than 150 politicians have taken the pledge and thousands of volunteers are demanding that candidates and lawmakers refuse NRA funding or lose our votes. We are breaking their extremist stranglehold so that rational debate can lead to sensible gun policy.”

Brandon Wolf, a survivor of the mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, took a stand too.

“It is time for every politician to take action against the epidemic of mass shootings that have become a frighteningly common feature of American life. The NRA has turned

our country into a war zone and Americans are done dying for you,” Wolf said. “Our children are done being your sacrifices. I lost two friends in the Pulse shooting and I will do anything to support the amazing young people of Parkland who are survivors and advocates for the 17 fellow students and teachers they lost. They have become an unstoppable force and, I pray, the catalyst for the real reform we desperately need to keep all of us safe.”

Michigan Candidates:

Fayrouz Saad - Candidate for Congress

Haley Stevens — Candidate for Congress

Michigan Officials:

Anuja Rajendra — State Senate

Michelle Deatrick — State Senate

Jon Hoadley — State House Representative

Kathy Wiejaczka — State House Representative

Katie Reiter — State House Representative

Laura Dodd — State House Representative

Padma Kuppa — State House Representative

Rebekah Warren — State House Representative

Robert Van Kirk — State House Representative

For more information go to nonramoney.org. Wolf’s appearance at the recent rally in Tallahassee, Florida, organized by Parkland survivors online is here: gaybe.am/AQ.

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Victory Fund Endorses Attorney General Candidate Dana Nessel

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Dana Nessel is not afraid of confrontation or controversy. The lawyer of nearly 25 years is perhaps best known for her 2012 defense against Michigan's same-sex adoption laws, when she represented April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse in their efforts to mutually adopt each of their five children. This case was instrumental in the 2015 legalization of same-sex marriage, going all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Now, she has announced her candidacy for Michigan attorney general, and has earned an endorsement from Victory Fund.



Dana Nessel

"We politically, agnostically endorse candidates from all political parties and we ask that they be openly GLBT, that they commit to fighting anti-LGBT legislation and do their best to promote our issues. And we ask that they believe in the right to privacy," Victory Fund President and CEO Annise Parker. "Those are our three issues, and Dana fits the bill. The next hurdle they have to get over is, 'Are they viable candidates for the possibility for renewal?' And we think she can absolutely do that."

Parker herself was the first openly gay mayor of Houston, and served in the role for six years. When asked why Victory Fund so selectively chooses candidates to endorse, Parker said that fostering positive visibility of LGBTQ people in politics is a must.

"There's no question that we have wonderful allies and people who care about our issues who represent us well, but there's a qualitative difference when we're able to be in the room and we're able to advocate for ourselves," Parker said. "And, when we are in the room and can advocate for ourselves, we also serve as role models and examples and we, just by our daily presence (when) people get to know us, change hearts and minds."

Parker then added that an LGBTQ presence also makes it more difficult for the prejudiced to pass legislation.

"When we're in the room - particularly in legislative bodies we've seen this over and over again - it's very hard for a group of legislators to face a colleague eye-to-eye on the floor of the House, or on the floor of the Senate and say, 'I want to discriminate against you,'" Parker said. "So, our presence changes things in many ways."

Undoubtedly, Nessel has a vast amount of experience; in fact, if elected, she would be

among the most qualified Michigan attorney general candidates to ever hold the office. A graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School, Nessel has been putting her law degree to use. First, as an assistant prosecutor in the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office where she worked for over a decade handling a variety of cases. Then Nessel moved on to her own, Detroit-based legal firm, Nessel & Kessel Law, founded in 2005.

Parker said that Nessel's prosecutorial experience was one of the driving factors behind her endorsement.

"To have an Attorney General who has prosecutorial experience but also experience in the private practice, really in the trenches on the criminal side - violent crime, child abuse, and that sort of thing - that is excellent training for being a state attorney general. But also, having the experience of the private side, I think, is a plus," Parker said. "On paper, her resume is top notch, and she would not be the only LGBT attorney general."

As Nessel's track record has shown, she is unafraid to take on large tasks and do so successfully. However, her bluntness and drive has sometimes gotten her into trouble, like when she ran a political advertisement that asked viewers, "Who can you trust not to show you their penis in a professional setting? Is it the candidate who doesn't have a penis? I'd say so." Although the ad received much national attention, it struck some as insensitive.

Nessel was also heavily criticized when she pushed a ballot initiative forward that was intended to update the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act — it prohibits discriminatory practices, policies and customs based on

religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight and familial or marital status — to include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights. The criticism also came in large part from activists in the LGBTQ community who were worried that putting their civil rights to a vote might endanger them, or result in the loss of their existing rights. Eventually, Nessel did not move forward with her initiative.

Parker said that criticism or not, Nessel is still a better candidate for Attorney General than the others running.

"When you've been in office for 18 years, I know there were people that disagreed with things that I did, the question is, 'Does she meet our criteria, and - not that everyone agrees with everything that she does or says - is she a good advocate for our community, and will she represent us if given the opportunity to serve? And it's easy to be a candidate when you're a blank slate. When you're someone who has a legislative track record or a record in public office, you have to live with that record," Parker said. "The people who want to criticize her, they're certainly welcome to do that, I won't say that she's a perfect candidate, but she's an advocate for our issues and has stood up consistently. There's no question that she is better for us than Patrick Miles."

Parker added that a high-profile race like Nessel's is not only a boon for Victory Fund, but in terms of national visibility for the LGBTQ community. And that, she said, is most important.

"We have more candidates than we've ever had in our 27-year history. We have three candidates for governor right now, we have two candidates for the U.S. Senate and we have a number of statewide candidates: secretary of state, supreme court justice, attorney general," Parker said. "And so, it's exciting to see our candidates get to move up the political ladder, but for organizations like Victory, it means the work gets harder (laughs) as the races get bigger. This is a big race. This is one where truly the primary is going to be tough for her."

In order to see Nessel on the ballot in the upcoming election, interested individuals should register with the Michigan Democratic Party by March 15. More information can be found online at michigandems.com.

In Michigan, the Victory Fund has also endorsed Rep. Jon Hoadley in his race for election to District 60, and State Rep. Jeremy Moss in his race for State Senate, District 11.

► MSU

Continued from p. 10

made no moves to prevent them from coming into contact with protesters.

Protesters and white nationalists violently clashed, punching each other and drawing blood in some instances.

When officers moved in again they managed to make some arrests and separate the two groups briefly. With pushback on both sides, more fighting broke out and ultimately the protesters drove the nationalists back to the commuter lot where they first arrived.

At this parking lot, protesters and nationalists clashed once again.

A Lull in the Conflict

As the melees outside the Pavilion began to slow down, the police created teams to escort individual and small groups of ticket-holders to the security checkpoint. Spencer took the stage inside, telling the gathering of about 30 that the protests outside had resulted in broken bones and ruptured ear drums.

Monette of the MSU Police Department was unable to confirm there were any serious injuries Monday night, but noted he was "not aware of any ambulances being used" during the protests or speech.

Alt-Right News blog touted the event as a "near perfect balance of shitstormery and optics."

Meanwhile, on the Stop Spencer at Michigan State University Facebook page, organizers called the event a success for their side.

"Because of our courage today," the group wrote, "many fascists were unable to attend Richard Spencer's talk."



Officer of the Michigan State Police stand in formation and in riot gear during protests of white nationalist Richard Spencer's speech at Michigan State University Monday. BTL Photo: Todd Heywood

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Expo Cuts Through Cake Politics

BTL LGBTQ Wedding and Anniversary Event Returns to MotorCity Casino

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Same-sex marriage may be safe for now, but the LGBTQ community is not safe from business owners who are allowed to refuse patrons service because of their religious beliefs.

Anti-LGBTQ sentiment has been on the rise since President Donald Trump took office. He recently proclaimed Jan. 16 as Religious Freedom Day. This follows the executive order he issued last May titled “Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty,” and his announcement of a new division within the Department of Health and Human Services devoted to “conscience and religious freedom.”

This may set the tone for the Supreme Court ruling in June on the Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission case that pits religious freedom against anti-discrimination laws.

While justices are reported to be equally divided along ideological lines about the case, the SCOTUS ruling may also be influenced by past litigation such as Obergefell v. Hodges, Newman v. Piggie Park Enterprises, Inc. and the

more recent cake case involving Cathy Miller, owner of Tastries Bakery in Bakersfield, California. Kern County Superior Court Judge David Lampe ruled in favor of Miller who told a same-sex couple in August 2017 she would not bake them a cake because it “clashed with her Christian faith.” She instead referred them to another bakery, according to Lampe’s ruling.

It’s with this in mind that Between The Lines is proud to present close to 100 LGBTQ-friendly vendors and venues at the 8th annual Ultimate LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo at the MotorCity Casino Hotel on March 11. The event will include bakers, photographers, banquet halls, hotels, cruise lines, real estate agents, travel agencies, caterers, wedding planners, officiants, churches and adoption agencies. These are the companies and business people who value us not just as potential customers but as full celebrants of marriage equality. It is important for us to keep up the pressure against the forces that want us to disappear from society. But it is even more important for us to recognize our friends, thank them and rally around them as they support us.

