

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Toni Braxton Isn't Kidding About These Untold Stories

Jump to Your Feet and Support 'Concert for a Cure'

Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination at Jackson McDonald's



PLUS, OUR SPRING HOME GUIDE
50 Years and Counting:
A Look at the Fair Housing Act

Historian and Photographer
Captures Michigan Architecture



SERMONS, STORIES & SELF-ACCEPTANCE

Rev. Paula Stone Williams
to Speak at Christ Church
Cranbrook

HAGOPIAN CLEANING SERVICES

GET YOUR HOME HAGOPIAN CLEAN!

Nothing compares to the feeling you get from a home freshly cleaned by Hagopian. Let Hagopian make it look, feel and smell clean! We'll clean your **Carpet, Furniture, Rugs, Tile & Grout,** and **Air Ducts** so you'll fall in love with your home all over again!

AIR DUCT CLEANING

\$100 OFF

*must mention coupon when
scheduling service*

some restrictions apply

EXPIRES 5/31/18

CARPET CLEANING

3 ROOMS \$89.99

some restrictions apply

EXPIRES 5/31/18

RUG CLEANING

2 FOR 1

Bring your rugs to any of our drop-off locations and we'll clean every other one **FREE!**

some restrictions apply

EXPIRES 5/31/18



1-800-HAGOPIAN (424-6742)

SCHEDULE ONLINE! HagopianClean.com

Expect the Best...Expect the Purple Truck!

**CLEANING DROP-OFF &
2-DAY RUG EXPRESS SERVICE**
OAK PARK

**SHOWROOMS &
CLEANING DROP-OFF**
BIRMINGHAM • NOVI

**ADDITIONAL
DROP-OFF LOCATIONS**
ANN ARBOR • PLYMOUTH • UTICA • CLARKSTON

Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com



SPRING HOME GUIDE



- 14 50 Years and Counting
- 16 GMAR Hosts 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Fair Housing Act
- 18 Anti-Discrimination Language Removed from HUD Mission Statement
- 20 Historian and Photographer Capture Michigan Architecture
- 22 Home guide News Hits
- 24 Tips to Avoid Paying More for Your Mortgage

COVER

4 Rev. Paula Stone Williams

NEWS

4 Sermons, Stories and Self-Acceptance

6 Michigan Mayors Against Discrimination Grows

8 Jump to Your Feet and Support 'Concert for a Cure'

9 Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination at Jackson McDonald's

12 Gillibrand, Mattis Clash in Committee Over Transgender Military Service

13 Trump Congratulates Appointee Grenell on Confirmation

13 Daniela Vega to Attend IDAHOT Events in Cuba

OPINION

10 Parting Glances

10 Viewpoint

11 Creep of the Week

LIFE

26 'OK, Pumpkin?' Toni Braxton Isn't Kidding About These Untold Stories

24 5 Things to Do Before Giving Your Rocky Relationship the Kiss-Off

30 Happenings

32 Classifieds

33 Puzzle and Crossword

COOL CITIES: FERNDALE

37 A Day of Performing and Creative Arts for Youth at Affirmations

37 SheHive Makeup for Women Who Don't Like Makeup Event!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



38 Web Series Takes Authentic Approach to Trans People of Color

INTERVIEW



26 Toni Braxton

HAPPENINGS



30 Best of LGBT Events

NATIONAL NEWS



12 Gillibrand, Mattis Clash in Committee Over Transgender Service

VOL 2618 • MAY 3, 2018
ISSUE 1065

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National LGBT Media Association
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber
Q Syndicate



EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Feature News Editor

Kate Opalewski, 734.293.7200 x 108
kate@pridesource.com

Editorial Assistant

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105
eve@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers

Emell Derra Adolphus, Michelle Brown, Todd A. Heywood, Ellen Knoppow, Jason Michael, Drew Howard, Jonathan Thurston

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown, Mikey Rox, D'Anne Witkowski, Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Cartoonists

Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Alexander Godin, Andrew Cohen

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 104
donelle@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

ONLINE AT

"Between The Lines Newspaper"

Follow us @YourBTL

Email your op-eds to editor@pridesource.com

Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for claims made by our advertisers, nor can we accept responsibility for materials provided by advertisers or their agents.

Copyright 2018 Pride Source Media Group

Sermons, Stories and Self-Acceptance

Transgender Rev. Paula Stone Williams to Speak at Christ Church Cranbrook

COVER STORY

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

When Rev. Paula Stone Williams made her decision to start living as a woman six years ago, she knew exclusion from the evangelical Christian community would be "swift and short," but she said she ever expected it to be "quite so complete." Once the CEO of a nonprofit that formed churches worldwide and a well-known religious leader, Williams said that she not only had to deal with the loss of authority over a largely self-built empire, but come to terms with the fact that when she began to present as female, she'd be forced to fight to assert her knowledge on topics in which she already had expertise.

"I was working with a \$4 million budget when I took (the nonprofit) over and I specialized in starting the churches from scratch that grew very quickly ... there were not many organizations in the world that were having that kind of success, and I was with that organization for 35 years and CEO for 25," she said. "I was in a meeting last summer and it was getting a little frustrating because people were kind of questioning my knowledge and I said, 'I just want to remind you that I did this work for 40 years and have done hundreds of these. So, I do tend to know how they work.'"

Williams said that instances like these have been consistent reminders of the former white, heterosexual male privilege she had unwittingly benefitted from before her transition. However, she has made a career out of talking from her unique point of view, and teaching congregations across the U.S. about being one's

authentic self and advocating against gender- and sexuality-based discrimination — particularly in religious organizations.

Upon reading about her advocacy in a New York Times article, Bloomfield Hills' Christ Church Cranbrook Rev. William Danaher knew that she would be the perfect guest speaker for his congregation, and scheduled for her to speak on Sunday, May 6. Danaher said that Williams is well-equipped to teach about inclusion and acceptance.

"Her real gift is that she integrates fully her experience as a trans woman with her experience as a Christian, and her Christianity is completely meshed with her identity and that was remarkable for me because, in that way, she bears witness," Danaher said. "Out of her own particularity, for what does it mean to be a human and Christian. And I think that Christianity is most powerful when it preaches a gospel that we become fully human when we know ourselves as we are known in Christ."

Danaher also said that having Williams speak at his congregation will provide great representation for the members of his congregation that identify as LGBTQ and might not have many religious leaders they can directly relate to.

"My congregation has been blessed with a few people who identify as trans and we've been blessed by people who work with the trans community, so I think it's important for us to lift up the people that we already love and love us," he said. "And I think it's also important for us to lift up someone like Rev. Paula because her witness is so powerful."



Rev. Paula Stone has made a career out of talking from her unique point of view, and teaching congregations across the U.S. about being one's authentic self and advocating against gender- and sexuality-based discrimination — particularly in religious organizations.

Danaher also said that although his church is a progressive one, he does have congregation members who have a less progressive view of sexuality and gender. He said that his last intention is to polarize his audience, but rather, introduce them to a new point of view through Williams' teachings.

"I think this is about lifting up Christians everywhere and people who need to have a relationship with God everywhere. I believe that all should be welcome at Christ Church

Cranbrook and my congregation believes that as well," he said. "But I will never cast someone out for having a more conservative view on sexuality, just as much as I would never refuse anyone who has a more progressive view of sexuality."

The now 67-year-old Williams is heavily involved in the growing world of post-Evangelicalism, which sticks to traditional evangelical theology, but has progressive views when it comes to LGBTQ community. She said that her time

in that community and her ability to own her new identity has not only made her a better preacher, but a better religious leader.

"I'm a better preacher, I'm a better counselor and I probably have a deeper faith," Williams said. "You know, it's never come easily for me and I find that post-transition it's been much easier for me to look at God ... but, really, I mostly focus on Jesus. I really believe that the Jesus meta-narrative is the meta-narrative that gives hope to our world, because it is the only meta-narrative that is written from the powerless, from the perspective of the loser, from the perspective of the victim."

Maybe it is a testament to her preaching ability, but Williams said that despite all her daily struggles, the one arena in which she feels she still retains just as much control as in the height of her pre-transition career is when she is preaching to a congregation. It's something that she has no explanation for.

"I find it fascinating that I don't see a difference in the way people respond to my preaching. Not the tiniest bit. I had no idea what to make of that," she said.

Perhaps, it is because Williams focuses on narratives first and foremost, structuring her sermons like stories above all else.

"So, I think our need for narrative is biological and for me that is where I think my greatest strength comes, and my greatest source of information is from narratives," Williams said.

Storytelling like this, is exactly what Danaher is excited about when she visits next Sunday.

"I think that the message that I hope she delivers will be not just one for my congregation but for people of faith everywhere," Danaher said. "My hope is that Rev. Paula will resonate with people in a powerful way who are struggling with anything that keeps them from being fully human. So, I don't see her as delivering a single message, I see her delivering a message that is full of the gospel, as it were."

SAVE THE DATE

Rev, Paula Stone Williams

>> Rev. Paula Stone Williams will be at Christ Church Cranbrook on Sunday, May 6 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. More information can be found online at christchurchcranbrook.org/events

MGM GRAND
DETROIT INTRODUCES
WINE NIGHTS
50% OFF ALL BOTTLES
OVER \$75*
THURSDAYS
AT
**WOLFGANG PUCK
STEAK**



WIN 50

WINE NIGHTS • 50 PERCENT OFF

*See server for details.

**WOLFGANG PUCK
STEAK**

MGM GRAND
DETROIT

An MGM Resorts Luxury Destination

mgmgranddetroit.com

If you bet more than you can afford to lose, you've got
a problem. Call 1-800-270-7117 for confidential help.



21+ | Excludes Michigan Disassociated Persons.

Michigan Mayors Against Discrimination Grows

NEWS SERIES

Last year, *Between The Lines* ran “Mayors Against LGBT Discrimination: One Mayor’s Story”, a profile of Royal Oak Mayor Mike Fournier regarding his membership in the newly-formed coalition. He spoke proudly of his city’s inclusive human rights ordinance, among other accomplishments. For Fournier, joining the group was not just a gesture, it was a meaningful step that showed his support for all citizens of Royal Oak, for equal protections in their homes and places of work. Membership also sent a message to the public at large that his city is one of fairness, diversity and inclusion.

Mayors Against LGBT Discrimination is a bipartisan coalition of municipal leaders dedicated to securing inclusive non-discrimination protections for all, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, at all levels of government.



Mike Fournier Mayor of Royal Oak

It is a program of Freedom for All Americans, the bipartisan campaign to win comprehensive LGBT non-discrimination protections nationwide. Since its inception, membership in Mayors Against LGBT Discrimination has grown to 307 mayors in 48 states and the District of Columbia, including 17 mayors in Michigan.

BTL asked Fournier to reflect on the past year, and his membership in the group. He was eager to restate its importance and had a message for all mayors in the state: “Now more than ever, we must remain vigilant to protect the rights of our citizens and confront discrimination wherever and whenever it rears its ugly head. In this divisive time in our country’s history, cities are the last line of defense for many and I encourage every Mayor in our state to join Mayors Against LGBT Discrimination. Each of us took an oath, now it’s time to take a stand.”

On that note, BTL decided to make it a series. Three reporters reached out to 16 Michigan mayors from cities large and small, from Detroit to Okemos to Traverse City. In the coming weeks and months you’ll hear from them, and their unique perspectives on what it means to be a member of Mayors Against LGBT Discrimination.

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

We’re launching the series with an interview with Kurt Metzger, Mayor of Pleasant Ridge. Metzger was first elected in 2013. His professional background is in data and statistics. He’s worked for the U.S. Census Bureau, Wayne State University’s Michigan Metropolitan Information Center, United Way and Data Driven Detroit.

Why did you join Mayors Against LGBT Discrimination?

I have been a proponent for LGBT rights for most of my adult life and have supported local organizations such as Affirmations and the Ruth Ellis Center, among others ... I have advocated for the inclusion of an LGBT category in the state’s Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, and was a vocal supporter of Gay Marriage — I have had the privilege of presiding over six gay weddings since becoming mayor. In addition to my personal feelings, I am Mayor of a city with a very large LGBT [population]. It made perfect sense, when I was notified of this effort, to sign on immediately.

How does your city promote fairness, diversity and inclusion, and why is that important?

Pleasant Ridge’s small size, walkability and common gathering places, create a true sense of community that is shared by all residents ... the City Commission voted last year to become a member community within the Welcoming America/Welcoming Michigan umbrella. We want to make sure that Pleasant Ridge is welcoming to everyone, because a community’s strength is based on everyone’s contribution — by race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, etc.

As mayor, what role do you play in challenging discrimination, and making your city more inclusive?

While Pleasant Ridge is a city manager-run government, I believe the Mayor sets the tone for how we are viewed by the larger regional community. I have worked in Southeast Michigan for 40 years as a researcher/demographer/presenter and have built a reputation for “telling it like it is.” I have been invited, at one time or another, to work with all the racial justice organizations in the region and continue to be asked by corporations and leadership initiatives to talk about the importance of diversity. I live these principles and bring them to my job



Kurt Metzger, Mayor of Pleasant Ridge, launches our series of 17 mayors in the state of Michigan who have signed onto Mayors Against LGBT Discrimination.

as mayor.

How do you ensure that your city’s objectives are consistently reflected in the actions of municipal employees?

Every year the City Commission develops a set of Goals and Objectives for our administration, and then prioritizes those objectives we feel are most important to address. Engagement with our residents and promoting a welcoming atmosphere for all is always near the top of our priority list. This attitude is reflected by all our employees and is promoted by our police.

Where does your city need to improve?

A community can never rest on its laurels, so we are looking to increase the opportunity to celebrate our diversity on all fronts.

What drew you to Pleasant Ridge? What is it like for you, personally, living in an inclusive city?

I moved to Michigan from Cincinnati in 1975 to work for the Census Bureau. I wanted to make sure we selected a community that was both walkable and close to Detroit .. and selected Ferndale. After 10 years, an apartment, a house and 2 births, we needed a larger home and chose Pleasant Ridge. My love for Pleasant Ridge was reflected in my decision to run for Mayor in 2013. I wanted to give back and to contribute to the city’s continued evolution. While every city experiences resident mobility, I continue to be energized by the wide range of individuals and families that move to PR. While they choose our city for a number of reasons, they realize that we welcome everyone and encourage everyone

to participate in creating an ever more welcoming community.

Pleasant Ridge ranks #7 in the country for density of LGBTQ households, yet the Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equality Index Score for Pleasant Ridge is 56 out of 100. How can that be? Is there an inherent bias in the scoring against very small cities?

This is [the] message I sent to HRC when we received the notice that we would be scored again in 2018 ...

“While we would like to promote your Index and trumpet Pleasant Ridge’s score, we are unable to do this because of your recalcitrance at considering adjustments to the criteria for cities less than 5,000 residents, with extremely small staffs.

As it is, we go through the motions each year and then disregard the final product. We are just fine going with the top rating that those who know Pleasant Ridge give our City for its welcoming atmosphere and its large LGBTQ resident base.”

Our city has approximately 12 total employees, including Police, and outsources all other services. As such, it makes no sense to go through the motions of creating city positions/processes just for the sake of getting points on an Index. There are a number of other areas that we have discussed with them (such as hate crimes — we have had none so we get no points) that they will not budge on.

We hear a lot about Ferndale, just to the south, as the heart of the LGBTQ community in the area. What should readers know about Pleasant Ridge as a great place to live? And can we expect Pleasant Ridge Pride anytime soon?

While Ferndale has embraced that reputation, our LGBTQ community is strong and very active in all our city organizations and events. We, as a city, believe that collaboration across communities makes us all stronger. The PR LGBTQ community reflects that belief by working closely with representatives and organizations in Ferndale and throughout southeast Michigan. It is important that Pleasant Ridge residents support existing efforts, such as Pride Day in Ferndale and similar programming in Detroit and continue to build connections here at home.

Read more about the city of Pleasant Ridge online at cityofpleasantridge.org. Follow Kurt Metzger on Facebook at facebook.com/kurt.metzger.35.

A stylized, high-contrast portrait of Paula Stone Williams, a woman with dark, curly hair, looking slightly to the left. The portrait is rendered in black and white against a background of yellow, blue, and red. The text is positioned to the right of the portrait.

CHORAL EVENSONG

FEATURING PAULA STONE WILLIAMS

GAINING ENLIGHTENMENT
through beautiful
**MUSIC, PRAYER AND
CONVERSATION.**

SUNDAY, MAY 6 | 6 PM

Rev. Dr. Paula Stone Williams is a nationally known speaker on issues of gender discrimination and transgender advocacy, whose work has been featured on TEDx, The New York Times, and NPR's Radiolab. Paula will be preaching about the spiritual journey toward authenticity.



CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK
470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Jump to Your Feet and Support ‘Concert for a Cure’

May 7 event features cast from Gloria Estefan’s ‘On Your Feet’



Making her fourth appearance as host is Sabin, the star number-caller of the ever-popular Drag Queen Bingo at Five15 in Royal Oak



SHOW DETAILS

About **“Concert for a Cure”**: 7 p.m. Monday, May 7 at The Loving Touch, 22634 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Doors open at 6 p.m. for the 18+ event. Admission is \$25 in advance or at the door. All funds raised at the event will benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. Tickets for “Detroit Concert for a Cure” are available without a service fee at Woodward Avenue Brewers box office, located at 22646 Woodward Ave. in Ferndale, or at the door at The Loving Touch on the night of the show. Visit www.thelovingtouchferndale.com for more information.

About **“On Your Feet”**: Featuring some of the most iconic songs of the past quarter-century, “On Your Feet” takes you behind the music and inside the real story of groundbreaking couple Emilio and Gloria Estefan who, in the face of adversity, found a way to end up on their feet. Performances are Tuesday-Sunday, May 1 through 13 at the Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. For information: 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com.

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

Will the opportunity to spend an intimate evening of song and music with cast members from the national touring production of “On Your Feet” motivate enough people to jump to their feet on the evening of May 7 and fill Ferndale’s The Loving Touch for the next Detroit Concert for a Cure?

Producer Brad Harder sure hopes so, since it’s his ninth event to raise much-needed funds for an organization that’s near and dear to his heart: Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. “I’ve always liked the mission of Broadway Cares,” he explained to BTL by phone while passing out show flyers – and avoiding cops – in a parking lot outside a popular theater. “Using the unique talents of the Broadway community to do a show and raise money seems like such a remarkable thing,” he said. “Not only for the community, but for everything they do for AIDS research.”

Headquartered – where else – in New York City, Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS was initially two separate, yet similar organizations founded in the late 1980s. Figuring they could accomplish more together than separately, the two joined forces in 1992, and to date, BC/EFA has raised more than \$285 million for essential services for people living with HIV/AIDS and other critical illnesses in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Washington D.C.

Although its major, splashy fundraisers take place in The Big Apple – check out “Broadway Bares” on YouTube, for example – cities across the country do their fair share to help the cause, utilizing cast members from participating national tours that stop in their communities.

“What’s unique is that by tapping into the tours, we here can have the same caliber of show and entertainment,” Harder said. “People don’t have to travel to New York for this type of event.”

As with all Concerts for a Cure, all monies raised will go directly to BC/EFA. The event will feature a cabaret-style evening of Broadway tunes and other popular songs performed by some of the best talent working in theater today. The May 7 edition features cast members from the hit musical “On Your Feet,” directed by two-time Tony Award-winner Jerry Mitchell (“Kinky Boots”), which runs May 1-13 at Detroit’s Fisher Theatre. And, Harder said, the concert will include members of the orchestra. “Which we usually don’t have,” he added.

