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Dishin' with the Girls of 'Casa Valentina'



*Garnet Lewis:
Trailblazer*

compassion, caring, trust, coexist, support, embrace, differences, value, appreciate, influence, respect, motivate, belonging, welcoming, purpose, mentorship, equity, equality, empowerment, connection, celebration, represent, inclusion, family, diversity, unity, solidarity, kindness, fairness, compassion, inclusive, fearless, honor, empathetic, commitment, courageous, connection, teamwork, community, neighborhood, togetherness, strong, supportive, united, rooted, oneness, gathering, uniqueness, brave, determined, agreement, accord, harmony, concurrence, cooperation, community, freedom, love, reflection, visibility, synchronicity, cohesion

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#ThisIsMe

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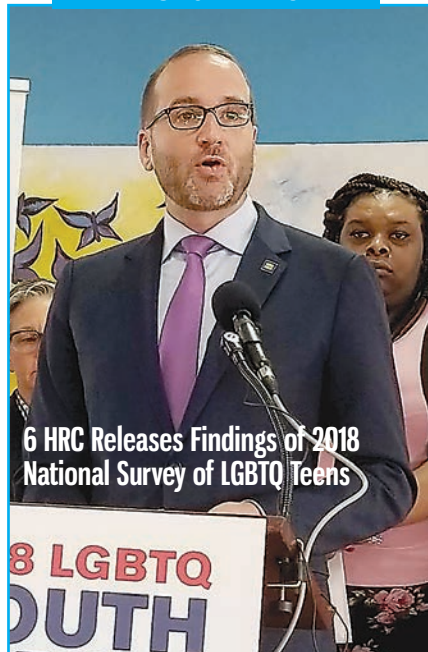
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Garnet Lewis: Trailblazer

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

“Honesty. Integrity. A Voice for You”
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When *Between The Lines* caught up with Garnet Lewis, Democratic candidate for Michigan’s 26th State Senate District, she had just finished a campaign-related breakfast meeting at the Blue Star Café near Saugatuck. “It’s wonderful, it’s going very well,” she said, when asked how her campaign was shaping up, having announced her candidacy in March.

“It’s happening all across the state, but especially over here in west Michigan, which is known to be a little more conservative ... certainly the energy and enthusiasm for Democratic candidates is absolutely wonderful,” she said. “The fundraising’s gotten off to a great start, so I couldn’t ask for a better environment, really. I couldn’t ask for a better year.”

Dr. Lewis serves as chair of the City of Saugatuck Planning Commission and is a member of the City of Saugatuck Board of Review. She brings with her more than 25 years of professional experience in higher education, serving as the associate director for professional education at Central Michigan University and director of institutional research at Saginaw Valley State University. Currently semi-retired, she and spouse Vicky Cobb own and manage three commercial properties in Michigan.

Lewis seeks to replace term-limited Tonya Schuitmaker, a Republican now in the race for attorney general. Lewis is the lone Democrat in the field, and in November will face a Libertarian and one of three Republicans who have filed. Of those three is Bob Genetski, Allegan County clerk and former state representative, who recently attracted national attention for attacking the credibility of the students who survived the Parkland shooting. He’s also known for his anti-LGBTQ voting record as state rep. In 2014, he co-sponsored Michigan’s odious “Religious Freedom Restoration Act,” which legalized discrimination, if in accordance with one’s religious beliefs.

At 56, Lewis is not new to state politics. In 2008, she ran for state representative in the 98th House District, which included portions of Saginaw and Midland Counties. She won her primary but lost in the general election to Republican Jim Stamas. In 2014, Lewis made a run for the 32nd Senate District, but lost in the primary.

Called Out of Retirement

When Lewis and Cobb moved across the state to Saugatuck in 2015, they planned to retire. However,

Donald Trump had other plans for her. When he was elected, everything changed.

“I told Vicky, the day after the election, I can’t just sit here. I can’t not do anything,” she said.

So Lewis and Cobb headed to Washington, D.C. for the Women’s March, which she called “a phenomenal experience ... amazing.”

“As tragic as I think it is that Donald Trump’s been elected, it’s also been an extremely good thing for folks like myself and folks that were probably nonvoters in the past or chose not to show up for that election,” she said. “It’s a big wake up call.”

Lewis explained that a notice was posted on her Facebook group asking for a good candidate for state senate. She and Cobb were up North, without internet access at the time, and was a little overwhelmed to return home and see the unanimous response: “Garn! Garn! Garn! Garn!”

At first, Lewis was reluctant to jump in the race. She was quick to remind her supporters that she had failed twice. But, perhaps they felt that the third time’s the charm. In fact, one of her “gals” in Douglas, an Episcopalian priest, was quick to point out how many times Abraham Lincoln had run and lost. Finally, Lewis was persuaded.

“By that time, Vicky said, ‘If you want to run, I’ll support you,’” she said. “And that was it. I’m like, ‘Alrighty then, let’s do this!’”

The Issues

Due to the size of the 26th Senate District – Allegan County, Van Buren County, Kentwood City and Gaines Township in Kent County – the concerns of citizens are varied. But regardless of where Lewis asks, healthcare is right at the top. In Saugatuck and in South Haven, the environment is another focus, specifically, taking care of Lake Michigan, the Kalamazoo River and the watersheds, which are the main economic points for those areas. Education is on many people’s minds, including the loss of school funding and asking teachers and administrators to do more with less. Finally, access to broadband is a big issue for the remote areas of the district, as it is imperative that students are able to do their schoolwork online.

