

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

# **BTM** <sup>25<sup>th</sup></sup> ANNIVERSARY **Between the Lines**

**'Ex-Gay' Therapy Bans,  
Anti-LGBT Adoption  
Bills Advance in States**

**Detroit Man Convicted  
in Shooting of  
Transgender Woman**



**Rachel Weisz's Quest  
for Queer Stories**

**Ain't No Shame in Her  
Game: Jenifer Lewis  
Comes to Detroit**



***MOTHER - DAUGHTER***

***Drag Team***

***NICKKI STEVENS' SECRET TO SUCCESS: HER MOM***



**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.

**Celebrating 38 Years in business!**

• Perennials – Flat of 18 \$39<sup>99</sup> 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!

**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



**LIVING WITH HIV? WE'RE HERE TO HELP.**

**(248) 266-5545 | MetroCareNetwork.org | (877) 931-3248**



**MetroCare Coordination Network, offering FREE comprehensive services to those living with HIV/AIDS**



# Join The Conversation @ PrideSource.com



## COVER

12 Mother-Daughter Drag Team, Photos: Miz Korona

## NEWS

- 4 'Ex-Gay' Therapy Bans, Anti-LGBT Adoption Bills Advance in States
- 5 N.H. Senate Approves Transgender Rights Bill
- 6 Detroit Man Convicted in Shooting of Transgender Woman
- 6 There's Nothing Wrong with Being a 'Super Late Bloomer'
- 10 Michigan Mayors against LGBTQ Discrimination in Focus
- 11 Volunteering Opportunities Available at Motor City Pride

## OPINION

- 8 Parting Glances
- 8 Mother's Day Viewpoint
- 9 Creep of the Week

## LIFE

- 12 Mother-Daughter Drag Duo
- 14 Rachel Weisz's Quest for Queer Stories
- 17 Ain't No Shame in Her Game
- 22 Happenings
- 26 Deep Inside Hollywood
- 33 Puzzle and Crossword

## COOL CITIES: ROYAL OAK/ BIRMINGHAM

- 20 Maria Bamford Plays Royal Oak Music Theatre, May 25
- 21 Royal Oak Holds Annual Mother's Day Flower Sale
- 21 Artist Kevin Tolman Debuts Nature-Based Art Exhibit

## THE MOVIES



## 14 Rachel Weisz's Quest for Queer Stories and Her Starring Role in 'Disobedience'

## VIEWPOINT



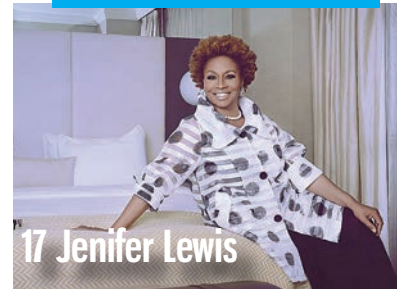
8 Mother's Day Viewpoint

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



- 28 Local Lesbian Publishing Company Rakes in Multiple Awards
- 28 MOCAD Hosts Naughty Drawing
- 28 Metro Detroit LGBTQ Bars
- 29 Wayne's World

## INTERVIEW



17 Jenifer Lewis

## VOLUNTEER



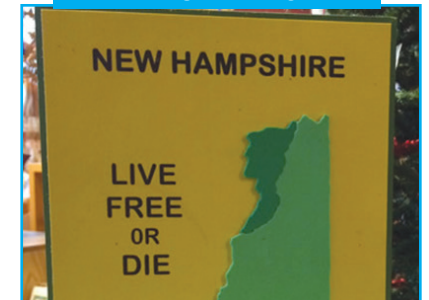
11 Volunteering Opportunities Available at Motor City Pride

## HAPPENINGS



22 Best of LGBTQ Events

## NATIONAL NEWS



VOL 2619 • MAY 10, 2018  
ISSUE 1066

### 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

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

### 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

# 'Ex-gay' Therapy Bans, Anti-LGBT Adoption Bills Advance in States

## NATIONAL NEWS

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

A host of LGBT-related bills are making their way to the desks of governors around the country and could have a major impact on LGBT Americans if signed into law.

Anti-LGBT bills that would enable taxpayer-funded adoption agencies to deny placement to LGBT homes over religious objections are heading toward passage in two states, but bans on widely discredited “ex-gay” conversion therapy are moving forward elsewhere and one state is considering a transgender non-discrimination bill.

Two states that are on the cusp of enacting anti-LGBT adoption bills are Oklahoma and Kansas:

In Oklahoma, both chambers of the legislature passed versions of anti-LGBT adoption bills that are set for consideration in conference committee before final approval and transmission to Gov. Mary Fallin.

In Kansas, the Senate attached the bill to House Bill 2481, a non-LGBT related bill approved by the House. The House refused to concur with the amended bill, so the bill was sent to conference. The measure could be dropped or included in the final package in conference committee, but there’s also a renewed effort to convince the House to accept the amended bill.

Cathryn Oakley, state legislative director for the Human Rights Campaign, said passage of the bills would place at risk not just LGBT people seeking to adopt a child, but other potential parents to whom adoption agencies may have objections, such as single mothers, interracial couples or couples where one parent has been divorced.

“These bills would really artificially limit the pool of prospective parents who are able to adopt,” Oakley said. “Given that there are all these children who need adopting, and there are all of these LGBTQ adults who are interested in adoption, it seems really counter-intuitive to allow for a government agency to refuse to interact with different kinds of parents for no reason other than to allow them to discriminate.”

Oakley added the bills are also constitutionally suspect because states have obligations under the Establishment Clause and the Equal Protection Clause to treat families equally under the law and “not to be privileging some religious beliefs for other religious beliefs.”

“They don’t get to delegate those responsibilities away when they contract with an agency, so these agencies are doing the state’s work on taxpayer dollars, they also then inherit those obligations to treat people equally under the law,” Oakley said.



Anti-LGBT adoption bills and bans on “ex-gay” therapy are moving through state legislatures (Photo by Ted Eytan; courtesy Flickr)

Joining LGBT groups in opposition to the bills are child welfare organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Child Welfare League of America and the North American Council on Adoptable Children.

One letter signed by these groups says the Oklahoma bill would result in harm by “excluding any single class of potentially qualified parents (such as LGBTQ people)” from the pool of potential parents.

Supporters of the bills are organizations supporting Catholic adoption agencies – such as Catholic Charities, the Catholic Conference of Oklahoma and the Kansas Catholic Conference – who say these agencies will have to shut their doors if forced to place children into LGBT homes.

Another anti-LGBT adoption bill also advanced to the floor of the Senate this week in Colorado. However, the Republican-majority chamber rejected the legislation, Senate Bill 241, by a 16-19 vote thanks to a united Democratic caucus and two Republicans who broke with their party on the legislation.

Daniel Ramos, executive director of One Colorado, said in a statement the defeat of the anti-LGBT adoption bill was a win for his state.

“This was another installment in a series of horrific bills we have seen this session that would take Colorado backwards in the areas of LGBTQ equality, and its defeat today is a victory for the people of Colorado,” Ramos said.

As these anti-LGBT adoption bills are considered, other measures seeking to ban widely discredited therapy aimed at changing an individual’s sexual orientation or gender

identity are also advancing:

In Hawaii, the state legislature this week sent to Gov. David Ige a measure, Senate Bill 270, that would prohibit subjecting LGBT youth to the practice. In Maryland, the legislature sent a similar measure, Senate Bill 1028, to Gov. Larry Hogan, who’s indicated he’d sign the measure.

In New Hampshire, the Senate last month voted to approve House Bill 587, which would seek to ban “ex-gay” therapy for youth. The House already passed a version of the legislation, which is now pending before conference committee.

In California, Assembly Bill 2943 is now pending before the Senate after the Assembly approved the measure. California has already banned conversion therapy for youth. The bill would take things a step further and generally classify the practice as fraud.

The practice of therapy aimed at changing an individual’s sexual orientation or transgender status is considered ineffectual at best and harmful at worst. Major medical and psychological institutions, including the American Psychological Association, the World Health Organization, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, widely reject conversion therapy.

Oakley said those proposals are “really important” because they’re affirmation that nothing is wrong with being an LGBT person.

“What they’re really saying out loud is that we understand LGBTQ people are who they are, they’re not broken, they can’t be cured, there’s nothing to be fixed, you are who you are and [we acknowledge] that no major

medical health group believes conversion therapy is legitimate or healthy,” Oakley said.

According to a recent report at the Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, an estimated 698,000 adults in the United States have undergone conversion therapy. That includes 350,000 adults who underwent the practice as teenagers. The report estimated 20,000 LGBT youth will undergo the practice before the age of 18 in the 41 states that at the time of the report didn’t ban the practice.

Another pro-LGBT bill was set for consideration in the New Hampshire Senate on Wednesday that would add a prohibition on anti-trans discrimination to the state’s non-discrimination law. The New Hampshire House already passed the bill, House Bill, 1319 in March with a bipartisan 195-129 vote. (The Senate vote was set to take place after Blade deadline for this article.)

New Hampshire is one of three states – along with New York and Wisconsin – where the law bans anti-gay discrimination, but not anti-trans discrimination, although New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order expanding state law to cover transgender people.

A New Hampshire Senate committee reported out the legislation with a “do not recommend vote. A similar version of the legislation was voted down in the Senate last week after opponents stoked fears about bathroom access for transgender people.

On the eve of the floor vote, Oakley nonetheless said she’s “very hopeful” the chamber will approve the bill. New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu is expected to sign the measure.

“New Hampshire is the Live Free or Die State, and what could more live free or die than non-discrimination bills, making sure that people are able to be who they are?” Oakley said.

If the anti-LGBT adoption bills in Kansas and Oklahoma are rejected, it would mean no anti-LGBT bills in any state would have become law in 2018.

Oakley said movement in state legislatures of the pro-LGBT bans on conversion therapy and the prohibition on anti-trans discrimination while fewer anti-LGBT bills make progress is a positive sign.

“State legislatures are at historic levels of Republican control, so it’s important to say that this is happening all at the same time that we’re looking at increased Republican leadership in the states,” Oakley said.

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



Anti-LGBT adoption bills and bans on "ex-gay" therapy are moving through state legislatures (Photo by Ted Eytan; courtesy Flickr)

## N.H. Senate Approves Transgender Rights Bill

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

The New Hampshire Senate on Wednesday by a 14-10 vote margin approved a bill that would add gender identity to the state's nondiscrimination law.

State Sen. Bette Lasky (D-Nashua) described House Bill 1319 as "a common sense New Hampshire bill." State Sen. Dan Innis (R-New Castle), who is openly gay, is among the other senators who also spoke in support of the measure before the vote.

"Anti-transgender discrimination is wrong," said Innis.

Sexual orientation has been included in New Hampshire's statewide nondiscrimination law since 1998.

The state Senate in 2009 rejected a bill that would have added gender identity to the statute. New Hampshire remains the only New England state without transgender-specific protections in its statewide nondiscrimination law.

"New Hampshire has recognized that transgender people should have the same rights as everyone else," Gerri Cannon, a trans rights advocate who is a member of the Somersworth School Board, told the Washington Blade after Wednesday's vote. "Our Transgender residents and visitors can now feel safe in New Hampshire. Our voices have finally been heard."

Linds Jakows, campaign manager of Freedom New Hampshire, which advocated

for HB 1319, in a statement said "New Hampshire lawmakers showed tremendous leadership in support of the transgender community and their loved ones."

"This law will go a long way to affirm the dignity of transgender Granite Staters and allow them to truly live free," added Jakows.

Janson Wu, executive director of GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders, which is based in Boston, agreed.

"Today, the New Hampshire Senate voted to affirm the dignity and humanity of transgender Granite Staters, and to ensure they have an equal opportunity to live and work free from discrimination," said Wu.

The New Hampshire House of Representatives in March approved HB 1319, which gay state Rep. Ed Butler (D-Hart's Location) introduced.

More than 50 Republicans voted for HB 1319. A spokesperson for Republican Gov. Chris Sununu on Wednesday said he plans to sign the bill.

"In a national landscape where transgender people are too often attacked for who they are, New Hampshire is a shining example for other states across the country," said Jakows. "We look forward to the day Governor Sununu seals New Hampshire's motto of Live Free or Die with his signature."

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



### 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!



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](http://cabaret313.org)

## C A B A R E T

# 313

ACT FAST! LIMITED AVAILABILITY.

## Detroit Man Convicted in Shooting of Transgender Woman

BY BTL STAFF

A Wayne County jury has convicted a 21-year-old Detroit man who was charged in connection with the shooting of a 36-year-old transgender woman last winter.

On Tuesday morning, the jury found Charles Brown guilty of assault with intent to murder, armed robbery, felony firearm and other charges.



Brown will be sentenced on May 22 in front of Judge Vonda Evans.

With regard to Charles Brown's conviction, Fair Michigan President Dana Nessel said, "We are thankful to Judge Roberson and the jury for their swift and fair conviction of the defendant for his horrific crimes. For too many years, the LGBTQ community has been the target of criminal activity, and too often justice has been denied. By convicting criminals like Charles Brown, the Fair Michigan Justice Project provides a means to change this pattern. We are proud to be an LGBTQ community resource in the fight against violent crime."

In the early morning hours of Nov. 17, Chocolate was robbed and shot near Palmer Park. The victim was walking on Woodward Avenue near Worcester Street when an SUV, a red GMC Yukon, pulled up alongside her.

Suddenly, two men stepped out of the vehicle while a third remained inside. According to the victim's statement and video footage conveniently captured by Project Green Light cameras, the men, later identified as Jajuan Alexon Williams, 19, and Charles Marion Brown, 21, demanded "Chocolate" throw her belongings down and run away. While she was running, Brown opened fire on her with a rifle. She was shot four times in the back and arm.

Read more of this story on [pridesource.com](http://pridesource.com).

*In the early morning hours of Nov. 17, Chocolate was robbed and shot near Palmer Park. The victim was walking on Woodward Avenue near Worcester Street when an SUV, a red GMC Yukon, pulled up alongside her.*

*Suddenly, two men stepped out of the vehicle while a third remained inside. ... While she was running, Brown opened fire on her with a rifle. She was shot four times in the back and arm.*

Find news and entertainment features online @  
>> [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)



Author of "Super Late Bloomer," Julia Kaye

BY DAVID RYALS

Though many choose to keep a written diary as a way to cope with troubles, author Julia Kaye did so in a more art-inspired way: through comic strips. What started as a personal project of daily, stress-releasing three-frame comics, turned into a full book format. Each page is essentially a daily reflection that helped Kaye through her 2016 transition. The book, released in May of this year, examines all the various ups and downs of transitioning and how some days can feel much better than others.

Between The Lines reached out to Kaye before the book's release to talk about her struggles in writing the book, its public reception and about new projects in the works.