Changing Attitudes on Same-Sex Weddings

“We really cherish our reputation for being inclusive,” said Katherine Lesse, co-owner at Abracadabra, a jewelry and gem gallery in Ann Arbor. Lesse and the Abra crew, “Love to help people find the jewelry that is perfect for them, exactly what they have been dreaming of, no matter what that jewelry item is or who they are. We love jewelry and we love people. Very simple. Beauty, like love, is universal and is something that everyone responds to. One of the most important aspects of being an inclusive vendor is helping our customers feel comfortable and supported as we help them translate both beauty and love into a piece that represents their union.”

When asked if she has any advice for LGBTQ couples shopping for jewelry, Lesse said, “If you don’t feel like you’re being listened to, taken seriously or respected, do not work with that vendor, for any aspect of your celebration.”

Lesse and the Abra crew are available to help LGBTQ

EQUALITY



DANCING



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couples find that unique, one-of-a-kind piece. At the moment, they're loving meteorite wedding bands, rainbow sapphire jewelry and raw diamonds.

Steve Schwall and Kathy Mabbott of Rawlinson Photography are committed to capturing every laugh and every tear for LGBTQ couples so they can relive every wedding moment for years to come.

"Having some idea about what you want the final images to look like will go a long way to help your photographer tell your story," said Mabbott. "As a professional photographer for close to 25 years, I don't want to just photograph your wedding, I want to tell your story. I want those images to be a representation of that couple, who they are, and how they feel towards each other. We are creating their first family heirloom together so it's important that it represents them."

When asked if they have any tips or suggestions for LGBTQ couples when selecting a photographer, Mabbott said, "Hire a professional ... Have a time schedule. We always suggest and create a detailed itinerary for all of our couples. This helps keeps everybody on the same page throughout the day where they need to be, when they need to be there and who needs to be there. The schedule cuts down on lateness, missed opportunities and most of all, stress for the couple. Have fun ... if you ask anybody that was recently married they will all tell you how fast the day went. No wedding is perfect, things happen, deal with it then move on. It's about saying 'I do' to the love of your life, surrounded by the most important people in your world. Enjoy every minute of it."

Jeff Nelson of the Tux Shop on Woodward has been helping members of the LGBTQ community look the way they feel for more than five years now.

"We have always been proud to be an inclusive vendor at the Expo," he said. "We have shown that we work extremely well with every type of customer for any type of wedding by providing outstanding services. We do this by offering a variety of products such as colorful tuxedos and accessories for rental and for purchase with special promotions for Expo guests."

Nelson suggests to start shopping early. That way, he and his staff can create great options with style, color and fit in mind. This year, The Tux Shop on Woodward has brand new print jackets in black, navy and red.

"Sometimes brides or grooms request specific ideas for their wedding tuxedos or suits. At The Tux Shop on Woodward, we will create a timeline and plan to come up with the perfect outfit for your wedding," he said, adding that he is able to accommodate anyone wishing to purchase a tuxedo or suit.

Despite free speech and religious liberty, vendors like these pride themselves on helping LGBTQ couples write their own rules for their celebrations the Expo. Forget tradition and what you may think weddings "should" look like and do it your way with the right people by your side.

Check out MiLGBTWedding.com, which offers an enhanced wedding planning experience for LGBTQ couples online.

SUNDAY MARCH 11

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The Honeymoon Or Vacation Recipe

BY LAURA WAKE KENNEDY

Equal parts of budget and passion plus a well-thought-out plan equals the perfect honeymoon or vacation.

Budget

Let's face it, no one really wants to discuss money, but it is a key element to consider when planning your honeymoon or vacation. The budget can determine when you travel, the distance, duration, the quality and all the great little extra touches that can make your holiday special. The budget range is also the best piece of information to give a travel professional up front, if you are working with one. It is the only way to ensure that the vacation options selected actually fit one's needs. I always prefer to wow my vacationers with the best experience and value for their money. I also believe knowledge is power, and knowing your costs up front is helpful when considering all options. Get the entire vacation from "Door-to-Door" quoted, and not just one portion. Then you can make an educated decision, with no unwelcome surprises, and don't forget the travel insurance.



1. Vacation Packages: Most packages that travel professionals put together offer bundled discounts — locked-in rates with only a small initial deposit and the balance typically not due until 30-90 days prior to traveling. That's a great way to plan, budget and go. Best advice: plan ahead. Making last-minute arrangements may result in limited or no availability and may make a bigger dent in your wallet.

See Travel, pg 36

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10 Legal Tips for LGBTQ Couples

BY BTL STAFF

Lately, the excuse of religious freedom is being used more and more frequently in an effort to allow individuals and businesses the right to discriminate against LGBTQ couples.



While Obergefell v. Hodges gave LGBTQ couples the ability to marry and recognized their marriages nationwide, LGBTQ people can still be denied housing, service and employment. In an effort to combat issues like these, attorney Angie Martell of the Iglesia Martell Law Firm in Ann Arbor encourages couples to proactively protect themselves and their families. Here is a list of some tips to do just that.

1 If you plan to have children, or have children, you should seek legal counsel. Married couples with children born of the marriage are automatically legal parents. They have presumption rights just like their heterosexual counterparts. Presumption rights can, however, be rebuttable. As long as you are married, you have the right to list both you and your spouse on the child's birth certificate regardless if you are the same gender. Couples should consult with an attorney to discuss possible further legal protections such as pursuing



stepparent status, second parent adoptions or parentage orders. Children of a married couple also have inheritance benefits. Surrogacy raises several complex legal issues. If done incorrectly, parties can face criminal penalties. Couples should consult with an attorney if one spouse's sperm is used to inseminate an unmarried surrogate.

2 Unmarried LGBTQ couples with children need to explore how to protect the children and the non-biological parent's rights. If a non-biological unmarried parent dies that child or children may not receive the non-biological parent's social security. If something happens to the unmarried biological parent the non-biological parent may face great hurdles seeking recognition of that parent's relationship with the child or children.

3 Think and Plan carefully about Estate and Trust Planning regardless if you are a married or an unmarried couple.

4 For long-term couples with short marriage dates (e.g. together 20 years but only married for 3 years) a postnuptial agreement or considerations of what benefits you have retroactively should be explored. Prenuptials if planning to get married. Postnuptials if already married.

5 For long-term couples about to marry, it is valuable to consider assets that are not "marital," but which you both have shared economically as a couple. Especially retirement benefits, pensions, real property, etc.

6 Your marriage date is the date you were married, and not the date Michigan recognized your marriage. Obergefell v. Hodges acknowledged and resurrected all prior marriages. Be careful before you get married that you aren't already married. It's a crime called bigamy.

7 Before you get married make sure you weren't married before. Was there a domestic partnership earlier in your other relationships that may have been elevated to a marriage? The State of Washington post Obergefell v. Hodges stated that all domestic partnerships for people under the age of 62 have been converted to a marriage. Have you ever been in a civil union? This too may pose an impediment for a future marriage.

8 Investigate all the employment benefits and social security benefits you are entitled to as a married person.

9 When you choose a lawyer make sure they are culturally competent, and that they understand your issues and what you are seeking. Lawyers often do bad law when they aren't well-versed or fully understand the legal trajectory.



10 Portability. Make sure all legal orders or documents are portable to every state in the U.S. We all deserve to be treated equally and with equal dignity and respect, for these are the fundamental principles of our constitution. Some of us will choose to marry and some will not, however, let us as a movement make sure that if one of us is attacked that we all support each other, — especially the most marginalized of us, for it will be the most vulnerable who will be attacked first.

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B. Ella Bridal Shares 2018 Trends

BY EMILY KRUEGER



For those trying to find the perfect outfit for one of the biggest days of their lives, B. Ella Bridal is the place to go. Located at 570 S. Main St., Plymouth, the full-service bridal shop that offers not only bridal gowns, but also bridesmaids dresses, mother of the bride/groom gowns, prom dresses, full accessories and alteration services. B. Ella just celebrated its 14th year in business, and owner Brittany Blase had some insight on what's trending this season.

"There's a wide range of things, everything from high-end designers showing pants, tunics, tuxedos – just pant ensembles in general – which is fairly revolutionary in our business," she said.

Blase also said lace and tulle ball gowns remain a hot item, layering is pretty popular this year, as well as deep v-neck dresses and sleeves. However, she said that this season many brides are shying further away from strapless gowns.

Also, B. Ella customers are in luck if they're hoping for a custom garment, as the shop can help facilitate the process. For customers who are unsure of cost, Blase said that the shop has a price point for every budget, with gowns ranging anywhere from \$750 up to \$7,000.