Problem Solver

Achieving any progressive goals won’t be easy, she acknowledges, as there are currently only 10 Democratic senators. As she points out, “that’s enough to fit in a passenger van.” Lewis sees herself as a problem solver. She recognizes the need to reach across the aisle and



Garnet Lewis faced a number of personal attacks during her 2008 campaign. Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Association, and current representative for the 98th House District, was responsible for airing homophobic ads, and a later attack occurred via media release when Lewis was elected chair of the Saginaw County Democratic Party in 2010. His favorite taunt was to refer to Lewis as a “homosexual activist.”

work on legislation with Republican senators, and her ability to bring groups together to find solutions that works for everybody will serve her well. For example, because Lewis's passion, single-payer health care, may not be in the cards in the immediate future. What she can do is address issues like making it easier for constituents in rural areas to get their prescription medications.

She'd also like to reduce the barriers to healthcare that women in her district currently face, namely, having to drive to Grand Rapids for any of the many services provided by Planned Parenthood. As the "constituent-relations person," she said, "I don't care if you're a Republican or a Democrat or don't identify with either party, when I'm elected, I'm here to serve you."

Homosexual Activist?

Lewis faced a number of personal attacks during her 2008 campaign. Gary Glenn, president of the American Family Association, and current representative for the 98th House District, was responsible for airing homophobic ads, and a later attack occurred via media release when Lewis was elected chair of the Saginaw County Democratic Party in 2010. His favorite taunt was to refer to Lewis as a "homosexual activist," which perhaps to some is a scary thought. BTL asked if she expects those kinds of attacks to quiet down this time around.

"As a hopeful person, I'd say yes. So much has changed. Marriage equality is the law of the land now. The world didn't come to a screeching end." The scenario Lewis envisions is that whoever wins the GOP primary will assume that they can coast along until October. When that candidate does some polling and realizes Lewis has great name ID and is running a strong campaign, that's when she won't be surprised to see efforts to play the "gay card."

"I don't doubt that it will happen," she said. "Personally, I don't think it will matter."

She's All That

We also asked Lewis to talk about her political role models, and she responded with a list of the strong Michigan women she admires. First named was former governor Jennifer Granholm, who appointed Lewis to serve on the board of trustees of Northern Michigan University (Lewis's alma mater) in 2009, a position she held until 2016. She spoke highly of Saginaw County Commissioner Cheryl Hadsall, whom Lewis called her go-to person and "shero." Debbie Stabenow was praised as smart and savvy. But Lewis saved her highest and most enthusiastic praise for gubernatorial candidate Gretchen Whitmer.

"Love her to death. I watched when she was

in the Senate and was the minority leader, and she is a no-nonsense kind of politician which I just greatly admire ... Gretchen is all that, and a ball of wax," she said. "She's just awesome."

Trailblazer

Lewis can claim a couple of "firsts:" she's the first openly gay person appointed to a governance board for a Michigan university and Michigan's first openly gay candidate for the Michigan House of Representatives (2008).

If elected, she would be the first openly gay state senator in Michigan – an honor Lewis would be happy to share with Jeremy Moss, for whom she expresses great admiration. When that "first" was pointed out to her, she remarked, "That's funny, I never thought of myself in that direction, but I guess it's true! It certainly was never my intent to be the first, so, well, it's about damn time, don't you think?"

Later she added that her sexuality is something she has never felt the need to hide.

"... from the very beginning, I've always been out. I've never had to hide. And it's a wonderful place to be, and I know too many people who are gay or lesbian that aren't out, even now, running for office, and I'm so glad ... it's just easiest for me to be my authentic self."

"Oh my gosh, there's no better time than now." That was Lewis's response when asked what advice she would give a young person in the LGBTQ community considering running for public office.

"The writing is on the wall," she said. "This state and this country is so ready for young people to step up and out. Literally. Don't wait. Do it now," she said. "Set your eyes on your goals and go. Just go. Don't wait for anyone's approval. Build the relationships and do it now. There's no better time."

Altruism

Finally, when BTL inquired about something people would be surprised to know about her, she paused to reflect, then explained that she had recently donated a kidney to an unknown recipient. Lewis said that this gesture of altruism was inspired by the people in her life who had either donated or received a kidney, and news of the advances in kidney donation, along with the knowledge of the number of people in Michigan alone who are on the waiting list – almost 2,500 as of this writing.

"It felt like the right thing to do," she said. "So that would be a surprise to everybody, that I donated a kidney." To those who know Garnet Lewis, and know her character, perhaps that act wasn't such a surprise.

For more information, visit garnetlewisforstatesenate.com.

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NEWS

HRC Releases Findings of 2018 National Survey of LGBTQ Teens

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The Human Rights Campaign released the results of their 2018 National Survey of LGBTQ Teens at a special press conference that took place at the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park on May 16. HRC President Chad Griffin attended the conference along with Ellen Kahn, director of HRC's Children, Youth and Families Program.

Kahn called the survey "a critical document" that, "Tells us a reality faced by many LGBTQ youth in our schools and communities, in our families and in our neighborhoods. Every day my team and I work to improve the lives of LGBTQ youth and the results of this survey will inform our work going forward because to fully address the needs of LGBTQ youth we need to have a clearer picture of what they're going through."

That picture is at times bleak. Among other statistics, the survey showed that 77 percent of respondents reported feeling depressed while 95 percent said they had trouble sleeping at night. A mere 26 percent said they always felt safe in their classrooms and 43 percent said they had been bullied at school in the past 12 months. Half of the trans and gender non-conforming respondents said they can never use the restroom that aligns with their gender identity at school and 65 percent said they tried to avoid using the restroom all day while at school.

"This youth survey is the largest and most comprehensive of our young people across the country today," said Griffin. "The survey is inclusive of more than 12,000 LGBT youth participants."

Of that number, more than 600 were from Michigan. All respondents were between the ages of 13 and 17. Respondents came, "From every corner of America from small towns to big cities," Griffin said. "They told us they're not only experiencing heartbreaking levels of stress, anxiety and rejection, but alarming numbers feel overwhelmingly unsafe in their own classrooms ... These are not just statistics. These are not just assigned numbers next to results. Each of these numbers represents real people, a real person, their actual stories, their own lived experience."