Given that Monday is the only day of the week that actors and musicians have the night off, why give it up and add a ninth performance to their already busy work schedule, one might wonder. It’s simple.

“They love doing these shows,” Harder explained. “They love being a part of the community wherever they’re at. They always want to do these shows.”

That love is shared by Broadway in Detroit, which books Broadway tours into the Fisher Theatre. “We love it when the cast gets involved in something local – that supports local organizations,” said Scott Myers, the company’s marketing director. “I’m excited for people to see this cast up close and singing songs that aren’t part of the show.”

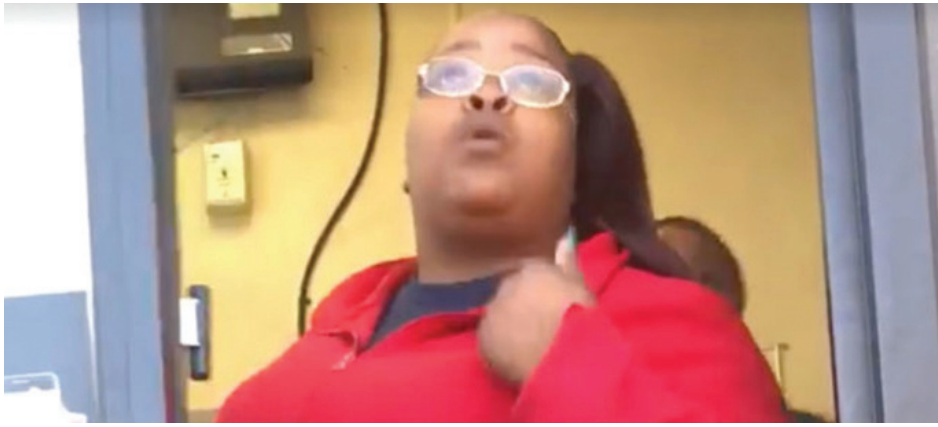
And, he said, “We’re happy to support (Concert for a Cure), because it’s a great cause.”

Making her fourth appearance as host is Sabin, the star number-caller of the ever-popular Drag Queen Bingo at Five15 in Royal Oak. Known as “the angry drag queen,” Harder couldn’t be happier to have her back. “She loves doing this,” he said. “With her as host, we get so much more energy (in the room) – and money!”

The night will also include live and silent auctions, plus a cash bar. And, Myers said, he’ll be there with ticket giveaways for upcoming shows at the Fisher Theatre.

Harder is concerned that unlike his first concert back in 2003 that featured the cast of “Phantom of the Opera,” “On Your Feet” may not attract a lot of attention since it isn’t a Broadway blockbuster. “But it’s a good chance for the audience to mingle with the cast (in such an intimate setting),” he said. “And we always have surprises!”

Plus, it’s for a worthy cause that the community rallies behind. What better reason is there than that?



A woman identified as the Jackson McDonald's manager yelled anti-gay slurs at three Jackson residents Saturday. Photo: Facebook

Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination at Jackson McDonald's

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Three Jackson-area residents were subjected to a homophobic slur and refused service at the West Avenue McDonald's Saturday.

Andrew Munroe, 25, Charles Kilgore, 23, and Amanda Versluys stopped at the fast food location, 1105 N. West Ave., after moving some of Munroe's things to his new home, Munroe said. But a request to make sure there was not a food error turned into a confrontation with a woman who identified as the location's manager.

Here's how Munroe explained the situation in Facebook post accompanying the video:

"We pulled up and started the order. Andrew asked for 2 Sausage McMuffin(s) with Cheese and also requested to make sure they did not put egg on it (as multiple past visits the egg was added on it) whoever was taking the order came back rudely and said, 'That's why it's a sausage and cheese McMuffin.'" Andrew responds with, "Well I just wanted to verify as past visits it ends up on the sandwich," then with employee responds again with attitude, "It's the sausage and cheese, you're not gonna get an egg do you need anything else?" Which we responded with yes the rest of my order ... another sandwich and a soda"

Munroe then went on to write that his group was asked to reorder their meal with another employee, and upon driving to the window they encountered the woman in the video. Munroe said that he asked for the contact information for customer service.

"She became agitated and started her rants, Charles asked if the store manager was they're (sic), rudely told NO and Charles re(-)asked what manager was on staff and she claimed herself. Started telling her the issue and she goes off and tosses the money back says she is not going to serve us, she did not take our order etc."

The video shows two women in the drive-thru window. The woman Munroe said identified herself as the manager, flings open the drive-thru window, stating, "I did not start it, you can your ass whooped is what the fuck you can get from me today."

Kilgore can be heard asking, "You call me a

stupid mother fucker? What bitch? That's why I am going to have your job, bitch."

"Get your faggot ass out of my drive-thru," the woman responded.

Munroe is heard saying, "What, bitch?" and the video ends abruptly.

He said the store refused to answer anymore questions, provide them with their order or even open the windows. At that point, the trio went to another McDonald's location in Jackson to file a complaint.

The manager of the location on Airport Road was "a complete help" Munroe said.

"She got our numbers," he said. "I sent her the video which she then relayed to her district and an area manager. Charles was contacted for a meeting today, and we were told she was to be fired immediately."

The trio will meet with management in Jackson Monday afternoon. The number for the fast food location rang busy when called Monday morning.

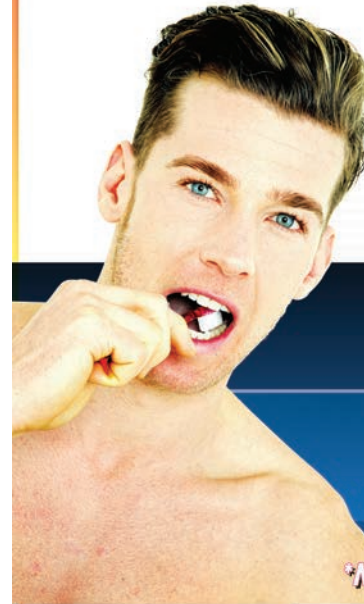
Jackson adopted a comprehensive human rights ordinance that prohibits discrimination on the basis of, among other things, sexual orientation and gender identity in Feb. of 2017. Jackson Mayor Derek Dobies was then a city councilman who drove the new ordinance before spearheading his rise to Mayor last November. He was tagged in the video by Munroe, and responded with this message:

"Hi Andrew Bo Monroe, thanks for bringing this to my attention. It's really unfortunate that that happened to you and your friends. I'm glad the individual has been held accountable for treating customers that way. Last year we worked to build a more tolerant, inclusive community that believes diversity is a strength - one that ensures equal rights to the LGBT community in public accommodations like this," he wrote. "If you believe you have been discriminated against and would like to pursue a complaint via our Non-Discrimination Ordinance you are entitled to do so. I will connect you with the HRC who can explain the process. We have a long way to go towards greater tolerance, but we are continuing to work to make this a priority at city hall."

The mayor did not respond to Facebook messages from BTL.

RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS

Dedicated to make our
community brighter
One Smile At A Time
248-399-4455



Zoom Special
\$249
One-hour Teeth
Whitening

**Must mention this BTL ad - Expires 5/31/18*

Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)
Proud participants in the Ryan White Program
No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.
Uninsured? No problem. Significant savings with our in-office club.

Care Credit



1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4,
Berkley, MI 48072
www.rontwilliamsondds.com

Find us on
facebook

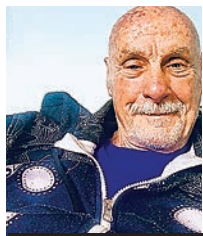
You're Cordially
Invited
To

**Fight
For
Equality**



*Become an ACLU member
at ACLUmich.org*





Been There! Done That!

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

“It’s a pity that youth is wasted on the young,” said George Bernard Shaw, whose play “Pygmalion” was given a fresh start, with an ongoing heart pacer as Broadway’s “My Fair Lady.”

Shaw – who married late in life but didn’t care tuppence for romantic dalliance – lived to be a feisty 94. He talked, talked, talked himself into old age, and probably a number of his audiences who sat through his three-act, four-hour marathons as well.

In spite of Shaw’s misspent youth quip, if a cosmic fairy godmother zapped me back to my carefree 20s, I’d do my darndest to learn a few more dance steps with an even livelier set of gay Arthur Murray dance partners. Bunny Hop, anyone?

Truth is, I don’t remember much about turning 25, 30 or 40 (If only I had kept a daily journal instead of my “Saint For A Day” address book).

But getting older hasn’t bothered me as much as I thought it would. At least, I don’t think it has (“Nobody wants you when you’re old and gay,” my mother cautioned me when I entered kindergarten, Little Lulu lunch pail in hand).

I’ve never experienced a panic at finding myself over the hill (or, taking my turn in the barrel for that matter). And though I’ve been around the block so many times it doesn’t have any corners to stand on, I’ve been stoic about losing my hairline in life’s turbulent wind tunnel. Resigned to experiencing full-body Mach 3 gravitational, gluteus maximus sag.

If aging is something that happened only to me (or Queen Elizabeth), I’d have a legitimate gripe, so I counsel myself over morning coffee, “Go not quietly into that good night!” I say at bedtime, snoring soundly in spite of myself.

The truth is, aging – like taxation – will chat up anybody who stands in line long enough – with or without lube – to chit chat (Just don’t stand naked in front of a full-length, two-way mirror or before a sharp-eyed IRS auditor).

I do, however remember two birthdays fondly: my gay bar 21st and a surprise party 50th. In-between, I haven’t a clue where I blew out my allotted wax candles or, if in the act of such celebratory ID checking, I got my wish (or, my man).

We all remember our coming of age.

“Thank God I’m 21. No more 3.2 Zing Beer for me! It’s all disco lights and bubbling champagne from here on in” (Please have three pieces of picture ID handy, pay the cover charge and what are you doing at closing time, Big Guy?).

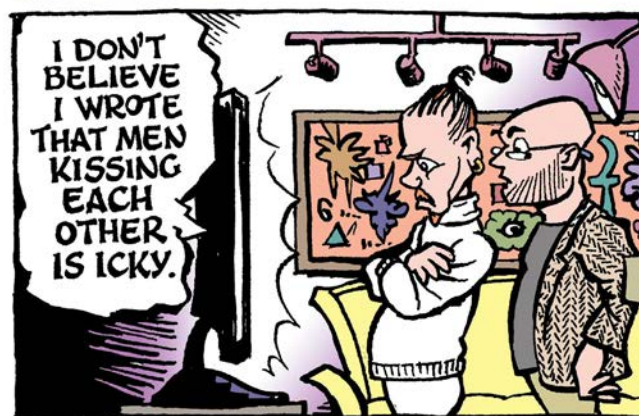
And 50! Wow! 600 months. 18,250 days. 43,800 hours. How time unzips flies (“You took too long to powder your nose, Mary. You were too busy finding out what the backroom boys were having, Charley.”) Ah, yes

At some undesignated point past ages 60 or 70 – you’ll know when you get there, Bruce – one stops counting. And, to quote a famous poem:

“They are not long, the days of wine and roses / Out of a misty dream; Our path emerges for a while, then closes / Within a dream.” The poet, Englishman Ernest Dowson, died at 32. Short changed. An alcoholic.

Unasked for advice: Enjoy life. It’s never later than you think. Or, is it? (I’ll be 82 next week. 52 of these in Detroit’s LGBT rainbow community. And! sober 38 extra years this December.)

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



Transmissions



Secrets and Truths

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

I’m going to let you in on a little secret. Trans people – and I am using the term in its broadest sense, inclusive of gender fluidity and nonbinary identities – tend to have a pretty short list of wants. Really, I can boil it down to one simple statement: we just want to live our lives.

Of course, I mean that literally: the rates of anti-trans violence and murder are sky high, and many of us simply don’t get a chance to live our lives to their natural end. That’s even more common for those of us who are parts of other marginalized communities, and who are dealing with multiple, intersecting layers of oppression.

It’s more than simply a matter of life and death, even though that is the clearest example. One can live a life without being able to live it to its fullest, and this is what trans people face most often in this world.

Indeed, much like those fighting against reparative therapy and for abortion rights, many of us also just want the right to do with our bodies what we want to. We’re not interested in telling others what to do with theirs without their consent.

For a lot of us, we want to be accepted for who we are, how we present and how we identify. We want to be

heard when we tell you who we are, a right most people enjoy without question. We want the right to simply be recognized for who we are.

It’s a simple question of equality, and an understanding that we truly are who we say we are.

Understand, trans people don’t come to their identities easily. While it may seem an instantaneous event for those who are not transgender, understand that you simply haven’t known the soul searching and occasional torment your trans siblings have faced for years, sometimes decades.

If you listen to the voices of anti-transgender activists from all stripes, you’ll hear stories about how we’re going to assault women in bathrooms, or are trying to force people to sleep with us, or are even attempting to force children to undergo hormone treatment and surgery.

You should recognize each of those arguments: they are the same ones that were made up to use against the gay and lesbian community back in the 1970s and 1980s. It’s that same old, tired notion of “recruitment” that was discredited so many decades ago, with “transgender” freshly scribbled in the place “homosexual” was before.

See next page

Trans people - and I am using the term in its broadest sense, inclusive of gender fluidity and nonbinary identities - tend to have a pretty short list of wants. Really, I can boil it down to one simple statement: we just want to live our lives.

To be transgender today is to navigate in a world that can be openly hostile to you. We are targets of harassment and violence at epidemic levels. We are openly mocked, and despised by people on the right and left.

We face an administration that is now adding a rollback of transgender health care standards to go along with its attempts to shut trans people out of the military, out of schools and out of housing. We are facing a constant erosion of our rights at the federal level.

This is, of course, a situation that is not unique to transgender people, especially in these retrogressive times, where racism, xenophobia, sexism, anti-Semitism and so many other horrors have bubbled up to the surface once more.

What does make transgender people somewhat different is that we also often face the same ill will from other minority groups.

Some days I feel a bit like a broken record, or whatever analogy applies in a post-LP world. You see, I have been a transgender activist now for nearly 25 years, and a lot of the ways I explain being transgender were used for decades before I came around. None of this is new, and yet so much still has to be explained, over and over.

I wonder if maybe the trans community hasn't stated clearly enough who we are and what we want. Nothing I've said above is unique to me, nor is any of it markedly different from what myself and other activists have articulated before.

I find myself pondering if perhaps some are being deliberately obtuse, and no amount of explanation will help. I know there are

many on the extremes who will never be won over, who have taken a supposedly radical stance against the rights of other human beings, but I also feel that there are some who may harbor less severe opinions on trans people, yet feel no need to evolve on their opinions.

If you, dear reader, are one of these folks: now is the time to change. I want you to take a moment and reread the beginning of this column. You'll find nothing in there that is especially far-fetched. The goals of transgender people are, quite frankly, not that unusual, and - I suspect - are desires you share.

Here's one more secret: trans people living our lives doesn't take anything away from you. Our existence, and our right to be, doesn't stop you from being able to be the person you are - with one exception. We only ask that you understand that we are not here for your scorn. Of course, I hope that you don't have any derision for trans people, and that we can help you see where we're coming from.

The thing is, we're living in challenging times, and we're all going to have to rely on each other. We don't have the luxury of ignorance, and we need to have each other's backs more than ever. Those who wish to roll back trans rights are counting on your silence and acquiescence and desire our inability to work together most of all.

Let's not give it to them.

Gwen Smith lacks any really juicy secrets, except for that one time. You can find her at www.gwensmith.com.

Creep of the Week

Jim Bridenstine

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Congratulations, LGBTQ America! Donald Trump, the man who stumbled and swindled and lied his way into the



Jim Bridenstine

presidency, has finally made good on his promise to be the very bestest president queers ever done seen.

One word: Germany.

Okay, more than one word: Trump appointed a

gay man, Richard Grenell, ambassador to Germany and he's confirmed and everything.

Mark my words: by the end of his presidency America will be repped to the world by LGBTQ people exclusively because Trump loves his LGBTQs just like he loves his "African-American."

Ha ha just kidding. Grenell is a nice touch and all, but that's like squirting some contact lens solution onto a roaring fire and saying you tried to put it out. Because the Trump administration is an anti-LGBTQ inferno.

Take, for example, another recent appointee: Rep. Jim Bridenstine (R-Okla.). Bridenstine now heads NASA, aka, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, after being confirmed by the Senate along party lines.

But his confirmation took a long time. Seven months! And if you follow Trump on Twitter (and I don't really advise it because he's super awful and unhinged) you know that he's been crying on the internet about how those damn obstructionist Democrats have been holding up his nominations and they are so mean and nasty, "Boo hoo, they won't let me stock the government with completely unqualified and hateful people."

Bridenstine's nomination was slow going because a lot of Democrats did, in fact, oppose him. With good reason! Not only is he a climate change denier (which in a normal administration would be a problem at an organization that has had some role in studying such change, but in this administration is par for the course), he also hates the gays. Which is also a popular position in his administration, but not in America as a whole so much (despite how horrible things feel right now).

A little about Bridenstine: he's got a zero score from the Human Rights Campaign (psst: that's the LOWEST possible score).

I am disappointed to see someone in charge of NASA who not only doesn't seem to value that work, but who also besmirches the legacy of Sally Ride. It's because of people like Bridenstine that Ride didn't come out until her obituary.

Again, with good reason!

Take the Boy Scouts, for example. As you may remember, they used to not allow gay boys to be scouts. In 2013, they lifted that ban. And Bridenstine was not having it.

"Some of us in America still believe in the concept of sexual morality, that sex is intended for one man and one woman within the institution of marriage. Organizations that hold this philosophy and promote it among our youth should be commended, or at least you would think, tolerated," he said in a speech on the House floor. "Unfortunately, the intolerant left bullies and browbeats private organizations like the Boy Scouts into accepting their philosophy. Notice they didn't start their own organization. They went after the Boy Scouts of America."

Darn those gays and that intolerant left, so lazy they wouldn't even start their own separate but equal group for gay and/or "sexually immoral" scouts. It's almost like the people fighting the exclusion of gay kids thought that such kids deserve (checks notes) equal treatment because they are human kids for goodness sakes?

"The left's agenda is not about tolerance, and it's not about diversity of thought," Bridenstine continued. "It's about presenting a worldview of relativism, where there is no right and wrong."

Ah, the old "gays don't even know right from wrong" argument. It's a short jump from there to talking about penises and butts.

While I could make a joke about how Bridenstine should be launched into space where he can start his own right-wing moon colony, I will not. Because I actually believe that the work NASA does is important. I am disappointed to see someone in charge of it who not only doesn't seem to value that work, but who also besmirches the legacy of Sally Ride. It's because of people like Bridenstine that Ride didn't come out until her obituary. She and her partner of 27 years, Tam O'Shaughnessy, deserved better. America deserves better, too.

Michigan Non Profit Resource

Have You Experienced Discrimination?

If you or someone you know has experienced discrimination, intimidation, harassment or violence because of sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity,

contact Equality Michigan's Department of Victim Services at :

report@equalitymi.org or call 1-866-962-1147

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

To get involved in the movement for better hate crimes law, contact policy@equalitymi.org.

Hundreds more resources can be found at
www.PrideSource.com

Gillibrand, Mattis Clash in Committee Over Transgender Military Service

NATIONAL NEWS

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

In the wake of all four military service chiefs reporting no problems with unit cohesion with transgender people in the U.S. military, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) clashed with Defense Secretary James Mattis on his report against their service – which formed the basis of President Trump’s transgender military ban.

The exchange took place Thursday in hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee over the budget request proposed by the Defense Department for fiscal year 2019.