However, if all of the details that go into picking a wedding outfit are getting overwhelming, Blase suggested that starting one's search online through places like Pinterest can be a great starting point.

Blase said the next best thing to do is to try things on. She also suggested reserving a lot of time when it comes to gown shopping – just in case.

"In a modern world, the ordering process is still pretty archaic where it can take six to nine months to get a bridal gown, and eight to 12 weeks to get a bridesmaids dress," she said.

As tedious as picking a dress out and waiting for it to arrive can be, Blase and her staff have rave reviews online about

her shop's service. According to her, there should be no question why.

"My consultants and I really try to take a friendly, informative approach. We don't want to freak you out, or discourage you – we want to facilitate the look that you want in whatever way we possibly can, even if we don't have it," she said. "Even if we're not making the sale, it's really important to us to help people along the path getting the wedding gown that you want."

When Blase was asked about the importance of being inclusive to all couples, she said, "Things like that don't really even enter my mind. It really doesn't matter to us, it's really none of our business why you're doing what you're doing, we just want to help you facilitate your vision and have a good time, and I think everyone deserves that."

For more information, B. Ella Bridal shop hours or to schedule an appointment, call 734-459-0000 or visit b-ella-bridal.com.



At the 2017 Wedding Expo Kayla modeled a specialty gown that was signed by dozens of people at the Expo. . Dominique and Zvezda are two of the friendly bridal consultants at B. Ella Bridal. The B. Ella models strutted their stuff inside and out at the 2017 Expo.





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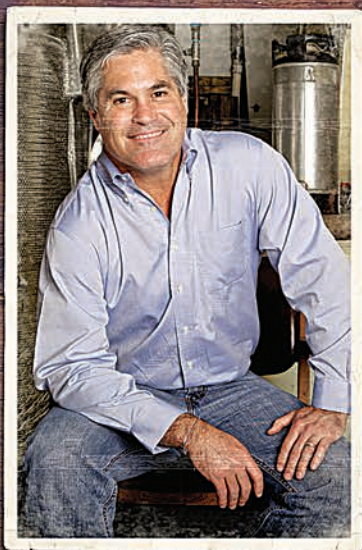
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Bakery Provides Stress-Free Cake Decision Making

BY EMILY KRUEGER

Jefferson Market Bakery located at 609 W. Jefferson in Ann Arbor lets you have your cake and eat it too. Owner Nic Sims and her top cake artist Moriah Elkins are ready to serve up some delicious sweet treats for your big day. Sims said that depending on what couples are looking to buy, there are many trends available to choose from.

“Last year, about 75 percent of our cakes were super simple – made with white frosting and topped with flowers, because they were all over Pinterest,” she said. “We love to bring in the trending, but we also love to create the individual and the custom cakes.”

For couples stressed about making time to taste test wedding cakes, Sims recommends setting up an appointment with a bakery and cake designer roughly three months before the wedding date. However, for pre-pre-planners, cakes can be decided ahead of time anywhere



from six months to a year in advance. And, first consultations are free, so Sims recommends trying to accomplish as much as possible during that time.

Various cake layer flavors are available like almond pound cake, lemon velvet, spice, pink champagne and carrot cake. Upon request, vegan and gluten-free

chocolate or vanilla cakes are available, as is dairy-free topping. Several housemade fillings and frostings can be ordered, too. Like cream cheese buttercream, mixed berry compote, strawberry reduction, and dulce de leche with toasted coconut.

And, bringing references like invitations, ribbons and lace or color swatches is always a plus.

“We want the wedding cake to be the easiest decision you make, and the most fun, most relaxed part of the event,” Sims said. “It should be the last thing you’re stressing out about.”

Pricing can vary, but Sims said it all depends on the wedding, how many people the cake (or cupcakes) are going to feed, the complexity of the design and the distance of delivery. On average, the cost is about \$4.50-5 per slice.

Start the cake ordering process by email at cake@thejeffersonmarket.com. Call 734-665-6666 or visit thejeffersonmarket.com/ for more information.

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Florist 'Absolutely' Open to Same-Sex Marriages

BY EMILY KRUEGER

Michael B. Anthony Florist, located Downriver in Wyandotte, is all about the business of flowers – and they have the reviews, awards and passion to prove it. Owner Michael Bak bloomed his business in 2013, and has since won Local 4's "Vote 4 the Best" Wedding Florist for two consecutive years, Wedding Wire's Couples' Choice award in 2017 and 2018 and has also been named The Knot's Best of Weddings 2018.

Michael and his partner Felix Ferrer use pieces of antique furniture, as well as milk and Depression-era glass to create a classic, vintage style. Bak said organics are in high demand this wedding season, and bouquets with more greenery and a vintage flair. Even for couples who aren't sure of the design they'd like, Bak and his staff are there to help every step of the way. Bak suggested that couples have a budget set for themselves, or at least have a good idea of what the goal price range might be. He said that surfing the web is a good way to see designs ahead of time, and that bringing in pictures is a good idea too, because they can often be emulated.

Bak said that the ideal time to set up an appointment before one's wedding can be at minimum between four to six months of lead time. As far as general pricing goes, Bak said it just depends on the size, style and set budget of each wedding.



When it comes to inclusivity, Bak said that it's a given that he'd service same-sex couples.

"If you want a successful business, you need to have that diversity there," he said. "We get same sex couples who ask us if we're open to same-sex marriages and our response is always 'absolutely,' but it's just the fact they even have to ask that question."

For more information or to schedule a consultation, call 313-215-7251, email michaelb.anthony@yahoo.com or visit

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DJs to the Rescue



BY BTL STAFF

In order to help with selecting wedding music – which should be the most fun part of planning, but is often times the most overwhelming – BTL asked a couple experts, Chris Blanchard (aka DJ Loki) and Walter Cooper (aka DJ Romeo), to weigh in. As the owner of Rockstar Weddings with Diallo Spigner, Blanchard has been bringing his love of music from the clubs and bars of Metro Detroit to weddings and corporate events since the early 2000s.

“This is the year for jubilant self-expression. This only happens once, and couples should throw the celebration they

want. It’s their day, and although we compromise every day in life ... the wedding day is the only day they don’t have to. Get creative with the theme and let the pros do the rest,” said Blanchard.

Cooper started his career in the LGBTQ community as a lip sync performer named Romeo Milliown. He is now the resident DJ on Friday nights with DJ Ray at Inuendo in Detroit. Cooper owns OneFour3 Entertainment with his fiancé and photographer, Gerald Terrell. They created this entertainment group in October 2015 to offer DJs, talent and photography services.

“I’m the kind of DJ that listens to and plays all kinds of

music. When I say that I mean everything from country to rock. I love to play with many different genres. My strength is hip-hop and R&B,” said Cooper.

Both DJs shared their picks for various song categories that many people stress about when planning for the big day. Here’s a little wedding playlist help from them below.

Blanchard’s Hit List



Slow dance

Bryan Adams – “Everything I Do”

Song to get people on the dance floor

Black Eyed Peas “A Little Party Never Killed Nobody”

Songs to play during cocktail hour

Any acid jazz mix – dance music which incorporates elements of jazz, funk, soul and hip-hop

First-dance song

McLean – “My Name”

Club-style song

Chris Lake – “How Deep Is Your Love” remix

Entrance song

Deorro – “Yee” (instrumental)

Mother-son song

Van Morrison – “Into the Mystic”

Daddy-daughter song

Tim McGraw – “My Little Girl”

Cooper’s Hit List

Slow dance

Whitney Houston – “Saving All My Love”

Song to get people on the dance floor

Bruno Mars – “Uptown Funk”

Songs to play during cocktail hour

Soul for Real – “Candy Rain”

First-dance song

John Legend – “All of Me”

Club-style song

YFN Lucci – “Everyday We Lit”

Entrance song

Bruno Mars featuring Cardi B – “Finesse” (Remix)

Mother-son song

Boyz II Men – “Song for Mama”

Daddy-daughter song

Luther Vandross – “Dance With My Father”

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► Travel

Continued from p. 20

2. Book Early: Book while the availability for rooms, flights and cabins are wide open, and typically at the lowest. The more things book up, the costlier they can become. That old "Supply and Demand" scenario reins true. It's your vacation, booking early is best guarantee to get what you want and save money.

3. Travel Dates: When deciding on your travel dates you should consider many things. For instance, do you want to travel on specific dates or are you flexible? Some airfare is less expensive if you are willing to be flexible on the dates. You may also find seasonal discounts available. You'll also want to research the weather and seasonal changes such as hurricane season and the rainy season for instance, so you don't dampen your holiday. Major events being held in the region you're traveling to can also affect availability and prices, so be sure to check.



What are you Passionate About?