Griffin said that HRC was adamant that the survey included a large cross section of the community.

"We were very intentional in our outreach in this survey to ensure that we had strong representation from LGBTQ youth of all backgrounds, including young people of color who are often underrepresented in national surveys," he said.

If the survey was for the youth, Griffin said it revealed the sins of adults.

"These statistics show the devastating toll that rejection by family and peers, bullying and harassment and apathy on the part of too many adults is having on our young people.

"I think this is one of the critical points to underscore," Griffin continued. "These statistics are driven by the action and inaction of adults. Those who are to be the responsible ones protecting our young people, protecting our youth from the bullies and in so many instances this shows those who should be responsible adults are in fact acting as the bullies. It's unacceptable and it has to change. These statistics must serve as a call to action for this nation."

Griffin said HRC chose Detroit and the REC as the location



Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, shares findings of the 2018 National Survey of LGBTQ Teens at a press conference at Ruth Ellis Center last week. BTL Photo: Jason A. Michael

to unveil the report because of the, "Lifesaving work that [REC does] day in and day out. You are on the front lines of these battles and you're critical."

Kahn echoed the sentiment.

"We are delighted to be at the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit, a community based organization that works every day to improve the life of LGBTQ teens," Kahn said. "The Ruth Ellis Center stands out as a national model for putting care into action."

REC Executive Director Jerry Peterson said the Center was "incredibly delighted" to host the press conference and other events throughout the day celebrating the release of the survey.

"We serve an incredibly fierce, wonderful, creative number of young LGBT folks in the Detroit area who struggle to build positive futures," said Peterson. "So our core purpose as an organization is to work with LGBT young people who are experiencing barriers, both systemic and interpersonal barriers, to their housing, health and wellness."

At the close of his remarks, Griffin stated that if the survey seemed distressing, "There is also reason for great hope. As this report makes clear there are stories of empowerment and resilience, activism and advocacy by our youth. Across the country LGBTQ youth are taking a stand and they are advocating for inclusivity and equality in their homes, their schools and their communities."

Read the full report online at hrc.org/resources/2018-lgbtq-youth-report

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Author and Former Detroiter Carl Mitchell Dies at 86

BY TIM RETZLOFF

Carl Mitchell, a former Detroiter and author of three memoirs that touched on different aspects of his gay life in the 1940s, '50s and '60s, died May 14 at age 86. According to Robert Stanley, his partner of 47 years, Mitchell had been battling cancer for the past six years. Mitchell passed away at their home in St. Petersburg, Florida, where they had lived since 2002.

Born in Hazel Park on April 12, 1932 during the Great Depression, Mitchell went to live on a farm with an aunt and uncle after his parents separated. His father was killed in an automobile accident when he was seven and Mitchell spent his teen years at the Protestant Children's Home on East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit. He shared his memories from the orphanage in "The Home," a book published in 2006.

Mitchell joined the U.S. Army at age 17 in 1949 and served as a combat medic during the Korean War, receiving the Bronze Star for his service. While in the military, he had his first romances with men. He wrote about these experiences in the 2002 memoir "Marching to an Angry Drum."

In reviewing the book, *Between The Lines*

columnist Charles Alexander called it "two-fisted, funny and, at times, very touching."

While on leave back home, he discovered the thriving gay bar scene around Farmer and Bates streets in downtown Detroit. In a 2005 oral history interview, he described the attention he received from customers at the Ten Eleven when he wore his uniform into the bar. On leaving, some police officers on the street asked him what he was doing in there. Playing dumb, Mitchell told them he'd just happened to stop in and that the other customers had been quite friendly. "Don't you know?" one patrolman replied in a panicked tone of voice, "It's a bunch of queers in there!"

Mitchell knew to dress in civilian garb on his next visit.

Following his time in the military, Mitchell returned to Detroit where he enjoyed a long career as a nurse in area hospitals. He pursued several business ventures, as well.

In the late 1960s, he operated several stores, including a canteen, an antique business, a head shop and a curiotique on Plum Street. At the time, Plum Street was Detroit's mini version of Haight-Ashbury where the local hippie crowd hung out. The block had a notable gay presence as well.

"Plum Street," published in 2013, recounts

Mitchell's time in the area.

Carl Mitchell and Robert Stanley met in 1970 and began their life together at a time when many in the gay community frowned on interracial pairings. The two men had no patience for such attitudes and avoided those who were "racist and stupid."

Decades before same-sex marriage became legal, Mitchell expressed his love and commitment to Stanley at the Woodward Lounge one night with a Fabergé egg that contained a sterling silver ring inside. "That was our little ceremony we did among ourselves," Stanley said.

"He and Bobby were just a beautiful couple," said longtime activist John Kavanaugh, who knew Mitchell for nearly half a century. "They are the only people to come to see me and thank me for the work I did in the movement."

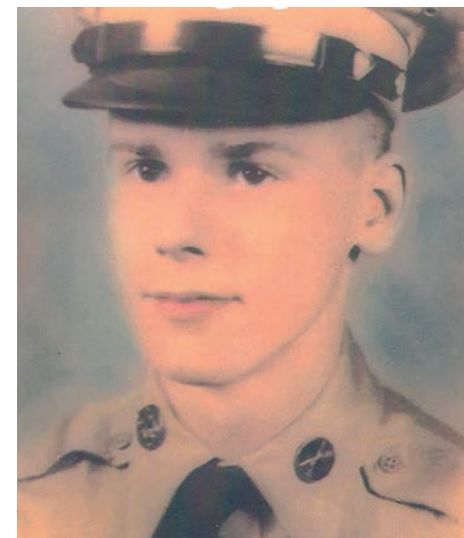
Carl and Robert played their own role in the movement, too. They were involved in the early formation of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit and were later active in the Association of Suburban People. For short time, after moving to Ferndale, they also attended FANS, Friends and Neighbors of Ferndale, but found the group less friendly to them than its name portended.