**What made you realize you were a cartoonist and how did the subject of "Super Late Bloomer" choose you?**

Comics have always been a part of my life in one way or another – from reading newspaper strips growing up to web/indie comics as a teen and beyond. I tried my hand at a lot of areas of the visual arts over the years but I always gravitated

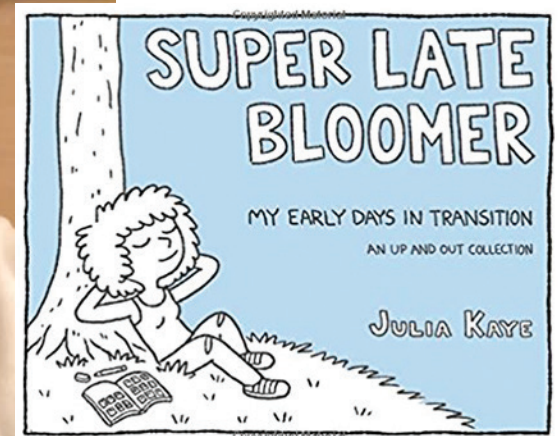
right back to it. I started spending all my off-hours from work writing and drawing, I had the bug and felt a powerful need to make my own. In my mid-20s I started and eventually became known for an absurdist humor webcomic called "Up and Out".

Meanwhile, around 2015 or so, my gender dysphoria had steadily gotten worse to the point where I couldn't ignore it any longer, leading me to finally start down the path toward self-acceptance – and transitioning. Early on in transition I found myself facing new, mentally-taxing situations daily and desperately needed a way to help process all of the complex emotions that come with living with gender dysphoria. I didn't know any other trans people at the time – which was incredibly isolating – I found there was just so much to transitioning that was difficult to explain and relate to the cisgender people in my life. There was a very real gap in their understanding.

So, alongside seeing a therapist, I turned to making journal comics. A little daily project just for myself, my only goal to be as honest with myself as possible – which was a very new thing for me then! And so it all just sort of came together over time.

**How was the creation process for "Super Late Bloomer?" Has making this book made you want to continue drawing comics?**

The whole process was very therapeutic and relaxing. At the end of each day I would step away from the distractions of technology and life to reflect on the events of the day and how they affected me emotionally. I limited myself to three panels because I didn't want it to be stressful, just a quick 'n easy little mental check-in. It all happened very naturally. The biggest difficulty I faced being the days where there was just too



much for one comic, but I tried my best to choose what felt most important. Being so vulnerable and opening up publicly has been an amazing experience. I definitely will moving forward.

**What has the reception been to the book so far? And how have you felt about it after its completion and release?**

The reception has blown me away. Queer people of all ages write to me telling me how they've come to understand themselves better through reading it, or were inspired to come out in their own lives from it. Cisgender allies excitedly tell me how helpful it's been to understand gender dysphoria. A few have even confided that they were unknowingly transphobic before reading my work and have since become allies. It's incredible! I'm so happy to have been able to have made such a positive impact.

**What are your future plans for making comics? Are there any projects you have coming up that you would like to divulge?**

I've got some ideas for moving forward but it's still much too early to talk about them. Gonna keep my little baby ideas close to the chest for now!

# ANNOUNCING

## GianClair

MEDICAL SPA

AT PARTRIDGE CREEK OBGYN

**Love**  
without  
discomfort

**Laugh**  
without fear of  
embarrassment

**Live**  
reclaim your  
body with vaginal  
rejuvenation



### FemTouch™

**Now offering Vaginal  
rejuvenation treatments.**

Fast, efficient and safe vaginal laser  
procedure for women's health.  
Call today and schedule your treatment.

**586-247-8609**



**Center:** Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOG

**Left:** Teresa C. Kuz, MSN, WHNP-BC

Marcie S. Mullins, MSN, CNM

Angela V. Viviano, MSN, FNP-BC

**Right:** Tanya M. Vaughn, DNP, CNM, FNP-BC

Beth K. Mutch, MSN, FNP-BC

Corinne Sakyi, MSN, CNM, WHNP-BC

(Not pictured: Hina Javaid, MD)

19991 Hall Road, Suite 105  
Macomb, MI 48044

partridgecreekobgyn.com

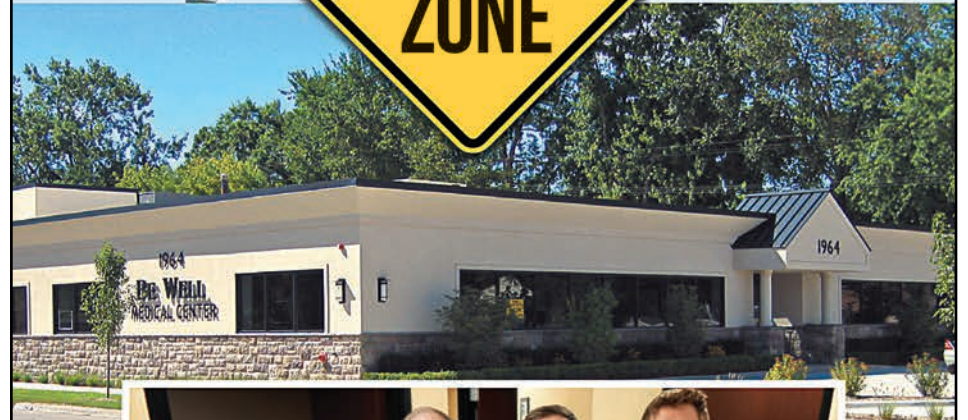


## Town & Country Garage Door, LLC



**Same Day Service 7 Days a Week!**  
**Free Estimates On New Garage Doors**

**YOUR SATISFACTION IS OUR TOP PRIORITY!**  
1991 ORCHARD LAKE RD, SYLVAN LAKE, MI 48320  
**TOWNANDCOUNTRYDOOR.NET • 248-213-7882**



## Healthy Sexual Care

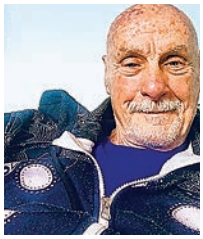
LGBTQ Primary Medical Care  
HIV Prevention (PrEP) • HIV Care & Clinical Trials  
**All Genders Welcome!**

Dr. Benson's

**Be  
Well**  
Medical Center

1964 Eleven Mile Rd  
Berkley, MI 40872

(248) 544-9300  
doctorbewell.com



# The Best of Sister Scatterpin (1 of 3)

## Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

No matter the time or the weather, there's something emotionally tingling about the cellphone vibrations whenever Sr. Serena Scatterpin, Renegade Sisters of Mary, rings me up.

I'm spiritually goosed, as it were, from head to toe – which is a Godsend, because at my age there's not much left to goose at either end (or middle).

"Is that a cellphone in your pocket, dear boy?" giggles Sister. "Or, are you glad to hear me? Guess what? I'm in Palm Springs, Californication! It's 80 degrees pool-side. My third gin and tonic. Yes, with a cucumber. Are you having a blessed day?"

Actually at minus-17 degrees, wind chill factor 32, shivering at a Royal Oak bus stop at sunset with my walker and a cup of Starbucks' decaf coffee, I'm not having a blessed much of anything – with or without cucumber.

But, as I haven't heard from Our Lady of Spiritual Matched

London Luggage in a while, I am, I suppose, delighted.

"Speak slowly, Sr. Scatterpin. You're slurring your words."

Nota bene: As a fashion consultant to the rich and fabulous among the

post-Vatican Recovering Catholic vocation set, Sr. Scatterpin's much in demand. And, what can you expect? She travels a lot. Fortunately her now-and-then companion Fr. Manley Evergrope, S.J., has oodles of airline travel miles and beaucoup credit cards – but, pending an upcoming parish audit, dear readers, that's strictly on the QT.

"I hope you're dressed warm, dearie," adds Sister, accenting her long-distance admonition with a shake-shake and a clink-clink of ice cubes – the sound makes me shiver.

"Scarf. Mittens. DKNY thermals. You shouldn't be out cruising at your age. It's dead of winter where you are. Father Evergrope says to say 'hi,'" she says. "He's getting brown as a berry. Clothes optional suits him just fine. No big thing – and I mean that literally and figuratively. Tee-hee."

"Sister, you pick the damndest times to buzz me up. It's snowing and sleeting like crazy. Frankly, I couldn't care less about Father's ring-around-the-collar tan line," I respond. "And before you ask: I don't know the name of the leather bar in Palm Springs. Tell Father to call the Better Business Bureau. What?"

"No. No. Dear boy. We're not doing bar ministry this go-around. Strictly pool-side genuflecting. But I've just had an inspiration. It's as though the heavens parted and a 120-watt Dove of big, bright ideas descended." In the background I hear, "Yes, waiter, I'll have another. Don't forget the cucumber."

"Where was I? Ah, yes. Are you ready for the moment of truth?"

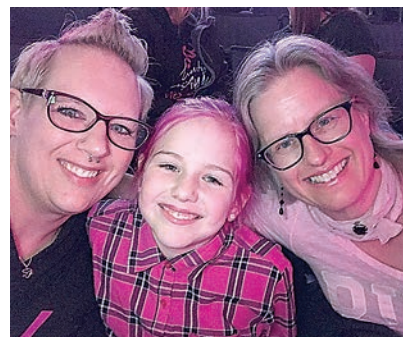
"Ready as a hot New York minute," I lie, an icicle forming drip by drip at the edge of my red, white and blue nose. "I'm all ears."

I feign enthusiasm and wish I hadn't left my rainbow earmuffs at home.

See next page



"ARE YOU STILL HERE? WELL, SCRAM! THE NEW WHITE HOUSE FAITH AND OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVE NEEDS THE SPACE TO STORE ITS USED TONER CARTRIDGES."



Dana Chase, right, with family

BY DANA CHASE

In March, Rachael and I took her 9-year-old daughter Sophie to see Pink perform in her Beautiful Trauma world tour in Grand Rapids. We bought the tickets way back before Christmas and had been counting the days. Rachael dyed Sophie's hair a gorgeous, shocking shade of hot pink and tied it in a ponytail of tight ringlet curls. I wore a crazy outfit I found at the thrift store hours before: a Victoria's Secret PINK T-shirt and a sheer skirt that I purposefully shredded a bit and paired with black hot pants, fishnets and boots.

My mother lives in Grand Rapids, and given that I don't head in that direction often, and that she has only met Rachael in person once, I figured it would be a good idea to try to eat dinner with her before the concert. I called my mom the afternoon before the concert and she agreed to have me pick her up after her naptime. When I arrived, it was close to 6 p.m., and I told my mom that we didn't have much time so we would be grabbing a quick sandwich at Subway. Her response was "Well, with you dressed like that, it's a good thing we're not going to a sit-down place." I took that jab in stride. I'm used to it, and, truth be told, a part of me gets off on shocking her.

Since she had just woken up, she claimed that she was

too befuddled and too exhausted from the night before to head out to dinner with me and my "friends." After all, she had been up until way past her bedtime with my brother's daughter attending a concert starring my other brother's three boys – did I mention she failed to even acknowledge my son's 18th birthday last week?

I excused her but asked if she still wanted me to pick up a sandwich for her. Old women living on their own often don't eat well, as I should know since I care for many of them in my job as a home help care provider. She said please.

In line at Subway, I hemmed and hawed to Rachael because a part of me still wanted to have a chance to visit with my mom rather than blow through and drop off a sandwich. Inside I waged a battle. I wanted my mom to meet Rachael and adorable little Sophie, even more so because she had snarled on the phone to me that she hates it when little girls dye their hair bright colors. I wanted to throw all of it in her face. Instead of just showing up, though, I called her and asked if it would be OK if we ate with her. She said no; she was already in her pajamas and was in no state to meet my "friends." She said I had sprung these plans on her and that she was in no way ready for us.

See next page



## ► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 8

I swallowed hard. Ordered my mom's sandwich and mine, sat in the booth at Subway and ate with Rachael and Sophie. Then, we drove back over to my mom's to drop off her dinner. I composed what I wanted to say to her in my head.

"Meals on Wheels is here Mom. Enjoy ...."

She engaged me in some light conversation, but I couldn't let her subtle dismissal of me and my life drop. When I saw her I said calmly, slowly, "Mom, her name is Rachael. You can call her Rachael, or you can call her my partner, but, please, do not call her my friend."

Mom locked eyes with me and flatly stated "Stop that," followed with, "There are all kinds of lesbians in this condominium complex. Are you going to rub that in my face, too?"

I am so used to these kinds of exchanges with my mother that her insults don't even rattle me anymore.

Without raising my voice even a notch, I replied, "Mom, this is the label I use to address Rachael. I don't have a romantic or sexual relationship with her but that doesn't make her any less of a partner. She lives with me, she loves me, she is family to me. I wanted you to see us all tonight, especially Sophie since I'm so proud of her. I'm sorry you aren't taking me up on this opportunity."

"Dana, this thing you do, this poly-

**Mom locked eyes with me and flatly stated "Stop that," followed with, "There are all kinds of lesbians in this condominium complex. Are you going to rub that in my face, too?"**

## ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 8

"What's the voice crying in the wilderness of high fashion chanting this time?"

"Well – Father Evergrope, leave the poor boy alone! If you like him that much, tip him 40 percent," she yells. "And for sake of all the hallowed saints, turn over on your tonsured tum-tum! OK, Are you ready? February is Black History month. March is Women's History Month. June is Gay Pride Month. What's missing?"

"I don't know, Sister," I say. My brain's frozen solid. I can hardly move. If a bus doesn't come soon, I'll be too frozen to thaw out. "Missing?"

amory, it's so hard," she says. "I try to tell my friends about it and they look at me like I'm crazy."

"I'm sorry this is difficult for you, but I am not going to change," I say. "This is who I am."

I turned to leave, and she tells me to enjoy the show and that I looked pretty sexy in my outfit. Suddenly, a bit shamed, because even my armor has chinks in it, I quipped as I clicked away on my boots, "I don't always dress this way, but this is a very special occasion."

The concert was magical. Fire and glitter, aerial feats, wild dancing. We had amazing seats, not too far from stage. At one moment – forever frozen in memory – Pink spied Sophie in the audience. She waved to her and pumped her arm in the same way Sophie was pumping hers. Priceless. The next song, dedicated to Pink's daughter Willow – "Perfect."

This was Sophie's first concert, and I don't think that as her parents Rachael and I and her fathers could have given her a better Christmas present than a new dress, radical hair, a powerful performance and a personal acknowledgment from Pink. We are raising a daughter to be and to love herself. I hope that I never treat my children the way my mom treated me last night, but I can think of no better therapy than hearing Pink belt out her songs of empowerment while I dance alongside my partner and our daughter.

We are fucking perfect, Mom. Get over it.

*Dana Chase grew up in Grand Rapids and holds a Ph.D. in French and Romance Philology from Columbia University. She works part time at a local coffee shop in addition to running a very busy household. Actively putting a face to polyamory for close to a decade, Dana has appeared at conferences, spoken to college classes and church groups, served on professional boards, and even held a feature spot on the evening news. She hopes to one day publish a memoir of her colorful polyamorous journey.*

"This'll warm the cockles of your barely warm-blooded heart! Let's declare May Recovering Catholics Month," she exclaims. "If enough of us stand up tall and be counted, spring will really, truly, honestly, be on its way."