1. How you travel does matter:

Do you want a private experience, a family or a group trip? International or Domestic? Luxury or Budget? By Air, sea, rail, boat, bus or car? Hotel, B&B, Stateroom, Villa Rental or Camper? Do you want an all-inclusive or a more spontaneous on-the-go style of vacation? Do you want a

romantic beachy getaway, or a cultural immersion into history, cuisine and wine? Do you want to bike across Europe or relax on the beach in the Florida? Do you want to take cooking classes and a gondola ride in Venice or curl up together next to a warm fire in Iceland? With so many options it really should come down to what are you passionate about? What activities or experiences do you want to have during your trip? Take in an event,

hike, spa treatments, concert, cooking class, wine tasting, theatre, scuba dive, fish, dance club or festival? These activities can make your vacation memorable.

2. Research: Do your research to find the best location to have those experiences, or ask your travel professional. Plan ahead so you don't miss out on the opportunity to make your vacation or honeymoon extra special. The more complex your trip is the more valuable a travel professional can be to assist in a seamless and perfectly planned experience.

3. Confer: My best advice, is to set aside some time to discuss all the above with your partner or fellow travel companions and reflex on your ideas, your wishes and your MUST SEE and DO lists. Being open about your expectations and realistic about your budget will safeguard that you have the best honeymoon or vacation.

Laura Wake Kennedy is the owner of Wake's Travel in Bloomfield Hills, online at www.wakestravel.com.

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Hear Me Out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

7 Albums (Britney! Robyn!) That Will Make This Year Suck Less



That Britney album better come quick – preferably before the world combusts from nuclear warfare. On the horizon for the rest of what’s shaping up to be a very gay 2018 outside of Brandi Carlile’s recently released must-hear masterwork? New Robyn, new Kylie, new Troye. If only our current political era was as promising as this year’s albums-release slate.

Kylie Minogue, ‘Golden’

The cool place to be a gay icon isn’t Los Angeles anymore – it’s Nashville, y’all. There, Kesha found an empowered state of mind for her twice Grammy-nominated album, “Rainbow.” Cyndi Lauper took a “Detour,” recording Patsy Cline and Dolly Parton classics for the aforementioned covers disc. Now, as the spring release date nears for her 14th studio album and follow up to 2014’s “Kiss Me Once,” add Kylie Minogue to the long list of pop princesses who like a little dirt on the dance floor. First single “Dancing” stays true to the Aussie diva’s long-established brand of fizzy pop.

But before it morphs into a country-lite banger, its opening acoustic guitar licks trick you into thinking her boots – OK, very bedazzled pumps – were made for walking, when really all Kylie wants to do is dance away her relationship woes. Revealing that her new work was influenced by her breakup with former fiancé Joshua Sasse, she told *The Sun* in October 2017, “The songs are very storytelling and story-based.” Lovers, will this be the Joni Mitchell album we never knew we needed from our “Golden” girl?

‘Love, Simon’ soundtrack

There’s no denying the power of song in a coming-of-age film, from John Hughes classics like “The Breakfast Club,” with “Don’t You (Forget About Me)” by Simple Minds, or David Bowie’s timeless tune “Heroes,” which breathed an even richer tenderness into “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” and its YA outsider story. Come March 16, when 20th Century Fox releases “Love, Simon,” songs from Troye Sivan, Jack Antonoff’s band Bleachers

and HAERTS – and even Whitney’s “I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me),” used to sweet musical-esque effect in the film – will enrich the experience for queer teens and adults alike of seeing the groundbreaking gay-led romance “Love, Simon.”

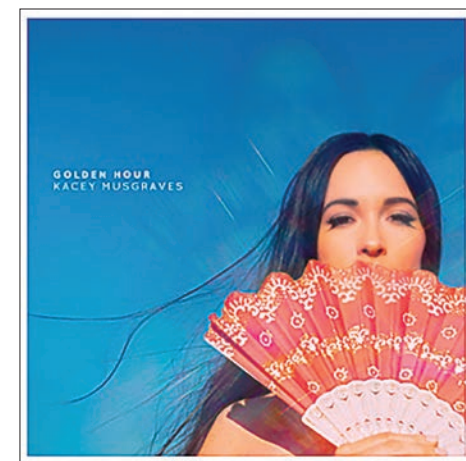
Britney Spears, TBD

If hot gay BuzzFeed writers are to be trusted, Britney Spears has a new album coming out in 2018, or very soon, or some day in the next six months to five years. *Journo* Christian Zamora took to Twitter to gleefully announce that super-songwriter Justin Tranter gave him a very vague “just wait” when asked about a new Brit album for 2018 while on the Golden Globes red carpet in January. Tranter was Spears’ writing partner on her 2016 commercially lackluster but artistically slick standout “Glory,” and they obviously hit it off because he’s been an integral part of the creative process for B10, as in Britney Spears, album 10. So, watch for this one. Whenever it comes out.

Brandi Carlile, ‘By the Way, I Forgive You’

Thirteen years into her esteemed career as one of Americana’s greatest singer-songwriters, will lesbian crooner Brandi Carlile at last garner a long-overdue mainstream following? She certainly should, as “By the Way, I Forgive You” is an unparalleled piece of work by Carlile’s standards, not to mention I haven’t heard an album this front-to-back sublime since Lorde’s summer 2017 release, “Melodrama.” Aching with raw, lived-in feelings of regret, aging, empathy, love and – for us queers – the

outsiderness she sings of on her empowering anthem “The Joke,” Carlile’s latest collection of tender laments (I will never not cry whenever I hear “Most of All”) and explosive alt-rockers perfectly replicate her live sound, thanks to roots producers Dave Cobb and Shooter Jennings. Grammy voters, are you listening?



Kacey Musgraves, ‘Golden Hour’

Kacey Musgraves followed her trusty arrow last year and ended up drinking Guinness on tap and talking about reincarnation with Sheryl Crow at her Nashville recording studio, situated above Crow’s horse stable. In December, Musgraves told *Entertainment Weekly* those “heady” conversations influenced her latest material (wistful Song of the Year-caliber single “Space Cowboy” among them), partly penned by out country songwriter Shane McAnally and due early this year. Known for suffusing her queer-affirming liberalism into her folk-country music, the Grammy-winning musician revealed to *EW* there’s a colorful cast of characters on this new



Out musician Brandi Carlile recently released one of this year’s standouts.



Robyn's long-awaited new album is due this year.

release: "...there's the lonely girl, the blissful girl, the new wife, the girl that's missing her mom, the angry girl, the sarcastic girl, the '60s-sequined Cruella de Vil with the beehive, the shy girl, the life of the party, the winner, the loser." If we're lucky, and because she made history in 2014 by being the first country artist to perform at the GLAAD Media Awards, maybe we'll get another witty ditty a la "Follow Your Arrow" that sticks it to our president's queer-backwards administration.

synth-y instrumental break. And if you weren't already won over by Sivan's queer coming-of-age debut, "Blue Neighborhood," released when he was 20, his slip into a pain-shielding meditation on live TV surely captured you. Between "The Good Side" and "My My My," Sivan's sophomore release is looking to be a transcendent shift into his post-teen sexual awakening and the sometimes-devastating consequences that come with growing up.

Robyn, TBD, honey

Call your girlfriend, everyone. And hey, while you're at it, call your boyfriend, your mama, your papa; hell, call your favorite Starbucks barista. Even if it doesn't seem like the best time to be alive, it is actually the best time to be alive if you spent 2012 pretending you were Lena Dunham busting a move to Robyn's "Dancing On My Own" in "Girls" like I did. The maker of songs that make you caterwaul on the dancefloor is gearing up for her long-awaited comeback album (or albums?) – the follow-up to her brilliant anthological release "Body Talk" in 2010 – this year. When an impatient fan spoke for all of us in a tweet, "Who decides your next album release (sic)," the fembot herself sassed with the most glorious of news: "I do. Some time this year, honey (sic)." We're so ready – in fact, we've been ready.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chris-azzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).



Troye Sivan, TBD

Looks like we'll blessedly be seeing a lot of Troye Sivan's porcelain-doll face in the coming months – and not just while serving mesmeric, make-a-grown-man-cry poetry on "SNL," where the Aussie stunned with a new sonic heartbreaker, "The Good Side," from his upcoming album. Eyes closed, arms flung out, he swayed his little gay hips during the

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The Frivolist

7 Acts of Self-Care You Should Already Be Doing

BY MIKEY ROX

Life comes at us fast, and it's getting easier and easier to get lost not only in our circumstances but also in the world around us. Work, friends, family, politics, relationships, *past* relationships – they all affect us, and not necessarily in a beneficial-to-our-well-being kinda way. That's why it's important to step back from it all on a regular basis, take stock of our own physical, emotional and mental health, and give ourselves the self-loving we need. Here are seven ways to start today.

1. Cut the bullshit and get back to basics

Sometimes you just need to reset, and that means concentrating on your necessities instead of the frivolous BS

that consumes your time and energy and, in all likelihood, makes you love and enjoy yourself even less. Clear your head. Get enough sleep. Drink more water. Eat healthier. Exercise several times a week. *These* are your start-over essentials; none of the other crap matters until your most primitive requirements are met to the best of your ability.