Following their retirement in St. Petersburg,

Florida, Mitchell became a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, AmVets and the American Legion.

Minutes after Mitchell died, Stanley raised a brand new American flag on the pole outside their home, then lowered it to half-staff.

A funeral with military honors is being planned for June in Florida.



Carl Mitchell in the 1950

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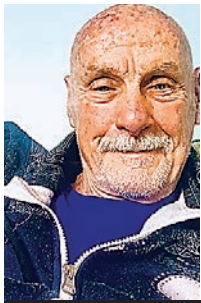


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Gaymes with Sr. Scatterpin (3 of 3)

Parting Glances

OPINION BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

FRIDAY (a.m.)

I ride backpack on Sister Scatterpin's Heavenly Harley, the two of us heading to Chicago for Gay Games VII. Sister keeps to an ecumenical 85 mph on I-94, with a meditational rosary pullover at Belleville's Cracker Barrel.

Tidbit over a low-fat pancake breakfast – side of bacon, ham, sausages and fries for sister

"In my day I was known as the Pole Vaulting Nun at our Renegade Sisters of Mary Convent intramurals with Vassar College," said Sr. Scatterpin. "I cleared 7' 2" – without wimple, of course."

"I've vaulted many a pole as well myself," I responded.

"I'd rather not go there," she said. "Pray, child, pass the maple syrup."

In spite of an hour's sheeting rain, we arrive safely – if somewhat damp – in just under four hours, and register at the Hilton Hotel for the 'Gaymes,' as they're affectionately called. While Sister heads to the powder room, I, somewhat soaked, chat with welcoming registrar Jessica Waddell, daughter of Gay Games founder, Dr. Tom Waddell.

Blonde Jessica, a cheerful 22, moved to Chicago two months ago. She's hosted four gaymes. A fine arts grad, painter and sculptor, Jessica wears an ancient Greco-Roman coin on a silver neck chain: Persephone, goddess of harvest.

Sr. Scatterpin returns, dry as the Jordan Desert, and gives Jessica a quick, hoedown Hail Mary hug. Sister signs up for the International Recovering Catholics badminton team (Thursday's meet against the much-favored Anglican Birdie Schismatics).

In the lobby, trim and handsomely gray Olympic Gold Medalist Greg Louganis heads for the elevator with six-month-old Great Dane, Olympia, the dog's tail wagging metronomically. I say "hi" for BTL. Sr. Scatterpin beats time beatifically.

FRIDAY (p.m.)

Take Sister to Charlie's on Broadway at Halstead, meeting Detroit friends Jim Murray and partner Tetsuo, for two-steppin' and line dancing. The place is packed. Stunning two-steppers. Sister and I wow cowpokes with a sensuous shadow dance – she leads, I nestle. At Billy Love's just around the corner Sister sings karaoke – "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" – Not a dry-eyed queen in the place.

SATURDAY (early p.m.)

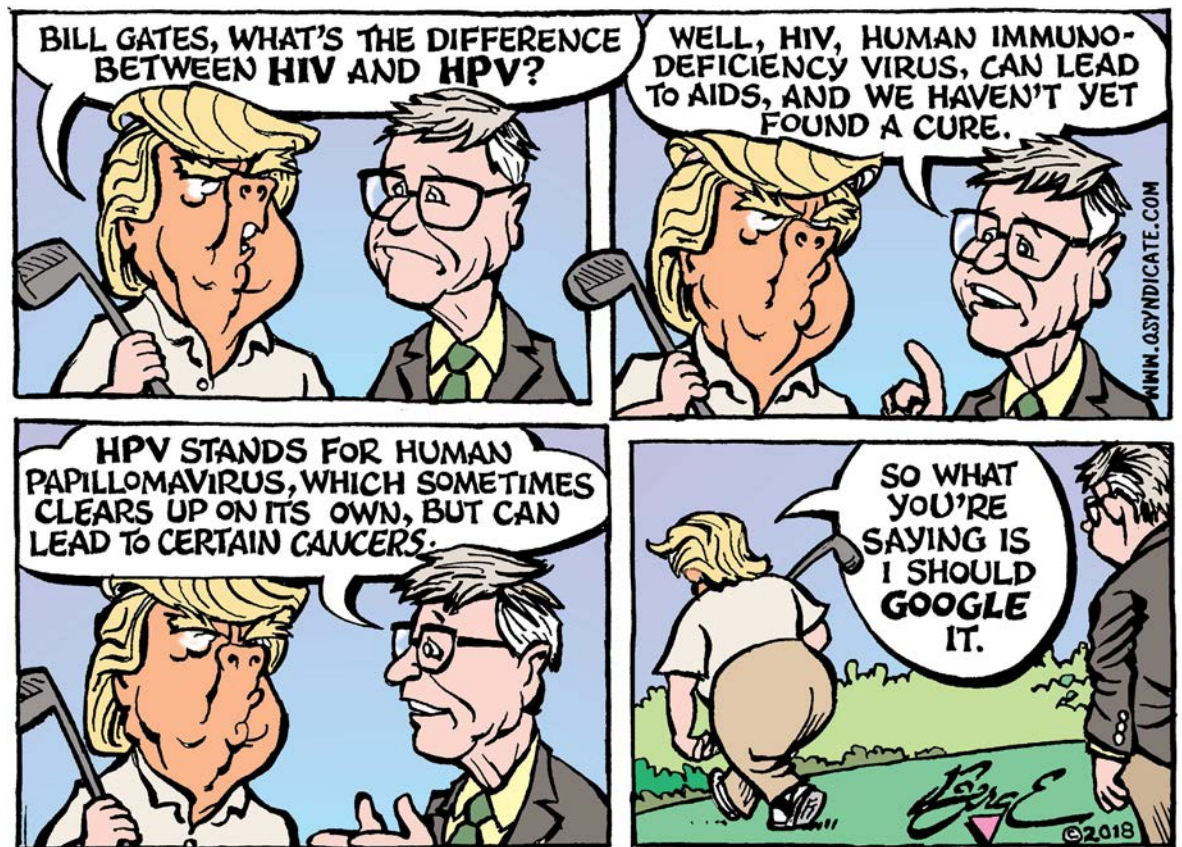
While Sister suns the Belmont Rocks, I collect freebees at the Gay Games Expo area at the Hilton. There, I run into 268-marathoner and BTL cover guy Dr. Bob Shimmel; 2002 ballroom dance silver medal winners Sue Garrety and Karen Pepper; lesbian bodybuilder Lori Forrest – who at 43 is in perfect biceptual shape – and HRC Board member Michelle Brown with partner-to-be, Ojetta (the lucky pair just won an all-expenses-paid Olivia cruise to Hawaii. O-lei!).