“I’m very concerned about this report because it says that there is quote, ‘scientific uncertainty surrounding the efficacy of transition-related treatments for gender dysphoria,’ yet the American Medical, Psychological and Psychiatric Associations have all said the report misrepresents what is the scientific consensus when it comes to gender dysphoria and transition,” Gillibrand said.

Initiating the exchange, Gillibrand told Mattis she was surprised the report that formed his recommendations to Trump – which purportedly was based on the conclusions of a panel of experts – claimed to have taken into account the military’s experience of allowing transgender people to serve. That was a policy change enacted in the Obama administration and has been in effect for nearly two years.

That’s why, Gillibrand said, she asked each of the service chiefs during congressional testimony whether transgender service has resulted in unit cohesion problems since that time. As the Blade previously reported, all four – Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller and Air Force Chief of Staff Adm. David Goldfein – told her they heard of no problems.

Gillibrand held up a paper copy of a new report from the San Francisco-based Palm Center and said she she’d give the document to Mattis “so you can read in full.”

The report, made public April 26, found out of 949 service members with gender dysphoria since the policy was changed in the Obama years until mid-2017, 40 percent were deployed in military operations overseas and only one had an issue during that deployment.

“It appears that this report your department has issued is not based on the department’s data or science, but rather quote, ‘potential risks,’ that the authors cannot back up,” Gillibrand said.

But Gillibrand went a step further, comparing the Mattis report to the same assertions offered in decades past to exclude others from the armed forces.



Defense Secretary James Mattis clashed with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) over transgender military service. (Mattis photo public domain; Gillibrand photo by personaldemocracy via Flickr)

“This seems to me to be the same uninformed and unfounded concerns that to the opposition of repealing ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,’ integrating women into the military, integrating African-Americans into the military – and I think you need to do a lot more work on this topic to inform yourself,” Gillibrand said.

The defense secretary, however, seemed prepared to respond to Gillibrand, telling her, “I regret the way your characterize it.”

Recalling his testimony during his confirmation hearing in which he said he wouldn’t seek to ban LGBT service members, Mattis said, “I would remind you that when I came into this job, I said I don’t come in with a preordained agenda to change something.”

“I believe that service in the military is a touchstone for patriotic Americans,” Mattis added. “The military protects all Americans’ freedom and liberty to live as they choose – and we’re proud of that.”

Mattis said 71 percent of 18- to 24-year-old men and women in the United States do not qualify to enlist as a private in the U.S. Army for medical, legal, behavioral or intellectual reasons.

Upon coming into the position of defense secretary last year, Mattis said he heard claims Defense Secretary Ashton Carter’s research leading to transgender military service was more limited than what the service chiefs wanted.

“They were asking me questions because we were coming to the induction of transgender,” Mattis said. “They wanted to know how we’re going to deal with certain issue about basic training about deployability. I said, ‘Didn’t you get all this when the policy came out?’ The Carter policy we call it. They said, ‘No.’ And I said, ‘Did you have input?’ They said, no, they did not.”

Prior to his recommendation, Mattis said he convened a panel of experts was comprised of combat veterans, the vice chiefs of the services

and the under secretaries. Mattis said the panel consulted transgender troops, the commanders of transgender troops as well as civilian and military medical experts who have provided transition-related care.

When Mattis said he’d like his 44-page recommendation entered for the record, Gillibrand interrupted and said she’d wants a list of all experts she consulted. Mattis said he’d see what he could do, but noted the issue is under litigation.

On Gillibrand’s questions to service chiefs on whether transgender service would cause any problems with unit cohesion, Mattis those reports wouldn’t come up to the level of the service chiefs and it’s “impossible” for them to have that information.

“The reason is, under the Carter policy, the reporting is opaque,” Mattis said. “We cannot report that a problem emanated from a transgender. We cannot under the Carter policy do that. So the question you’ve asked the service chiefs and the chairman are ones that right now the Carter policy prohibited that very information from coming up because it’s private information.”

On medical issues related to transgender service, Mattis made a point of drawing a connection between transgender status to anxiety and depression.

“If gender dysphoria has anxiety or it has some kind of depression, we don’t allow anyone in with that,” Mattis said. “I would have to make a special category that said you can have these disqualifying factors only if you’re transgender and then we can bring you in. I think you can understand why we have chosen not to do that.”

Gillibrand clashed with Mattis after she asked questions of Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford similar to those she each of the military service chiefs on whether transgender military service.

Asked by Gillibrand if having transgender people in the military caused any problems

with unit cohesion or morale, Dunford denied that was the case, but added a caveat.

“I wouldn’t typically hear of individual cases of cohesion or discipline issues, and maybe just a comment on transgender,” Dunford said. “For me, the issue with transgender has never been about cohesion or discipline anyway. It was just about any individual regardless of circumstances being able to meet the physical and medical qualifications of being worldwide deployable, so if an individual is serving without accommodation, then I don’t I’d expect to see discipline or cohesion issues in that unit.”

Asked whether he thinks the rollout of Mattis recommendations against transgender service treats those troops with dignity and respect, Dunford insisted transgender people currently in the U.S. armed forces will undergo no change.

“One thing we’ve tried to clarify for men and women who are currently serving is that – and I can’t talk about any changes in the policy – but one thing that didn’t change was the status of the men and women that are currently serving,” Dunford said.

But Gillibrand wasn’t satisfied with that response and replied, “That’s not what the impression the report leaves.” Asked whether he had met with transgender troops since the report and if they had anxiety, Dunford said he hadn’t since that time.

“I recommend that you do so, so you are more informed,” Gillibrand responded.

The exchange took place on the same day a total of six former U.S. surgeons general issued a joint statement asserting they were “troubled” by the Mattis report because they find no medical issues with transgender service.

“In fact, there is a global medical consensus that such care is reliable, safe, and effective,” the statement says. “An expectation of certainty is an unrealistic and counterproductive standard of evidence for health policy – whether civilian or military – because even the most well-established medical treatments could not satisfy that standard. Indeed, setting certainty as a standard suggests an inability to refute the research.”

The former surgeons general who signed the statement are Joycelyn Elders, David Satcher, Richard Carmona, Regina Benjamin, Vivek Murthy and Kenneth Moritsugu.

Also Gillibrand led a bipartisan group of 49 U.S. senators in a letter to Mattis expressing opposition to the Trump administration’s ban on transgender military service and Mattis’ report. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) joined Democrats in signing the letter.

“The recommendations and report break faith with the men and women serving in our military by establishing a new ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ for transgender service members, permitting them to serve only if they are willing to forego any chance of living as their true selves,” the senators write.

Trump Congratulates Appointee Grenell on Confirmation

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

President Trump congratulated on Friday his most high-profile openly gay appointee Richard Grenell on his confirmation as U.S. ambassador to Germany.

Trump made the remarks at the start of his joint news conference at the White House with Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel after her congratulating her on her re-election.

“We’re also pleased to have our newly confirmed United States Ambassador to Germany, Richard Grenell, outstanding man,” Trump said.

Grenell, who’s nomination had been pending since September, was confirmed in the Senate on a 56-42 largely party-line vote Thursday. Sources have told the Blade Merkel’s scheduled visit to the White House was a factor in breaking the log jam on his confirmation.

Pointing to Grenell in the audience during the news conference, Trump told his new appointee, “Congratulations. Do a great job, and I know you will. Thank you.”

Although Grenell is now the most high-profile openly gay appointee in the Trump administration, the Senate has confirmed others who aren’t as high-profile. Two were confirmed unanimously in the Senate: James Abbott, who was confirmed to the Federal Labor Relations Authority; and David Glawe, under secretary for intelligence and analysis at the Department of Homeland Security.

Trump said the delay from Democrats



U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell and President Donald Trump (Photo via Twitter)

on the confirmation of Grenell – which purportedly was over mean tweets he made about the appearance of women – is happening with many of his nominees and criticized Democrats.

“This confirmation was long overdue,” Trump said. “We’ve been waiting a long time for Richard to get his clearance, and he got it, and it’s going to be special, but we have a lot of people that are awaiting approval – and the Democrats have been treated us extremely unfairly and they’re going to have to move it along.”

The number of openly gay appointees in the Trump administration pales in comparison to the hundreds of LGBT appointees in the Obama administration,

which also included transgender people. The openly LGBT appointees in the Obama years included Army Secretary Eric Fanning, Export-Import Bank President Fred Hochberg and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy Amanda Simpson.

Following the news conference, Trump retweeted from his Twitter account a White House video of him congratulating Grenell at the event.

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

Daniela Vega to Attend IDAHOT Events in Cuba

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

The transgender actress who starred in “A Fantastic Woman” will travel to Cuba next month for the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia.

The National Center for Sexual Education – the group known by the Spanish acronym CENESEX that Mariela Castro, the daughter of former Cuban President Raúl Castro, directs – on Wednesday announced on its Facebook page that Daniela Vega will participate in IDAHOT events that will take place in Havana and in the city of Pinar del Río.

The announcement did not indicate the specific events in which Vega will participate. The announcement did include a picture of her wearing a red t-shirt with the hashtag “Cubavsbloqueo” that highlights opposition to the U.S.

embargo against Cuba.

“The Chilean Dani Vega is not only a fantastic woman, but also a very brave woman,” wrote Francisco Rodríguez Cruz, a gay Cuban blogger and CENESEX-affiliated activist who writes under the pen name Paquito el de Cuba, on his Facebook page.

“A Fantastic Woman” last month won the Oscar for best foreign film. Vega is also the first openly trans person who presented at the annual awards ceremony.

“A Fantastic Woman” has reignited debate over a trans rights bill in Chile. Vega earlier this month requested a meeting with Cardinal Ricardo Ezzati, the archbishop of Santiago, after he spoke against the measure that is currently before lawmakers in the South American country.

Supporters of Mariela Castro, who is

a member of Cuba’s National Assembly, note trans people have been able to obtain free sex-reassignment surgery under the country’s national health care system since 2008. They also point out she voted against a 2013 proposal that banned discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation because it did not include gender identity.

Independent LGBT rights activists in Cuba with whom the Washington Blade has spoken have said only a few dozen people have been able to undergo sex-reassignment surgery in the country. Mariela Castro last May told reporters during a Havana press conference that 35 people have had the procedure in Cuba.

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

Gabrielle D’Angelo

Financial Advisor

248.655.4147

2600 W Big Beaver Rd, Suite 110
Troy MI 48084



Merrill Lynch Wealth Management makes available products and services offered by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated, a registered broker-dealer and Member SIPC, and other subsidiaries of Bank of America Corporation.

© 2018 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. ARVBHCMB | MLWM-100-AD | 470944PM-1017 | 10/2017

TRIANGLE CHIROPRACTIC

INTEGRATE MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT
VIA NATURE AND CHIROPRACTIC
MASSAGE AND NUTRITION

GROSSE POINTE OFFICE PLAZA
1-94 SERVICE DRIVE AT ALLARD EXIT

OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY
313-885-9496
WWW.TRIANGLECLINIC.COM

JOHN TSAKOS, DC
MOST INSURANCES
ACCEPTED

Prism of Possibilities Psychotherapy

Christine Cantrell, PhD
Fully Licensed Psychologist

Give yourself an extreme
self makeover ...

- ▼ Speak Your Truth
- ▼ Discover What You Want
- ▼ Create Your True Self
- ▼ Heal Old Hurts, Find Wholeness

Located in Royal Oak
www.christinecantrell.com
christinecantrellphd@gmail.com

CALL NOW! 248-591-2888

Lack of LGBTQ Protections in Fair Housing Act Leave LGBTQ Residents Vulnerable

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Finding a good location, comparing rent or mortgage prices and debating whether to use professional movers or getting a self-driven truck rental should be some of the biggest concerns a person has to maneuver when renting an apartment, house or attempting to finance future housing. However in Michigan, LGBTQ people have another layer of difficulty to contend with when looking: their specific rights are not covered under the nationally-reaching, now 50-year-old Fair Housing Act, nor are they covered in Michigan's more than 40-year-old Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. Essentially, this leaves Michigan's potential LGBTQ residents dependent on the individual ordinances established by the city in which they wish to move – and the law's blind spots are many across the state.

“So, it's hard to get in the door, it's hard to get a loan, it's hard to rent an apartment and then, because folks living in the intersection of marginalized identities face other discrimination in education and employment and other things, they're more likely to find themselves behind in rent,” said Robin Maril, the associate legal director for the Human Rights Campaign.

And, what can make it even more difficult for those who are victimized by housing discrimination, is that they don't always know how to go about dealing with landlords who blatantly provide non-inclusive environments. A 2007 study called “Sexual Orientation and Housing Discrimination in Michigan” recorded a variety of real-life experiences of discrimination to LGBTQ couples seeking housing. For instance, one landlord listed off a routine-seeming requirement of “no drugs, prostitution, homosexuality, one-night stands,” and more. Sometimes, comments recorded by the study went deeper and bordered on sexual harassment.

“Two women, posing as a lesbian couple

50 Years and Counting to Fairness

were told by a male agent in a small town in Washtenaw County: “Two women don't bother me; its two men I don't understand, I think it's gross. I have no problem with you girls. I kind of like it. I can totally get into that,” said the report. “He proceeded to inform the testers that if they moved in they could call him anytime to fix anything they needed.”

This study was conducted by all of Michigan's Fair Housing Centers that covered all of Metropolitan Detroit, Southeastern, Southwestern and West Michigan to test how prevalent discrimination really was. The test sent out 120 paired testers who would pose as either heterosexual or same-sex couples who went across the state to apply for housing. To ensure that discrimination was really the motivation of landlords who refused homosexual couples service, the same-sex test subjects had “better credentials – higher income, larger down payment(s), better credit – in comparison to their counterparts.” Overall, even in communities that already had existing ordinances to protect LGBTQ rights in the city, 27 percent of tests showed “disparity of treatment based on sexual orientation.”

A Habit of Inaction

However, even with roughly a third of couples experiencing mistreatment in this test, overall levels of complaints against discriminatory landlords to Fair Housing Centers were quite low. In the years from 2002 to 2005, The Fair Housing Center of Southeastern Michigan received only six complaints. Flash forward to present day, and complaints over the last three years because of gender identity and general LGBTQ discrimination number at 9.

According to the the Fair Housing Center of Southeast & Mid Michigan Executive Director Pamela Kisch, those numbers don't demonstrate much accuracy. If anything, they might be showing apathy on behalf of discrimination victims because they aren't sure what to do about it.

“We don't get a lot of complaints, but that doesn't mean it's not happening,” Kisch said.

Formerly serving as a presidential management fellow at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C., Maril agrees with Kisch. She said that especially now for people who are transgender, housing can be especially difficult to establish.

“Unfortunately, one of the effects of having somebody like Ben Carson in HUD is that I feel like we were just on the cusp of being able



“It's important that folks try to feel empowered and not shut down. So, I think finding a good housing clinic or legal aid for people who are speaking out for a specific LGBTQ litigation group that includes you can be a really good resource, and they can really break down your rights more.”

– Robin Maril, the associate legal director for the Human Rights Campaign

to communicate to people, ‘Hey, guess what? You have rights, go claim them,’” she said. “And then we lost the administration and we now have someone in charge who just says hideous things about specifically trans people. So, it's pretty hard to convince trans people and other LGBTQ people to file a housing complaint with an agency that is also majorly working against them.”

A similar study to Michigan's Fair Housing Centers was conducted in 2013 by HUD, but it tested nearly 7,000 email correspondences by same-sex couples attempting to find housing. Its results nearly mirrored those in Michigan, finding that 15.9 percent of gay male couples were discriminated against and 15.6 lesbian couples were during correspondence, and stated that, “The estimates of discrimination presented here likely underestimate the extent to which heterosexual couples are favored over same-sex couples in the rental housing market.”

Progressive Steps to Take

But though discrimination statistics look bleak, Maril emphasized that precedents are being set across the U.S. by the couples who do dedicate the time and resources to report their instances of discrimination in the housing market.

“LGBT folks aren't explicitly covered in the Fair Housing Act, however we do sort of get in the back door a little bit through the interpretation of sex through the statute,” she said. “A court in Colorado in 2017 actually granted a couple in which both couples were transgender relief when they were both denied housing when they were trying to rent a town house because the landlord actually explicitly said that he wasn't renting to their family because of their ‘unique relationship

status,’ hinting at both sexual identity and gender discrimination. But the court actually found on the side of the couple that this was illegal discrimination under the fair housing act, under the law.”

According to Maril, that was the first time that the court interpreted sex to include sexual orientation since the early 2000s, meaning that it sets up “a good trajectory” for other laws in the future.

And, for those couples who think they might have a chance in court to stand up for their rights, Maril recommends familiarizing themselves with their individual town's policies. The HRC Municipal Equality Index at hrc.org is just one way to do that. Beyond this, looking into local policy through community websites might provide methods to file formal discrimination complaints.

“If they are living in a state where they are not covered, I would suggest contacting one of our friends in the litigation movement. If they've got a great case in arguing that they should be covered under the Fair Housing Act, because we do have precedent under the Colorado case,” she said. “It's important that folks try to feel empowered and not shut down. So, I think finding a good housing clinic or legal aid for people who are speaking out for a specific LGBTQ litigation group that includes you can be a really good resource, and they can really break down your rights more.”

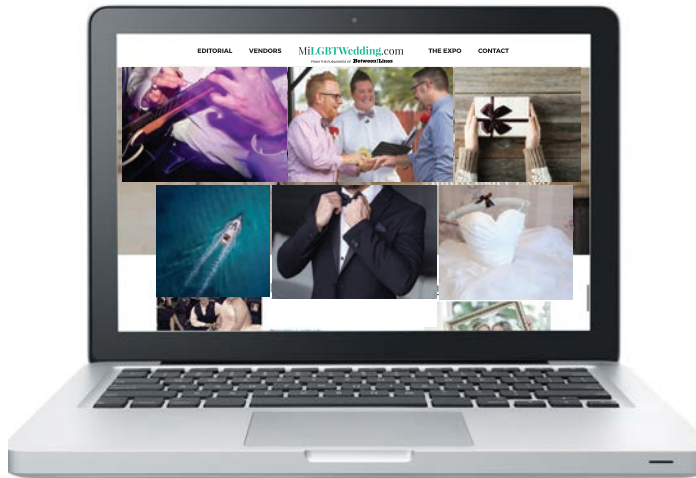
For more information about local LGBTQ rights and ordinances, please visit equalitymi.org or fairmichigan.org.

See Related Story

>> page 16

Michigan's Definitive LGBTQ-Friendly
Wedding and Anniversary Guide

MiLGBTWedding.com



A PROJECT OF

Between THE Lines™

To learn more contact donelle@pridesource.com

Call **734-293-7200** ext. 22

**I Stay Ready.
I Use Condoms.**

Using condoms
can protect you
from sexually
transmitted
infections, HIV,
and pregnancy.



Free condoms delivered
by mail to residents of
**Detroit, Highland Park, and
Hamtramck.**

Order yours at:

DetroitCondom.com



ANY CHILD, ANY PARENT, ANY TIME.

FOSTER OR ADOPT WITH WOLVERINE HUMAN SERVICES
TEXT "PRIDE" TO 51555 FOR MORE INFORMATION

CAGE FREE 24 / 7 **HAPPY HOUNDS** 

 **BOARDING IN COMFORT** *Day & Overnight Care!*

FOR DOGS

WHO DON'T LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE ANIMALS

GROOMING *pet care extraordinaire* **BOARDING**

A SECOND HOME FOR YOUR FURRY FRIEND **1** **ACCOMMODATIONS**



Happy Hounds®

Dog Day Care & Lodging
24/HR SUPERVISION

Call (734) 459-3647 or visit
www.HappyHoundsDayCare.com  673 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan

Fair Housing Act 50th Anniversary Event Reflects on Progress

NEWS

Spring Home Guide

Signs of Discrimination

Some of these comments may be valid, but they may also be used as a pretext to discriminate.