“In addition, start each day with a self-care moment,” adds work-life balance expert Suzanne Brown. “Don't check your phone first thing to avoid kick-starting your stress. Instead, do a mental self-care check-in before you get out of bed. Take a few moments to see how you're feeling. Then you can make mental adjustments so you're in a better mindset for the day. It will help in your interactions with your family and co-workers.”

2. Set a daily reminder to take a deep breath

I listen to Elvis Duran and the Morning Show on Z100, and one of the co-hosts reminds listeners every hour of the show to take a deep breath. I look forward to it every day. Totally one of those things we take for granted, but which can help out a great deal when we're feeling stressed.

Certified health coach and yogi Angela Rocchio agrees.

“Breathing deep is one of the best ways to lower stress in the body,” she says. “This is because when you breathe deeply it sends a message to your brain to calm down and relax. The brain then sends this message to your body which slows down your heart rate and decreases your blood pressure.”

To maximize the effects of your deep-breathing routine, Rocchio suggests

sitting comfortably with your eyes closed after setting a timer for two to three minutes. Allow yourself to inhale and exhale; do each for the count of five seconds.

“Try not to judge yourself for being distracted when distractions come up,” she continues. “Our brains are just doing their job. When distracted, bring yourself back to the breath. It gets easier over time. Just know that we all struggle with it – even those that have been practicing meditation for years.”

3. Power down and shut those screens off

I’m a slave to my screens, and you probably are too. That’s precisely the reason why I need to go on a social media hiatus occasionally – at the very least deleting the apps from my devices, but sometimes deactivating my accounts temporarily so I don’t tempt myself so easily. It’s worked in the past, and I feel infinitely lighter than when my face is glued to Facebook and Twitter, allowing myself to be affected by all the soul-eating negativity day in and day out.

Dr. Colleen Carroll, bestselling author of “Hooked on Screens,” details more of the detrimental effects of our digital addiction.

“Adults check their phones approximately 150 times a day,” she reveals. “This is shortening our attention span, creating a tech dependence and instant gratification cycle with social media and gaming, and, at the very least, causing ‘tech neck’ and other back problems.

“Our relationships are suffering, too. We don’t talk to our spouses as much, and we communicate with most friends via Facebook instead of picking up the phone. Strong interpersonal relationships are the key to a healthy emotional state at all stages in life. Screens are interfering with making and keeping friends.”

Start small – maybe an hour or two a day – and expand your time offline as you feel necessary. Put your devices away an hour before bed, too. It’ll help your brain relax and get into sleep mode for a more restful night.

4. Escape and let yourself be free

Physically escape when you can – even a quick vacation can revitalize you – but also allow yourself to *be* yourself, and that might be off the beaten path. For instance, when I’m feeling particularly stressed and compressed, I like to get naked. But that doesn’t have to mean sex. Happy-ending massages and nude beaches are a great way to kick back and unwind, but I’ve also enjoyed getaways to clothing-optional resorts, like the Grand Resort and Spa in Fort Lauderdale, where I

can let it all hang out with privacy without anybody batting an eye. (A wink my way never hurts though.)

5. Find the sunshine – inside and out

Make a list of all the great things about yourself and everything that’s going right in your life – even if it’s just a few things. Review that list and remember that while it may seem like you have it bad (or maybe not as good you’d like), there are people out there who have it *much* worse. Chances are you’re actually quite blessed with your lot in life, comparatively. When you put it into that sort of perspective, you won’t have much left to complain about.

Get out into the sun too – with a proper SPF, of course. It’s scientifically proven that exposure to the sunlight improves our mood, among many other benefits, so when you’re feeling down, seek the ‘shine.

6. Learn to love being alone with yourself

I’m an extremely social person, but I schedule “me” time at least once a week. Usually that means taking my pile of magazines to Starbucks to read, but I’m a huge advocate of doing all manner of things alone, including having lunch with me, popping into a nice restaurant for a couple glasses of wine with me, and seeing movies with me. I really enjoy it, because I’m a big fan of me. It’s time for you to be a big fan of you, too.

7. Practice gratitude, every day

We all have so much for which to be grateful, but we rarely recognize it – and that has to change.

“Studies show that practicing gratitude has a multitude of good effects, and writing down what you’re grateful for each day can be particularly rewarding as well,” says Amy M. Gardner, certified professional coach with Apochromatik. “But even if the most you can muster is thinking of one thing each morning in the shower, do it. You can improve your mindset and outlook with just that simple exercise.”

Words to live by.

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

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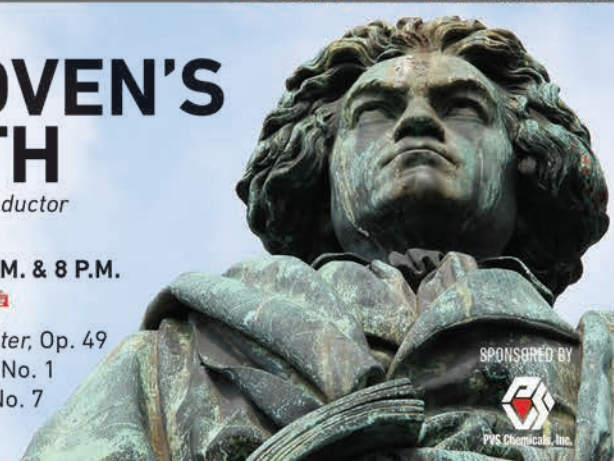
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Happenings

Demi Lovato Comes to Little Caesar's Arena

Grammy Award-nominated singer Demi Lovato is making a stop at Detroit's Little Caesar's Arena with special guest DJ Khaled. The multi-platinum artist will be featuring songs from her fifth studio album "Confident." Upon releasing the album's first single, "Cool for the Summer," it reached No. 1 status on iTunes in nearly 40 countries within hours. Lovato is also an LGBT activist and in 2017 was the recipient of GLAAD's Vanguard Award. Lovato will be in Detroit on Tuesday, March 13 with tickets starting at \$29. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Little Caesar's Arena is located at 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit. More information about both Lovato and the show can be found online at demilovato.com and ticketmaster.com, or by calling 313-471-7000.

OUTINGS

Thursday, March 8

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups
 7 pm All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. This group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. FREE and OPEN to the community. Orchard United Methodist Church 30450 Farmington Rd, Farmington Hills Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620 www.standwithtrans.org

Friday, March 9

Pride Night at Pistons 7 pm Come out to our Pride Night @ LCA Post & Share! <https://fevo.me/2hCGHQ4>
 Little Caesar's Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-349-5777

Sunday, March 11

BTL's LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo! 12 to 4 pm Free Parking! This Sunday! Don't miss the fun! Great door prizes 2 Free tickets with code: BTL2018. Register @ MILGBTWedding.com Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. Visit www.MILGBTWedding.com for tickets.

Thursday, March 15

Chelsea Manning: A Conversation with Heather Dewey-Hagborg, presented by Penny Stamps Series March 15, 5:00 pm Chelsea Manning speaks on the social, technological, and economic ramifications of Artificial Intelligence, and on the practical applications of machine learning. She is an advocate of queer and transgender rights and government transparency. During her Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/chelsea_manning

Wednesday, March 21

GRUNT Detroit Round 2 8 pm A grassroots national touring network established to support diverse artistic voices in dance. This round of GRUNT! Detroit features work by April Sellers Dance Collective (Minneapolis), Kristi Faulkner Dance (Detroit), and AJ Sims (Detroit). An event every day that begins at 8 pm, repeating until March 22. Jam Handy, 2900 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-451-0806 KristiFaulknerDance.com

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Company Wang Ramirez March 9 & 10, 8 pm A couple both onstage and in real life. Sébastien Ramirez, a Frenchman with Spanish parents, and Honji Wang, a German woman with a Korean mother, make their UMS debut with *Borderline*. Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327

Elias Quartet March 11, 4:00 pm After a three-year project exploring all of Beethoven's string quartets, the Elias Quartet decided to consider how composers after Beethoven lived up to his monumental legacy. "Magic moments abound..." This remarkable ensemble's ability to live and Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. (734) 764-8572 www.rackham.umich.edu

Chamber Music At The Scarab Club presents Clarinet and Strings March 11, at 7 pm. Chamber Music at the Scarab Club will continue its 20th season with another creative program. This special anniversary season features favorite performers. Scarab Club Detroit, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. 248-474-8930 www.scarabclub.org/chambermusic

Path of Miracles - Tenebrae March 13, 7:30 pm Founded by former King's Singers member Nigel Short in 2000, Tenebrae's members are drawn from the choirs of Westminster Abbey, King's College Cambridge, and Britain's two major opera houses. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 East Stadium Boulevard, Ann Arbor. 734-769-2550 www.stfrancisa2.com

Piedmont Blues: A Search for Salvation March 14, 7:30 pm Ragtime rhythms, a unique finger-picking guitar style, and understated vocals are the hallmarks of the folk music style found in the Piedmont region, the area between the Atlantic Coastal Plain and the Appalachian Mountains covering Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397

Prince and MJ Experience - Detroit March 16, 8:00 pm As selections of hits, rarities, and remixes from both artists are presented over the course of the evening, audience members square off in funky battle, holding signs bearing the mug of their favored entertainer to El Club, 4114 W. Vernor Hwy, Detroit. <https://www.elclubdetroit.com/>

Blue Cathedral March 17, 7:00 pm Higdon Blue Cathedral Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 1 Schumann Symphony No. 1 "Spring"

Editor's Pick

Flint's Sloan Museum Presents An Equal Opportunity Lie

Flint Mayor Floyd McCree coined the term "An Equal Opportunity Lie" when he resigned from office in 1967. This was in protest to the city commission's defeat of an open housing ordinance. McCree was the first African-American mayor of a large American city; however, Flint was at that time one of the most heavily segregated cities in the U.S. Flint's Sloan Museum is hosting an exhibition through May 27, which explores the housing segregation at that time, and what was done to end those practices. More information can be found online at sloanlongway.org/anequalopportunitylie. The museum is located at 1221 E. Kearsley St., Flint. Adult tickets are \$9, \$8 for seniors, \$6 for youth aged 2 to 11.