"Sister: It can't come soon enough," I say through chattering teeth. "Brrrrrrrr."

*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.*

# Creep of the Week

## Robert Oscar Lopez

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Hey gentlemen, if you're a Gay and want to become a Heterosexual, you can do it today in 10 easy steps with this one weird trick called self-hatred and denial! Well, that's two weird tricks, but still.

At least that's what blogger Robert



Robert Oscar Lopez

Oscar Lopez wants you to believe. He was raised by lesbians and it apparently ruined him to the point where he has become the expert on ex-gaying.

On the Barb Wire website (tagline: Barb Wire dot com: We print all the garbage that gets stuck to the fence) Lopez has posted, "Rebuking the Big Lie: Ten Tips for Ex-Gay Happiness."

And if you're wondering, "Hey, can I really be ex-gaypy (that's ex-gay happy, obviously) in just 10 steps?"

Well, no. Lopez has a lot of "10 Tips" type blog posts on his website for the ex-gay curious. Perhaps he learned how to blog from Clickbait (But Not In A Gay Way) University. So once you add "Ten Dating Suggestions for Ex-Gay Men in Pursuit of Women" and "Ten Things to Love About Heterosexuality," not to mention "The Ex-Gay's Strategy on Women: Many Top Tens In One," we're talking about a lot of steps.

Needless to say, Lopez has some, er, really messed up ideas about this whole gay thing.

First of all, he seems to think that men (and his focus is on gay men here, sorry lesbians) become gay after being tricked into it.

"[G]ay activists can flood you with stimuli and arousal techniques to make you curious or interested in homosexuality," Lopez writes. "Once you try it or find yourself thinking about it, cultural messages and cues all around you mess with your head and convince you that this is who you are, you have to make yourself sexually available to other guys."

Now if he were describing heterosexuality this might make some sense. Since the majority of people are heterosexual, we are surrounded by images of heteronormativity. In fact, if you want to get "flooded" with gay "stimuli and arousal techniques" you pretty much have to seek it out. Otherwise that flood is more like an occasional trickle (see "Will & Grace," the gays on "Modern Family," "Ellen" et al.).

He then writes, "I don't have much more time before..." and I'm thinking, "Oh no, is

**Lopez is probably right that life is harder for him now that he's "straight." Self-hatred and denial are a bitch. But straight guys in general? Nah. They've been riding roughshod over all of us and continue to do so.**

he going to die?" But he continues, "Before the law makes it illegal for me to share the ten tips I will share in this blog."

There's no law against sharing dumb lies on the internet, or Donald Trump would be in prison where he belongs.

Lopez warns that leaving gay life is hard. "There are certain perks about being gay that you are going to miss," he writes. "For instance, if you identify as gay, people pity you and give you less responsibility for being a jerk."

Oh man, wait until he hears about Milo Yiannopoulos.

Lopez continues, "The world feels small and cozy because everywhere you go, you can go to the gay bar and have instant community."

Okay, wait a minute. There are gay bars everywhere? That is news to me and will likely be news to millions of gay people around the world who live (checks map) near no gay bars. But I guess Lopez sees every bar as a Homosexual Cheers, "where everybody knows you're gay."

"Once you commit to not being gay anymore, things will get hard," he writes. "In the gay world, you may have competed from time to time for the attention of men with nice physiques; now, you will be fighting against men with even more well-developed physiques, trying to achieve victory over them in order to win for yourself a coveted prize: a virtuous and desirable wife."

Aaaaaand fuck off. Women are not prizes. Women are human beings who have value and worth outside of whether or not they are somebody's wife.

"Soon you will see how much harder life is for straight guys," laments Lopez.

And he's probably right that life is harder for him now that he's "straight." Self-hatred and denial are a bitch. But straight guys in general? Nah. They've been riding roughshod over all of us and continue to do so.

It's my hope that Lopez will one day write a "Top Ten Reasons Not to Hate Your Gay Self." But until then, I wonder if he'll put "riding roughshod" on his "Top Ten Gay Stimuli and Arousal Techniques."

# Michigan Mayors Against LGBTQ Discrimination in Focus

## NEWS SERIES

## BTL Sits Down with Ypsilanti Mayor Amanda Edmonds

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

As BTL continues the Mayors Against LGBTQ Discrimination series, we hear from Amanda Edmonds, Ypsilanti's openly lesbian mayor who ran unopposed in 2014 after winning her primary in a landslide. Edmonds announced in a statement last month that she will not be seeking re-election. BTL has decided to include Edmonds's interview, along with her amended statement which can be viewed online at [pridesource.com](http://pridesource.com). She is still the mayor, and proud of her city's accomplishments. While Edmonds is not running for re-election, the interview captures the tone she set while mayor of Ypsilanti. We can only hope the next mayor follows her lead.

Mayors Against LGBTQ 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. 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 LGBTQ Discrimination has grown to 307 mayors in 48 states and the District of Columbia, including 17 mayors in Michigan.

### Why did you join Mayors Against LGBTQ Discrimination?

As an out LGBTQ mayor I understand first-hand the importance of feeling safe, welcome, and included in a community. Unfortunately, there are many communities where people don't feel safe, or they don't know where they stand because their elected officials and community leaders have been silent. While federal or state laws (or lack thereof) are dictating discrimination in our lives, we still live and experience our life daily in our localities, where it is crucial that we do everything we can to share our values to make our communities safe.

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

The City of Ypsilanti is proud to have one of the oldest and most progressive non-discrimination ordinances in the state, that includes gender and sexual orientation, immigration status, and many other protected classes. This is particularly important in Michigan, where LGBTQ people have no protection from discrimination under state law. We've continued to update this



“ Mayor Amanda Edmonds is more than happy to marry couples of any genders within Washtenaw County, pending her availability, which varies. ”

– City of Ypsilanti website

ordinance as we recognize new groups of people who are vulnerable and need to explicitly be protected, as we did last year when we added immigration status. We went another step in that realm, too, and solidified our practice and values into policy as we adopted a "Don't Ask" ordinance that clarified that for most interactions with our city staff (including public safety personnel), one's immigration status is not relevant and will not be brought up.

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

As a mayor, I serve as an ambassador both within the community and outside of it. Being vocal matters. Last year we raised the Trans pride flag in front of our police station for Transgender Day of Visibility, and succeeded in having our Ypsilanti Community Schools do the same in front of 11 school buildings. We held flag raising ceremonies at both the police station and the school district admin office. When our citizens and students see that kind of symbol, it validates their existence and rights settings where they may be otherwise questions. I am putting to council a resolution to raise the flag again on March 31.

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

Our Non-Discrimination Ordinance is law, and any complaints against employees of the city – as well as anyone in the community who may have violated it by discriminating in public accommodations, housing, or employment – are taken as a breach of law.

### Where does your city need to improve?

I have admired that Detroit Police Department has an LGBTQ-focused officer who works to liaison with the LGBTQ community. This position recognizes the additional

safety concerns that LGBTQ persons face as victims of crimes and hesitancy to come forward. Our police department is very small and so having an officer focused on that is not appropriate in terms of scale, but I would love further resources to look into whether there are any ways our department can further gain trust of LGBTQ persons. I don't have any knowledge of distrust issues, but the opportunity to be more proactive in this area would be amazing.

In general, our community, our council, and our police chief deeply value community policing – which that Detroit officer is a great example of – but are so hindered by the lack of appropriate state funding for municipalities that there is little time to do more than minimal shift coverage and responding to emergency calls.

We'd love for Ypsi to be included in HRC or another orgs' lists of LGBTQ friendly communities, because we most definitely are. Unfortunately, we are either too small to be considered, or just don't have the resources to pull together the applications needed. So, we rely on the grassroots word of mouth that we are a welcoming place.

### What is your vision for your city 10 years from now, in terms of being a welcoming place to live, work, and operate a business?

I want to see an Ypsilanti where people from many backgrounds can afford to live, and thrive. As we develop economically in the ways that we must in order to provide quality services to our residents, we have to figure out how to not follow the too-common trajectory of gentrification and inadvertently squeezing people out. There is no silver bullet to doing so, but we must work at it every day.

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

I moved to Michigan in the mid-90s and to Ypsilanti in 2002, after having been drawn here several years before that. I loved its diversity, its deep community pride, and its residents' willingness to step up and make

the change they want to see, despite often difficult (particularly municipal) financial conditions. I love that my own working class neighborhood of little bungalows includes people from many racial and ethnic backgrounds and ages, as well as many LGBTQ families. I love that I can walk down the street in Ypsi with my wife and not worry about my safety.

### Tell us about Ypsi Pride.

Ypsilanti had a long-time annual clean up day called Ypsi PRIDE, renamed as of last year as Ypsi Proud. That made way for an amazing first ever Ypsi Pride event, celebrating the LGBTQ communities during one of our First Fridays Ypsi celebrations. This first Ypsi Pride was organized by volunteers and was an overwhelming success.

What was so beautiful about it is that it was truly inclusive – there were all ages and all cultural backgrounds present, including both LGBTQ folks and allies. It was actually the 'place to be' that Friday evening – no matter your identity. There were family-friendly drag shows, music, art, dancing, pedicabs, and much more. I can't wait for the second annual this year.

### There's an amazing photo of you officiating at a wedding in June of 2015 after marriage equality was extended to same-sex couples. What is it like performing these weddings, and why is Ypsi a great place to be married?

That was one of the most memorable days of my life. I performed three weddings that day, and am friends with two of the couples now. The energy of that crowd was unlike any I've ever experienced, and at that point I had not performed many weddings yet as mayor, and had forgotten to bring my ceremony script. So, I winged it, which was a bit nerve racking but also fun. I'm now up to 104 weddings--including many for LGBTQ couples-- and can perform it in my sleep.

For folks who want a civil ceremony, Ypsi is a great place – not only because I can be an officiant (per MI marriage law mayors can perform weddings in the county in which they serve), but because in addition to city hall we have so many cool indoor and outdoor venues, local restaurants, and friendly folks ready to welcome people for their nuptials. (FYI, my dream this year before the end of my first term is to perform a wedding while moving through Ypsi aboard Amtrak!)

Stay connected to the city of Ypsilanti online at [cityofypsilanti.com](http://cityofypsilanti.com). Follow Amanda Edmonds on Facebook at [facebook.com/amuppster](http://facebook.com/amuppster).

# Volunteering Opportunities Available at Motor City Pride

BY DREW HOWARD

Beverage servers, gate monitors and set-up/tear-down crew members are just a few of the volunteer opportunities now being sought for Motor City Pride 2018, running June 9 through 10 at the downtown Detroit Hart Plaza.

Pride organizers opened up volunteer registration to the public this week as they enter the final weeks of preparation. Help is needed on both days of the festival, Saturday and Sunday, as well as the days bookending the festivities on Friday and Monday.

Dave Wait, event chair, said close to 260 volunteers have been utilized throughout the weekend in years past. According to the 2018 volunteer registration form, organizers this year are ideally looking to fill more than 350 shifts.

Volunteers are needed as early as 9 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday to help set up the festival, Wait said.

“They make sure the tables are in the proper spaces, banners are up and just making sure trash bins, bags and all the little odds and ends are taken care of so the grounds look good and ready to enter,” he said.

Moving into the afternoon, volunteers are also used to help serve beverages, monitor the welcome gates, work the information

desk, man the volunteer check-in desk, assist entertainment on stage and supervise the family area. Additionally, volunteers will be needed on Sunday to direct the parade and the parade marshals.

“We haven’t gotten to the point where we’ve had too much volunteer help,” Wait said. “We are always looking for more people to help on Saturday and Sunday afternoon.”

Volunteers help is most appreciated at the welcome gate and beverages center, Wait said, which each need close to 90 shifts filled total between Saturday and Sunday. As of this published story, both positions still have dozens of openings.

There are some added perks to volunteering at festival, Wait noted.

“Those that sign up get free admission to the festival, a T-shirt, as well as vouchers for food and parking,” he said. “We recognize them and thank them for helping at the festival.”

Volunteer opportunities are open to all interested regardless of experience. Organizers encourage individuals to only select times and areas that they are absolutely available to assist, as slots are limited.

*To register as a volunteer go to motorcitypride.org. For a brief look at the available volunteer opportunities, look below:*



## Friday, June 8:

- Friday Set-Up (6 - 9 p.m.)

## Saturday, June 9:

- Saturday Supervisor (8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.)
- Saturday Set-Up (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
- Stage Hand (11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. & 4 - 8 p.m.)
- Family Area (11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)
- Festival Information Booth (11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. & 4 - 8 p.m.)
- Beverage Staff (11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. & 4 - 8 p.m.)
- Welcome Gates (12:30 - 4:30 p.m. & 4 - 8 p.m.)
- Volunteer Check-in (4 - 8 p.m.)
- Saturday Close (6 - 9 p.m.)

## Sunday, June 10:

- Festival Director (8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.)
- Sunday Set-Up (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.)
- Volunteer Check-in (9 a.m. - 12 p.m. & 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. & 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.)
- Parade Assistance (10 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
- Welcome Gates (11 a.m. - 3 p.m. & 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.)
- Stage Hand (11 a.m. - 3 p.m. & 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.)
- Family Area (11 a.m. - 3 p.m.)
- Festival Information Booth (11 a.m. - 3 p.m. & 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.)
- Beverage Staff (11 a.m. - 3 p.m. & 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.)

## Monday, June 11:

- Festival Director (9 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

All You Need is Love -  
Let Me Help You Find the Home of Your Dreams



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

Real Estate One®



Lynn L. Stange

Realtor Associate

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

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

PATTERSON  
DOG



CAT  
HOSPITAL

Established in 1844

Glynes D. Graham, DVM  
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

3800 Grand River, Detroit, MI 48208-2866

tel: 313.832.7282 fax: 313.832.4990

[www.pattersondogandcat.com](http://www.pattersondogandcat.com)

Find us on:  
facebook®

# Mother-Daughter Drag Duo

## Nickki Stevens' Secret to Success: Her Mom

Photos by Miz Korona

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Walk into Gigi's Gay Bar today and you're likely to see drag queen Nickki Stevens grace the stage. Her punchy humor, big looks and classy style – despite her trucker mouth – have been thrilling audiences since the late '80s. But, what some might not know is that in many ways, Stevens' act could be considered double. After all, even though her mother, Sharon Hughes, doesn't grace the stage herself, she spends her Saturday nights working concessions, selling jewelry and providing her drag daughter much support: from painting, to cleaning, to decorating.

"I've gotta keep her active," said Stevens. "If you rest, you rust."

After three decades of female impersonating, Stevens has become something of a drag mother herself as the manager and show director of Gigi's Cabaret since 1990, which, according to Stevens is the "longest-running showroom" in Michigan history.

And, as with any long-running show, along with the drama onstage, running things comes with a bit of sass off of it as well.