Renting:

“I rented that apartment right after you called.”
“We have a long waiting list.”

Buying:

“Let me show you some homes in an area where in your area I think you would be more comfortable.”
“The owner just took the house off the market.”

Financing:

“You might get better terms at another bank.”
“There’s a problem with your house appraisal.”

Resources

Anyone who believes they are a victim of discrimination can direct their complaint to the following organizations:

Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit

313-963-1274
fairhousingdetroit.org

Equality Michigan

313-537-7000
equalitymi.org

Department of Housing and Urban Development

800-669-9777
hud.gov

Department of Justice

844-380-6178 or fairhousing@usdoj.gov
justice.gov

Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (Real Estate Licensing Board)

517-373-1820
michigan.gov/lara/

Under state law, discrimination complaints must be filed within 180 days of the date of discrimination. The time limit is 365 days under federal law.

Some Protection for LGBTQ People

Discrimination against an LGBTQ person may be covered by the FHA if it is based on non-conformity with gender stereotypes. For example, if a housing provider refuses to rent to an LGBTQ person because the renter believes the person acts in a manner that does not conform to his or her notion of how a person of a particular sex should act, the person may pursue the matter as a violation of the FHA’s prohibition of sex.

In addition, housing providers that receive HUD funding or have loans insured by the Federal Housing Administration, as well as lenders insured by the FHA, are subject to HUD’s Equal Access Rule, which requires equal access to HUD programs without regard to a person’s actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. For more information, visit hud.gov.

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

If every neighborhood is to become a place of opportunity, it’s time for fairer housing - to include the LGBTQ community - and stronger enforcement of the Fair Housing Act.

That was the overall message delivered on April 24 at the Charles Wright Museum of African American History during a celebration of the Act’s anniversary hosted by the Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors. The GMAR has more than 8,000 members, and is part of the National Association of Realtors.

More than 100 attendees acknowledged the numerous advances in combatting housing discrimination and segregation in the last fifty years, but everyone agreed there is more to be done.

“We have to be vigilant and we have to keep a focus on fair housing. We can’t just do it in April of 2018 or April every year. Fair housing is part of what we all do and in order to do that we have to think about all of the decisions we get engaged in as a group as much as we do an individual,” said the event’s keynote speaker Fred Underwood, director of diversity and inclusion for the NAR.

“As you’re a realtor and you’re out there working with a buyer and seller and you have a commitment to equal opportunity, you’re going to check yourself from time to time and make sure you’re providing the best quality service and equal professional service because that’s in your DNA as a realtor to do that.”

Cracks in the Foundation

The FHA was passed in 1968 to prohibit discrimination based on race, color, religion, and national origin. Protections based on a person’s sex were added through amendment in 1974; disability and familial status were added in 1988.

Yet communities of color and other marginalized groups continue to be excluded from access to quality and fair housing, homeowners insurance, and mortgage credit, and many violations of the FHA continue, according to the National Fair Housing Alliance.

Housing discrimination and segregation are linked to every major issue affecting individuals and families nationwide, including access to quality housing, health care, education, healthy foods, a clean environment, mainstream credit, and more.

These violations, the NFHA reports, include redlining by lending institutions, lending discrimination against Latinos,



(left to right) Ken Harris, president and CEO of the National Business League; Michelle Oberholtzer of the United Community Housing Coalition; Jerry Pattendorf of Loveland Technologies; Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan; and Margaret Brown of the Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit.

real estate steering, social media networks such as Facebook prompting discriminatory housing ads placed by advertisers, discrimination by housing insurance providers, inferior maintenance and marketing of bank-owned foreclosures in communities of color, inaccessible housing for persons with disabilities, and exclusionary zoning policies.

The 2018 Fair Housing Trends Report shows there were 28,843 reported complaints of housing discrimination in 2017. Of these, private fair housing organizations were responsible for addressing 71.3 percent, the lion’s share of all housing discrimination complaints nationwide. 57 percent of these complaints involved discrimination on the basis of disability, followed by 19 percent based on racial discrimination and 9 percent based on discrimination against families with kids.

What is more alarming is that the number of complaints is likely way low, according to the report. The NFHA estimates that more than four million cases of housing discrimination occur each year. Most people don’t report racial, ethnic or religious sexual harassment in housing, according to Matthew J. Schneider, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, who provided closing remarks at the event.

“We know there are victims all across this state and some are too scared to come forward and that’s causing a serious problem of underreporting, but what’s even worse than that is that they don’t know that they can come forward ...,” he said, pointing to the U.S. Department of Justice as a resource. “We’re here for you. You have a voice. We can investigate these cases. You do not have to live with this indignity because the Fair Housing Act is your shield ... We want to help.”

What About LGBTQ People?

Currently, 22 states, the District of Columbia, and over 200 localities protect sexual orientation and gender identity in their housing discrimination statutes. In Michigan, state law includes all federal protections as well as age, and marital status, but not sexual orientation and gender identity. One important strategy for success would be to amend the Michigan Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. Until then, local non-discrimination ordinances have been established to provide added protection against LGBTQ discrimination in more than 40 municipalities statewide.

The favorable ruling for LGBTQ housing rights handed down in April 2017 sends a big message to states like Michigan. In the Smith v. Avanti case a federal district court judge ruled that a Colorado landlord’s refusal to rent a townhouse to a lesbian couple, one of whom is transgender, violates federal housing law. According to Lambda Legal, the Smith’s framed their allegations of sex discrimination as claims of “gender stereotyping,” which was first recognized as a viable theory under Title VII by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1989 Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins case.

There is also a bill, the Fair and Equal Housing Act of 2017, that would add gender identity and sexual orientation to the classes protected from discrimination under the FHA. It was introduced in June 2017 by U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin) and Tim Kaine (D-Virginia). The legislation is a companion bill to a similar bipartisan action introduced in the House of Representatives earlier this year by Reps. Scott Taylor, (R-Virginia); and Brad Schneider (D-Illinois), which is still in subcommittee.

Building Blocks

As steps toward progress are taken, a group of panelists at the event discussed things to be mindful of in the meantime, such as overt and covert examples of discrimination, what members of the community can do if they are a victim of or witness discrimination, and how to treat people more equally.

Ken Harris, president and CEO of the National Business League, pointed to the importance of neutrality policies and proper training.

“... Actually setting a precedent in the policy-making process that it’s inclusive. You can have all the policy you want, but proper training of staff is imperative,” he said. “Sometimes we explain policies, but we are not actually walking people through the process. Education is key to our liberation. We’ve got to get back to some of the fundamentals.”

Over the years the NAR has developed educational information on diversity and fair housing laws, programs and resources that have helped educate realtors across the country on the importance of inclusive housing practices and the promotion of diverse homeownership. During the year-long commemoration, the NAR said it will examine community fair housing issues and advocate for changes to the FHA to prohibit

discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Harris was joined by Margaret Brown of the Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit; Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan; Jerry Pattendorf of Loveland Technologies; and Michelle Oberholtzer of the United Community Housing Coalition.

Part of getting back to the some the fundamentals also means, as White said, not underestimating the power of communication.

“... What social mores are and what the values of your industry are by responding and reacting and conveying to your colleagues, whoever you see who’s been exhibiting the discrimination, by saying ‘Hey, you know, that’s not right or, we don’t do that’ or whatever way you want to communicate it - it depends on your relationship with the person you see doing the discrimination - or even the victim by saying ‘I’m sorry that happened to you. It shouldn’t have happened. I’d be happy to work with you instead.’ I think that’s super powerful and not to be forgotten.”

More information about GMAR can be found online at gmaronline.com/. Follow the group on Facebook at [facebook.com/GMARonline](https://www.facebook.com/GMARonline).



Seasonal • Fresh • Handmade

BLOSSOMS

FULL SERVICE FLORIST

Two Locations - Order Online...

BIRMINGHAM 248 644-4411 BLOSSOMSBIRMINGHAM.COM

MIDTOWN DETROIT 313 447-1919 BLOSSOMSDETROIT.COM

BLOSSOMING ARTISTS.NET EMERGING ARTISTS SPACE INSIDE BLOSSOMS MIDTOWN

Monthly Exhibitions | 4152 Third St. @ Willis | Detroit, MI 48201 (313) 447-1919



Juli Siagkris-Seymour

Mortgage Loan Originator
NMLS# 1461566

248-980-3604
Julienoe930@gmail.com

OMEGA LENDING GROUP PLLC
115 S. Main St. Ste. 300, Royal Oak, MI
NMLS# 1212760



SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 7 - 10

PEWABIC HOUSE & GARDEN SHOW

For more event information or Preview Party tickets visit PEWABIC.ORG/GARDENPARTY

LOTUS VASE
Evergreen

Anti-Discrimination Language Removed from HUD Mission Statement

PRRI Research Reveals Need for Anti-Discrimination Language

NEWS

Spring Home Guide

BY BTL STAFF

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced in March it is revising its mission statement to remove anti-discrimination language. The proposed draft of the new HUD mission statement removes references to “inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination.”

A March 5 memo addressed to HUD political staff, Amy Thompson, the department’s assistant secretary for public affairs, explained that the statement is being updated “in an effort to align HUD’s mission with HUD Secretary Ben Carson’s priorities and that of the Administration,” according to The Huffington Post.

Going forward, the new HUD mission statement will read: “HUD’s mission is to ensure Americans have access to fair, affordable housing and opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency, thereby strengthening our communities and nation.”

There is a need for this anti-discrimination language based on findings from PRRI’s American Values Atlas “Who Sees Discrimination? Attitudes on Sexual Orientation,

Gender Identity, Race, and Immigration Status” which reveals national attitudes towards discrimination, including breakdowns by race, political orientation and religion.

White Americans are divided on the discrimination African Americans face

- 50 percent of white Americans believe blacks face a lot of discrimination, 47% say this is not the case
- 63 percent of white young adults (age 18-29) agree blacks face a considerable amount of discrimination
- 32 percent of Republicans believe blacks face a lot of discrimination in society, compared to 58 percent of political independents and more than three-quarters (77 percent) of Democrats
- Only about four in ten (41 percent) Republicans say immigrants experience a lot of discrimination in society, compared to roughly twice as many Democrats (78 percent) and nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of independents

Minorities agree on the realities of discrimination

- Majorities of black Americans (85 percent), Hispanics (66 percent), mixed-race Americans (64 percent), and Asian-Pacific Islander Americans (55 percent) say blacks face significant



levels of discrimination today

- Close to six in ten white (57 percent) and API Americans (59 percent) say immigrants face a great deal of discrimination. About two-thirds (66 percent) of mixed-race Americans, roughly three-quarters (74 percent) of black Americans, and eight in ten (80 percent) Hispanics also believe immigrants face a lot of discrimination.

Most Americans believe minority groups experience a lot of discrimination

- Roughly six in ten Americans believe immigrants (63 percent), transgender people (62 percent), gay and lesbian people (58 percent), and blacks (57 percent) face a lot of discrimination in the country today.
- Nearly one-quarter (24 percent) of the American public do not believe black Americans, immigrants, or gay and lesbian people experience a lot of discrimination, 16 percent believe only one of the three groups experiences a lot of discrimination, and 18 percent say two of the three groups face a great deal of discrimination.
- More than four in ten (42 percent) Americans say all three groups experience a lot of discrimination.

THREE CHAIRS CO.
life. style.

Cultivate a timeless look.

208 & 215 Ashley Street Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734.665.2796
215 South River Road Holland, MI 49423 616.393.9433
www.threechairs.com

Exclusive dealer for
Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams

Linda Lom Team
AT TRILLIUM

Linda Helps People Make Good Decisions.

Come find out why Linda Lombardini was voted Washtenaw County's Favorite Realtor.

Thrice.

734-302-3600 www.LindaLom.com 323 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor Linda@LindaLom.com TRILLIUM REAL ESTATE

SINE & MONAGHAN
REALTORS®

RealLiving®

Brad Bell
Associate Broker
Cell: 248-835-4644
www.bradbellrealestate.com

20+ years of experience in lending, real estate and home building


Residential Sellers & Buyers
Relocation Specialist
Select Commercial Properties

30574 Woodward Ave., Royal Oak

ROCK SHOPPE

- Since 1979 -

6275 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth MI, 48170
(Just off M-14)

734-455-5560 

www.Rock-Shoppe.com



Rock

Aggregates
Artificial rocks
Boulders
Decorative stone
Flagstone
Rocks, gems and fossils
Veneer stone siding
Wallstone and steps

Retaining Walls & Patios

Boulders
Fire Place & landscaping kits
Flagstone
Manufactured brick pavers
Manufactured walls and steps
Wall stone and steps

"Say it in Stone" Gifts and Signs

Gateway estate boulders
Laser etching
Rocks, gems and fossils
Sand-carved rocks

Statuary

Bird baths
Fountains
Garden benches
Planters, Pots & Urns
Statuary

Landscape Supplies

Artificial rocks
Fire place & landscaping kits
Mulches
Patio blocks
Ponds
Topsoil, peat and compost
Waterfalls



Blue Sky Resort
LAKEFRONT
CABIN RENTALS
 homeaway.com

3216 Port Austin Road

Half Way Between
Pt. Austin and Caseville

brianmwahl@hotmail.com

989.553.1144

REMEMBER MOM MAY 13th!



WORTH THE TRIP!

Rose Gardening Made Easy!

Learn everything you need to know to grow stunning roses from Jerry Amoroso of Week's roses. Saturday, May 12 at 1pm.

Grow Fruit Trees in your Backyard!

Learn how Saturday, May 19, 1pm. Mark Boland of Eastern Shores.

GARDEN ROSES

Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora, Climbers
Floribunda

Reg. \$39.99

3 or more

\$29.99 ea.



WAVE PETUNIA

10" Hanging Basket

Reg. \$26.99

\$19.99

Great selection
of garden art
and gifts for mother.



KNOCKOUT

Shrub Rose

#1.5 pot Reg. \$24.99

\$16.99

Double red and
double pink.

While supplies last.



ENDLESS SUMMER HYDRANGEA

#1.5 pot

Reg. \$24.99

\$16.99

While supplies last.



In-store flyer now in progress.

734-453-5500

www.plymouthnursery.net
Mon.-Sat. 8am-8pm
Sun. 9am-6pm
Offers Expire 5/16/18



PLYMOUTH NURSERY
HOME & GARDEN SHOWPLACE 

9900 Ann Arbor Rd W
7 Miles East of US-23 · 7 Miles West of I-275
1 1/2 Miles south of M-14
Corner of Gotfredson Rd

Historian and Photographer Captures Michigan Architecture

Spring Home Guide

BY DREW HOWARD

Thirty four of Michigan's most stunning architectural gems are on full display in the new book "Michigan Modern: An Architectural Legacy," a passion project of author Brian D. Conway and photographer Jim Haefner that took more than two years (and a few stealthy drone shots) to document.

Conway and Haefner offered insight into their work during a presentation on April 25 at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Detroit. Together, they detailed the history behind dozens of the book's 227 photographs as well as Michigan's influence on architecture at large.

"A lot of people ask how we came up with 34 buildings and complexes, and that was a real tough part of this whole project," Conway told the audience. "We wanted geographic distribution across the state, and we wanted to represent Michigan architects, but also include those iconic properties of architects who came to Michigan to do their work."

"We picked the best," Haefner said. "This project was a dream assignment. I've been a photographer for 40 years, and this was definitely the culmination of that time period."

In documenting the highlights of Michigan's architecture, which includes the work of legends like Frank Lloyd Wright, Euro Saarinen, George Nelson and Alexander Girard, among others, Conway and Haefner were often forced to problem solve at photo-shoots. This sometimes meant stripping a building of its banners and decorations, or even cutting down a tree for the sake of framing.

Haefner at other times had to work around Mother Nature, specifically natural lighting. He spent two days trying to capture light coming through the windows at Frank Lloyd Wright's Dorothy Turkel House in Detroit, an L-shaped house that represents Usonian Automatic design. The Turkel House is the



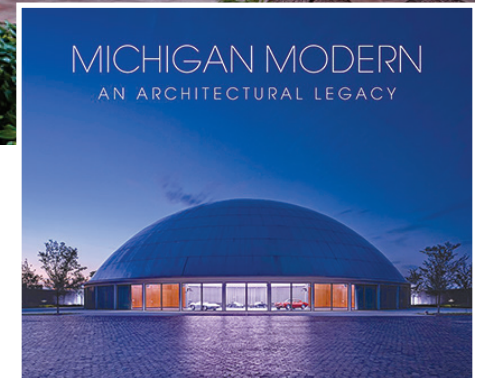
Dorothy H. Turkel House, Detroit. To right: W. Hawkins Ferry house, Grosse Pointe Shores and book cover. Photos Courtesy of Jim Haefner.

only Wright-designed building in Detroit's city limits.

Conway and Haefner aimed to give readers an exclusive looks of locations that aren't readily available to the public. At the Douglas House in Harbor Springs, Haefner rode in a helicopter over Lake Michigan to showcase the contrast of the home sleek, white exterior against the lakefront woodlands.

And at the General Motors Technical Center in Warren, a Euro Saarinen construction featured on the cover of the book, the duo utilized drone photography to capture the immense scale of the center in a way that very few have done before.

"I had been trying to get permission for a couple years to fly a drone there - there's a lot



of secrecy, which is why it's not open to the public," Haefner said. "You'll see blinds are drawn in the design building so I couldn't take a picture of what's happening."

Other locations featured in the book include the McLucas House, the Hawkins Ferry House, the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, McGregor Memorial Conference Center, and

Lafayette Park, among many others.

"Michigan Modern: An Architectural Legacy" along with its predecessor "Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America" are available on Amazon for purchase. For more information about the Michigan Modern project, please visit michiganmodern.org.

Let Tyrrell Electric
Power Your Pride
 -Generator Systems
 -Lighting and Service Upgrades
 -Remodels and Dedicated Circuits

Tyrrell

ELECTRIC CO.

GENERAC

248-767-5238 – jttyrrell@yahoo.com – www.tyrrellelectric.com

Shop The Rainbow

BTL
 Between Lines

There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and welcome everyone.

Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan's LGBTQ community!



Sunday snuggles at home.
What's your dream?

Whether hosting a dinner party or spending quiet time with your loved ones, your home is so much more than just a house. It's where your life happens.

See how we can help make your dream home a reality. Contact MSUFCU today.

 msufcu.org • 517-333-2424

 **MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Building Dreams Together



**WE GET IT.
YOUR DOG IS FAMILY.**

WE'RE NOT JUST ANOTHER PET STORE.
We're the world's first bakery for dogs, committed to making all-natural treats for happier, healthier dogs. Our treats are the natural, wholesome way to love your dog!

Premium, all-natural ingredients.
Slowly baked to preserve flavor & nutrients.
Created with a devoted love for dog.

 **Three Dog Bakery**
THE BAKERY FOR DOGS

550 Forest Avenue Suite 7, Plymouth, MI
734-453-WOOF (9663) Threedogbakeryplymouth.com
20% OFF WITH THIS AD!

MIDTOWN
LAFAYETTE PARK
SHERWOOD FOREST
INDIAN VILLAGE
DOWNTOWN
ROSEDALE PARK
BOSTON-EDISON
UNIVERSITY DISTRICT
PALMER WOODS

Austin Black II
REALTOR, CITY LIVING DETROIT

If you're buying or selling in Detroit, Austin is your expert.
With an intimate knowledge of the neighborhoods, personal involvement in the community and a Detroit home address, Austin's a proud part of the city's resurgence.