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 www.a2so.com/events/blue-cathedral

Steve Lehman & Selebeyone March 17, 9:00 pm Though hip-hop and jazz are clearly no strangers to one another, Sélébeyone takes the conversation between the two forms to "feverish new heights", drawing from Senegalese rap, modern jazz, live electronics, and underground hip-hop to El Club, 4114 Vernor Highway, Detroit. <https://www.elclubdetroit.com/shows/> <https://ums.org/performance/steve-lehman-selebeyone/>

Bubble Schmeis at The Schwitz March 22, 7:30 pm Welcome to the steam baths! The word bubbemeises is a Yiddish term meaning "a grandmother's story" or "an old wives' tale." Writer and street performer Nick Cassenbaum, along with his klezmer musicians, invite you into March 23-25, The Schwitz, 8295 Oakland Street, Detroit. 313-724-8489

Nederlands Dans Theater March 23, 8 pm "The world's most magnificent dancers... a retina-shredding spectacle of passion and power". Known for pushing boundaries with its bold repertory and distinct virtuosity, Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT) One event on March 25, 2018 at 8:00pm Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327

The Devils Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith March 30, 8:00 pm Theatre NOVA presents the Michigan premiere of this hit Off-Broadway musical celebration of the legendary Bessie Smith, whose life was as large and outrageous as her talent. The Devil's Music re-imagines Bessie's final electrifying An event every week that begins at 8:00pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, repeating until April 21, 2018 An event every week that begins at 2:00pm on Sunday, repeating until April 22, 2018 Theatre NOVA, 410 W. Huron, Ann Arbor. 7346358450 <http://www.theatreanova.org>

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Chick Corea March 31, 8:00 pm Surprise! This perennial favorite is back, but this time with jazz pianist Chick Corea at the helm. Ann Arbor Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 555-555-5555 <https://ums.org/performance/jazz-at-lincoln-center-orchestra-with-chick-corea>

Storm Large & Le Bonheur April 6, 8:30 pm Tickets start at \$20. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 <http://www.dso.org/ShowEvents>

yMusic April 7, 8:30 pm Hailed by

Performance Today's Fred Child as "one of the groups that has really helped to shape the future of classical music," yMusic is a group of six New York City instrumentalists flourishing in the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 313-576-5162 www.dso.org/ShowEvents

Artemis Quartet April 8, 4 pm Named after the Greek goddess of hunt and wilderness, the Artemis Quartet was founded in 1989 but took a full 10 years before it performed its first concerts for a live audience. This dedication to Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. (734) 764-8572 <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/rackham-building/amphitheatre> <https://ums.org/performance/artemis-quartet/>

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Penny Stamps Series presents Giorgia Lupi: Data Humanism 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

Penny Stamps Series presents Yvonne Rainer: A Truncated History of the Universe for Dummies; a Rant Dance March 22, 5:10 pm Yvonne Rainer, one of the founders of the Judson Dance Theater (1962), made a transition to filmmaking following a fifteen-year career as a choreographer/dancer (1960-1975). Her experimental feature-length films include Lives of Performers (1972), Privilege Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/yvonne_rainer

Penny Stamps Series presents Brian Selznick: Struck With Wonder March 29, 5:10 pm Brian Selznick has been making children's books since 1991. His illustrated novel The Invention of Hugo Cabret won the 2008 Caldecott medal and was the basis for Martin Scorsese's Oscar-winning movie Hugo. Wonderstruck, his 2011 Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 https://stamps.umich.edu/stamps/detail/brian_selznick

THEATER

Steel Magnolias March 9-25+, 8:00 pm Strong as steel, fragile as magnolias. The six Southern women of Chinquapin, Louisiana, show more steel than delicacy as they face life's ups and downs together. And when push comes to shove, these friends are an event every week that begins at 8:00pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, repeating until March 25, 2018 An event every week that begins at 2:00pm on Sunday, repeating until March 25, 2018 Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. 2485418027 www.stagecrafters.org

A2CT Workshop: Creating Magical Spaces March 10, 1:00 pm CREATING MAGICAL SPACES: SET BUILDING AND PAINTING Instructors: Brice O'Neal and Debra Golden March 10, 2018, 1:00-4:00 PM Ages 16+ \$20 for A2CT members / \$25 for non-members Hands-on workshop constructing basic set pieces out A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228. www.a2ct.org/classes-and-workshops

Piedmont Blues: A Search for Salvation March 14, 7:30 pm Ragtime rhythms, a unique finger-picking guitar style, and understated vocals are the hallmarks of the folk music style found in the Piedmont region, the area between the Atlantic Coastal Plain and the Appalachian Mountains covering Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 <https://ums.org>

A2CT Workshop: Auditioning for Musical Theatre March 17, 1:00 pm AUDITIONING FOR MUSICAL THEATRE Instructors: Jared Hoffer and Jonathan Sills March 17, 2018, 1:00-4:00 PM Ages 16+ \$20 for A2CT members / \$25 for non-members Practical tips for musical theater audition prep, including how to A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228

Nederlands Dans Theater March 23, 8 p.m. "The world's most magnificent dancers... a retina-shredding spectacle of passion and power". One event on March 25 at 8 pm Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327 <http://smt.umich.edu/about/facilities/central-campus/power/index.htm> <https://ums.org/performance/nederlands-dans-theater/>

A2CT Auditions for Heathers, The Musical March 25, 7 pm A2CT auditions for Heathers, The Musical. Book, Music, and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Kevin Murphy. General Auditions for Heathers directed by Ron Baumanis, musical direction Daniel Bachelis. Because of the adult content in Heathers, One event on March 26, 2018 at 7:00pm A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228 <http://www.a2ct.org/audition>

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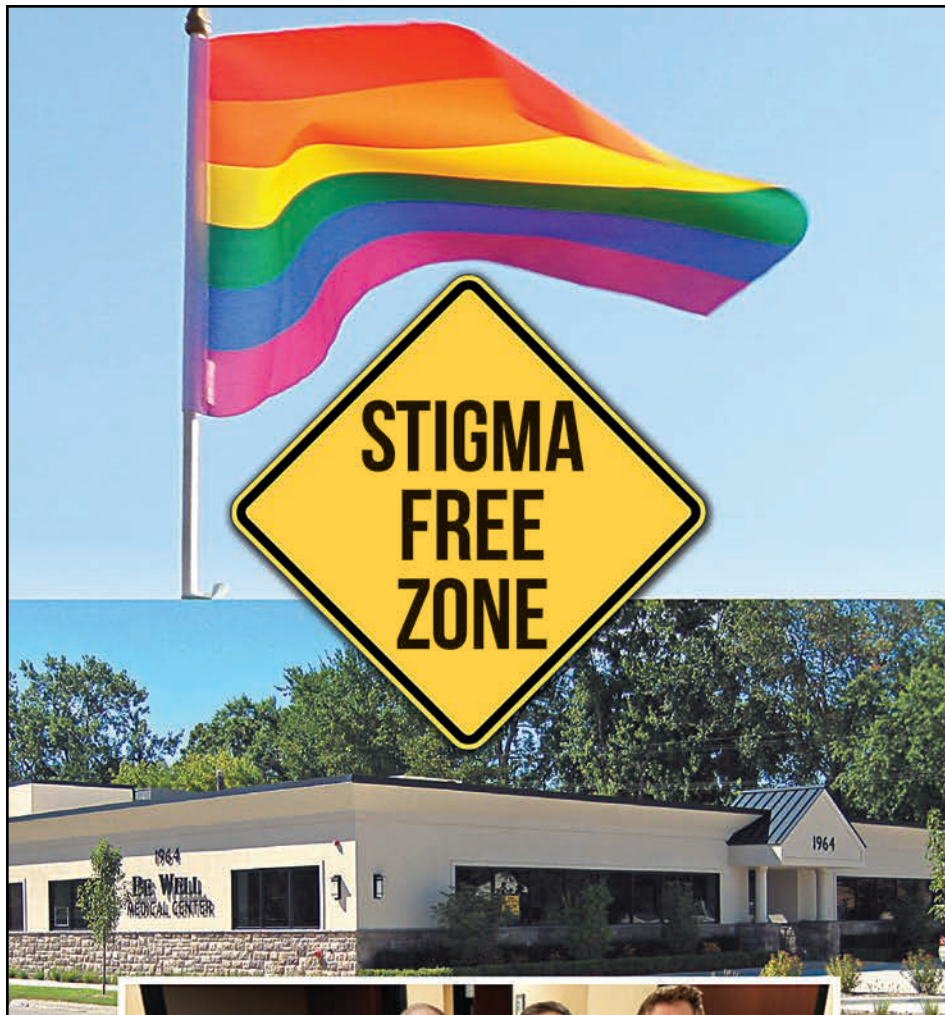
Affirmations has partnered with Emagine for a screening of the new film, *Love, Simon*. Tickets are \$20 each and include pop and popcorn. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Center.