"It's like grade school. Whenever you get

more than two girls in a room it's trouble," said Hughes about watching her daughter manage several different personalities, four of whom Stevens has taken upon herself to mentor in the skills of the art form. They are Destiny Hunter, Veronica Madison, Revue and Serena Escavelle. Sadly, her fifth drag daughter, Tori Lancaster, passed away in the mid-'90s. Stevens said that the secrets she passes on to her drag daughters, she learned from her own mom.

"Mother taught me honesty and hard work always prevails," said Stevens who in a way was raised not only by her biological mother, but her drag mother and Detroit legend, Lady "T" Tempest, too.

"And if you can't handle the truth, don't ask the question," she said.

### Humble Beginnings

And with that drive coupled with a healthy serving of sass, it's not surprising that Stevens has been doing drag long enough to be a well-seasoned veteran. From the moment Stevens saw Charles Pierce on TV she knew what she wanted to be when she grew up.

"Baby that's it. That's what I'm gonna do,"

she said.

After all, Pierce was one of the 20th century's foremost female impersonators.

"I could be funny, pretty, accepted," she said. "How's that? That's a big word."

And acceptance was especially important for Stevens in high school, because her family had moved from South Bend, Indiana, to West Bloomfield and, in many ways, she felt out of place.

"I was always funny, but I had to be to be the gay one in school or you're gonna get beat up," she said. "It's better to be self-deprecating and be the jokester."

A talent she said she honed while she worked as a server at the Ram's Horn diner, where every table was a different audience. Stevens' mother, Hughes, agreed that humor might have been the best coping mechanism after moving across state lines.

"My heart was breaking because all the rest of the kids were driving Lamborghinis to school and she had a Fiesta," said Hughes. "High school was hard."

But, even beyond Ram's Horn, Stevens found the greatest comfort in the dressing room at the Pink Flamingo at 16. That's when she started dressing drag queens – her role

models – like Candy Sweet, Jennifer Foxx, Elaine St. Jacques, April Summers and Melba Moore. That was when she began to hone her love of the craft – and for heels, in which she stands at a comfortable height of 6'4."

Stevens had already been performing at Gigi's since 1988, but her mom didn't start coming to watch her perform until 1995. Hughes worked nights before switching to the day shift as a charge nurse at Jackson State Prison from where she has since retired.

"I carried pictures of her and showed everybody at work. Half of my staff was gay anyway so they knew her," she said. "People were surprised to find out that I was her mother. At first when the new boss comes, you know, people like to give them trouble, but not Nickki Stevens' mother."

Hughes spent a lot of time stoning Stevens' costumes by hand in the late '90s. That's how she got started making jewelry, which she now sells at the bar and at various pageants. The business, owned by Stevens, is called Purple Angel Jewelry.

"It's a little hobby of mine. It's no big deal," said Hughes, who believes, "We all have angels watching over us," and her favorite color is purple. So, with every piece

of jewelry made, Hughes said another angel starts watching over members of the community, friends and customers.

## Hitting Her Stride

Stevens was a traveling performer on the road with the all-male dance troupe, Male Order, in the late '80s. Quite the hustler, Stevens made appearances throughout the Midwest, in Ohio, Dallas, Florida, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. She also flew back and forth between Detroit and Chicago for almost a year to be the hostess and emcee at the famed Baton Show Lounge from May 1995 through February 1996.

Stevens said she is the most awarded female impersonator in Michigan history. Her awards include Miss Amateur Club Gold Coast 1989, Miss Gold Coast Saloon 1991, Miss Woodward Strip 1991, Miss Tiffany's 1991, Miss Gigi's 1992, Royal Queen of Queens of Michigan 1993-1997, Miss S.S. Dingy 1993, Miss Michigan Continental Plus 1995, Miss Great Lakes Continental Plus 1996 and Miss Michigan Sunset Coast 1996.

She also received the Detroit Entertainer of the Year award 12 times at the Detroit Performer Awards, and the Emcee of the Year award for 24 consecutive years (and now the award is named after her). She was the first and only drag queen to receive the Spirit of Detroit Award from the Detroit City Council in the late '90s, too.

"I had so much money, (but) I couldn't spend it because I couldn't get out of bed," said Stevens, referencing the huge amount of travel she had to do. "It was fun. I had the opportunity to work at one of the best-known female impersonator bars in the country, but this is my sandbox and I don't travel as much as I used to anymore."

Gigi's, like many other gay bars,

used to be a sanctuary for the LGBTQ community. Gigi's was originally owned by Tony Garneau in the early '70s until his death in 1991. In his will he left the bar to his longtime employees, four of whom still run the place.

"There were 45, 50 bars back then. You could go to a different bar every night of the month and still not hit them all. Until the internet and Grindr and everything else ruined everything," said Stevens, noting that a majority of their audience now is heterosexual.

"I hate RuPaul's Drag Race, but thank God for that bitch because all them straight housewives of Royal Oak want to see drag queens now. So alright, bring them on ....

She continued, "It makes more people – now that it's mainstream – curious and (they) want to come see us. She's actually making me money, which I'm happy for," said Stevens. "If gay people walk in here on a Saturday night, I'm like 'Are you lost?'"

Stevens attributes that to a number of things, but mostly cultural acceptance.

"We all fought and fought since Stonewall for equal rights and once we got them and we could hold each others' hands walking down the streets of Ferndale or Royal Oak, then the bars seemed to not be the sanctuary that it used to be," she said.

However, as lauded as Stevens is, her career has come with its fair share of challenges, too – ones that other drag queens weren't afraid to warn her about when she was just starting out.

"I said, 'Oh I want to do this one day.' And they all said, 'No you don't.' I said, 'Oh yes I do.' They said, 'No you don't,'" said Stevens. "Well now I know exactly what they were talking about. No I don't."

However, resistance or not, Stevens is one of the few who have been fortunate enough to make a living as a female

impersonator for this long. Depending on who they are, how long and where they have performed, drag queens can make anywhere from \$25 a night to \$5,000 a week.

For her, and most, she said that drag as a career is "a trade-off." When asked what that means, Stevens explained that, "Gay men come out to be with men and when you look like a woman half the week and spend half your life on stage, they don't want to have anything to do with you," she said. "Oh, everybody loves you, but not *one* loves you. That's the problem."

At an age "somewhere between birth and death," Stevens said she is ready for retirement but, "It don't look like that's gonna happen until that Powerball hits the right way." Until then, she seems to have found her niche on the microphone.

"Not a lot of drag queens can do that," she said. "If I never had to do another number in my life and just talk on the microphone, I'd be happy."

## The Trade-Off

It's not that Stevens doesn't love her success – she is the legendary "Blonde Bombshell" and the "Peroxide Piranha" from Detroit who has entertained and inspired many – but after all this time, she still feels like she's second-rate in a subculture.

"We're fine as long as the spotlight is on us. If I've got jeans and a button-down shirt on and my hair blown out, trying to look like a boy as much as possible with all this botox and silicone in my face, they don't want anything to do with me, 'Oh, that's Nickki Stevens,'" she said, adding that she was married for 13 years to a man who left her. "I've gotta go out of town to find a date so they don't know who the hell I am. Some men find it as a fetish. I don't want anything to do with that."

It's why her mom said they're so close. "We don't get that men stuff," laughed Hughes, also a divorcee.

"We've lived together for 14 years. I never cut the umbilical cord," she said. "We're hell on wheels. We have more fun than anybody."

They spend their time together doing things like shopping, traveling to Las Vegas and hanging out by the pool at home during the summer months.

Plus, Hughes considers herself to be a people person which helps them work together even more so. She enjoys engaging with guests at the bar who she said always want to talk about her daughter. And, as most mothers would, she loves to gush about her child. Hughes said Stevens is, "The most beautiful thing I ever saw. I knew when she was three she was going to be a star."



Gigi's Gay Bar is located at 16920 W. Warren Ave. in Detroit. Hours are 8 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. Sunday to Monday and Wednesday to Friday; and 7 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. on Saturday. For more information, call 313-584-6525 or visit [facebook.com/gigisgaybar/](https://facebook.com/gigisgaybar/) or [facebook.com/gigiscabaret](https://facebook.com/gigiscabaret). Follow Nickki Stevens online at [facebook.com/nickki.stevens](https://facebook.com/nickki.stevens).

**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](http://www.LindaLom.com) 323 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor [Linda@LindaLom.com](mailto:Linda@LindaLom.com) **TRILLIUM REAL ESTATE**

**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!

**RAINBOW**

**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](http://www.christinecantrell.com)  
[christinecantrellphd@gmail.com](mailto:christinecantrellphd@gmail.com)

**CALL NOW! 248-591-2888**



Photo: Blecker Street

# Rachel Weisz's Quest for Queer Stories

## 'Disobedience' Actress on Her New – and Upcoming – Sapphic Tales

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Rachel Weisz has strong feelings on makers of queer films discussing their work with queer media. To not do so, she says, would be “ridiculous and wrong and unthinkable.” The topic is broached in light of her new Sapphic film, “Disobedience,” released just months after “Call Me By Your Name,” which received little LGBTQ-specific promotion from its director, writer and lead actors, Armie Hammer and Timothée Chalamet.

As producer and star of “Disobedience,” Weisz was instrumental in the lesbian drama’s inception and creation, which began when the 48-year-old British actress’ quest to tell more female-centric stories led her to an array of feminist books, including Naomi Alderman’s 2006 novel. She optioned the book’s film rights, then found her director: Sebastián

Lelio, the Chilean filmmaker with plenty of arthouse cred, including 2013’s “Gloria” and “A Fantastic Woman,” the 2018 Oscar winner in the Best Foreign Language Film category.

In “Disobedience,” Weisz portrays Ronit, a lapsed Jew now living as a photographer in New York City who returns to her Orthodox Jewish enclave in London for her Rabbi father’s funeral. There, her childhood friend and lover Esti (Rachel McAdams), now married to Ronit’s father’s protégé Dovid (Alessandro Nivola), is emboldened by her passion for Ronit to pursue her own path to self-discovery and, ultimately, religious freedom.

Weisz – known for her roles in “About a Boy” and “The Constant Gardener,” which won her a Best Supporting Actress Oscar in 2006 – has further feminist ambitions: She’ll play a queer woman in the upcoming historical drama “The Favourite,” before portraying

British military surgeon Dr. James Barry, born Margaret Ann Bulkley, a 19th-century woman who disguised herself as a man to become a doctor.

**Can you just produce queer stories for the rest of your career?**

Yes, please. Do you have any books to point me toward?

**You know what, you’re up on lesbian lit more than I am. I hear you got deep into it.**

I read a few books.

**“Call Me By Your Name” did almost no LGBTQ press promo and made very little money despite critical acclaim. But you’ve been everywhere talking about “Disobedience”: mainstream press, queer press. I think some promoters think we’re living in a time when gay is mainstream,**

**so niche press sometimes gets overlooked. So, thank you for not overlooking us. As a producer, why is it important to reach out to queer media with a film like “Disobedience”?**

If you’re queer, your subjectivity is not in the margins – it’s front and center for the life you’re leading. But mainstream stories have pushed queer stories into the margins of storytelling, and I think that’s what’s so wonderful about Sebastián. His film before “Fantastic Woman” (“Gloria”) wasn’t a queer story but was about a 58-year-old woman’s dating life and her sex life – again, something that in storytelling is not front and center. “Fantastic Woman” was about the experience of a trans woman, something that’s not normally front and center in the story.

So, this film is about two queer women struggling to be free to love who they want to love, so I’ve gotta say, hats off to Sebastián.

“ I looked into my heart and how I love this person. It was very emotional and vulnerable and full of yearning, and I didn’t have any other references in my mind. I don’t believe Rachel McAdams did either. We certainly never talked about it. I just loved this person, this woman. ”

He does the opposite of objectifying things; he subjectivises things.

And yeah, in terms of speaking to queer outlets, I mean, it’s essential. How would we make this film and then push you into the margins? That would be ridiculous and wrong and unthinkable.

**What kind of measures were taken on your behalf to avoid falling into the male-fantasy-gaze trap that so many lesbian films end up in?**

I can’t claim that I did anything apart from entrust myself into Sebastián’s point of view, and I knew that he doesn’t objectify women or men, or anybody. He has empathy, and he makes them into real people. Rachel McAdams and I just trusted him.

The male gaze doesn’t always have to be objectifying, and I think his point of view on how these women desire each other, I find it beautiful. He’s the auteur. He authored the whole film, and the story; I can’t claim anything apart from being clever enough to trust him. (Laughs)

**Some people claimed the gaze in “Blue is the Warmest Color” was male, and problematic because of that. Are there any problematic lesbian or queer films you’d seen prior to “Disobedience” that were in your consciousness while shooting this movie?**

No. I did see “Blue is the Warmest Color” and I enjoyed it, even though there were people who perhaps didn’t. Listen, just to see a woman loving a woman and that being represented was very exciting. I liked the film very much. But no – I didn’t have a “to do or not to do” list, and I certainly didn’t research lesbian films. I looked into my heart and how I love this person. It was very emotional and vulnerable and full of yearning, and I didn’t have any other references in my mind. I don’t believe Rachel McAdams did either. We certainly never talked about it. I just loved

this person, this woman.

**What parts of yourself did you tap into for a role that essentially centers on same-sex desire?**

It doesn’t feel any different. It felt different in that it’s softer and more vulnerable, but that might not be true with all women, but certainly with Esti it was. We’d been childhood friends and we’d known each other. We had a huge history and we were in love. She was my first love, and yeah, it felt like love. I didn’t have to open a different door in my brain; she’s just the person I loved. So, I didn’t really think of it in those terms.

**Let’s talk about how liberating that sex scene is: How do you hope it may influence other queer people who feel pressure to live an inauthentic life?**

I hope this film is inspiring to anyone who feels like they’re not free to love who they want to love. We’re saying as actors that love can be an act of defiance, and sometimes one has to be disobedient to the social norms around us. To be free, sometimes it costs a lot, it’s not always easy. So, I’m not going to glibly say, “Just do it.” It’s hard. It’s really hard. But I hope the film is inspiring, but also realistic. It shows the incredible struggle that Esti goes through with her sexual identity. So, I mean, I hope it will inspire people.

**What’s the closest you’d come to playing a lesbian character previous to “Disobedience”?**

I’ve never played a queer character at all.

**Have scripts come your way and you’ve turned them down?**

Oh, great question! I’ve been offered very few. Maybe there are more being written now, but in my career, I think I was offered once a script about a straight woman who had

See next page

PROUDLY PRESENTS

# FERNDALE

## PRIDE

### 2018

SATURDAY  
JUNE  
2ND

---

**MAIN STAGE**

Motor City CASINO-HOTEL

**DJ DANCE STAGE**

GENISYS CREDIT UNION

**CHILDREN'S AREA**

Blue Care Network of Michigan  
A nonprofit corporation and independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

---

**DIAMOND**

the Graphics Geek

BTL BetweenLines ONLINE AT PRIDESOURCE.COM

METRA magazine

OP OUT POST

L7 KRAMER RESTAURANT GROUP

Oakland County TIMES.COM

---

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

BUD LIGHT

**BLEACHERS**

Ferndale Haus

**AUTOMOTIVE**

DEALS IN THE [ ] .COM

SUBURBAN Suburban Buick GMC

---

**GOLD**

JIM SHAFER AND ASSOCIATES REALTORS

Flagstar Bank

BLUMZ BY JRODESIGNS

WDRD WYOMING

SOHO

Beaumont

the rainbow run

GARDEN FRESH GOURMET

Ferndale FAMILY PHARMACY

PNC

Western Market

SEE

giffels webster

NEW HOLLAND

V

GREENSPACE Cafe

► **Disobedience**

Continued from p. 16

an affair (with a woman), but the story didn't – I mean, I loved the politics of it and the queerness of it, but the story wasn't quite deep enough, somehow. But I would love to represent and play more queer women, so yeah, anyone who has any ideas...