SATURDAY (p.m.)

Sister and I arrive at Soldier Field at 6:30. She passes out condoms, lube, scapulars to five Bible thumpers haranguing folks. I head for the press box. Sister joins 130-member Team Michigan. The sun sets at 8:45. Thousands are gathered below me waiting for 12,000 athletes to parade jubilantly on to the well-tonsured playing field.

I watch participants from 65 countries, including the U.S., proudly

See next page



BTL EDITORIAL

LGBTQ Politicians Making Impact in Michigan

Voter Involvement is Key

As June gets closer and LGBTQ people start marking their summer calendars for over a dozen pride celebrations across Michigan – a huge achievement on its own – it's a great time to take stock of the unprecedented positive political action that has been achieved over the past year – seemingly despite all odds.

Perhaps most importantly, there are more than 20 LGBTQ candidates who have decided to run not only in local city elections, but statewide offices like Democratic Attorney General Candidate Dana Nessel, and state senatorial candidate Jeremy Moss and Garnet Lewis. And, if elected, Lewis would make history as the first lesbian in the Michigan legislature. Another good sign is that that positive change is being mirrored across the U.S., even in conservative states like Texas that this year have more

than 40 LGBTQ candidates.

However, as positive as that change may be, it means nothing unless those candidates receive votes from an informed constituency. And we all know that we could each be doing a better job at keeping up to date about the newest policies, laws and regulations being passed by our government, as well as the various platforms being put forth by candidates who are running. In fact, the U.S. Census Bureau found that voter turnout, especially in the younger age brackets of 18 to 29 and 30 to 44 has been low since the '80s, only spiking occasionally in more contested elections.

That's vital to understand because it's not only the

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► BTL Editorial

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national elections that matter; it's the smaller, local ones that are arguably most important because those are the people who will eventually move up onto the ballot as national candidates. For better or for worse.

The good news is that there are a variety of avenues available to get informed about the existing Michigan candidates and their various political stances that don't require too much legwork. Here are a few methods that can set up a good baseline of knowledge.

Victory Fund

Led by its President and CEO Annise Parker – former openly lesbian mayor of Houston, Texas – Victory Fund is an organization that sponsors LGBTQ candidates and provides a succinct overview of what each candidate is running for, the significance of their candidacy and how to connect with them.

“We politically, agnostically endorse candidates from all political parties and we ask that they be openly GLBT, that they commit to fighting anti-LGBT legislation and do their best to promote our issues. And we ask that they believe in the right to privacy,” Parker said in an interview with BTL.

More information can be found online at victoryfund.org.

► Parting Glances

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march, walk or run into view (actually 64: Croatia's team missed the plane). From my press box vantage it seems I'm seeing assembled a visual Victory Garden: vibrating spectrum colors, banners, flags, glittering costumes. It's a vast array of human, energetic and a little wilted - 96 degrees – “flowers.”

As final team members flood on to the field in rallying waves – 1,200 Chicagoans – there comes a hush of eager expectation. The stadium darkens completely. And, s if by magic – our kind of LGBT magic – the neat rows of long-standing athletes, holding thousands of tiny colored lights, turn the Victory Garden into a radiant, blazing,

Researching Voting History

If you're unsure whether the candidate you're thinking about voting for will really stand up for your rights, a great way to look at their political track record is to check their voting history. If the candidate is an incumbent in the House of Representatives or Senate, going to Congress.gov can be a quick way to look at their previous stances on important political issues. For smaller governmental elections, many city government websites have an online public record of their meetings with voting history recorded.

Going to Pride

Perhaps the best way to get a solid understanding of several candidates at once is to meet with someone in person. Prides all over Michigan have booths that have been rented out by a variety of political groups who support specific candidates. While planning a day of fun at pride, taking time to stop over at a few politically-minded tables can be a great starting point to getting involved in an organization oneself, or getting familiar with a new candidate's name.

Using mivoterguide.com

Between The Lines has compiled a thorough list of interviews and analyses of candidates. Heading to mivoterguide.com can provide an in-depth look at candidate positions on a variety of topics, and their support of LGBTQ policies.

glorious – we're here; stand up and cheer – rainbow flag!

SUNDAY (a.m.)

Service for two at Our Lady of Recovery, Help of Repeat Performers.

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

Matt Barber

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Another week, another mass shooting at a school here in what so many claim to be the greatest country on earth. Spoiler alert: when your gun obsession makes children being gunned down in school a regular occurrence, you're not the greatest country on earth.

One of the kids murdered in Texas was an exchange student from Pakistan. She was to return home in June. I can't help but wonder how many American parents would refuse to send their kids to Pakistan.



“Look what happened to that Malala,” they'd say. “It's too dangerous. Sure you could argue

that Malala Yousafzai was shot by the Taliban and that is totally different from what's happening in America.