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For additional information on both Pop-Up events, contact Kyle Taylor, at ktaylor@goaffirmations.org or call 248-398-7105.



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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Ringwald Theatre Performs 'Merrily We Roll Along' Through Mid-March

BY BTL STAFF

In 1981 George Furth and Stephen Sondheim collaborated to refresh a classic 1934 play "Merrily We Roll Along" by George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart. The '80s reboot has themes of "friendship, compromise and the high price of success," according to its press release, and will be playing at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre now through March 19.

"Merrily We Roll Along" begins with Franklin Shepard. At the start of the play, he is a wealthy film producer, but audiences get to track the 20 years it took him to get to his high-standing position. Over the course of that time, viewers see Shepard's varied personal and professional decisions — some harder than others.

The "high energy" of the musical is made "poignant and emotional" in the "contemporary story about the importance of staying true to one's ideals," its press release said.

The "Broadway-style" score has been lauded for its "outstanding lyrics" and, when it was released, it received a Lawrence Olivier Award for Best New Musical.

The cast of this production includes Ashlee Armstrong, Jordan Gagnon, Jerry Haines, Kyle Mitchell Johnson, Kevin Kaminski, Ashley M. Lyle, Anna Morreale, Nicole



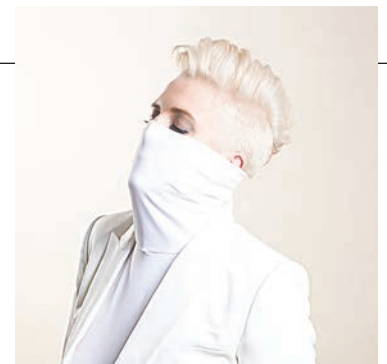
Pascaretta, Brandy Joe Plambeck, Donny Riedel, Liz Schultz, and Matthew Wallace. Music direction is done by CT Hollis and accompaniment by Ben Villaluz.

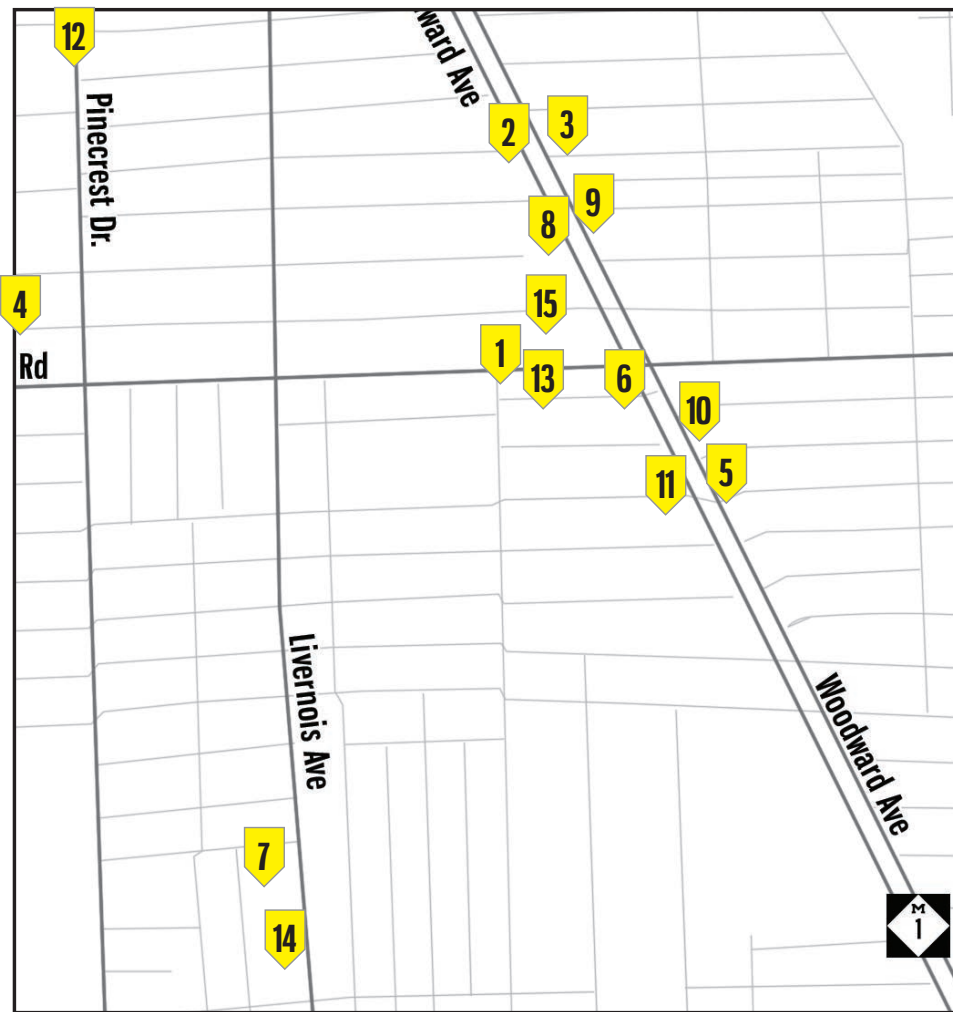
The show is presented on Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays at 8 p.m., and its two Sunday performances are at 5 p.m. Tickets start at \$10, but a full pricing list can be found online at theringwald.com.

Editor's Pick

Ferndale's Loving Touch to Host Betty Who

Australia-born artist Betty Who has been an active artist since 2010, but she really shot to fame with her 2016 single "I Love You Always Forever," the title track of a record by the same name. Since its release, Betty Who has gotten over 150 million streams on Spotify, sold out tours and appeared at festivals like Lollapalooza and Bonnaroo. Now, she'll be stopping by Ferndale's The Loving Touch with her Party in the Valley Tour on Monday, March 12. Doors open at 7 p.m., and presale tickets are available. Tickets start at \$20. More information about the performance can be found online at thelovingtouchferndale.com/events or at bettywhomusic.com. The Loving Touch is located at 22634 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-820-5596.





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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

SEMHAC Gala Honors Community Partners, Council Members

BY DREW HOWARD

The Southeastern Michigan HIV and AIDS Council (SEMHAC) held a gala to honor its outstanding community partners, staff and new members on Feb. 23.

SEMHAC exists to create a coordinated regional response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Southeastern Michigan with the help of community leaders and individuals infected and affected by HIV. The organization works to accomplish such goals through its six standing committees.

The first award of the night honored SEMHAC's community partners. Winners included the Wayne State University Horizons Project, the Michigan State University Detroit Division, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the Recipients Office of the Detroit Health Department, HAPI (Housing Assistance Payment Initiative), and HELP (Health Emergency Lifeline



Programs).

SEMHAC also honored the Recipients Office with two separate awards: "Outstanding Achievement for Outside Program/Project" and "Best Collaborative Effort with Partner Organizations."

"The recipients office has been the best coming into a bad period and making things excellent," Ron Doe, a member of SEMHAC's finance

committee, told the audience.

Evelynn Postell-Frank and Quintin Stroud, council co-chair and chair at SEMHAC, closed out the night with a few comments.

"Together we are so powerful," Postell-Frank said. "They may have given out awards to individuals, but please understand that it takes the collective body to get the work done, so there's not one person in this room more important than the

next."

"HIV is preventable now and HIV is treatable," Stroud said. "A person can live many, many, many years with HIV, and that's because of the things we do every day in the community."

For those interested in learning more about SEMHAC, including how to get involved, please visit semhacmich.squarespace.com.



From Broadway to Birmingham - 'Act One' Makes its Michigan Premiere

BY BTL STAFF

BIRMINGHAM – The Village Players of Birmingham opens its fourth production of its 95th season with James Lapine's tribute to a life in the theater: "Act One." The play is based on playwright Moss Hart's autobiography of the same title.