**Aren't you playing actress Olivia Colman's lover in the period drama, "The Favourite"?**

Oh yeah, in the next film. She's a married woman, but she's also my lover and confidant and best friend and advisor, and really is actually running England (laughs) – or so she thinks. But yeah, they're lovers. They've been lovers for years.

**Before all these queer-oriented roles, you played the Wicked Witch of the East in "Oz the Great and Powerful." What do you think that did for your gay following?**

I didn't know it did anything for a gay following! I'd love for that to be true. Is that true?

**It's Oz, so I'd say so.**

Oh, that's fantastic! She's a strong kind,



yeah. That's fabulous. Thank you. I actually wanted to play her like Tim Curry in "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." I actually thought she was kind of a man in drag. I felt like she was Frank-N-Furter, and I talked to (director) Sam Raimi, but he had never seen "Rocky Horror."

**Growing up with Jewish and Catholic parents,**

**what were you taught to believe about the LGBTQ community?**

My ma's passed away now; she died in her 80s. And my dad is nearly 90. They had me in their 40s. They had gay friends – homosexual male friends – but I wouldn't say they understood in the way that my generation understands queerness. I guess they were kind of sheltered, I would say.

**How are you raising your 11-year-old son, Henry?**

He is just of a generation where he's kind of – he's colorblind. He just doesn't think in categories. He thinks in a very free way that people should just love who they love. He sees everyone as just part of the human race. He doesn't really see difference at all, so that's good.

**You have another child on the way, with your husband Daniel Craig. If one of your children came out to you and Daniel one day as queer, how do you imagine you might respond?**

I'd be very happy for anyone I know and love to love whomever they want to love.

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

\*\*\*\*\* 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*

DETROIT REGIONAL **lgbt** CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**EMPOWERING DETROIT'S LGBTQ + ALLY BUSINESSES**

**MICHIGAN'S LARGEST LGBT 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](http://www.detroitlgbtchamber.com)

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



# Ain't No Shame in Her Game

## Jenifer Lewis to Visit Detroit: Tackles Stigma, Mental Illness in New Memoir

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

If actress Jenifer Lewis ignites a sense of motherly affection from viewers, it's certainly not by accident. After all, her portrayal of a mother, aunt or general matriarch in more than a dozen roles in both TV and film has earned her the title "The Mother of Black Hollywood," and that's the title of her brand-new memoir, too. Also an ally for the LGBTQ community, Lewis made history when she portrayed the first black lesbian on TV in the mid-'90s. Currently, the former Broadway actress is the head of the Johnson family on ABC's "Black-ish" as grandmother Ruby and is in the process of a book tour to promote her new memoir.

In it, she said she has held "nothing back," revealing all of her life's struggles in detail and her daily fight with bipolar disorder.

Lewis' next stop on tour will be on Saturday, May 12 at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, where she will talk both about the book and sign copies for all attendees. Proceeds from this event will support the Community Health Awareness Group, an organization that is dedicated to improving the "quality of life of Detroit's African-American community by addressing current health issues" and reducing the transmission of HIV by offering both information and support services for those with the disease.

Between The Lines caught up with Lewis during her touring schedule to talk about her personal ties to HIV, her work as an LGBTQ ally, how she has fought bipolar disorder since her diagnoses and what she recommends others do who have been diagnosed with life-changing illnesses.

**The fact that you're doing your upcoming Detroit event to benefit CHAG is not a mistake; you have had personal ties to people diagnosed with HIV and AIDS, right?**

Oh, absolutely. My generation, we lived through what we called a silent war that was never declared. So many of our friends passed away from HIV and AIDS and you know, in New York we felt so lost because the U.S. government wasn't doing anything about it,



so we took it upon ourselves to do fundraisers to help find a cure. We created one back in New York called Divas for Dollars and we would go down to all the gay clubs and sing a song by a hit disco singer and then we would pass the hat and go to the next gay club. That was Saturday night for quite some time.

**Speaking of the LGBTQ community, you portrayed the first African-American lesbian character on TV in the mid-'90s. Was that a challenge for you?**

Yes, on a show called "Courthouse" I played a judge who was a lesbian and something very funny happened in that. I'm straight — or whatever that means — I mean, there's a chapter in the book called "Big Diva" (laughs)! But, here's the thing: I wasn't as uncomfortable kissing a woman as I was kissing a stranger. It was weird, you know what I mean (laughs)? So, I embraced all genders and whatever we are, darling, we are all God's babies.

**Did you find yourself fighting against a huge stigma when you were advocating for a cure that way?**

Absolutely. But thank God that the stigma has started to subside. I have so many people that did die in shame and in agony because of the disease. There was so much shame attached to it but we're certainly getting away from that now with so much counseling, and the churches and I see more billboards out there about it. Of course, African-American women are the highest demographic, and the

struggle is not over.

**You're no stranger to stigma. You've been very candid about your fight with bipolar disorder in "The Mother of Black Hollywood".**

I didn't find out until my early 30s that I was bipolar and in my 20s in New York while on the Broadway stage I had a sex addiction and with so many dead from the HIV/AIDS virus, I had a nervous breakdown and went into therapy. There, of course, was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and I was unwilling to take medication and I was very unwilling to actually do the talk therapy, but I advocate now (for) talk therapy and medication — if needed. My journey with my new memoir is living life with bipolar disorder and being successful. Being able to live a life that is level and not in the polar of high manic behavior or depression. So, it's a lot about looking in the mirror and admitting to yourself that something is not right and having the strength and the courage to say the words, "I know." It's not just one addiction, it's all addictions that have to be addressed so that we can pursue happiness. I stress that to the community that it is essential and that we take care of ourselves.

**It must have taken a lot of strength to address those challenges so head-on. How were you able to become vulnerable enough to do so?**

My therapist called what I had inside of me soldiers, and I used to think I was special because some of the symptoms are grandiosity, and (the feeling of) omniscience

and entitlement. I mean, the mind is just racing. So, what I say to that is look in the mirror. You know there's something going on that doesn't feel good. I tell people: there're two emotions, one feels good and one feels bad and as human beings, we get to choose. And it's not easy to make these decisions to change one's life, but like I say in my interviews: you either want to live or die. And there are too many people that are the walking dead. That's a choice. I'm not here to judge, but I'm not preaching. I'm saying this is my story and this is how I did it.

If you can learn something from what I experienced in my life, that's the glory and the triumph of it all. This is me laying my burden down and I can't tell you how freeing it is, and I have a new heightened reality because people come out there and express their challenges. That's why I'm out on the road because I want people to handle it better than I did, to let them know that there ain't no shame in mental illness and I use "ain't" because I mean it. My whole motto is: "ain't no shame in my game." I use that over and over again. Mental illness is a serious disease and like cancer or lupus or sickle cell or any other disease, there is no shame in it.

**What would be some first steps that you'd recommend for people who might have just been diagnosed with mental illness, or perhaps even HIV, and are having trouble coping with their new diagnoses?**

I've always loved that Nike slogan "Just Do It." If you take the first step, someone will be there to lend a helping hand. There're 7.6 billion people on this planet, honey, we are never alone. Being alone is a choice. I'll tell you what I do, when I don't feel like doing for myself: go out there and help somebody else

Mentor a child, get out in the world, go to your own city council meetings, get involved. I always quote John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." And as far as the resistance is concerned and this madman in the White House, the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. This is a country that was founded by the people for the people. We must never forget that and we must never lose that.

*Jenifer Lewis will be at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History from 5 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, May 12. Tickets cost \$60. More information can be found online at eventbrite.com.*

# BTL Cool Cities Royal Oak

## YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD • YOUR MARKET

Pinpoint your ad dollars where they will do the most good ...  
Advertise in the next Cool Cities  
TO PLACE AN AD CALL 734.293.7200



The Print **STOP** Inc.

If you can think it, we can ink it

248-543-7867

- ❖ Invitations
- ❖ Letterhead
- ❖ Newsletters
- ❖ Brochures
- ❖ Menus
- ❖ Business Forms
- ❖ Color Copies
- ❖ Fax Service
- ❖ Typesetting
- ❖ Business Cards

3172 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley  
Serving the community since 2001

## ROYAL OAK BTL ADVERTISERS

### LGBT Non-Profits

- Common Ground..... \*
- Higher Ground..... \*
- Lambda Car Club..... \*
- Sing Out Detroit Chorus..... B
- AIDS Walk Detroit..... \*

### BTL ADVERTISERS

- Automatic Body Shop..... \*
- Bidwell Tovarez Pllc ..... 1
- C & N Party Rentals..... \*
- Christine Cantrell, Ph.D. .... 2
- Changez Salon..... \*

- Cloverleaf Fine Wine ..... 3
- D'Amatos..... 4
- D.J. Murray Plumbing ..... \*
- Five 15 ..... 5
- Fuller Life..... 6
- Gentlemen's Consignment..... 7
- Great Lakes Collision..... \*
- Harbour Tax & Accounting..... \*
- Inn Season's Cafe ..... 8
- Denise Joseph, Ph.D. .... 2
- Rosemary A. Jozwiak ..... 9
- Joe Kort, Ph.D.

- & Associates, PC..... 10
- Kuderik & Associates ..... 11
- Miner's Den ..... \*
- Namaste Yoga..... 14
- New Beginnings Counseling Center ..... 15
- Noir Leather..... 16
- North Main Animal Hospital..... \*
- Thane Ostroth Dds..... \*
- Dr. Bernadine Petzold PhD, L.P.C. B.C.P.C. .... 9

- The Print Stop..... \*
- RE/MAX Jim Shaffer..... 19
- Royal Oak Farmer's Market ... 20
- Royal Oak Music Theatre ..... 21
- Shelton & Dean Law Office 22
- Stagecrafters ..... 23
- Sullivan & Son Funeral Dir. ... 24
- Matt Sweet, MSW, PC ..... 10
- Two Bags & A Mower..... \*
- Ron T. Williamson DDS..... \*

## BIDWELL TOVAREZ PLLC

PROVIDING BANKRUPTCY SOLUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES



For a Fresh Start and  
**A BRIGHTER TOMORROW**

Providing personal and compassionate assistance with financial problems including Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcies, foreclosure, garnishments and elimination of second mortgages.

### What clients say about Bidwell Tovarez:

- "Most trustworthy and experienced"
- "Outstanding representation"
- "Services with a personal touch"



### Bidwell Tovarez PLLC

333 W 7th St., Ste. 140    432 N. Saginaw, Suite 800  
Royal Oak, MI 48067    Flint, MI 48502  
248-270-3333    810-222-6422

www.bidwelltovarez.com  
david@bidwelltovarez.com

**Call 248-270-3333**

We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy code.

**CLOVERLEAF FINE WINE**

Good wine has soul.

248-399-7166  
www.CloverLeafWine.com

711 South Main St.  
Royal Oak, MI



# SHELTON & DEON Law Group

Anticipate  
Innovate  
Advocate

*A full service law firm for businesses, families and individual LGBT people  
Your same-sex divorce and custody specialists*

*The Shelton & Deon Law Group provides clients the quality and depth of experience that is expected of a large firm with the flexibility and individual attention only a small law firm can offer.*

**612 East 4th Street, Royal Oak, MI 48067**  
**248-494-7444 | [www.sheltondeonlaw.com](http://www.sheltondeonlaw.com)**

## 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 6/30/18*

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.



1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4,  
Berkley, MI 48072  
[www.rontwilliamsondds.com](http://www.rontwilliamsondds.com)

Find us on  
**f**acebook



## C&N PARTY RENTALS

5140 Meijer Drive,  
Royal Oak, MI 48073



**Marquees, Canopies and Tents • Tables • Chairs • Linens**  
**Dinnerware • Glassware • Flatware • Silver Service**  
**Food Service & Cooking Equipment • Convention & Meeting Equipment**

*We have Beautiful Linens for all events and budgets!*

**248-435-3580 • 800-351-0031 • [www.cnparty.com](http://www.cnparty.com)**



MOTOR CITY SMILES

# GRAND OPENING

Royal Oak's Premier  
Orthodontic Team

**BRACES & INVISALIGN**  
for adolescents and adults

Complimentary New Patient Evaluation  
In-network with most insurances



**Dr. Richard Friedman, DMD, MS**

903 N. Main Street, Royal Oak, Michigan  
248-268-8886 • [www.motorcitysmiles.com](http://www.motorcitysmiles.com)

Present this ad to receive

## \$1,000 OFF

comprehensive braces  
or Invisalign treatment\*

\*Cannot be combined with any other offer

## Maria Bamford Plays Royal Oak Music Theatre, May 25

BY BTL STAFF

Many comedians know how to work a room and get laughs from their own experiences, but few know how to channel laughs from their own anxiety as well as Maria Bamford. Especially vocal about her own mental health, the “Arrested Development,” “Lady Dynamite” and “BoJack Horsemen” star has been lauded as “revelatory” by Entertainment Weekly and labeled a “must-see” by both Rolling Stone and Variety. She’ll be at the Royal Oak Music Theater on Friday, May 25 at 7 p.m.



Bamford is famous for her various voice impressions, her unique banter and has described her comedy in an interview with C-Notes as “chatty.”

“Well, the one thing that’s consistent is that I just keep making things. I think I talk a lot more in my own voice now. I don’t know

if it’s for good or for bad. I think I deliver more words per second. I’m more chatty in my performance,” she said. “I was a bit more stilted, and I was more succinct before. I don’t know if it’s just that I feel more comfortable, but I’m more chatty.”

For more information about the show, go to [royaloakmusictheatre.com](http://royaloakmusictheatre.com). Tickets start at \$29.50.

## Come to the Royal Oak Farmers Market and see what’s new!

Seasonal Organic Vegetables Seasonal Fruits and Vegetables Many Local Specialty Food Vendors	Hormone FREE Meats & Free Range Eggs & Chicken Fresh Baked Bread	Full Service Cafe Gourmet Coffee Stand	Hours: Friday & Saturday 7am - 1pm
--	--	--	--



## Come to Royal Oak Antiques & Collectables!

Located at Royal Oak Farmers Market!  
**Every Sunday 8am-3pm**  
Trinkets to treasures!  
Something for everyone!