313.242.7800
CityLivingDetroit.com
Redefining Urban Living

 **CITY LIVING DETROIT**

Home Guide News Hits

Spring Home Guide

BY BTL STAFF

First-Time Buyers in Michigan Say There's a Lack of Starter Homes

Detached condos and traditional condos are fielding strong interest from empty nesters and first-time buyers with prices as low as \$154,000, plus monthly association dues for lawn care and snow removal.

But the development of the condos is a rarity this Spring because few Michigan home builders bother to construct entry-level homes, which are generally priced around \$225,000 and below and have slim profit margins.

According to the Detroit Free Press, builders in and around southeast Michigan say it is now hard to make a profit on entry-level homes because of higher construction materials costs, a shortage in construction labor, local zoning and regulation issues and the cost of land in desirable areas.

It is also taking builders longer to finish construction on homes, largely because of overstretched subcontractors. These dynamics have compelled many builders to focus on houses with bigger profit margins, often those priced \$400,000 and above.

Michigan Granted up to \$123 Million for Two New Veterans' Homes

Michigan will get millions of dollars from the federal government for building two new veterans homes in Grand Rapids and Southeast Michigan, Gov. Rick Snyder announced April 13.

According to an MLive.com report, Ronny Jackson, acting secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, has authorized the state of Michigan to spend up to \$38 million in federal dollars for the Grand Rapids facility and up to \$42 million in federal dollars for the planned Southeast Michigan facility, in addition to the \$42 million in state funds approved by the state Legislature in 2016.

The projects have already gotten the go-ahead from state officials as part of a new plan to transition away from one large veterans facility into two smaller facilities. The new Grand Rapids veterans home, set to be built on the current 90 acre campus in Grand Rapids, will be significantly smaller than the existing facility, which currently houses about 355 residents. Though the old home won't immediately close, the expectation is the new facility will ultimately replace it. The Southeast Michigan site hasn't yet been determined.



DIA Plaza and Midtown Cultural Connections Project

The Detroit Institute of Arts and Midtown Detroit Inc. announced in April it is sending a Request for Qualifications to landscape architecture and urban design teams for a "DIA Plaza and Midtown Cultural Connections" design competition.

The design competition centers around enhancing and enlivening the DIA's exterior campus and seeks an outstanding integrated design team for developing an urban and landscape design strategy and cultural center connection framework. Teams will be asked first to create a strong design vision that reimagines the DIA's grounds, making them highly visible, welcoming, flexible and functional to support year-round outdoor programming. Secondly, they are to take elements from the DIA design and extend them to physically connect to the neighboring institutions to encourage walkability, improve wayfinding, identify other opportunities for public art and programming and consider shared parking strategies and improved design.

The design competition is one of the initial steps in realizing DIA Director Salvador Salort-Pons' vision of the museum as a "town square." An extensive civic engagement process will also feed into this process, as the success of the project depends on the many opportunities to engage a broad range of stakeholders from the surrounding communities, the city and the region beyond.

The RFQ asked firms to submit their qualifications by April 30. The eight firms will make public presentations in Detroit on June 13-14. Three finalists will then be selected to enter stage three in the competition: to design and amplify the possibilities of project. The three firms will make public presentations on Jan. 23, 2019 at the DIA and the winning team will be announced in March 2019.

Continued on next page

- Perennials – Flat of 18 \$39⁹⁹ Mix & Match

- New! Native Plant section
- Large Selection of plants to attract hummingbirds, butterflies & all other pollinators

COMPOST BLENDS AND POTTING SOILS

We offer a wide variety for all your Raised Bed gardening needs!

Celebrating 38 Years in business!

Heirloom, Organize & Non-GMO Seeds

- Huge selection of organic amendments & fertilizers
- Hanging Baskets
- Vegetables & Herbs
- Huge line of perennials– Lots of NEW varieties!
- Worm Castings
- Greenview fertilizer 2- & 4-Step lawn fertilizer

For great looking plants all summer, use what we use – Jack's Classic from J.R. Peters, Inc.



NEW this Year! Tomato FeED

BRENDA'S BUTTERFLY HABITAT - OPENING JUNE 1

Brenda's Butterfly Habitat is filled with butterflies, and host and nectar plants that are native to the area. You will see the complete life cycle of these winged beauties in all stages of their metamorphosis!



NEW EXPANDED SELECTION of Miniature & Fairy Gardening plants, fairies and supplies

6414 N. Merriman, Westland MI
Located between Ford and Warren

734-421-5959 • www.barsons.com
Check our website for sales & seminar dates/times



DETROIT REGIONAL **lgbt** CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

EMPOWERING DETROIT'S LGBTQ + ALLY BUSINESSES

MICHIGAN'S LARGEST LGBTQ CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OUR MISSION

The Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce mission is to promote and empower our Metropolitan Detroit LGBT, allied business members, non-profit members, corporate partners and their employees through leadership, advocacy, and education.

LEADING through professional development
ADVOCATING for inclusive business practices
EDUCATING all businesses on LGBT-certification & business growth

JOIN US TODAY!

www.detroitlgbtchamber.com

Mailing Address
P.O Box 32446 Detroit, MI. 48232



Non-Profit that Helps Detroit Homeless Losing Funding

A Detroit non-profit that helps people who are homeless or facing eviction is losing a major chunk of its funding, according to a Michigan Radio report.

Ted Phillips, director of United Community Housing Coalition, said in the report the Department of Housing and Urban Development isn't renewing two grants UCHC relies on for 40 percent of its annual funding.

The group helps about 1,000 homeless people in Detroit each year, and helps people navigate a confusing and sometimes predatory real estate landscape in Detroit. UCHC counsels people to find housing legitimately owned by honest landlords. UCHC will inspect the housing, verify landlord ownership and often provide some sort of financial assistance for people to get into a new home. UCHC also provides some job placement services and GED classes, according to the report. HUD classifies the kind of counsel that UCHC provides people who are facing near eviction as supportive services. The report says HUD is prioritizing resources toward efforts to provide housing to people who are "hardcore homeless," living on the streets.

UCHC is appealing the decision by HUD, but the timeline isn't clear. To prepare for a likely loss of a major funding source, the report said UCHC has already made some

layoffs and is looking at other ways to save money.

Hagopian Cleaning Services Adds Air Duct and Dryer Vent Cleaning

Members of the community will begin to see new purple trucks on Michigan roads. Hagopian Cleaning Services, a Michigan company since 1939, is growing again. Recently, the premier rug cleaning company added a new product to their list of household and commercial cleaning services – air duct and dryer vent cleaning. Hagopian invested in two new fully-equipped trucks with their own state-of-the-art cyclonic technology, along with an exclusive ten-step process. This allows Hagopian to clean HVAC systems and dryer vent so they will operate at optimum efficiency and reduce dust and allergens in the home. A unique disinfectant process is an additional option that is available when cleaning HVAC systems. Hagopian uses an EPA-approved solution with no perfumes or masking agents that eliminates odors by destroying organisms at their origin. Heat from the dryer can create a fire hazard when lint and dust accumulate in the vent so Hagopian suggests cleaning the dryer vent about twice a year.

Hagopian celebrates 79 years in business this year. Call the purple truck for services at 800-HAGOPIAN (424-6742) or visit OriginalHagopian.com.

37th Annual

Art Birmingham

In downtown Birmingham's
Shain Park

**Saturday & Sunday
MAY 12 & 13**

150 Juried Artists,
Free Admission,
Free Children's Art Activity,
Food Court and more!

ArtBirmingham.org

"Dandelion Urbanized" by Featured Artist: Marina Terauds



Presented by
SOMERSET
BUICK | GMC
in association with
The Guild

Produced by the
BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD
ArtCenter

Find The Home of Your Dreams.

Full Service Residential Real Estate
Local Neighborhood Specialist
Representing Buyers & Sellers



Lynn L. Stange
Realtor Associate

70 W. Long Lake | Troy, MI 48098
248.561.6967 | LLStange@aol.com

Proud Sponsor of BTL's 2018 Ultimate Wedding and Anniversary Expo

BOS
MOVING & SERVICE INC.

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1982

248.360.6644 | www.bosmove.com

FREE
Wardrobe Rental
with this ad

Specializing in
LOCAL MOVING

Don't mess with the middleman, go straight to the Bos!

- One Item or a Truckload
- In-Office and In-House Moving
- Will load or unload your Rental Truck
- Piano and Organ Moving
- Licensed and Insured
- Residential & Commercial Moves

***** The Detroit Actor's Theatre Company Presents

IN THE HEIGHTS

JULY 18-22, 2018
New Center Park

All performances are
free and open to
the public

TheDATC.org

A series



Spring Home Guide

Tips to Avoid Paying More for Your Mortgage

BY BTL STAFF

Buying a house is a major financial commitment. You want to be certain you're getting the best mortgage rate and terms, and that you will be able to afford your mortgage payment now and into the future. Unfortunately, some people don't really shop around or look at their mortgage options when buying a home. Someone who may spend hours researching and comparing prices for technology or a new car will take the first loan offer they receive.

If you're in the market for a new house, GayRealEstate.com has provided a few tips that will help you obtain the best mortgage possible.

Save Money to Make a Down Payment

If you can make a good-sized down payment, you won't have to worry about financing as much. That may help you get a better rate so your monthly payment isn't as much. While it's tempting to make only the minimum down payment and use the rest of the money for other things, remember that the more you borrow, the more you'll pay in interest. You'll save money by making a larger down payment in the long run. Plus, you'll have lower monthly payments, so you'll have extra money to spend each month.

Look at the Right Properties

Just because you can afford a larger house doesn't necessarily mean that's the right house for you. If it's just you and your spouse, a four-bedroom home may be too much. On the other hand, if you have several children or need space for a home office, it might be the perfect size. Don't buy more house than you

need just because you can. Otherwise, you may end up paying for space that you don't actually use, but still have to keep clean and maintain. This also applies to the extras you might find in a house. If you don't really need a swimming pool, for example, don't buy a house with one. Take the time to determine what you truly need in your future home before you start looking at houses.

Know Your Budget

Do you know how much you can really afford to spend every month? If you don't, you need to figure it out before you start looking at mortgages. First, look at your income. Banks generally won't offer you a loan if your expenses are more than about 30% of your overall income. There are a number of online calculators that will help you determine what percentage your monthly expenses are of your total income.

Remember to take your down payment into consideration, too. Then look at all of your debt and see if you can eliminate some of that. For example, you may need to spend a little bit of your down payment on eliminating a credit card if it helps lower your overall debt percentage.

Know Your Options

You also need to know what kind of loans you qualify for. Many people go straight to their bank and don't even look at things such as FHA loans or VA mortgages. These loans often have very low interest rates, and some don't require much of a down payment at all. If you qualify, these loans are often the better way to go than getting a loan from a traditional lender.

Compare and Contrast

Once you know if you qualify for any of these mortgages, you can compare and contrast them with traditional loans. Always be sure to get quotes from a few different mortgage lenders. While getting recommendations from your gay real estate agent is a great place to start, also take the time to do your own research. Once you have that information, you can determine which mortgage will best serve you in the long run.

Get pre-qualified

When you've chosen a lender, be sure to get pre-qualified. This ensures the seller you're qualified to purchase their house. It also helps you know what you can afford. If you're pre-qualified for a \$250,000.00 mortgage, you shouldn't be looking at \$350,000.00 homes – it's a waste of your time and your agent. It's always better to know what your limits are before you spend a lot of time looking at homes you simply can't afford.

Michigan Realtors at Pridesource.com

Beyond gayrealestate.com, here is a list of real estate professionals in Michigan that can help you understand how mortgages work, and what options you may have.

Pride Realty Associates LLC

31874 Northwestern Hwy.
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Rich Harrison
Phone: 248-851-8700
Email: richardh@priderealtyassociates.com

Real Estate One

21250 Hall Rd.
Clinton Twp., MI 48038
Ralph Catana
Website: realestateone.com/ralph
Phone: 586-783-7888
Email: Ralphcatana@yahoo.com

Lynn Stange

70 W. Long Lake Rd.
Troy, MI 48098

Real Estate One
Website: lynnstange.realestateone.com
Phone: 248-561-6967
Email: LLStange@aol.com

Linda Lombardini

323 Braun Ct.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
The LindaLom Team at Trillium Real Estate
Website: LindaLom.com
Phone: 734-302-3600
Email: linda@trilliumrealtors.com

Don Chisholm

26236 Woodward Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Real Estate One
Website: DonChisholmRealtor.com
Phone: 248-425-4366
Email: DonChisholmRealtor@gmail.com

Dick Waskin, Broker/Owner

2914 Blue Star Hwy.
Saugatuck, MI 49453
RE/MAX Saugatuck-Douglas
Website: remaxsaugatuckdouglas.com
Phone: 269-857-2191
Email: remax@wmol.com

Deborah Campbell

Beverly Hills, MI 48025
Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser FHA
Approved
Fax: 586-261-5500
Email: debcamp102@gmail.com

Century 21 – Curran & Christie

42949 W. Seven Mile
Northville, MI 48167
Keith Ferguson
Mark Dzeikan
Website: keithferguson.c21.com/
Phone: 313-274-1700
Email: soldbykeith@yahoo.com

Brad Bell

30574 Woodward Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48073
Sine & Monaghan
Website: bradbellrealestate.com
Phone: 248-414-1697
Email: bradbellrealestate@gmail.com

Berkshire Hathaway HWWB Realtors

880 S Old Woodward
Birmingham, MI 48009
Christine Winans

Phone: 248-505-1704
Email: cwinans@hwwbrealtors.com

Jim Shaffer

423 S. Washington Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Keller Williams Real Estate
Phone: 248-288-3500
Email: jimshaffersellsouses@yahoo.com

Johnstone & Johnstone

82 Kercheval Ave.
Grosse Pointe Farms 48236
Suzanne O'Brien
Website: johnstoneandjohnstone.com
Phone: 313-516-6644
Email: realtorsuzanneobrien@gmail.com

Shoreline Realtors

202 Center St.
Douglas, MI 49406
Jim Sellman
Website: saugatucksellmanhomes.com/
Phone: 269-857-8030
Email: jim@shorelinerealtors.com

Keller Williams Professionals – Reese Realty Group

789 W. Ann Arbor Trail
Plymouth, MI 48170
Darlene Reese
Affiliated with Cross Country Mortgage
Website: thereserealthgroup.com
Phone: 586-817-2470
Email: soldbyreese@gmail.com

BONA SERA
restaurant

MOTHER'S DAY brunch buffet

Sunday May 13, 2018



Adults / 23
Kiddies / 9

RESERVATIONS
734-340-6335

10-3PM

Events. Catering. Reservations | 734-340-6335 | 200 West Michigan Ave | Ypsilanti MI 48197



Birmingham Door Service

Since 1947
Doors So Beautiful they Challenge the Imagination

COMMERCIAL
Sales, Service & Installation
Store Front • Entry Doors
Overhead Doors
Rolling Doors

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATES
LICENSED • INSURED



Shop Where the Designers & Architects Do!

SPECIALIZING IN...

- Classic Steel to Beautiful Wood Garage Doors
- Openers, Accessories & Remotes
- Custom Staining & Painting
- Screen Repair/Replacement
- ...Pet Screens Too!
- Pick Up & Delivery Available!

Autumn Special

ONE Opener Special \$319⁰⁰**
plus tax

Includes full general maintenance to garage door. 68.00 value included with new opener.

Genie ReliaG® 650 Opener, Two Remotes and Standard Installation
With TSG coupon. Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per customer. Expires 10/31/15

**WE SERVICE ALL
Garage Doors,
Entry Doors & Openers!**

248.642.7761
BirminghamDoor.com



**‘OK, PUMPKIN?’
TONI BRAXTON ISN’T
KIDDING ABOUT THESE
UNTOLD STORIES**

Photo: Steven Gomillion

Songstress on New Album, Her Debut and Diva Duets That Could’ve Been

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

When you have seven Grammys and an iconic voice that can drop to ocean depths, it’s your God-given right to also have a no-wings-in-my-dressing-room policy. This is Toni Braxton in 2018, still decrying the existence of pungent food in her midst before a concert. But sex? Cigars? Alkaline water? Unbreak Ms. Braxton’s heart with any of the above.

While talking about her first solo album in eight years, “Sex & Cigarettes,” the 50-year-old R&B diva was in tell-all mode when discussing her appreciation for the current generation’s outspoken female artists, the Mariah and Janet duets that could’ve been (thanks a lot, bankruptcy and babies), and her secret – hint: nose job – to hitting those famous notes.

That album cover, Toni. You’re on fire.

Thank you. I feel good about it. You know, I was hungry while I was doing that. That was a little hard. But I love the album cover. I thought (photographer and director) Randee St Nicholas’s choice of lighting was really superb.

How would you describe your mood there?

It’s self-explanatory with that title: I’m feeling like sex and cigarettes. I feel sexy, like I need a puff afterwards.

You puff?

I smoke cigars once or twice a year. Every year for my birthday I do, and sometimes around the holiday. It’s not my friend to smoke, with lupus and all, but you have to have a vice or two. A nice stogie, something I can chew. Something really hardy.

You’re known to have a deep voice, so a few puffs can’t hurt.

My voice is naturally smoky, but when I do the cigars, it’s for my birthday and I try not to work on my birthday. Even if I do, after my show I do a little puff-puff. Not a puff-puff-pass.

Some of your social commentators aren’t keen on what you’re wearing. One person wrote, “We as older women have to set an

example for younger women.”

Oh, that’s cute. It doesn’t really bother me. I think if you look good, you can wear it. Any age. For me, personally, I don’t wear midriff. I think I’m too old to wear midriff. Each his own. It’s just me, my body shape, I’m sure. But I work hard on my body, not just because I’m older, just because I like to be in great health. And it’s OK for people to have their opinion. I have my opinion too on things that I probably shouldn’t. I would never post it.

Can you talk about the pressure on you and other women to dress and look a certain way, and has those industry expectations changed with age?

Gosh, you know, I feel forever 25. It’s kind of weird. Parts of me are 25, probably (laughs). I feel good about myself. In this industry, I would be disappointed if women said that. I mean, guys don’t know, but women – we should embrace each other. I look at Madonna. She’s still doing it and Madonna’s almost 60. Who cares. Or look at me, Janet or Halle Berry. We’re all in the same group. So, I think it’s all about how you feel about yourself, but I like that they’re talking and saying that. I like that now people look younger than their age. I think that people really see people and are thinking age less and aren’t thinking numbers. Numbers, to me, just determine how long you’ve been on the Earth. But I’m OK with it. The women’s movement to me is great. I’m excited about that part.

Yeah?

I’m really excited about that because my generation in the ’90s, when I peaked, when my career was at its highest, we were taught to be a little aloof. You had to be mysterious. The younger generation, which I love, they’re my favorite because they speak as loud as they want. They’re like, “We will not be missed.” Rihanna, she’s my favorite. I just love that about the new generation. It’s just nice to live your life out loud.

How are the #MeToo stories resonating with you?

I think it’s good, I think it’s about time. It not only affects women, though. I mean,

I'm glad about it for women, but I've heard guys who've been in situations where they can say "me too," but guys feel like they can't say it. I like that people are being able to speak out about things that have happened to them, like, "We're not having it anymore." But as a woman, I'm proud of my species.