But is it, though? How is the gun lobby and the predominantly straight white males who perpetuate gun violence not a terrorist threat in the U.S.? And in this current political climate that gives racists, misogynists, homophobes and gun fetishists the green light to operate with impunity, the threat of violence has only intensified.

Right now #IfIDieInASchoolShooting is trending on Twitter. Go read what young people are saying. It's astonishing that our kids are literally begging lawmakers for their lives. In America. In 2018.

I'm beyond tired of the excuses.

“It's not the guns, it's not the guns, it's not the guns,” we hear ad nauseam. We have more guns than we have people in the U.S. It's definitely the guns.

“But what about mental illness? Surely mental illness is the reason why these insane people go on shooting sprees. We need to talk about mental illness, not guns,” they say.

The vast majority of people with mental illness never hurt anybody because they aren't violent. And if they are prone to violence, people with mental illness are far more likely to hurt themselves than they are anybody else. I'd also like to point out what utter bullshit it is to pretend to care about mental illness but not proposing funding for mental health professionals in all public schools. For trying to tear apart the Affordable Care Act, which is the only way some people who need mental health care are able to get it. For not adequately staffing agencies that are supposed to help children and families by connecting them with social workers and other professionals who are

One of the kids murdered in Texas was an exchange student from Pakistan. She was to return home in June. I can't help but wonder how many American parents would refuse to send their kids to Pakistan. “Look what happened to that Malala,” they'd say. “It's too dangerous. Sure you could argue that Malala Yousafzai was shot by the Taliban and that is totally different from what's happening in America.

under compensated to boot. For not seriously questioning how this country rewards on men who are cruel and abusive.

And so I have no patience with so-called religious conservatives who are wringing their hands over proposed bans on “conversion” therapy for gays. If only they'd show as much concern about making dead kids undead as they do about making gay kids un-gay. Yes, mental health care is important. But conversion therapy is mental abuse, not care.

It's astounding to me that people like Matt Barber call themselves Christians while preaching not only intolerance, but hate, and then turning around and claiming that anyone who disagrees with them wants to ban Christianity.

During a recent conversation with Gordon James Klingenschmitt, Barber gave props to Luis Ruiz, a Pulse Nightclub shooting survivor who has declared himself ex-gay.

“I love this story,” said Barber, “because it's a story of redemption and freedom from demonic oppression and persecution and a sin lifestyle that I believe frankly is spiritual in nature.”

Note what he loves isn't that Ruiz survived one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history. He loves that Ruiz fits his anti-gay narrative.

Klingenschmitt and Barber lamented the fact that if conversion therapy is banned then Ruiz might be arrested for talking about his ex-gay experience. This is not true.

I don't know Ruiz. I don't really care how he identifies. I'm not the boss of him. But it's pretty striking that folks like Barber look at the Pulse shooting and see the problem as the guy dancing with another guy, not the guy with a gun.

MI Civil Rights Commission Takes Action on Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination

BY BTL STAFF

The Michigan Civil Rights Commission took action Monday to address anti-LGBTQ discrimination. In a vote of 5-0-1 the Commission voted to approve a motion presented by Commissioner Alma Wheeler Smith to adopt as Interpretive Statement 2018-1 that “discrimination because of ... sex” includes discrimination because of gender identity and discrimination because of sexual orientation.

EQMI and 37 other LGBTQ organizations petitioned the Commission to issue an interpretative statement concluding that the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act’s existing prohibition on sex discrimination encompasses discrimination based on both sexual orientation and gender identity.

“Equality Michigan commends the Commission for their pro-equality leadership,” said Stephanie White, EQMI’s executive director. “While we will continue to work tirelessly to see that the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act is explicitly amended to protect LGBT Michiganders, the Commission’s action today has the practical effect of providing LGBT victims of discrimination with an opportunity to have their cases heard and to seek redress for the anti-LGBT discrimination that is all too common in our state.”

Erin Knott, EQMI’s political director said, “This action is an important, incremental step toward our goal of ending discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in Michigan.”

Monday’s decision is of further significance because, unlike 18 other states, Michigan does not currently have a state law that explicitly prohibits anti-LGBT discrimination in employment, housing, or public accommodations. In addition, although the federal prohibition on sex discrimination in employment under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 has been interpreted to encompass discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation, many LGBTQ people in Michigan

do not receive the benefit of this prohibition, because they work for employers with fewer than 15 employees, the threshold for Title VII coverage.

This interpretative statement has made it clear that anti-LGBTQ discrimination shall not be left unchecked in Michigan and it clarifies the legal responsibilities of employers and individuals and gives notice to victims of discrimination that there are remedies available.

EQMI’s request was reconsidered this year after 30 law professors and lawyers specializing in administrative, constitutional and civil rights law wrote to the Commission to rebut arguments used by the Attorney General that blocked Commission action last September. Last November, the Commission heard directly from three of the legal experts who signed the letter, to answer commissioner questions, and to urge the Commission to take action:

- Samuel Bagenstos, Frank G. Millard Professor of Law, University of Michigan Law School, former Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice.
- Mark Totten, Associate Professor, MSU College of Law.
- Eli Savit, Adjunct Professor, University of Michigan Law School, former law clerk to United States Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Sandra Day O’Connor.

“I commend the Commission for the courage they’ve shown in making this decision,” said Agustin V. Arbulu, Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. “Beginning tomorrow morning, the department will begin processing complaints of sex discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.”

If you or someone you know has been the victim of discrimination, please contact Equality Michigan’s Department of Victim Services at 313-537-7000, ext. 102 or via equality@mi.org

Affirmations Board Elects 6 New Members, 3 Step Down

Reyes Continues to Rack Up Support in Public Comment

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The Affirmations board of directors voted in six new board members and saw three step down at its monthly meeting on May 16. Incoming board members are Nancy Cummings, Cheryl Czach, Hannah Hartley, Timothy Lantzy, Gregory Rice and Anthony Sherman. Those stepping down include Frank Aiello, Jodi Allen and Eric Martin.