Over 60 Dealers  
Indoors & Outdoors  
Vintage Resale  
Shabby Chic



**Royal Oak FARMERS MARKET**

316 East Eleven Mile Rd. 248-246-3276  
[www.ci.royal-ok.mi.us](http://www.ci.royal-ok.mi.us), click on Farmers Market  
Open Saturdays All Year Round! Like us on Facebook!



## NOIR LEATHER

Spring Fever!

Custom Leatherwork  
European Fetishwear  
Stockings & Hosiery  
Andrew Christian  
Sexy Lingerie  
Party Dresses  
Adult Toys  
Gothic Couture  
Corsets & Cinchers  
Lubes & Enhancers

**Voted Best Sex Toys!**

Just in

- LEATHER REALM
- VOODOO VIXEN
- KILLSTAR
- DEMONIA
- KILLSTAR
- ROGUE+WOLF
- NOIR HANDMADE

124 W 4TH ST ROYAL OAK 248-541-3979  
MON-THURS 11-9 FRI-SAT 11-10 SUN 12-7  
Model: Molly Styling: Sara Myrskal Photo: Seann Graham



## Crown Pharmacy

Specializing in providing world class HIV pharmaceutical care

866-575-3784 (toll free)  
[www.crownpharmacy.com](http://www.crownpharmacy.com)

24401 Plymouth Rd., Redford, MI 48239  
313-532-DRUG (3784) 313-532-3718 (fax)  
[crownpharmacy1@aol.com](mailto:crownpharmacy1@aol.com)  
OWNER: Val Randall  
HOURS: M-F 10 am - 6 pm Weds 10am-5pm  
Closed Weekends and Holidays



Low Cost Pet Prescriptions



## Royal Oak Holds Annual Mother's Day Flower Sale

BY BTL STAFF

On Sunday, May 13, Royal Oak is hosting its annual "Royal Oak in Bloom" Flower, Plant & Garden show. This Mother's Day event makes it easy to enjoy the increasingly warmer weather, get a head start on gardening and spend some quality time with family. With almost 70 vendors in attendance, the variety of "flowers, plants, landscaping items and decorative elements" for lawns is huge. And this year, the event will last an hour longer to allow for more shopping.

Event organizers say that this 25-year tradition has helped homeowners beautify their

lawns and gardens from all over Michigan.

"Designed to help Royal Oak homeowners beautify their property, Royal Oak in Bloom is a Mother's Day tradition for many," they said.

*The "Royal Oak in Bloom" event will go on from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. There are no fees to attend the event, and parking is free. Both interested growers and vendors are encouraged to contact the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce for more information. Prices vary depending on space required. For more information about the event visit royaloakchamber.com or contact Jennifer Clark at JenniferC@RoyalOakChamber.com.*

## Artist Kevin Tolman Debuts Nature-Based Art Exhibit

BY BTL STAFF

The paintings of Kevin Tolman reveal the storied layers of an artist's creative process. Robert Kidd Gallery's spring exhibition focuses on the unfolding nature of Tolman's compositions, which manifest deep illusory spaces activated by brilliantly placed marks and forms. Each painting invites the viewer to peer through quiet veils of skillful, intuitively worked mixed media, offering a glimpse at richly percussive underlying fields.

Born in Detroit, Kevin Tolman spent the early years of his career traveling extensively throughout North America and Europe. In 1981, Tolman established a permanent studio in the colorful high desert of New Mexico, whose landscapes, light and seasons continue to inspire the handsome, largely reductive palettes of his paintings to this day. Tolman's works have been exhibited for over four



decades and are represented in numerous important public, private and corporate collections, both in the U.S. and abroad.

*The artist reception will be on Saturday, April 28th, 5 - 8 p.m.*



**HOLIDAY  
MARKET**



*Let The Bakery Shoppe  
at Holiday Market  
Create Your Perfect Cake!*

- A WORLD CLASS GROCERY - RIGHT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
- WIDE ARRAY OF GOURMET PREPARED FOODS
- WONDERFUL PRODUCE, MEAT AND ETHNIC FOOD SELECTIONS
- WINES FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE
- JOIN US FOR MIREPOIX GOURMET COOKING CLASSES

*One of the Finest Caterers in Metro Detroit*

248.541.1414  
WWW.HOLIDAY-MARKET.COM

1203 S. MAIN STREET,  
ROYAL OAK, MI 48067

# The Ark

where music lives

Thursday, 5/17, 8 pm

**Lissie**  
w/sg Van William

New music!



Friday, 5/18, 8 pm

**Elizabeth Cook**  
w/sg Caleb Caudle



Nashville's most fearless  
singer-songwriter

Tickets at the Michigan  
Union Ticket Office, The Ark  
Box Office or [theark.org](http://theark.org).

**734.763.TKTS**

316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, MI

[www.theark.org](http://www.theark.org)



## Walk-A-Mom at Stony Creek Metropark

With the weather changing for the better, a way to enjoy both the nice days and finish off Mother's Day is with a walk in the park. Stony Creek Metropark is hosting its annual Walk-A-Mom event where kids "of all ages" are invited to walk the trails alongside their moms. There is no registration necessary and the event is free. Daily passes to the park are free for pedestrians and cost \$10 for vehicles. Stony Creek Metropark is located at 4300 Main Park Road, Shelby Twp. Call 586-781-9113 or go online to [metroparks.com](http://metroparks.com) for more information.

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### 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 welcomed to network. Host by: Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Check website for monthly location, RSVP is Required. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646 [info@detroitlgbtchamber.com](mailto:info@detroitlgbtchamber.com) [www.ferndalesoho.com](http://www.ferndalesoho.com) [www.detroitlgbtchamber.com](http://www.detroitlgbtchamber.com)

### Friday, May 11

**Live Band Karaoke at Dino's for Ferndale Pride** 9:30 p.m. Another awesome 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 Avenue, Ferndale. (248) 591-3466 [julia@ferndalepride.com](mailto:julia@ferndalepride.com) [www.ferndalepride.com](http://www.ferndalepride.com) [www.dinoslounge.com](http://www.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-friendly run and walk! Dearborn's Gateway Dearborn's Gateway Trail, 22051 Cherry Hill Street, Dearborn. [events@metrodetroitanimals.org](http://events@metrodetroitanimals.org) [www.metrodetroitanimals.org](http://www.metrodetroitanimals.org)

### Saturday, May 19

**Spring Fling Dance - Women Out And About** 7 p.m. DJ Carol, BYOB, Private Dance Party at the Dance Scene. \$15 Advance, \$20 at the door. the dance scene, 25333 van dyke, centerline. 248-943-2411 [womenoutandabout.net/event/spring-fling-dance-2/](http://womenoutandabout.net/event/spring-fling-dance-2/)

**Soho's 5th Annual Hot Daddies Contest** 8 p.m. Another great Ferndale Pride event happening at Soho! Come one, come all...It's the 5th Annual Hot Daddies Contest. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646 [julia@ferndalepride.com](mailto:julia@ferndalepride.com) [www.ferndalesoho.com](http://www.ferndalesoho.com) [www.ferndalepride.com](http://www.ferndalepride.com)

### Wednesday, May 23

**Otus Supply Featuring Kate Wright** 8 p.m. Another fantastic Ferndale Pride event coming at you! Come listen to the music of Kate Wright in Otus Supply's 'The Parliament Room'. Check website for ticket pricing. Otus Supply, 345 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-291-6160 [julia@ferndalepride.com](mailto:julia@ferndalepride.com) [www.otussupply.com](http://www.otussupply.com) [www.ferndalepride.com](http://www.ferndalepride.com)

## MUSIC & MORE

**Live Band Karaoke at Dino's for Ferndale Pride** May 11, 9:30 p.m. Another awesome 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 Avenue, Ferndale. (248) 591-3466 [julia@ferndalepride.com](mailto:julia@ferndalepride.com) [www.dinoslounge.com](http://www.dinoslounge.com) [www.ferndalepride.com](http://www.ferndalepride.com)

**13th Annual Friends for Animals of Metro Detroit Mutt Strut!** May 12, 8 a.m. The 5K run and 2.2 mile walk is Metro



## 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](http://www.mccdetroit.org)

## Editor's Pick

### Shakey Graves at Royal Oak Music Theatre

Heading to the Royal Oak Music Theatre on Monday, May 21 is Shakey Graves. The Texas-born musician has been on the Americana scene since 2011 and is the recipient the 2015 Best Emerging Artist Award from the Americana Music Awards. Tickets start at \$25. Doors open at 8 p.m. More information can be found online at [royaloakmusictheatre.com](http://royaloakmusictheatre.com).



Photo by Greg Giannukos.



## Editor's Pick

### Mother's Day Weekend Workout

Mother's Day weekend for many is a time of quality time with mom and some indulgence in food. For those looking to buck tradition and get fitness in their routine, a Mother's Day Weekend Workout at Underdog Boxing & Performance Gym might just be the way to do it. A high intensity fat-burning exercise that is then followed by some relaxing yoga. More information can be found by calling 313-400-5900 or by going on eventbrite.com. Tickets start at \$7.53.



Detroit's only springtime pet-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 Street, Dearborn. events@metrodetroitanimals.org events@metrodetroitanimals.org www.famdmuttstrut.org

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups** May 14, 6:30 p.m. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700 www.chippewavalleyhighschools.org/schools/high-schools/dhs/

**Mysterium** May 17, 6 p.m. Following last year's sold-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 Avenue, Detroit. 3135765162 https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4655&prod=4654

**Ann Arbor Guitar Trio CD Release Concert** May 17, 7:30 p.m. The Ann Arbor Guitar Trio, 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. anestmusic@gmail.com anestmusic@gmail.com kerrytownconcerthouse.com www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com/index.php/events/calendar/

**Spring Fling Dance – Women Out And About** May 19, 7 p.m. DJ Carol, BYOB, Private Dance Party at the Dance Scene. \$15 Advance, \$20 at the door. the dance scene, 25333 van dyke, centerline. 248-943-2411 womenoutandabout.net/event/spring-fling-dance-2/ womenoutandabout.net/event/spring-fling-dance-2/

**Soho's 5th Annual Hot Daddies Contest** May 19, 8 p.m. Another great Ferndale Pride event happening at Soho! Come one, come all... It's the 5th Annual Hot Daddies Contest. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646 julia@ferndalepride.com julia@ferndalepride.com www.ferndalesoho.com www.ferndalepride.com

**Star Wars and the Power of Costume** May 20, 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™. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

313-833-7900 https://www.dia.org/starwarsattheDIA

**Otus Supply Featuring Kate Wright** May 23, 8 p.m. Another fantastic Ferndale Pride event coming at you! Come listen to the music of Kate Wright in Otus Supply's 'The Parliament Room'. Check website for ticket pricing. Otus Supply, 345 E. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-291-6160 julia@ferndalepride.com julia@ferndalepride.com www.otussupply.com www.ferndalepride.com

**Cinetopia Film Festival at Ann Arbor's Michigan Theater** May 31, 7 p.m. Created for the people of southeastern Michigan, the Cinetopia Film Festival features the best feature-length dramas, comedies, and documentaries from the world's best film festivals (e.g. Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, SXSW, Tribeca, etc.). May 31 - June 10 Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 www.cinetopiafestival.org

**Om @ The Max** June 3, 10:30 a.m. Practice yoga to live music by French composers. Certified yoga instructor and DSO Librarian Ethan Allen leads a group yoga session open to all skill levels—accompanied with music performed live by a DSO percussion ensemble. The Cube, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=5084&prod=5083 https://www.dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=5084&prod=5083

**Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2018 Mainstage Lineup!** June 5, 7:30 p.m. Passionate, provocative, and charming, the iconic singer/songwriter, activist, poet, and auteur Ani DiFranco returns to the territory that brought her to the world's attention backed by a full band. Born a gifted songwriter, by age Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327 info@a2sf.org info@a2sf.org smtd.umich.edu/about/facilities/central\_campus/power/index.htm a2sf.org/events/ani-difranco/

### ART 'N' AROUND

**Westside Art Hop** May 19, 10 a.m. Westside Art Hop is an art walk in neighborhood homes, studios, porches and yards on Saturday May 19th, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Find cards and gifts from under \$5, up to fine art at

**Star Wars and the Power of Costume** May 20, 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™. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-833-7900 https://www.dia.org/starwarsattheDIA

### THEATER

**A2CT Workshop: Physical Characterization** May 12, 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 www.a2ct.org/classes-and-workshops

**A2CT Jr. Theatre Presents: Elephant and Piggie's We are in a Play!** May 18, 7:30 p.m. Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538 smtd.umich.edu/about/facilities/north\_campus/walgreen/arthurmiller/ www.a2ct.org/junior-theatre/elephant-and-piggie

**Cinetopia Film Festival at Ann Arbor's Michigan Theater** May 31, 7 p.m. Created for the people of southeastern Michigan, the Cinetopia Film Festival features the best feature-length dramas, comedies, and documentaries from the world's best film festivals (e.g. Sundance, Cannes, Venice, Toronto, Berlin, SXSW, Tribeca, etc.). Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 www.cinetopiafestival.org

**All Childish Things: The Special Edition** May 31, 7:30 p.m. In a galaxy far, far away (Cincinnati), the caper of the millennium is underway: the theft of millions of dollars of Star Wars merchandise and memorabilia. But even the best laid plans can go awry. Milan High School, 200 Big Red Dr., Milan. 734-681-0112 info@roustabouttheatre.com info@roustabouttheatre.com roustabouttheatre.com roustabouttheatre.com roustabouttheatre.com

**Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2018 Mainstage Lineup Continues!** June 10, 1 p.m. Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327 info@a2sf.org info@a2sf.org smtd.umich.edu/about/facilities/central\_campus/power/index.htm a2sf.org/events/acrobuffos-air-play-1

# GET READY, 'CAUSE HERE WE COME.

# MOTOWN™

## THE MUSICAL

### LAST CHANCE TO SEE BROADWAY TOUR!

### Fisher Theatre • June 5-10

BroadwayInDetroit.com, ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787, box office

Broadway in Detroit sponsored by

313-872-1000. ★ OPENING NIGHT \$59 (except Premium seats) courtesy of WDIV & WMXD.

PACIFICA ChryslerDealer.com

Groups (12+): Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com or 313-871-1132. **OC 8PM June 8.**

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

Presented by  
**SOMERSET**  
BUICK | GMC  
Produced by the  
**BIRMINGHAM BLOOMFIELD ArtCenter**  
in association with  
**The Guild**

"Dandelion Urbanized" by Featured Artist: Marina Terauds



# Drag Queens to 'Catfight' for the Title of Miss Kitty

## Ruth Ellis Center Fundraiser Kicks Off Pride Month with Pageant

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

It's about to get real catty in Detroit. The biggest catfight of the year is happening on June 1 at the Fillmore Theatre, 2115 Woodward Ave.

Eight amateur contestants will fight for the title of Miss Kitty in categories of evening wear, swimsuit, talent, and interview segments. The Catfight for the Crown is an elaborate, "tongue-in-cheek" drag show "beauty" pageant that brings forward a unique, over-the-top, entertaining and interactive way of raising critical funding to support the Ruth Ellis Center. This event is also designed to celebrate all forms of identity and expression.