Do you have a #MeToo story?

I don't have a #MeToo story, thank goodness. I have friends and close friends who have stories like that. Most of them have chosen not to talk about it because they have kids and they're like, "It's behind me, but it happened to me too." But I'm very lucky that I don't have any stories like that.

Going back to the elusiveness of '90s artists: Did that stop you from being yourself?

Early on I was allowed to be myself and express myself through fashion. I always kind of pushed the envelope on my sexuality. I think it's definitely different rules for women compared to rules for guys. And we had to ride the wave a little bit, the women of our generation, and if we said anything, we were being a bitch. Of course now it's just a term of endearment: "That bitch is hot." And even now the word "diva" is coming back in style, and it's OK to be a diva. It's a great moment to be a girl.

Are you a diva?

Oh, all of us are sometimes, absolutely.

What are you most diva-ish about?

I am very, very particular about my stage when I go on stage. I don't like having to adjust my mic when I first start performing. I think it's tacky. Instead of starting off singing, you gotta adjust your mic because they think you're 5'6" and I'm 5'1" and three-fourths. You would think my people would know that but sometimes they forget.

That doesn't seem like too much to ask for. Not like you're requesting a specific brand of water.

Well, I'm particular about that too sometimes. As long as it's alkaline high, but I think the world is about that water now. But they know that, so they get it. I don't really have this big rider. I don't have anything like that. But I don't like food in my room. Do not have food in my room! I do not want to go on stage smelling like food.

Some people have food, like wings; they want food before they perform because some artists have different requirements when they perform. For me, I never eat before I have a show. And if I'm hoarse and I have a lot of phlegm on my throat, I'm gonna eat an apple. So, I have fruit in my room. I may want an apple to get the phlegm off. If I am hoarse or it's tight and there's nothing on my throat, I might want some tea with a lot of honey. I don't want the lemon.

About "Sex & Cigarettes": I understand a lot of people have different takes on the title of your

song "Deadwood," and are asking you, "Toni, why is the wood dead?" Why do I have a hunch these people might be your gay friends?

(Laughs) Yes, they are.

Tell me more.

They were asking me that! But it's just an appropriate title! I know what deadwood is; I lived in Maryland. And being in the suburbs, as kids, you would see the wood and kick it. "Don't bring that deadwood in the house." So, for me, it makes sense and it's something you just disregard and throw away. You didn't care about it. But a lot of people *were* asking me, "Why the wood dead?" And I guess they got a point.

You told me once that your gay boys make you a better girl.

It's so true. Sometimes I forget to be a girl. I forget to keep it feminine. But my boys remind me to be a girl, to be fabulous about it. "Why are you standing like that? Why are you standing with your shoulders down?" The little things. They just remind me to be a girl. I love it.

The cover of your debut album, with your short hair, denim and that leather jacket, wasn't exactly your most femme moment.

That is true. That's kind of the '90s when it was still coming off the '80s. It was a bit more pookie then.

Do you have a gay posse you have to consult before you release new music?

It's more so about my look. My boys usually get my look together for me. And I have height envy, and I like a particular type of shoe so I can be taller. They'll go, "We have to find something that will give you height because those platforms are out. Stop wearing those." But I wanna be 5'6". I try to keep it taller just to keep me current. But: "You gotta be ahead of the season, Toni. You can't do that. We should do this look. OK, we'll let you do that little thing because that's kind of indicative of who you are as an artist, so we'll give you that one dated thing." They keep me up with the times.

What was the last really dated thing you couldn't live without?

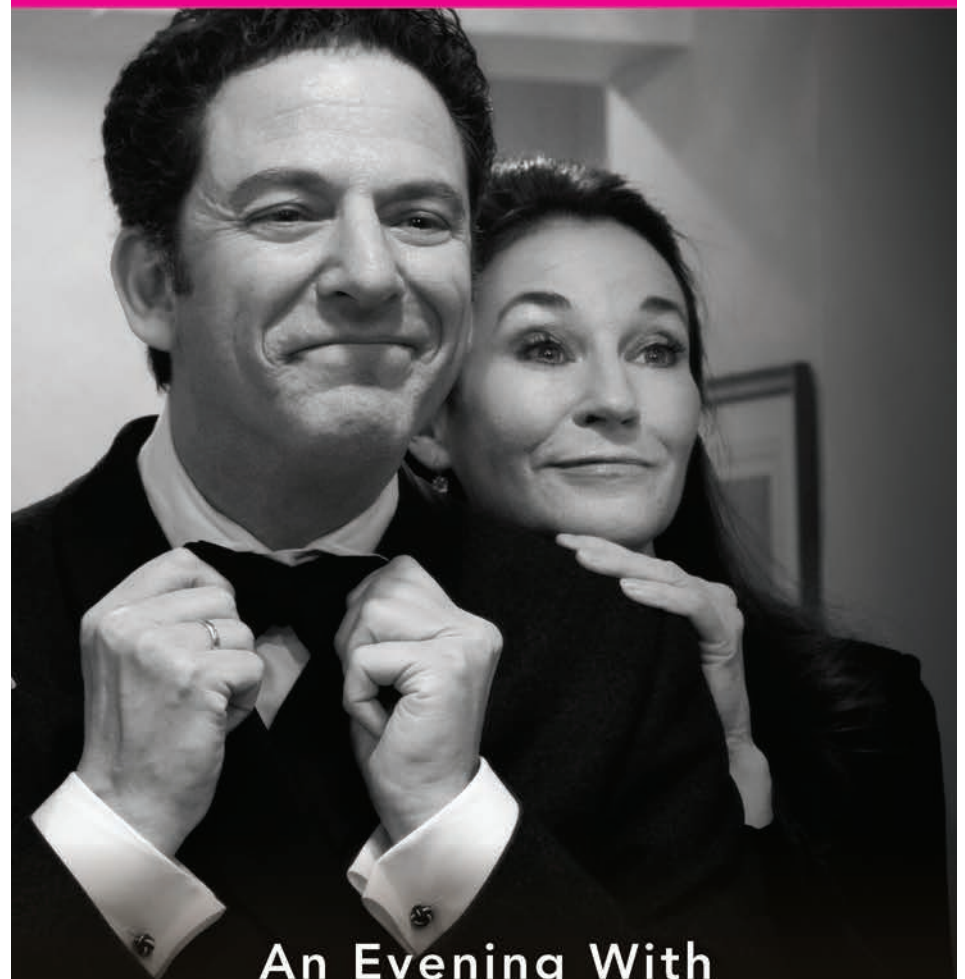
I wear sweatsuits with high-heeled shoes all the time. You'll never catch me in a sweatsuit without a high-heeled shoe. I'll never wear sneakers unless I'm going to the gym.

This year commemorates your 25th year in the music business, as your self-titled debut album was released in 1993. I was a little gay boy when I bought it on cassette tape.

You did not say cassette tape. That's taking me back.

What don't people know about the making of your debut?

SPECIAL EDITION PERFORMANCE



An Evening With John PIZZARELLI & Jessica MOLASKEY

MAY 19, 2018

THE CUBE

at the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center

Performance at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:15 p.m.

For more information or to order tickets, please
call 313.405.5061 or visit cabaret313.org

CABARET
313

ACT FAST! LIMITED AVAILABILITY.

Continued on page 28



Annie

Book By THOMAS MEEHAN Music by CHARLES STROUSE Lyrics by MARTIN CHARNIN
Original Broadway Production Directed by MARTIN CHARNIN Based on "LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE"

MAY 11—JUNE 3, 2018

MAIN STAGE | BALDWIN THEATRE, ROYAL OAK | STAGECRAFTERS.ORG



“FEROCIOUSLY FUN, FEEL-GOOD MUSICAL!”
—Entertainment Weekly

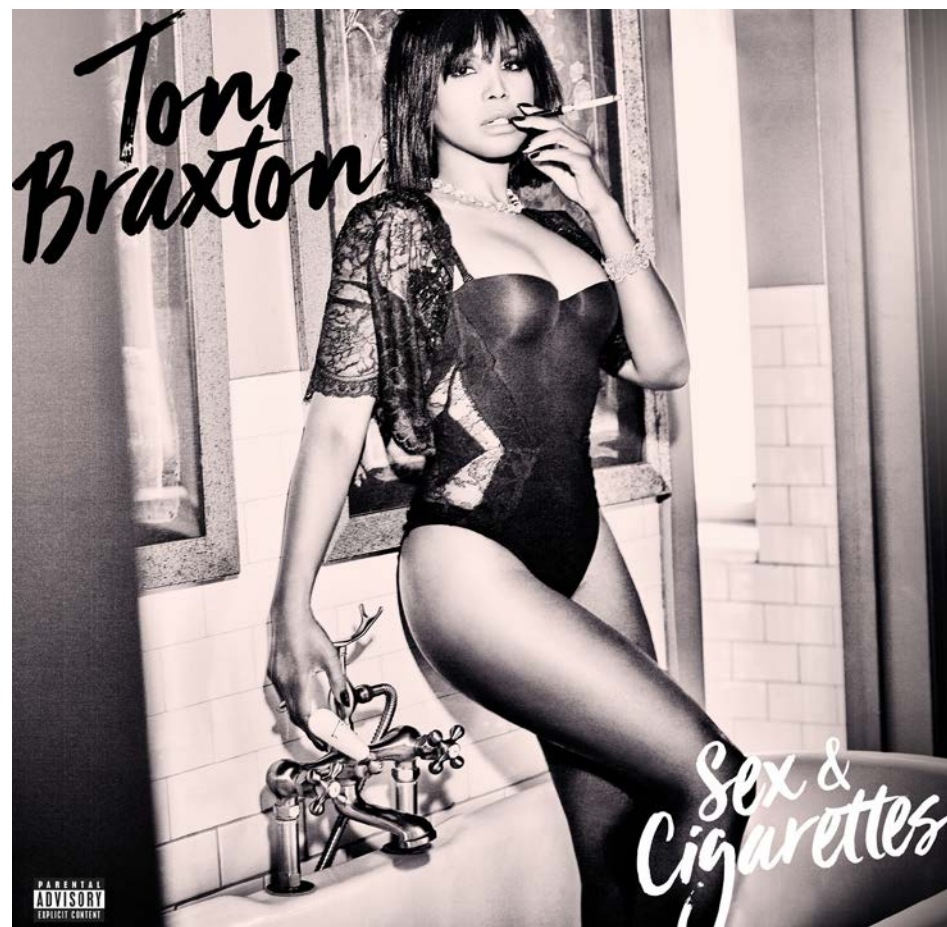
ON YOUR FEET!

THE EMILIO & GLORIA ESTEFAN BROADWAY MUSICAL

Fisher Theatre • Now thru May 13

Broadway In Detroit sponsored by
PACIFICA ChryslerDealer.com

BroadwayInDetroit.com,
ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office 313-872-1000.
oc 8PM May 4.



Toni Braxton

Continued from p. 27

Well, it was just before I got my nose job. Might be too much information, but yeah. We didn't finish the album, so I was singing with a fresh nose job, which is virtually impossible because it hurt so bad – you can't really move it. Well, I don't know how they do nose jobs now. I think they do it from the inside – well, that was from the inside too, but you had to wear this little thing on it and after they took it off, it was so sore. You can't hardly move under your nose and in between your lips, and I remember it was really difficult to sing.

Did it become easier to the high notes or the low notes after the nose job?

The higher notes got easier. I mean, I had rhino surgery, but I also had sinus surgery – I mean, everybody says that, but it's really true. But I had a nose job. Mine was a *nose job*. But I lucked out and my doctor fixed my sinuses as well. I didn't go in there for my sinuses and they fixed my nose – no. I went in to get my nose fixed and in the interim they fixed my sinuses. So, I'm telling the truth, truth: I went in for a nose job. OK, pumpkin?

What else?

The jeans (on the cover) were really too big for me and they were pretty much cabled in the back. That was a true story. So many little tidbits I could tell.

Why did we get a Whitney and Mariah duet and never a Mariah and Toni duet?

You know, Mariah had reached out to me about doing a duet, but unfortunately, it was just before I knew the bankruptcy was gonna happen (Braxton filed for bankruptcy in 1998 and 2010), but no one in the world knew. So when she asked me about doing a song together, immediately I wanted to say yes, but I couldn't because what was about to unfold.

Why aren't you calling her right now?

I'm gonna have to do that. There was talk of me and Janet doing a song together on this particular project, but she was pregnant. But my people had talked about it: "Perhaps you and Jan should do a song together." But, hey, maybe me and Mariah. We were neighbors for a second, so I probably should've reached out to her then, but it's never too late. You're actually gonna spark me to maybe talk to her about doing a remix or something. That's actually a really good idea.

What advice would "Sex & Cigarettes" Toni have for the Toni of 25 years ago?

"Sex and Cigarettes" Toni would tell the Toni of 25 years ago to have more sex and smoke more cigars and have fun. And don't be afraid to be a bitch.

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

MOTOR CITY

JUNE 9-10, 2018
DETROIT

PRIDE



FESTIVAL AND PARADE

www.motorcitypride.org   #motorcitypride

PRESENTED BY



The Ark

where music lives

Friday, 5/11, 8 pm

Susan Werner

"Empress of the unexpected"
--NPR



Saturday, 5/3, 7:30 pm

Nellie McKay



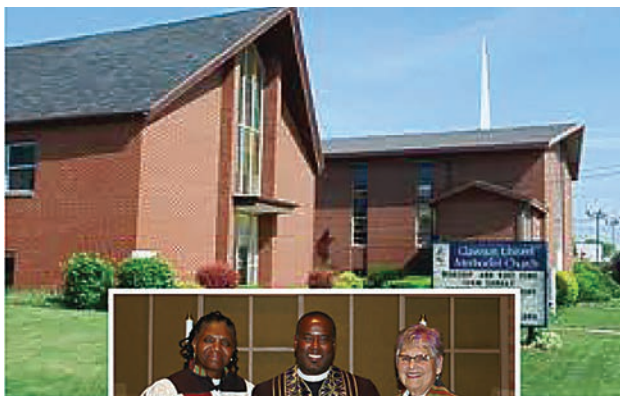
"I see an audit in her future"
-- Dick Cheney

Tickets at the Michigan
Union Ticket Office, The Ark
Box Office or theark.org.

734.763.TKTS

316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, MI

www.theark.org



MCC. Detroit

A Diverse, Inclusive Christian Church serving
the LGBTQ and Ally Community since 1972.

Join us for Sunday Worship and
Children's ministry at 11:30 am.
Now Handicapped Accessible!

New Location!
205 N Main St, Clawson, MI 48017
248-399-7741
www.mccdetroit.org

HAIM at the Fillmore

Now on their Sister Sister Sister tour, the trio that is HAIM is composed of siblings Este Haim, Danielle Haim and Alana Haim. The pop rock band has been performing since 2007 and has since been nominated for a Grammy Award, Brit Award and won several NME Awards. Now, the group is making a stop in Detroit to promote their latest album "Something to Tell You." The show is on Tuesday, May 8. Doors open at 7 p.m. and tickets start at \$35. More information can be found online at thefillmoredetroit.com. Photo courtesy of Chuffmedia.



Happenings

OUTINGS

Sunday, May 6

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups
6:30 to 8 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For parents of transgender kids, this group meets the 1st Sunday of each month at Hilltop Counseling 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. Repeating indefinitely. 313-909-5408. standwithtrans.org. hilltopcounseling.org.

Wednesday, May 9

Ferndale Pride Volunteer Meetings
Update 7 p.m. All meetings have been moved to the Geri Kulick Center, 1201 Livernois, Ferndale. Any questions, contact the event chair, Julia Music at julia@ferndalepride.com. One event on May 9, at

7 p.m. One event on May 23. 248-544-6767. ferndalemi.gov/services/kulick. ferndalepride.com.

Thursday, May 10

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce Merge & Mixer 6:30 p.m. Michigan Employee Resource Groups for Equality (MERGE) Monthly Networking Event. All are welcome to network. Hosted by: Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Check website for monthly location, RSVP is Required. An event every month on day Second of the month, repeating until Dec. 13, 2018. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646. info@detroitlgbtchamber.com. ferndalesoho.com. detroitlgbtchamber.com.

Stand with Trans Support Groups 7 p.m. 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 Road, Farmington Hills. Repeating indefinitely. Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620. oaklandumc.org. standwithtrans.org.

Live Band Karaoke at Dino's for Ferndale Pride 9:30 p.m. Another Ferndale Pride event happening at Dino's in Ferndale for Live Band Karaoke! Put on your musical shoes and come perform! Dino's Restaurant, 22740 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-591-3466. julia@ferndalepride.com. dinoslounge.com.

Saturday, May 12

13th Annual Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit Mutt Strut! 8 a.m. The 5K run and 2.2 mile walk is Metro Detroit's only springtime pet to friendly run and walk! The Mutt Strut welcomes families and individuals of all skill levels for the run and walk along Dearborn's Gateway Dearborn's Gateway Trail, 22051 Cherry Hill St., Dearborn. events@metrodetroitanimals.org. famdmuttstrut.org.

Monday, May 14

Stand with Trans Support Groups 6:30 p.m. Macomb Teen/Youth Support Group Event Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. Come and meet other trans youth and teens and support each other through your journeys. We meet the 2nd of every month, repeating indefinitely. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700. chippewavalleyvalleyschools.org.

Saturday, May 19

Spring Fling Dance - Women Out And About 7 p.m. DJ Carol, BYOB, Private Dance Party at the Dance Scene. FREE Parking, Free Leis, and more! \$15 Advance, \$20 at the door. the dance scene, 25333 van dyke, centerline. 248-943-2411 womenoutandabout.net.

Soho's 5th Annual Hot Daddies Contest 8:00 p.m. Another great Ferndale Pride event happening at Soho! Come one, come all ...

Editor's Pick

MIPSO at The Ark

In a performance that'll be just over a month after the release of their fourth album, "Edges Run," the North Carolina-based band MIPSO will make its way to Ann Arbor's The Ark. The folk band will be playing on Tuesday, May 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 and more information can be found at theark.org. Photo courtesy of LiveLoud Media.



Editor's Pick

Michigan Princess Provides Chocolate, Wine and Music

Blend artisan chocolate, wine pairings, the music of Donny Brown and a boat ride and it'll be an afternoon that'll appeal to most. Lansing's Michigan Princess ferry is hosting just such an event and invites guests to bring their appetites and an ear for music. The event is Sunday, May 6 from 2 to 5 p.m. and is located at 3004 W. Main St., Lansing. Ticket information can be found at michiganprincess.com.



THEATER

Harmony Park by Daniel Damiano 8:30 p.m. Set on the construction site of a soon-to-be public park in Queens, NY, the friendship between a black foreman and a younger white landscaper is tested when a newly hired crew member's past is revealed. An event every week that begins at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, repeating until May 19. An event every week that begins at 3 p.m. on Saturday, repeating until May 19. Also, weekly events are held at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, repeating until May 20, 2018, repeating until May 20, 2018 Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 313-868-1347. DetRepTh@aol.com. detroitreptheatre.com.

A2CT Workshop: Physical Characterization 1 p.m. Participants in this workshop will explore finding a character, and creating postures, gait, and gestures for that characterization. Technique exercises will be combined with structured improvisations to eliminate the self and find the other. A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org.

A2CT Jr. Theatre Presents: Elephant and Piggie's We are in a Play! 7:30 pm An elephant named Gerald and a pig named Piggie are best, best, "bestus" (a word Gerald and Piggie made up that means "very best") friends, but Gerald worries that something could go wrong that would One event on May 19 at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. One event on May 20 at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538. smtd.umich.edu. a2ct.org/junior-theatre/elephant-and-piggie.