The board also voted in the new executive committee. Interim President Mike Flores will now take the position on a permanent basis while Paula Kirsch serves as vice president, Phil Nardone as secretary and John Stanaszek and Dani Woods as members at large. There is currently no treasurer and Flores volunteered to continue to act in that role as he has for some time.

“I want to congratulate all the new Affirmations board of directors and the newly-elected executive committee,” Flores said just after the vote. “I look forward to all of us working together as a cohesive team to make the board stronger in 2018. I would also like to thank the current board and community for their trust in me. I know the board president serves at the will and at the pleasure of the board and the community. I pledge to everyone that I will continue to work hard for Affirmations and try my best to live up to the fiduciary responsibilities of this chair.”

During the public comment portion of the meeting several stood to voice their discontent with the organization. Former longtime board member George Westerman came with a list of questions but was told by Flores that the correct forum for them would be at one of their community chats.

Westerman did outline some of his concerns before taking his seat.

“The most currently available [IRS form] 990 shows three years of declining income for the organization and also the last year of 990 showing the organization



Affirmations Interim Executive Director Lilliana Reyes and Board of Directors President Mike Flores fielding questions and concerns at last week’s board meeting. (BTL photo: Jason A. Michael)

operating in the red by hundreds of thousands of dollars,” he said. “I’m also interested to hear about the board’s engagement. I did hear that there were only three board members here Friday night [at the last community chat]. That’s disconcerting. My understanding is that the meeting was set up for board members to hear from the community.”

Deb Palmer said she was offended by Affirmations previous executive director Susan Erspamer while working as a volunteer photographer during Affirmations events.

“Never did she say, ‘Thank you,’” said Palmer. “Never did she even acknowledge me when I’m giving my time, my knowledge and my pictures to you guys.”

Chris Turek said that after coming to the center off and on since the mid-’90s she, too, was turned off.

“The last few years I’ve kind of felt like the organization and the community center has lost its way,” she said. “I stopped coming other than on a rare occasion. The last three years it’s really, really felt that this is no longer the place it used to be.”

Support for Reyes Continues to Grow

Turek, though, said she was encouraged by what she has seen recently.

“I know Lilliana has not been in her position long but I really love the things that she is doing,” she said. “The change in that very, very short period of time has been outstanding. I know the board has lots of decisions to make. I know that you guys are debating do you want to do a search or if you want to hire a firm if you want to do this or that. My thought process is this: If we spend \$10,000, \$20,000 or \$30,000 on a search the best we’re going to get is equal to what we have. That makes no sense ... we have a tremendous person in our [interim] executive director and I really think that spending a ton of money is foolish for us right now.”

Attendees Michelle Fox-Phillips and Briana Kingsley made similar comments.

“I have to echo what was just said,” Fox-Phillips said immediately

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Religious Discrimination Puts Millions of LGBT Elders at Risk

In advance of Supreme Court Ruling, National Advocacy Campaign Spotlights Growing Threat

BY BTL STAFF

NEW YORK – On Wednesday, May 16, in tandem with National Honor Our LGBT Elders Day, SAGE launched “Care Can’t Wait,” a campaign to enlist supporters to stand in support of LGBT elders whose care and livelihoods would be threatened by a license to discriminate.

SAGE is mobilizing this campaign as the country awaits a much-anticipated Supreme Court ruling on Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission. In the case, the Trump administration is arguing that a baker’s religious beliefs create a constitutional right to refuse to sell a wedding cake to a same-sex couple. A ruling that gives businesses a license to discriminate based on religious preference would have especially devastating consequences for older LGBT people, as the vast majority of elder care providers are religiously affiliated organizations. Earlier this year, the Trump administration also established the Conscience and Religious Freedom Division at the Department of Health and Human Services to shield medical providers who deny care based on religious or moral beliefs.

According to Dignity Denied, a policy report released by SAGE, the Movement Advancement Project (MAP) and Columbia Law School’s Public Rights/Private Conscience Project, 85 percent of nonprofit continuing-care retirement communities are affiliated with a religious institution. A new AARP survey finds that roughly half of LGBT adults currently fear discrimination in health care as they age.

“If the Trump administration succeeds in its efforts to enshrine a religious right to discriminate – either by an anti-LGBT Supreme Court decision or with the slew

of ‘religious conscience’ policies that are advancing through federal agencies, it would have a devastating impact on the LGBT community and LGBT elders,” said Michael Adams, CEO of SAGE. “Imagine the person you love being denied essential care in a nursing home or being turned away from a hospital simply because of who they are and who they love. We cannot allow this to happen, and that’s why SAGE is launching the Care Can’t Wait campaign.”

The campaign is backed by partners such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality, and the Movement Advancement Project. It will reach hundreds of thousands of supporters through an ad campaign created by the digital agency, Craft Commerce. The campaign asks care providers, people of faith, and all who believe in caring for our community members, to take a pledge to stand with LGBT elders in the face of religious discrimination. The pledge is online at sageusa.org/carecantwait.

“In the United States we decided a long time ago that when a space is open to the public, it should be open to everyone. Religious freedom is one of our most important values, but religion cannot be used to harm others,” said James Esseks, Director of the ACLU’s LGBT & HIV Project. “Our clients Dave and Charlie were devastated when they were turned away from Masterpiece Cakeshop. SAGE’s Care Can’t Wait campaign illustrates the harm LGBT elders could face if they are turned away from spaces, including those with services like health care and housing. That’s why it is so important for us to work in courts and communities across the nation to make sure that equal opportunity is the norm and the law in all 50 states.”

respect for her and I also agree that the expense of an executive search should go toward her salary.”