The pageant will be judged by celebrity guests Nicole Eisenberg, member of the board of directors for GLAAD; Chuck Bennett, Detroit's undisputed style guru and society icon; Elliott Broom, Vice President of Museum Operations at the Detroit Institute of Art; Jessie Beld Elliott, Founder and CEO at Beld & Associates; musician and songwriter, Ben Sharkey; and Detroit's very own living drag legend, Lady "T" Tempest.

The idea for the show was presented to the Ruth Ellis Center by Harris Van Cleef, Vice President at Star Trax Event Productions.

Catfight is a spin-off from a successful fundraiser in Los Angeles titled Battle for the Tiara, now known as Best in Drag Show. The original event has raised over \$1 million to support Aid for AIDS during its reign with emcee Patrick Rush and the late Alexis Pittman, who was the founder and creator.

"For years I have wanted to give back," said Van Cleef. "To me, it felt like Ruth Ellis Center is an organization that is really digging in and trying to do something on the front lines of what's going on with an issue that many of us don't even know is going on. As somebody who wasn't affected in that way and was raised in a home where I happened to be accepted, I can't imagine what it would be like to be someone who is turned away from their family or their community because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. For me, that's really powerful."

The Pinkys, the "goodwill ambassadors," will be on-hand to take tickets, usher guests, sweep money across the stage and serve cocktails. These volunteer characters will all don the same pink dresses, so they can't be



missed.

"We have been extraordinarily lucky to receive help from everyone we have approached," said Van Cleef pointing to people like Scott MacDonald, Corinne Roskopp, Mikki Gardner and Shannon McConnell, who are also responsible for the directing and managing of the event. "That's been my experience so far. Everything we've asked for or needed has been given. People really care about the Ruth Ellis Center and the young people they serve. It's really been miraculous and we're all unbelievably grateful."

But the process could not have been started without support from Project Beautiful - Inside and Out, the presenting sponsor for this inaugural event. Their mission is to build confidence and inspire hope as individuals and families rebuild their lives.

"The amazing work done by Ruth Ellis fits our mission perfectly. Our relationship with the Center has grown from buying 50 pairs of winter boots, to sponsoring meals and contributing to their pantry program, to our Rainbow Cabaret event last April that raised \$40,000 for the capital campaign for their Health and Wellness Center. Catfight for the Crown is a natural evolution of our support and we couldn't be more excited," said Doris Gilles, founder and executive director.

Proceeds generated from Catfight for the Crown will be designated to support the capital campaign for the Ruth Ellis Health and Wellness Center, which provides affirming and accessible mental health and primary care services including acute care, chronic disease management, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, and gender-affirming hormones.

Young people can come to the Center to have dinner, take a shower, use the computer, get free clothing and food boxes and, most importantly, build community in a safe space. With the development of the

Health and Wellness Center, they can now receive physical and mental health services in an environment in which they are already comfortable and which stands in sharp contrast to traditional clinical environments in which they may experience stigma or outright rejection. The Center has set a goal of completing the capital campaign in 2018 and hopes Catfight for the Crown will inspire others to get involved.

"Ruth Ellis Center has worked very hard to establish a robust culture of philanthropy and this event is a wonderful example of that," said Mark Erwin-McCormick, Director of Development & Advancement at Ruth Ellis Center. "Here is an example of three separate entities, Harris Van Cleef of Star Trax Events, Project

Beautiful - Inside & Out, and Ruth Ellis Center, coming together to leverage their collective resources for the sole purpose of ensuring LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness or other barriers to care have safe access to integrated primary and behavioral health care. That's what Pride is all about."

Van Cleef continued, "I believe that you need to show people a good time and so many people go to black-tie galas and while they're amazing, the idea is to be able to go someplace and really just have fun and let loose to have a good time and still raise money. It's a serious cause, but we're doing it in a very fun, very light, very self-deprecating, humorous kind of way. That's the beauty of it."

*For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Mark Erwin-McCormick, Director of Development and Advancement at Ruth Ellis Center at 313-252-1950. Visit [ruthelliscenter.org](http://ruthelliscenter.org) for more information. To purchase tickets, visit [universe.com/catfightforthecrown](http://universe.com/catfightforthecrown).*



## Out Loud Chorus Hosts Concert, Returns to Arthur Miller Theater

BY BTL STAFF

Ann Arbor's Out Loud Chorus is a non-auditioned community singing group that is comprised mainly of LGBTQ chorus members, and the 55-person group has just completed their first year of direction under their new conductor William Scott Walters. This year also marks the group's return to the Arthur Miller Theatre's stage after "many years."

Now, the group is gearing up to showcase its Spring Concert there on both Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12. The show's theme will be Communication, "talk to me, baby." And, for those who have not yet seen Walters' conducting, it will be an opportunity to demonstrate his unique performance style.

Walters was a student of Jerry Blackstone at the University of Michigan's Master of Music conducting program, as well as that of Robert Spano, Harry Bicket and Kenneth

Kiesler. Walters has also instructed music in the Atlanta, Georgia, area before returning to Southeast Michigan.

In addition to its scheduled Spring Concert, the Out Loud Chorus will also be making an appearance at Ann Arbor Pride and the Ann Arbor Art Fair.

For those interested in joining the chorus, applications can be found online at [olonline.org](http://olonline.org). New member nights are held in late January and September of each year and rehearsals are held every Monday night from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

*The Spring Concert on Saturday, May 11 will be held from 8 to 10 p.m., and the Sunday, May 12 performance will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. The Arthur Miller Theatre is located at 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. More information can be found online about upcoming performances and ticketing at [olonline.org](http://olonline.org).*





## Liz and the Luckouts Offer up 'Raw Rock 'n' Roll'

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The pessimism of their name aside, Liz and the Luckouts are a safe bet if you're looking for "Detroit rock 'n' roll, just raw rock 'n' roll," said Gretchen Domino, who plays bass and joins in on vocals. "Our sound is hard to describe."

Maybe. But locals find it easy to enjoy. The cuts on their 2016 EP, "Twisted," are catchy and the music is approachable in an '80s, Joan Jett kind of way.

"Joan Jett, Chrissy Hynde, Suzi Quatro, I was inspired mostly the female musicians," said Liz Scaris, who fronts the band and plays guitar. "I saw them all rocking out and I was like, 'Yeah, that's what I want to do.'"

Scaris had played in other bands for years before she decided to step out front.

"We couldn't find another singer so that's how I ended up doing it," she said. "I always just played guitar but then I started singing and playing guitar. I've been in other bands as bass player, guitar player so I said I might as well try it myself and do it ... and it's working out way better than expected."

Domino and Scaris started playing together in 2011. Dan Durecki started playing drums with the band about four years ago.

"It's just fun," Durecki said. "Playing with them there's never a dull moment. What I like about it is we're not to the point. Every show that you see is going to be a one-off. Even though we rehearse we try to create a different version of the song almost every time you see it. It's fun to play like that. If you play the exact same thing every day it's like punching a clock. That's what I

like about it. We're free to make magical mistakes."

The band doesn't just play together though. They also write songs together as well.

"We're really organic in the way that we do it," said Durecki. "They'll come up with some sort of a hook and then I'll come in and they'll say, 'Lay something down to this.' So I'll kind of come up with a rhythm to it. Or I'll come in with a hook line and say this is what I'm thinking and they'll build something around it."

Scaris agreed.

"We're all on the same page so that helps out a lot when it comes to writing music," she said. "We all pretty much listen to the same music and come up with the same ideas. It just works."

The formula has garnered some success. Last year Liz and the Luckouts were nominated for three Detroit Music Awards.

"There's a little bit of everything in our music," said Domino. "We got some blues stuff and some jazz stuff that's influenced it, as far as lines go and what we play as musicians."

Durecki, perhaps, summed it up best.

"We're not trying to reinvent the wheel," he said. "We're straight ahead ballsy three-cord rocking music. Our songs are catchy and hook-laden. That's what I kind of want our sound to be. We're trying to make really great rock songs and I think there's still a place for that."

*Liz and the Luckouts will be playing at Cross Street Station in Ypsilanti on Saturday, May 12th. For more information visit [facebook.com/theluckouts](https://facebook.com/theluckouts).*



# The Summer King

May 12 - 20, 2018

At the Detroit Opera House

Music by Daniel Sonenberg  
Libretto by Daniel Sonenberg  
and Daniel Nester, with additional  
lyrics by Mark Campbell

The story of Negro Leagues baseball legend Josh Gibson - a story of talent, heartbreak and one man's journey to overcome discrimination.

MICHIGAN  
OPERA  
THEATRE

FOR TICKETS

MichiganOpera.org  
or 313.237.7464

2018 Spring Opera Season Sponsor

GENERAL MOTORS

This project is supported in part by awards from:

MELLON

ART WORLD

In partnership with

DETROIT  
TIGERS



**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](http://www.HappyHoundsDayCare.com)

♥ 673 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan

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!

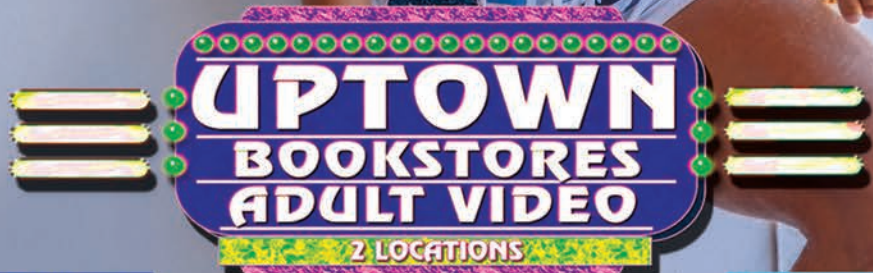


**UPTOWN SALE**  
\$10 OFF ANY \$50 PURCHASE  
\$20 OFF ANY \$100 PURCHASE  
REGULAR PRICED MERCH ONLY!  
MAY 3-MAY 6, 2018

**UPTOWN SALE**  
20% OFF  
ALL REGULAR PRICED NOVELTIES, TOYS &  
LOTIONS!  
MAY 17-MAY 20, 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



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

## Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

### More more more 'Tales of The City,' now with Ellen Page

Just when you were fully annoyed and extremely tired and actually angry (hey, "Roseanne"! ) at all the TV reboots and revivals, here comes the promise of 10 new episodes of Armistead Maupin's "Tales of The City" on Netflix to make everything OK again. The good news? It's a continuation of the beloved stories you've read and watched since the 1970s (if you were a books-first fan) and/or the '90s (if you were converted by the PBS and Showtime installments back in the day), so there'll be no rehashing the past, and Lauren Morelli ("Orange is The New Black") is the showrunner. Meanwhile, original cast member Laura Linney is back as Mary-Ann, picking up where she left off, and for this batch of stories, her now-adult daughter, Shawna, will be played by Ellen Page ("Gaycation"). Making it even sweeter? Anna Madrigal is still high and kicking, and Olympia Dukakis has already signed on to bring her back to life. Someone at Netflix deserves a cookie bouquet for this one.

### The pain and glory of Almodovar

In 2019 the world of cinema will get lucky again, because that's when legendary Spanish director Pedro Almodovar drops his next movie. Here's everything we know so far: it's about a filmmaker whose past choices come back to haunt his present day life as he works on a new project. It's called "Dolor y Gloria" ("pain and glory") and it will star his longtime muse Penelope Cruz ("Broken Embraces") and his other longtime muse Antonia Banderas, an actor who goes all the way back to 1982 with Almodovar and the film "Labyrinth of Passion." Even the supporting cast is vintage Almodovar, with Spanish actresses Kiti Manver from "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown," and Julieta Serrano, who goes back even further than Banderas to 1980's "Pepi, Luci, Bom y otras chicas del monton." Will it be a comedy? A drama? Both? We don't care, we're just ready for the calendar to flip.



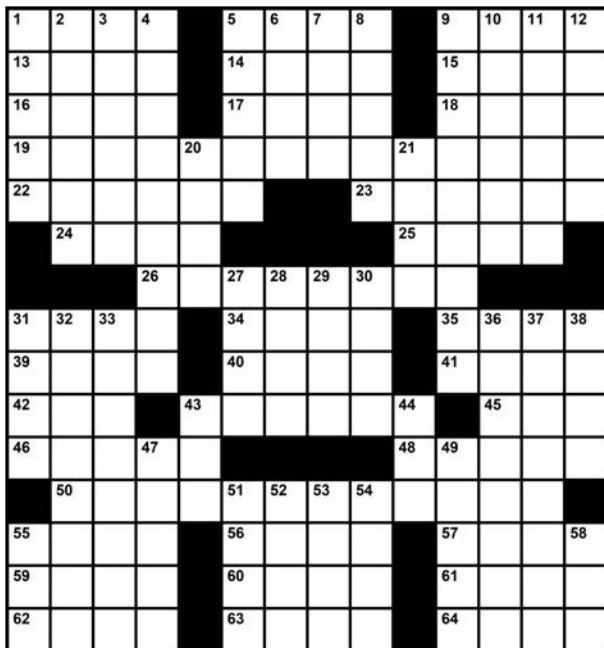
### Lily Collins does not clash with 'Titan'

We've liked Lily Collins since we first saw her cute up the screen as Snow White in the fairly odd fairy tale movie "Mirror Mirror." Then we found out she was the daughter of Phil Collins - imagine growing up hearing "In The Air Tonight" every time you went to the grocery store and realizing you had to live up to that, it's sobering - and we became even more fond. Well, she just got herself attached to the latest offering from queer writer-director Austin Bunn ("Kill Your Darlings") and legendary indie producer Christine Vachon. "Titan" is the title, it's being called a "survival thriller," and it's the story of a young musician (Collins) on a mission to find out what happened to her older sister, an environmental activist killed in a seemingly accidental fall. When our heroine digs up the past, however, she puts herself in danger. This is the first bit of information - it's not even on her IMDB page yet - so don't expect to be survival thrilled until at least 2019 or later.

### Lindsay Lohan getting dolled up for 'Life Size 2?'

Obviously you all remember that time in the year 2000 when Lindsay Lohan was a child star and she was in that TV movie called "Life Size," which is the one where little Lindsay's Barbie-esque toy doll comes to life and is Tyra Banks. It was so good. And because it was so good, media mogul Tyra Banks has decided that things can only get gooder and now there's going to be a "Life Size 2." We need this. Tyra's producing it. The world is quivering in anticipation. And Tyra needs Lindsay. Ms. Banks is talking about the project out in public and more or less confirming that it's happening with the now-grown Lindsay, which may mean Lohan is in negotiations and very close to signing. Or it could also just be one of those SoulCycle things about putting your intention into the universe and manifesting the reality (listen, we have no idea what those words mean, either, but they sound productive). If you saw Lohan on Wendy Williams' couch not long ago, it's clear she's in a good place and ready to be enjoyed as an actor again, so maybe we all just need to chant to the universe a little louder.