MUSIC & MORE

Kygo at Masonic Temple 6:30 p.m. Norwegian born, Kygo, is slated to perform at Detroit's Masonic Temple. Today, Kygo has been nominated for over 30 music industry awards and has won 10. Detroit Masonic Temple, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., #100, Detroit. 800-854-2196. templedetroit.com.

Fort St. Chorale presents Mozart Requiem 3 p.m. The Fort St. Chorale and Chamber Orchestra present Mozart's beloved Requiem in Detroit's historic Fort St. Presbyterian Church, under the baton of renowned conductor Dr. Arianne Abela. Fort St. Presbyterian Church, 631 W. Fort St., Detroit. 313-961-4533. secretary@fortst.org.

Live Band Karaoke at Dino's for Ferndale Pride 9:30 p.m. Another Ferndale Pride event happening at Dino's in Ferndale for Live Band Karaoke! Put on your musical shoes and come perform! Dino's Restaurant, 22740 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-591-3466. julia@ferndalepride.com. dinoslounge.com. ferndalepride.com.

Mysterium 6 p.m. Following last year's sold to out inaugural event, Mysterium will feature DSO musicians performing in three unique settings for an exhilarating musical experience. Ticket includes three unique performances, hors d'oeuvres, signature drinks and an afterglow. Max M. Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5162. dso.org.

Ann Arbor Guitar Trio CD Release Concert 7:30 p.m. A new ensemble founded on the idea that more guitar is better, will release their debut CD, "Tides," at the Kerrytown Concert House. Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor. aneستمusic@gmail.com. kerrytownconcerthouse.com.

Spring Fling Dance - Women Out And About 7 p.m. DJ Carol, BYOB, Private Dance Party at the Dance Scene. FREE Parking, Free Leis, and more! \$15 Advance, \$20 at the door. the dance scene, 25333 van dyke, centerline. 248-943-2411. womenoutandabout.net.

Star Wars and the Power of Costume 10 a.m. Star Wars and the Power of Costume explores the challenges in dressing the Star Wars universe from the Galactic Senate and royalty to the Jedi, Sith and Droids™. Featuring more than 60 hand-crafted costumes from An event every week that begins at 10 a.m. on Sunday and Saturday, repeating until

September 30. An event every week that begins at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, repeating until September 27. An event every week that begins at 9 a.m. on Friday, repeating until September 28, 2018. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-833-7900. dia.org/starwarsattheDIA.

ART 'N' AROUND

Epiphany Studios Spring Show and Sale 4 p.m. Experience the art of glassblowing at the Epiphany Studios annual Spring Open Studio Friday, May 4 from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday, May 5/6 noon to 6 p.m. Epiphany studios, 770 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. 248-745-3786. epiphanyglass.com.

National Theatre Live in HD: Shakespeare's Julius Caesar 7 p.m. High definition broadcasts from National Theatre, London. Presented in partnership with the Michigan Theater. Nicholas Hytner's production thrusts the audience into the street party that greets Caesar's return, the congress that witnesses his murder and the rally. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. ums.org.

A2CT Workshop: Physical Characterization 1 p.m. Participants in this workshop will explore finding a character, and creating postures, gait and gestures for that characterization. Technique exercises will be combined with structured improvisations to eliminate the self and find the other. A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org.

DIGNITY DETROIT

A Catholic Faith Community of LGBTQ individuals, families and friends

Box 558 - Royal Oak, MI 48068 - (313) 278-4786
www.dignitydetroit.org

Bolero
LATIN
Tapas • Bar • Cuisine

LET'S DO BRUNCH!
BOLERO LATIN CUISINE TOUR

FABULOSO COCKTAILS • TAPAS • SANDWICHES • BENEDICTOS • ENTRADES

51 W Forest Ave, Detroit, Michigan 48201
Reservations: (313) 800-5059 <http://bolero-detroit.com>

Cuban Cuisine

SALSA LESSONS AND DANCE PARTY FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS AT 10:30 P.M.
LIVE LATIN JAZZ MUSIC WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS AT 6:30 P.M.

1250 Library St.
Detroit, MI 48226
313-962-8800
www.vicentesdetroit.com

10% OFF Valid, Sunday through Thursday, and Friday and Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm only. Not valid with any other coupons or discounts. One coupon per table. Expires 7/1/16.

THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!

BUY
ADULT DVD'S
STARTING AT
\$5.95

EVERY TUES & FRIDAY
NEW
RELEASE
DAY

ALL XXX
DVD RENTALS
AS LOW AS \$1.25
EVERY DAY!



UPTOWN SALE

20% OFF

ALL REGULAR PRICED
NOVELTIES, TOYS, LOTIONS
MAY 17 THROUGH MAY 20

UPTOWN SALE

\$10 OFF ANY \$50 PURCHASE
\$20 OFF ANY \$100 PURCHASE

REGULAR PRICED MERCH ONLY!
MAY 3-MAY 6, 2018



Rush - Jungle Juice Platinum - Maximum
Impact - Swiss Navy Lube Silicone -
Uninhibited 2-Ring Harness - Wii Vibe -
Lucid Dreams #14 - Dual Bunny Teaser -
Butterfly Kiss Pink - Titan Enlargment
System - The Exotic Water Garden Massager

**UPTOWN
BOOKSTORES
ADULT VIDEO**

2 LOCATIONS

Find us on
facebook

follow us on
twitter

16541 Woodward Ave.
at McNichols next to "Deja Vu"
Highland Park
313.869.9477

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

Hours:
Mon-Sat 9am - 10pm
Sun Noon - 8pm



Common
Language™



Puerto Rico Strong

An anthology of authors and graphic
artists response to the aftermath of
Maria.
Proceeds benefit Hurricane relief



**Marching Dykes, Liberated
Sluts, and Concerned Mothers:**

Women Transforming Public Space
Elizabeth Currans
Professor at EMU



Tomorrow Will Be Different:

Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality
Sarah McBride
A powerful memoir from the first open
transgender person to speak at a
national political convention

Most Books In Print available online at
www.glbttbooks.com



\aut\ BAR

Changing the world
one Cosmo at a time
since 1995

DJ Nicole Myint

Every Saturday
10pm - 2am

Trivia With Terry

Every Thursday
8pm
Ann Arbor's most entertaining
Trivia Night

Brunch

Amazing Mexican & American Brunch
Featuring the
Ugly Dog Bacon Bloody Mary

Saturday 11am - 3pm
Sunday 10am - 3pm

Follow us on



Common Language Bookstore

317 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 663-0036
www.glbttbooks.com

Like us on



\aut\ BAR

315 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 994-3677
www.autbar.com

How do you speak to the LGBT community?

Through the publications
they know and trust.



Representing the "best of the best" in LGBT media, with
over a million readers weekly in print and online.

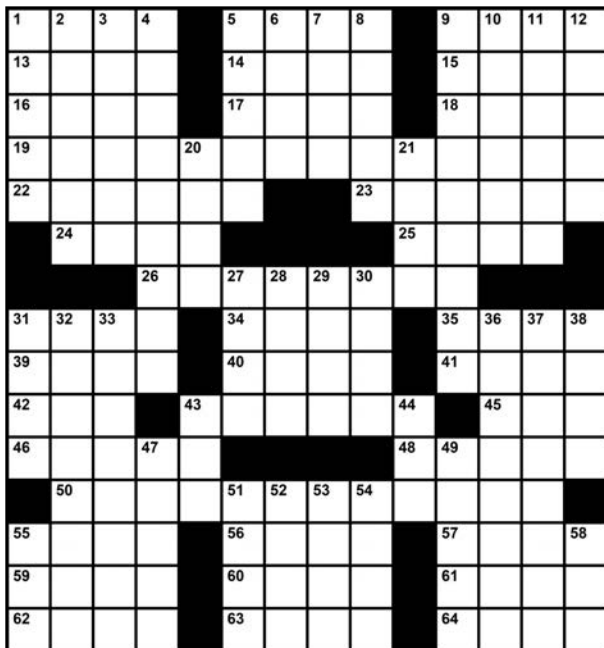
212-242-6863
info@nationallgbtmediaassociation.com
www.nationallgbtmediaassociation.com

f t ps

BAY AREA REPORTER | BAY WINDOWS | BTL | dallasvoice | Gay City

bade | pgn | SFGN | Voice | bade | WYNDY CITY TIMES

Atlanta | Boston | Chicago | Dallas/Ft Worth | Detroit | Los Angeles | Miami/Ft Lauderdale | New York | Orlando/Tampa Bay | Philadelphia | San Francisco | Washington DC



- 23 “ ___ Hai”
 24 Suffix with deposit
 25 “LA Law” lawyer
 30 Fag follower
 33 Cheers like an athletic supporter?
 34 Homeopathic plant
 35 Great service from Mauresmo
 36 Nathan of “The Producers”
 37 Place for non-breeder fertilization
 39 Old Italian coin
 40 Poet’s before
 41 Cry after getting the shaft
 42 “The Wild Bunch,” for one
 43 ‘60s radical org.
 44 The two characters in this puzzle shared this groundbreaking event
- 47 OR workers
 48 Riviera resort
 49 She played 25-Across
 55 Roo’s mom
 56 “Chloe” director Egoyan
 57 Queens do this
 59 Actor Merlin
 60 Peter Krause in “Six Feet Under”
 61 Makes tats
 62 Placed in position
 63 The A in GLARP (abbr.)
 64 Canadian oil company

Down

- 1 AARP members
 2 Part of a fruity drink
 3 Figure skater Rippon
 4 “ ___ my shorts!” (online taunt?)
 5 Tool for making tats
 6 Dessert that can cream in your mouth
 7 LSD, e.g.
 8 Coin for Kahlo
 9 How mail was once delivered
 10 Patrick of Vermont
 11 Disengage, as a bra hook
 12 Suffix with leather
 13 Road warning
 21 Breaks for Heather’s mommies
 22 Pairs for Nanette?
 25 Inspiring city for Van Gogh
 26 Come on a ship
 27 They’re crossed on a pirate’s flag
 28 Meat that gets stuck
 29 Suffix with project
 30 Cole Porter’s “Katie Went to ___”
 31 Eva Gabor’s green areas
 32 Engaging parts
 37 “One of ___ days ...”
 38 Us, to Rilke
 39 Place for Ohio ferries
 41 Experienced masturbator?
 42 Years ago
 45 Nongay bars
 46 Earhart’s male counterparts
 47 Janis Joplin’s “Me and Bobby ___”
 49 Neighbor of Senegal
 50 Kinsey’s org.
 51 Star Turner
 52 JFK predictions
 53 Women who don’t have sex with men
 54 Some lodge members
 55 Cold-cocks
 58 Anka’s “ ___ Beso”

Trendsetting Lips Q Puzzle

Across

- 1 Low-quality meat
 5 Biweekly tide
 9 Langston Hughes’ “The Weary ___”
 14 Disneyland feature
 15 Biblical trial word
 16 Title character for Barbra
 17 Zipper problem
 18 Larry Kramer and peers
 19 “Couldn’t get out of it”
 20 She played CJ Lamb on Stephen Bochco’s “LA Law”

MESSAGE FOR MEN

Safe-Discrete, good prices.
 Royal Oak Area. 15 yrs. Experience.

CALL LEE 248-548-6516

Shop The Rainbow



There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and welcome everyone.

Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan’s LGBTQ community!

THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT SAUGATUCK & DOUGLAS, MICHIGAN...
 that makes them two of the most gay friendly small towns in the country. LGBTQ tourists find something difficult to define but easy to recognize, like magic, it is everywhere you look.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND MAY 24-28

SUNDAY & MONDAY TEA DANCES!
 PERFECT 10 MEN

DJ PHIL B **DJ DOUG**
 CABARET:
 Hannaniah Whitley, Kelly Carey,
 Dunes Divas

POOL OPENING DAY!

SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN **DUNESRESORT.COM** 269.857.1401

5 Things to Do Before Giving Your Rocky Relationship the Kiss-Off

The Frivolist

BY MIKEY ROX

You can take the easy way out when the going gets tough in your relationship (and you should if you don't love your partner anymore), but there's plenty of value and payoff in sticking the hard times out and trying to make it work. How you do that is up to you – there's no right or wrong way – but these tips on putting the pieces of shattered partnership back together again are a great place to start.

1. Check yourself first

When we're not connecting with our partners in a positive way, it's easy to concentrate on their negative behavior – where they're falling short and letting you down (and annoying the hell out of you while they're at it) – instead of focusing on how we're contributing and perhaps affecting the situation with our own behavior.

“The trap within this mindset is that it focuses on what the other partner is doing or failing to do, but doesn't make the individual accountable to their own choices and behaviors,” explains Anna Osborn, a licensed marriage and family therapist in California. “Doing a gut check on how you as an individual are showing up in the relationship and being willing to admit it can have a profound positive impact on the relationship. Doing this can also help couples make communication safer by demonstrating that each person can admit their mistakes and work together to create change without it being held against them.”

2. Revisit what you value

Most couples consider calling it quits because their feelings for one another change, but what they don't realize is that feelings are supposed to change; none of us are the same at the beginning of a relationship as we are just a few years later. But common values, like affection, quality time, fiscal responsibility, and loyalty, are what hold a healthy relationship together, and when couples work together in pursuit of these values, they're more likely to re-experience positive feelings toward one another.

Clinical psychologist Dr. Jill Gross says, “When couples feel out-of-sorts, it's because either their values are changing and they aren't talking about it with each other – sometimes because they aren't aware of these changes themselves – and/or because they are not spending time consciously living their values.”

If this sounds like what's going on in your



rocky relationship, Dr. Gross recommends a few strategies:

- Find a list of values (this can easily be found online with a Google search, she says), sit down together to review and talk about the list while each of you circle his/her top five values.

- Of the top five values, identify one or two that you two have in common. Once these values are identified, brainstorm together something you can do together in service of these values. “For example,” says Dr. Gross, “if [you] both notice that affection is on the top of your values list, I encourage [you] to get creative about setting aside a regular, prescribed amount of time dedicated solely to the practice of giving and receiving affection.”

- If you find you have no common values in your respective top five lists, Dr. Gross encourages you to seek outside assistance (relationship coaching or couples counseling) to help you dig a little deeper for creative ways to pursue your common values together.

3. Make an appointment with a couple's therapist

Not all couples can fix their issues on their own – and there's absolutely no shame in that. An unbiased, highly trained third party mediator may be just what you need to make progress toward healing old wounds, especially if your attempts at home end up in arguments where nobody walked away

appreciating what the other was trying to express. For this to work, however, you both have to be willing to take your sessions seriously while recognizing how helpful therapy can be and how crucial it may be to your relationship's survival.

To make the most of your time and money (couple's therapy isn't a drop in the bucket financially), go in with open minds and listen to what each other is conveying during the sessions rather than assuming attack positions right off the bat. The latter won't accomplish anything except building more resentment at \$100-plus an hour.

4. Plan a getaway together

Whenever my boyfriend and I aren't seeing eye-to-eye (or just getting on each other's nerves on a more frequent basis than usual), I like to plan a getaway where we can forget about whatever's going on at home and work and spend a couple days reconnecting. Our fighting doesn't mean we don't love each other anymore – quite the opposite, in fact; our moments of heated passion mean we love each other enough to spar about whatever's driving us crazy about the other – and sometimes a few days unplugged and focused on our relationship help get us back on track.

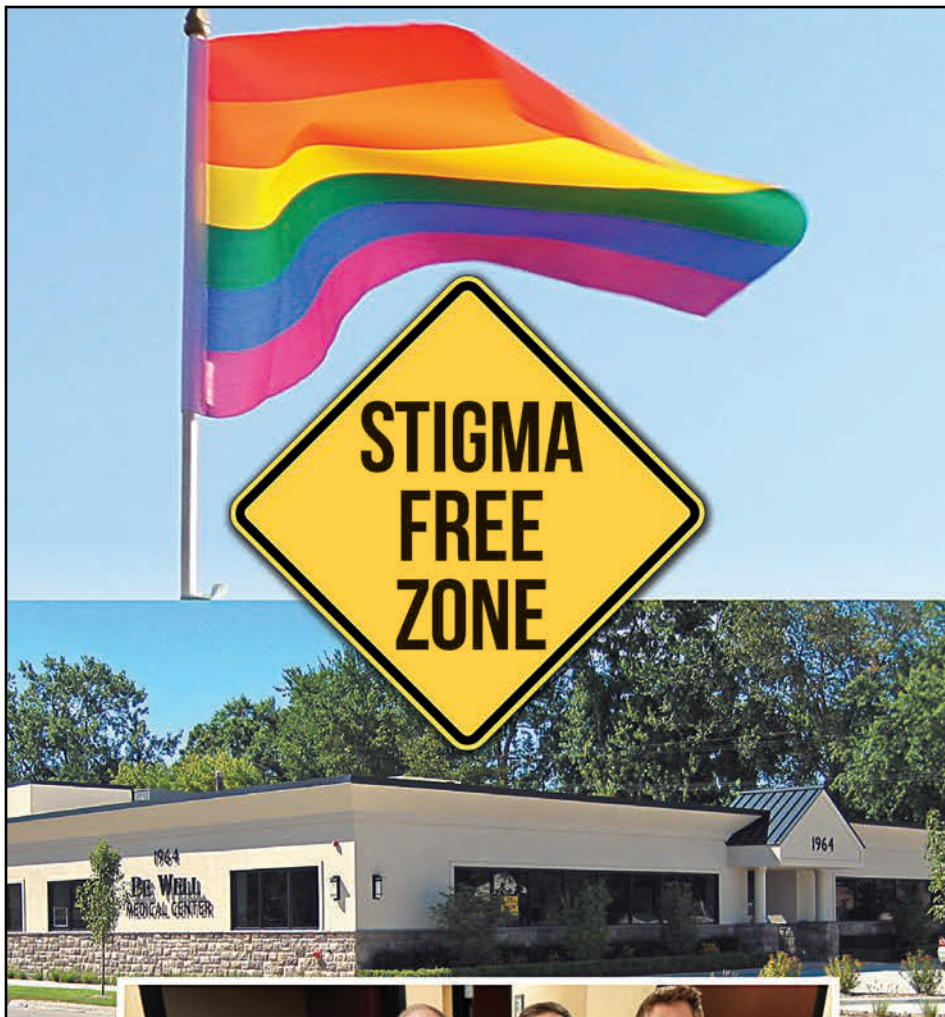
5. Stop talking, start listening

Many of us – gay men, especially – like to talk at instead of listen to our partners. We

think we're right about everything (seriously, what's that about?), but by and large, we're probably not (and a lot of times we know it), so why don't we give our partners an honest chance to tell us what they're feeling? The mending process will move along much faster if we just shut our mouths every now and again.

“Ask your partner what they need, and tell them what you need,” advises relationship expert David Bennett, who owns the relationship coaching company Double Trust Dating and Relationships with his twin brother. “Be honest and tell them they can be honest. In many cases, even couples who have been together for a long time have no idea what each person really needs to do to make things work. It could be as simple as listening more, offering to help out more around the house, or even giving the other person more alone time – which, by the way, research shows is very important to the health of a relationship. If neither partner can make an effort to work on meeting the needs, then it's time to break up. However, a couple may find saving the relationship doesn't take that much work.”

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 spends his time writing from the beach with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Twitter @mikeyrox.