It will make its Michigan premiere for three weekends, March 9 to 11, 16 to 18 and 23 to 25 at the Village Players of Birmingham.

"Act One" will be directed by veteran Village Players member Jay Kaplan of Oak Park. Kaplan has directed several Village Player's productions including Kaufman and Hart's 1938 comedy "The Man Who Came to Dinner." Kaplan is an occasional contributor to *Between The Lines*.

"This play is about guts and determination to pursue and achieve your dreams," Kaplan said. "I hope audiences feel uplifted by Moss Hart's story — that you can achieve your dreams by refusing to give up, despite the odds and obstacles."

Hart's memoir tells the story of his youth: growing up in an impoverished Jewish family in the Bronx in the 1920s, while dreaming of being part of the glamorous world of the stage. Forced to drop out of school at age 13, Hart's pluck, determination and talent leads him to form an unlikely collaboration with legendary playwright George S. Kaufman and ultimately succeed on Broadway.

The show features a cast of 14 portraying over 50 different, real-life theater luminaries including Edna Ferber, Dorothy Parker, Harpo Marx and Langston Hughes.

"Act One" officially opened on Broadway to critical acclaim at the Vivian Beaumont Theatre in Lincoln Center on April 17, 2014. The play has been hailed as a "nostalgic and ultimately upbeat reflection on fulfilling a dream."

The Village Players of Birmingham is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit community theatre celebrating its almost 100 years in the theater business. The organization presents a variety of performances, and invites all community members to participate on stage, backstage or as an audience member. The theater holds varied programs on its main stage, youth theater, and Playwrights at Work productions and programs. The Village Players has been entertaining the community from its location at 34660 Woodward Ave. in Birmingham since 1926.

Tickets (\$19) are available at birminghamvillageplayers.com, or by calling the theater box office at 248-644-2075. The Village Players theatre is located at 34660 Woodward Avenue in Birmingham.

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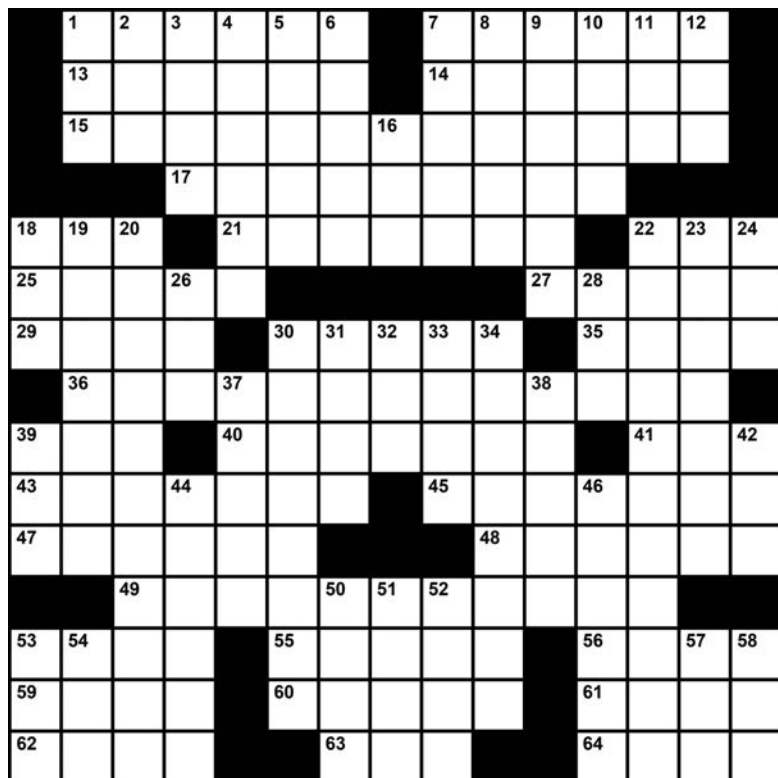
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Across

- 1 Sistine Chapel figure by Michelangelo
- 7 Torah at Beth Chayim Chadashim
- 13 It may include Log Cabin candidates
- 14 Gaily colored flower
- 15 Start of a quote from Richard Pryor
- 17 Where students come together
- 18 Post-lovemaking sighs
- 21 Departure from life
- 22 Ice in Ulm
- 25 Chiwetel Ejiofor's "Kinky ____"
- 27 Dude chaser
- 29 Cut it
- 30 Back biter
- 35 Final Foursome org.?
- 36 More of the quote
- 39 Luau food
- 40 Where to find a Pacific Rim job
- 41 Ship letters
- 43 Pirate's hue
- 45 Heads of trains
- 47 Treat badly
- 48 Flynn role in "They Died With Their Boots On"
- 49 End of the quote
- 53 Big name in soft balls

- 55 Lover of Dali, perhaps
- 56 Rock Hudson's "A Farewell to ____"
- 59 Jump for Adam Rippon
- 60 Ready for action, for guys
- 61 Tennant of the Pet Shop Boys
- 62 ____ Damon (Barbara Grier pen name)
- 63 Word after "Queer" on Netflix
- 64 "Saving Private Ryan" event

Down

- 1 Alec's "Star Wars" character
- 2 Butt
- 3 Sports car, briefly
- 4 They may rain on my parade
- 5 "Zami" author Audre
- 6 Code of conduct
- 7 Margaret Mead topic
- 8 Peter the Great, and more
- 9 Monaco VIP
- 10 Stew in Sitges
- 11 Island necklace
- 12 Dog or work area
- 16 Shoshonean tongue
- 18 "Ellen" network
- 19 It may arouse a sleeping camper
- 20 "Two Women" actress

- 22 Came upon
- 23 Shout after being blinded by a facial
- 24 Doo-wop syllable
- 26 You might tuck it into your jeans
- 28 "Two Little Girls" singer DiFranco
- 30 Williams of "Brokeback Mountain"
- 31 Heed a master
- 32 Comic actor DeLaria
- 33 Former Minnesota governor Carlson
- 34 Condom, in slang
- 37 Loads of
- 38 Base-running term
- 39 Pitchfork-shaped letter
- 42 Cold War abbr.
- 44 Drag queen's petticoat feature
- 46 ____ Records (Etheridge label)
- 50 Folk history
- 51 Hunted animal
- 52 ____ homo
- 53 Will to Grace, or Grace to Will
- 54 Extension on a hard drive
- 57 "Mamma ____!"
- 58 Crazy like a fox

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com

#TIME2KNOW **GET TESTED**

NOW OFFERING INTEGRATED TESTING



- Rapid HIV
- Rapid Hep C
- Gonorrhea
- Chlamydia
- Syphilis

CONVENIENT METRO DETROIT LOCATIONS

Matrix MAC Health in Ferndale & MidTown Detroit • Affirmations in Ferndale

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NO SUNDAY TESTING
Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-4:30PM <small>By Appointment</small>	Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-7:30PM <small>Walk-In</small>	Affirmations FERNDALE 5:30PM-8:30PM <small>Walk-In or Appointment</small> Mpowerment Detroit MIDTOWN 11AM-7PM <small>Walk-In</small>	Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-4:30PM <small>Walk-In</small>	Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-5PM <small>Walk-In</small> STD Testing ONLY <small>Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Chlamydia, Hep C</small>	Mpowerment Detroit MIDTOWN <small>3rd Saturday of each month</small> 11AM-2PM <small>Walk-In</small>	NO SUNDAY TESTING

Call 1.888.226.6366 to make an appointment or for information.

1 (888) A CONDOM

MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES IS A PROGRAM OF MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES. LEARN MORE. GIVE. VOLUNTEER. DISCOVER MATRIX AT MatrixHumanServices.org



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-HIV/AIDS/Counseling/Testing>

Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

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

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

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

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

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

Campus

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

U-M Ann Arbor

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

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

Eastern Michigan University

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

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp

Wayne State JIGSAW

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

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

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

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

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

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

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

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

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

Stonewall for Revolution

www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution

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

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



Tired of planning your life around diarrhea? Enough is Enough

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

Mytesi (crofelemer):

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

What is Mytesi?

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

Important Safety Information

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

For Copay Savings Card and Patient Assistance, see Mytesi.com

Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

NP-390-32

Mytesi[®]
(crofelemer) 125 mg
delayed-release tablets

RELIEF, PURE AND SIMPLE

IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

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

What Is Mytesi?

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

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

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

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

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

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

Should I Take Mytesi if I Am:

Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

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

A Nursing Mother?

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

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

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

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi

With Other Medicines?

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

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

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

Rx Only

Manufactured by Patheon, Inc.

for Napo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. San Francisco, CA 94105

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



WE SUPPORT EQUALITY.



SELLING YOU A NEW VEHICLE IS ONE THING.
CREATING CUSTOMERS FOR LIFE? THAT'S OUR THING.



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@ Meadowbrook Rd.
and Grand River Ave.

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Tues., Wed. & Fri 9am - 6pm
Sat 10am-3pm

SERVICE
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Tues., Wed. & Fri 7:30am - 6pm
Sat 9am-3pm