Romeo San Vicente stans for Lohan.



myself”  
 22 Queen toppers  
 23 Made a profit of, in Mauresmo’s sport?  
 24 Web info source  
 25 MBA subj.  
 26 More of the quote  
 31 By mouth  
 34 The Gay ‘90s, and others  
 35 Stone of “Easy A”  
 39 Revolution opponent  
 40 \_\_\_ in the hay  
 41 Bellow in the library  
 42 Homoerotic  
 14 Collette of “The Hours”  
 15 Forfeit  
 16 Just right  
 17 Very top  
 18 Cicero’s singular  
 19 Start of a quote that follows “I don’t define

55 Responder to “Bite me!”?  
 56 Cruising  
 57 Black and white sandwich  
 59 With respect to  
 60 Went lickety-split  
 61 Began like Sheehan, with “off”  
 62 Precious stones  
 63 David \_\_\_ Pierce  
 64 To be, in Brest

**Down**

1 Fly cry  
 2 Grace to Will, once  
 3 Where to find some fruit  
 4 But of course  
 5 Chat room request  
 6 Nightclub in a Manilow song  
 7 One more time  
 8 Cynthia, who is the source of the quote  
 9 Marks on your lover’s back  
 10 Rough house  
 11 Brody of “The Pianist”  
 12 Judy Garland’s “\_\_\_ My Shadow”  
 20 Starch source

21 Event for George Frenn  
 27 Designer Wang  
 28 Aphrodite’s son  
 29 Result of four balls  
 30 Wight, for one  
 31 Miss among Cole Porter hits  
 32 Sitcom with Sara Gilbert  
 33 One way to walk in a Gay Pride March  
 36 Funny Cho  
 37 Marlon Brando, in “The Bounty”  
 38 Stein fillers  
 43 Reno action  
 44 Eastern philosophy  
 47 Bernstein’s staff members  
 49 Ham it up on Broadway  
 51 Diced meat  
 52 Catch sight of  
 53 Robert of “The Brady Bunch”  
 54 Go in only partway, at South Beach  
 55 Job for a rock band  
 58 It may be Sapphic

Solution at [pridesource.com](http://pridesource.com)

**Undefinable Cynthia Q Puzzle**

**Across**

1 Express pleasure orally  
 5 Give the once-over in a gay bar  
 9 It may be grand, to Glenn Burke  
 13 Chaplin partner

14 Collette of “The Hours”  
 15 Forfeit  
 16 Just right  
 17 Very top  
 18 Cicero’s singular  
 19 Start of a quote that follows “I don’t define

tail?

43 Two for Sue Wicks, once  
 45 AAA way  
 46 River of Gay Patee  
 48 Sponsorship  
 50 End of the quote

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 y d

**NATIONAL LGBT MEDIA ASSOCIATION**

Bay Area Reporter | Bay Windows | BTL | dallasvoice | Gay City  
 bade | pgn | SFGN | Voice | bade | W | WINDY CITY TIMES

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

**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](http://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

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

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



### Local Lesbian Publishing Company Rakes in Multiple Awards

BY BTL STAFF

**ANN ARBOR** – Bywater Books is a small lesbian press company that has been awarded prizes for its 2017 titles. Founded in 2004, Bywater Books' titles are available in print, ebook, and audiobook formats and cover everything in the genre of coming of age lesbian fiction. Just last year, the company published 14 books, for which it won four Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPYs), two Best Book of the Year awards in two categories from the Delaware Press Association. In addition, it secured two Foreword Independent Book Awards finalists from its array of works, two Lambda Literary Award finalists and one finalist for the Triangle Publishing Awards.

The eight-person team is headed by

publisher Salem West, and has published titles by such authors as Rachel Spangler, Hilary Zaid and Lisa Gitlin. When asked how the company goes about choosing its variety of authors and topics, West said that it's all about the looking for excellence — in whatever form it comes in.

“Bywater Books has long pursued quality and diversity in the literature we publish,” West said. “We know that lives are enriched when our lesbian stories are read, and it is clear that mainstream awards like the IPPYs help us to reach a widening world of readers.”

*For more information about Bywater Books, visit [bywaterbooks.com](http://bywaterbooks.com).*

### MOCAD Hosts Naughty Drawing

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Live models, cocktails and Tom of Finland-inspired art. That's the setup that Detroit's Museum of Contemporary Art will establish in its Cafe

78 on Saturday, May 19. At 2 p.m. guests are welcome to come and draw artwork that is based on the current exhibition at the museum: “TOM House: The Work and Life of Tom of Finland.” The exhibit features the work of Finnish artist Touka Laaksonen who created



a unique style of homoerotic fetish art.

Hosted by Tylonn J. Sawyer, the event is also sponsored by Equality Michigan and various other

benefactors. This event is intended for mature audiences only.

*More information can be found online at [mocadetroit.org](http://mocadetroit.org) or by going to the event Facebook Page.*

### Metro Detroit LGBTQ Bars

[www.facebook.com/EscapeLounge.gaybar](http://www.facebook.com/EscapeLounge.gaybar)

#### Gigi's Cabaret

Gigi's cabaret is the longest running female impersonation revue in Michigan, in business over 30 years, and it's a longtime Detroit gay hot spot.

Reservations can be made via Facebook or call 313-584-6525. Open Mon., Thur. & Fri. after 8 p.m. Sat & Sun After 7 p.m. (Closed Tue. & Wed.)

16920 W Warren Ave., Detroit  
[www.facebook.com/gigiscabaret](http://www.facebook.com/gigiscabaret)

#### aut Bar

Iconic LGBTQ gathering place in Ann Arbor since the early 1990s. Restaurant and bar, serving eclectic menu with a Mexican flair. Located in Braun Court which is also home to the Jim Toy LGBTQ Community Center and Common Language Bookstore. Courtyard open on warmer nights. Hosts many community event fundraisers, rallies and celebrations. Popular with men, women and trans.

315 Braun Court, Ann Arbor  
[autbar@gmail.com](mailto:autbar@gmail.com)  
734-994-3677  
[www.autbar.com](http://www.autbar.com)

#### Briggs Sports Bar

Located in downtown Detroit, across from GM World Headquarters, Briggs Sports Bar is a popular after-work watering-hole. This attractive club draws an energetic crowd to its Trophy Room dance club with “kickass” djs. The SkyBox rooftop is perfect for enjoying a cocktail while taking in an unrivaled view of downtown.

519 East Jefferson Ave., Detroit, 313-656-4820  
[www.facebook.com/Briggs-Detroit](http://www.facebook.com/Briggs-Detroit)

#### Club Gold Coast

One of Detroit's oldest and most popular night spots, Club Gold Coast features male strippers and is open 7 nights a week. Located in the Palmer Park area of Detroit, once the epicenter of Detroit's gay scene.

2971 E. Seven Mile Rd., Detroit 313-366-6135  
[www.facebook.com/clubgoldcoast](http://www.facebook.com/clubgoldcoast)

#### Escape Lounge Nitnight Club

So you've partied all evening but you're not ready to call it a night. Escape Lounge is an all-male, after-hours, all-night eatery & bar. Opens at 10 p.m. 19404 Sherwood St., Detroit 313-892-1765

#### Hayloft Saloon

Sports & Video Bar is a male club offering Karaoke, pool, darts, six LCD screens and internet juke box. Open since 1980, The Hayloft is owned by Ron Harrington who also owns the gay bar, Side Traxx in Traverse City. This is a no-nonsense sports bar where men meet other men for fun, friendship and more.

8070 Greenfield Rd., Detroit 313-581-8913  
<http://hayloftsaloon.com>

#### The Liberty Bar

Great little bar in the heart of Pontiac, Michigan. Food, drinks, in business over 60 years. They have a pub menu, with a trendy twist, and an extensive drink menu with a huge beer selection. Open for lunch too. Very friendly atmosphere.

85 North Saginaw St., Pontiac 248-758-0771  
[www.thelibertybar.com](http://www.thelibertybar.com)

#### Menjos Gay Entertainment Complex

Has been a gathering place for the gay community of Metro Detroit for decades. It's also a bit of a Madonna mecca since she used to be a regular when the Material Girl was also a local Michigan girl. The mostly male 20-to-30 something crowd comes for the dancing and entertainment. The Complex includes the Menjos Bar, the Eagle Leather bar and the Olympus Theater. Open Wednesday to Saturday. 928 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI 313-863-3934  
[www.newmenjoscomplex.com](http://www.newmenjoscomplex.com)

[www.facebook.com/menjoscomplex](http://www.facebook.com/menjoscomplex)

#### Necto Nightclub (Pride Fridays)

Ann Arbor's downtown nightclub, Necto attracts people from University of Michigan's campus

and the surrounding area. Multiple weekly & special events. The Pride night has been a staple in Ann Arbor's gay scene since 1984. 516 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor 734-994-5835  
[www.necto.com](http://www.necto.com)

#### Pronto!

Has served the LGBTQ community for decades, right in the heart of Royal Oak. Pronto's has teamed up with the Drag Queen Bingo hosted by Five 15 every weekend in the space right next door to Pronto!

608 S Washington Ave., Royal Oak, MI 248-544-7900  
[www.facebook.com/comprontovideoar](http://www.facebook.com/comprontovideoar)

#### Queen's Bar Detroit

But don't be confused by the name. It's not about Queens as in gay men. Queens is named after the NYC borough – the owners have another Detroit bar named Bronx. Although not specifically an LGBTQ bar, Queen's Bar has an unpretentious vibe and clearly welcomes LGBTQ patrons with a super-friendly staff that is very open.

35 Grand River Ave., Detroit 313-285-8019  
[www.facebook.com/pg/queensbardetroit](http://www.facebook.com/pg/queensbardetroit)

#### Soho Ferndale

This classy spot features wine, jazz, martinis and a comfortable, casual environment. Located right in the heart of Ferndale's gay district, Soho has a weekly line-up of trivia, karaoke, dance parties, and sweet drink specials. Popular with both men and women.

205 W 9 Mile Rd., Ferndale 248-542-7646  
[www.ferndalesoho.com](http://www.ferndalesoho.com)

#### Woodward Bar & Grill

In the heart of Midtown, it is the oldest gay bar in Detroit dating back to 1960. It's storied history is reflected in the pictures on the walls and in conversations you'll hear from loyal patrons. The Woodward is open for lunch and dinner with simple but excellent fare, especially their burgers. During the day it serves the many business people in the area, turning mostly LGBTQ after 5 p.m. It's popular with the Black LGBTQ community and is a welcoming environment for men, women, trans.

6426 Woodward Ave., Detroit 313-872-0166  
[www.facebook.com/Woodward-Bar-Grill-455392641237497](http://www.facebook.com/Woodward-Bar-Grill-455392641237497)



photo credit: Jason Bush

# Wayne's World

## A Local Designer's Breathable, Butt-Hugging Underwear Line for Men Feeling Sexy

BY EMELL DERRA ADOLPHUS

Designer Perry Wayne taught himself how to sew and used that skill to start creating the type of fashionable clothes he dreamed to one day produce for the world. "Being a designer has always been a dream of mine," Wayne said, and his creative process feels "like clean energy flowing through my bones breathing."

Most recently, he focused this energy into the launch of his new self-titled underwear line, Wayne.

Somehow, the line manages to be a breath of fresh air in an increasingly flooded market, mostly because of Wayne's buy local spin. In place of obscure abdomens, Wayne uses real people plucked from our community to market the brand as models.

"I know them. If they look good, I'll look good," is what Wayne hopes potential customers will begin to wonder, which makes the brand's overall aura that much more attainable and close to home.

Wayne received a head-to-toe breakdown of the fashion businesses during his time

at the Art Institute of Novi. But he gets his sense of glamour from his mother.

"My mother was a huge influence when I was a little boy," he said. "She would always dress up in beautiful outfits and coats that would stop a runway."

When it comes to his work ethic, Wayne calls himself "moody."

"Which means, I design my garments based on what mood I am in," he said. "They're extremely fitted and hit in all the right places. They also make me feel extremely confident, and that's always been in issue for me wearing underwear. But now, thanks to my creative design work and precise cuts, I feel amazing in my own underwear."

In the right pair, you could, too. The line's highlights include neon blues, electric blacks and mesh in brief, jockstrap and trunk styles that are breathable and butt-hugging.

"The reason I came up with these particular designs is because they express who I am as a person," he said. "Also, making men feel sexy and comfortable is the key to building confidence."

Wayne admits, he only recently started experimenting with jockstraps – one of the most popular underwear garments for gay waistlines.

"Never have I thought I would wear a jock, but now I wear my Wayne jocks almost every day," he said, explaining, "(It) might look intimidating at first, but when it's on, it makes you feel extremely confident. My goal is to make everyone feel good about themselves."

By no means is that goal limited to gay men only. Wayne has plans to eventually launch a brick and mortar space welcoming men of all shapes, sizes and sexualities who want to feel good about what they are wearing underneath their pants.

"Men in general like to feel comfortable and sexy at the same time," Wayne said. "Having underwear that is stylish and gives you that versatility is important to a guy's taste."

Grab your pair of Perry Wayne underwear at [perrywayne.com](http://perrywayne.com).

**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!

THE DUNES

Est. 1981

SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN [DUNESRESORT.COM](http://DUNESRESORT.COM) 269.857.1401

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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

## AIDS/HIV

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

### AIDS Walk Detroit

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

### Macomb County STD Clinic

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

### Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

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

### UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

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

## Advocacy

### Equality Michigan

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

## Campus

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

### U-M Ann Arbor

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

### Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

### Eastern Michigan University

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

### The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

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

### Wayne State JIGSAW

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

## Community Centers

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

### Jim Toy Community Center

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

### LGBT Detroit

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

## Affirmations

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

## Legal

### American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

### Fair Michigan

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

### Know Your Rights Project

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

## Older Adults

### SAGE Metro Detroit

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

## Political

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

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

### Stonewall for Revolution

[www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution](https://www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution)

## Professional Groups

### Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

### Ties Like Me

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

### Suits And The City

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

## Transgender

### FtM Detroit

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

### FtM A2 Ypsi

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

### Transgender Michigan

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

### Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

## Youth

### Ruth Ellis Center

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

### Ozone House

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

### Stand With Trans

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

## Get Listed, Promote Your Events

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

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



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

## Find these resources online

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

## PRIDESOURCE Magazine The New Print Edition Coming June 1

Pride Source Magazine is currently in production. Non Profit basic listings are free. Just send your information by April 15 to [janstevenson@pridesource.com](mailto:janstevenson@pridesource.com). All advertising and content inquiries can also be made by calling 734-293-7200 ext. 101

# MOTOR CITY

JUNE 9-10, 2018  
DETROIT

# PRIDE



## FESTIVAL AND PARADE

[www.motorcitypride.org](http://www.motorcitypride.org)   #motorcitypride

PRESENTED BY





# DIAMOND CASTLE

*Jewelers since 1902*

39955 Grand River Ave Novi, MI 48375  
248-442-2440 | [diamondcastlejewelers.com](http://diamondcastlejewelers.com)



redefining engaged®

**Gabriel & Co.**  
NEW YORK

[GABRIELNY.COM](http://GABRIELNY.COM)