Healthy Sexual Care

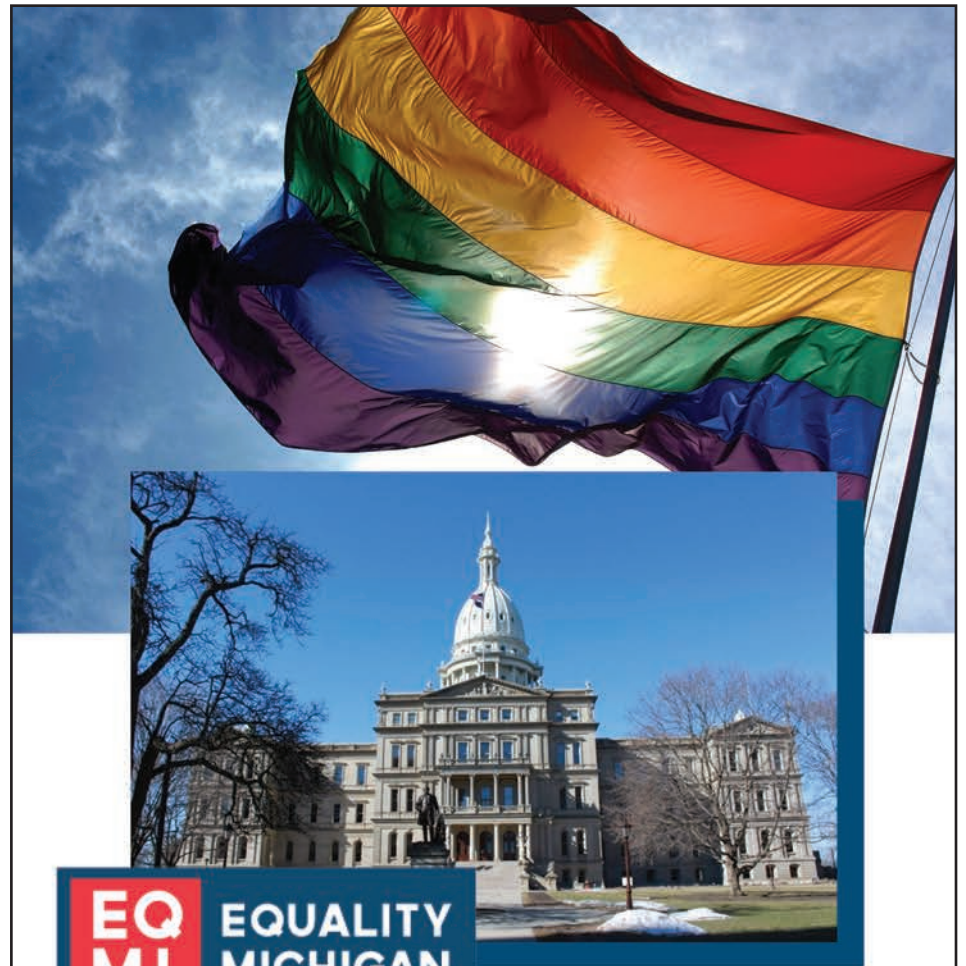
LGBTQ Primary Medical Care
 HIV Prevention (PrEP) • HIV Care & Clinical Trials
All Genders Welcome!

Dr. Benson's



1964 Eleven Mile Rd
 Berkley, MI 40872

(248) 544-9300
 doctorbewell.com



LOBBY DAY

Tuesday, May 15 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
#Born Perfect

We will meet at the Michigan Municipal League, 208 N. Capitol Ave., Training Room

To register or for more information contact Erin Knott:
 Eknott@equalitymi.org

A Project of Equality Michigan
 Michigan's Statewide LGBTQA Political Advocacy Organization

19641 W. Seven Mile Rd.
 Detroit, MI 48219
 313-537-7000
 www.equalitymi.org

Cool Cities Ferndale



Lisa Schmidt & Benjamin Long

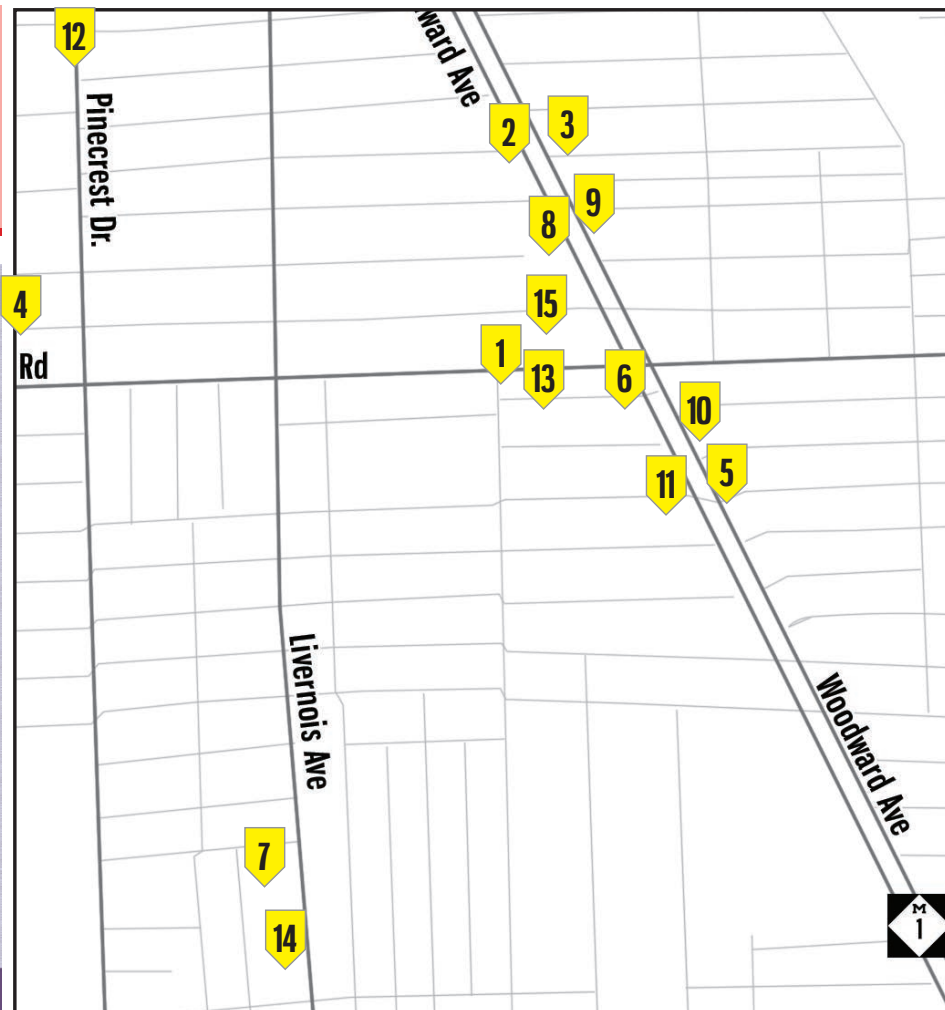
Because No Case is Typical, When It's Yours.



Family Law
Divorce Law
Estate Planning
Real Estate
LGBT Issues
Business Law

www.SchmidtLong.com

248-764-8584



FERNDALE AREA

ADVERTISERS

- Affirmations..... 1
 - Allstate / Nick Schrock 2
 - Automatic Collision 3
 - Chess Roofing..... 4
 - Crain Optical..... 15
 - Evergreen *
 - Ferndale DDA..... 6
 - Ferndale Hona *
 - Fido 7
 - Hodges 9
 - Level One Bank... 11
 - MCC Detroit..... 12
 - MedCart Pharmacy *
 - Mejishi Martial.... 13
 - Matrix (MAC) 14
 - Ringwald Theater 10
 - Schmidt & Long, PLLC *
 - Waterwork Plumbing *
- *Not shown on the map



On the go? No appointment needed.

Stop in for an oil change, tire rotation or other minor maintenance services – no need to schedule ahead of time! Our dedicated team of factory trained technicians will get you and your Subaru back on your way. Fast.

- ▶ Oil Change
- ▶ Tire Rotation
- ▶ Engine Air Filter Replacement
- ▶ Cabin Air Filter Replacement
- ▶ Wiper Blade Replacement
- ▶ Tire Pressure Adjustment
- ▶ Tire Tread Depth/Condition Check
- ▶ Fluid Top-Offs
- ▶ Light Bulb Replacement
- ▶ Battery Health Test



2018 Legacy 2.5i



HODGES SUBARU
Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

21205 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220
248.547.8800 • www.hodgessubaru.com
HOURS: TUES, WED, & FRIDAY SALES – 9 A.M.-6 P.M. SERVICE – 7:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.
MONDAY & THURS SALES – 9 A.M. - 8 P.M. SERVICE – 7:30 A.M. - 8 P.M.
SATURDAY SALES – 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. SERVICE – 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

"I travel a lot. When I found out the other overnight kennel down the street leaves the dogs alone at night, I immediately switched to Canine to Five!"

– Ferndale dog owner



WE'RE WITH YOUR DOG ALL NIGHT LONG!

Our talented staff spends the night to make sure your furry friend gets lots of attention (and belly rubs) while you're away.

caninetofive.com



THREE LOCATIONS: FERNDALE • MIDTOWN • NEW CENTER
Mention code BTL2018 for a 10% discount on your next boarding.



A Day of Performing and Creative Arts for Youth at Affirmations

When the Affirmations LGBTQ community center was founded in the late '80s it dedicated itself to providing a safe, supportive space for all members of the LGBTQ community, outlining a mission statement that highlights those goals:

"Affirmations provides a welcoming space where people of all sexual orientations, gender identities & expressions and cultures can find support and unconditional acceptance, and where they can learn, grow, socialize and feel safe!"

Today, the Ferndale-based space provides a variety of services for its members and especially LGBTQ youth. On Saturday, May 5, they will be hosting a "Just Like Art" event for their Youth Workforce.

The event's description outlined that youth can participate in, "acting, singing, performing and selling art pieces in the Recess Cafe for an afternoon of entertainment."

The event will begin at 2 p.m. and include spoken word performances, an ocarina concert, vocal performance and a variety of skits. The event will last until 6 p.m.

Popcorn, water and coffee will also be available for purchase.

For more information about the event and how to get involved, reach out to Ian Unger at iunger@goaffirmations.org or call 248-398-7105. Affirmations is located at 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. Its website is goaffirmations.org.

SheHive Makeup for Women Who Don't Like Makeup Event

Blush, highlighter, bronzer, lipstick, eyeshadow and mascara: those are only a few of the items that can go into a makeup look and they rarely come with directions. Especially in the age of makeup gurus flaunting perfectly done-up looks on social media, breaking into a set of bold new colors, or even doing a basic look can be intimidating. Ferndale's SheHive is a women's community center and is hosting a "Makeup for Women Who Don't Love Makeup" event.

"We'll get to the heart of makeup and skincare issues that many women struggle with," said the event website. "Our expert makeup artist, Cheryl Salinas-Tucker of ROUGE Makeup & Nail Studio, will explain the psychology behind why we get stuck in a beauty rut and what a fresh new look can do for your appearance and your confidence."

The "hands-on" class will teach students how



to maintain good skincare, match foundation and apply it, use makeup brushes and create a custom modern look. Students are encouraged to bring their own brushes but brushes will be available for purchase on the day of the event.

The event will be held on Saturday, May 19 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Tickets must be purchased ahead of time and range in cost from \$100 to \$125. SheHive is located at 2505 Hilton Road, Unit 107, Ferndale. More information about the event can be found online at gaybe.am/S2 or at theshehive.com.

PROUDLY PRESENTS

FERNDALE PRIDE 2018

SATURDAY
JUNE 2ND

MAIN STAGE	DJ DANCE STAGE	CHILDREN'S AREA
DIAMOND	MEDIA	
ENVIRONMENTAL	BLEACHERS	AUTOMOTIVE
GOLD		



Talk to a live expert about STDs

800 872 2437

The Michigan HIV/STD Hotline. Live Weekdays, 9 am - 5 pm.



Michigan's Statewide Resource For Sexual Health Information



Online Chat Now Available At WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG



Trained Operators Available Weekdays 9 AM - 5 PM

Free trainings and certifications for Hotline volunteers.

Resource hub for sexual health screenings, health insurance enrollment, housing, harm reduction programs and more.

Beyond the Hotline:

Opportunities for field experience for volunteers.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Web Series Takes Authentic Approach to Trans People of Color

BY JASON MICHAEL

A new web series is currently shooting its first season in Detroit. *Femme Queen Chronicles* seeks to tell the story of four trans women of color living in the Motor City. Created by activist Ahya Simone the show also features Trans Sistas of Color Executive Director Bre' Campbell, Cierra Burks and Paige Michaels.

"I play Chanel, an optimistic, witty, popular, and eccentric creative who is trying to find herself and her passion in her own way, however bizarre and mischievous her methods are; Paige is Erykah, the responsible, sarcastic and serious best friend who is mainly concerned with securing her coin. Cierra plays Shevon, a glamorous showgirl, sex worker and lively mother figure with all the tea and toys, who is saving up for the one thing that means the most to her besides her children. And Bre' is Amirah, an LGBT advocate and 'perfect' big sister that lives the perfect life with the perfect relationship – or so it seems on the surface."

The impetus for the show happened innocently and organically, Simone said, following a TSCOP meeting last year.

"At the end of the meeting, one of the girls shouted something like 'Girl, I'm hungry. What's the tea?'" Simone recalled. "We laughed in agreement and were worn out from this serious meeting about the work we were trying to achieve for the remainder of the year but we still wanted to hang out. So all seven of us trans women hopped in my car to go on an adventure to what ended up being Wendy's and then KFC. On the way there, we just started talking about our lives and [laughing] about trans related stuff. At one point I had to pull over because I was laughing so hard. Soon after, one of the girls mentioned that we needed our own show and we agreed and I went on from there."

Simone's vision for the show came together quickly.

"I want this series to be a bit of a reprieve from the inundation of tragic stories about trans people of color," she said. "I want to make fun of and subvert dominant narratives about trans women in media in a comedic but in authentic



Both Cierra Burks (left) and Bre' Campbell are part of the "Femme Queen Chronicles," an episodic web series that focuses on trans people of color.

way. It's a tribute to black trans women as multifaceted. I want *Femme Queen Chronicles* to broaden the scope of what it means to be a Detroiter and who gets to be one. Although the majority of stories surrounding Detroit focus mainly on cisgender and heterosexual people, *Femme Queen Chronicles* complicates those narratives to include Detroit queer and trans people of color.

The *Femme Queen Chronicles* is sponsored by the Detroit Narrative Agency and TSCOP. Simone was also awarded \$5,000 from the Knight Foundation.

"It's been a very interesting experience," Simone said. "I am a first time filmmaker so I don't have much to compare it to. However, it's been pretty smooth. Our team was really, really eager to be a part of the project and believed in it so it made filming very fun and easy going. Everyone was accountable and did their part."

Simone wanted to contain shooting within the city of Detroit but found that mission to be challenging.

"It was hard finding certain locations that would allow us to film with our particular story, mostly because of religious views and or simply not being interested," she said. "I remember going to over 10 liquor stores all over the city one day and was ultimately denied, ignored, or even sometimes rudely dismissed by the cashiers. Fortunately, we only had to shoot one scene outside of Detroit."

For one scene, Simone took to social media and invited the community to come out and be a part of filming.

"That was a long shoot but it went really cute," said Simone. "Everyone there looked good and took direction well. It was one of my favorite shoot days honestly. We took vogue breaks and cackled throughout the night. We have tons of cute bloopers."

While the Detroit Narrative Agency initially only sponsored one episode, Simone said there will be additional episodes, each lasting approximately 10-15 minutes.

"We just shot the pilot episode so far," she said. "However I know I want to complete a season so we'll possibly do about eight or so episodes total."

Simone hopes to premiere the series this summer on its website, fqchronicles.com.

"I didn't realize that this project was the spiritual process that I didn't know I needed in a time where felt so lost and unsure," said Simone. "I'm honestly surprised that I'm even doing film. I have to say thanks to Detroit Narrative Agency giving us the opportunity, I got the chance to try something new and I just went for it. I low-key was surprised at how this film took so much time and planning for just one episode. I am not the schedule type of girl by any stretch but luckily I had a great team who got me together. It was all a great learning experience."

City of Ferndale

THE CITY OF FERNDALE'S CED TEAM IS SEEKING:

A full-time Inspector I with a strong customer service mindset to perform code enforcement. Wage range: \$16.78 to \$18.50

THE CITY OF FERNDALE'S DPW TEAM IS SEEKING:

A full-time Project Manager. Current projects include: sidewalk replacement, road resurfacing, city landscaping, and others. Salary range: \$54,021 to \$67,464.

A full-time Administration Manager to provide oversight of the front office and handle data management for the department. Salary range: \$54,021 to \$67,464.

A full-time Customer Service Representative III to handle resident inquiries and provide general administrative and clerical support including; payroll, accounts payable, and records. Wage range: \$19.59 to \$20.70.

Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, FSA, and Retirement Plans are available.

For a full list of qualifications and to apply, go to <https://www.ferndalemi.gov/jobs>

STD/HIV CLINIC

"The Risk is Not Knowing,
Know Your Status! Get Educated! Get Tested!"



Health
Department

Services Provided:

- Risk Assessment Counseling
- Free Condoms
- Rapid HIV Testing/Counseling



Testing and Treatment:

Confidential, Appointment Only, persons 12 and older

- Syphilis
- Gonorrhea/ Chlamydia
- Trichomoniasis
- Non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU)
- Prep Referrals
- HIV Linkage to Care Services
- Scabies
- Pubic lice
- HEPC
- Free Hep A Vaccinations (limited time)

"We take pride in taking care of our residents"

To schedule an appointment
CALL 586-465-9217 at the time listed below

Monday 10:00 a.m. | Tuesday 9:00 a.m. | Thursday 9:00 a.m.
Staff is available Monday-Friday to answer any questions

AFFIRMATIONS

LEAD >
INSTITUTE

LEADERSHIP EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Applications are NOW open!

The LEAD Institute is a **transformational leadership course** providing **education** and **networking opportunities**.

Program begins **May 18, 2018.**

Apply by **May 11th** at

www.goaffirmations.org/LEAD.

Presented in
collaboration with



Contact Becca Budde with
questions about the LEAD Institute.
bbudde@goaffirmations.org

290 W. Nine Mile | Ferndale | MI 48220 | 248-398-7105

#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

ALSO TESTING IN BARS, CLUBS AND
OTHER METRO AREA LOCATIONS

MONDAY

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-4:30PM
By Appointment

TUESDAY

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-7:30PM
Walk-In

WEDNESDAY

Affirmations
FERNDALE
5:30PM-8:30PM
Walk-In or Appointment
Mpowerment Detroit
MIDTOWN
11AM-7PM
Walk-In

THURSDAY

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-4:30PM
Walk-In

FRIDAY

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-5PM
Walk-In
STD Testing ONLY
Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Chlamydia, Hep C

SATURDAY

Mpowerment Detroit
MIDTOWN
3rd Saturday of each month
11AM-2PM
Walk-In

NO
SUNDAY
TESTING

Call 1.888.226.6366 to make an
appointment or for information.

1 (888) A CONDOM



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



Every voice matters

In 1975, AT&T made a commitment to the LGBT community to foster an inclusive workplace. Today we continue to keep that promise because we believe that when everyone works together to make a difference, innovation shines through.



*"At AT&T,
inclusion is at
the heart of
innovation."*

David Lewis
President of
AT&T Michigan



© 2018 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved. AT&T, the Globe logo and other marks are trademarks and service marks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies.

MOBILIZING
YOUR
WORLD™