Flores did not directly acknowledge the comments nor state any position on Reyes.

“Our duty is to make sure that we evaluate all the options fairly and responsibly to make sure that we elect the best person for this role,” he said. “As previously noted, the past two choices may not have the best bet or the best fit. However, I think that we can take lessons learned and be able to move forward.”

► Affirmations

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after Turek’s remarks. “To go through the search process is ridiculous. You’ve got a woman who I’ve seen come up through the youth group in the old building. She knows this place. She loves this place.”

Kingsley agreed.

“One thing I know about Miss Reyes here is that she’s a very good advocate for her community,” said Kingsley. “I have a lot of




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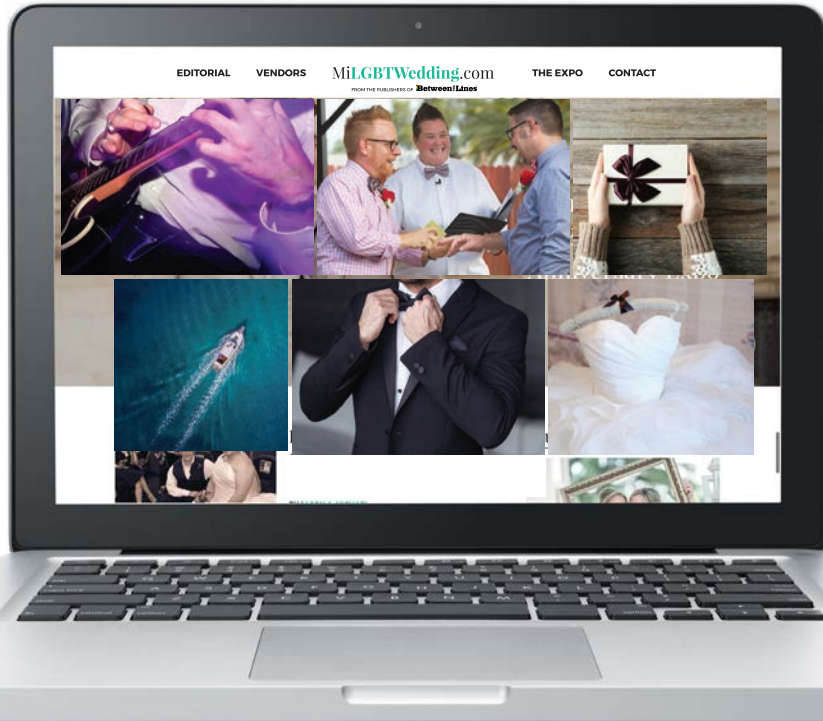





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Rep. Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) is among a bipartisan group of lawmakers seeking to amend a defense bill against Trump's trans military ban. (Washington Blade photo by Michael Key)

Bipartisan Amendment Introduced Against Trump's Trans Military Ban

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

A bipartisan group of lawmakers has proposed an amendment to major defense policy legislation that would abrogate President Trump's ban on transgender military service.

The amendment – introduced by Reps. Jackie Speier (D-Calif.), A. Donald McEachin (D-Va.), Susan Davis (D-Calif.) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.) – was submitted before the House Rules Committee for consideration as part of the fiscal year 2018 defense authorization bill.

The House Rules Committee is set to consider amendments to the defense legislation on Monday and Tuesday. If the committee agrees to the amendment – a tall order for a committee stacked with Republicans – the House will debate and vote on the measure as part of floor consideration of the bill later this week.

The amendment seeks to enact transgender military policy that was in effect October 2016 – a time immediately after the Obama administration changed policy to allow transgender service – in addition to allowing accession of transgender recruits, which was set to begin in July. After President Trump's tweeted that month he's ban transgender people from the military "in any capacity," he issued a directive to the Pentagon prohibiting transgender service and reversing the Obama-era change.

A House Republican aide said "we have no illusion" the Rules Committee will make the amendment in order, but there are other

intentions behind the amendment.

"We want to have positive amendments so that perhaps leadership is or will be discouraged from making anti-LGBT amendments in order," the aide said.

The House isn't the only chamber of Congress where lawmakers are taking action on transgender military ban. Last week, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) told the Washington Blade she intends to introduce a similar amendment against the policy to the Senate version of the defense bill.

Both Speier and Gillibrand have introduced standalone legislation against Trump's transgender military ban and vigorously questioned in committee Defense Secretary James Mattis about his recommendation to ban transgender service, which formed the basis for the policy reaffirmed in March.

It should be noted despite the transgender military ban and efforts from lawmakers to undo it, federal courts have ruled against the policy as a result of litigation filed by LGBT legal groups and transgender people are currently able to serve in the armed forces.

An anti-trans amendment is also before the House Rules Committee. Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa), an notoriously anti-LGBT lawmaker, has submitted a measure that would prohibit the authorization of U.S. government funds on "enforcing transgender sensitivity training."

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

SBA Restores Website Info for LGBT Owned Businesses

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Following complaints from a leading LGBT business group and two House Democrats, the U.S. Small Business Administration has restored to its website material dedicated to LGBT-owned small businesses.

The new webpage on the SBA website, titled “LGBT-owned businesses,” is found on the business guide section and says, “The SBA is proud to support the LGBT business community.”

The page also lists contact information for SBA’s LGBT small business team, provides information for certifying a business as LGBT-owned and lists six district offices – Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce, LGBT Detroit, Mid America Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce, Nuestra Familia LGBT Puerto Rico and Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce – with strategic alliances with the LGBT community.

The National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, which called on the SBA to reinstate the LGBT page after it was deleted at the start of the Trump administration, hailed SBA Administrator Linda McMahon for the update in a statement from co-founders Justin Nelson and Chance Mitchell:

“The NGLCC is pleased to see the SBA reinstate LGBT entrepreneurial resources on their website, just days after the congressional letter was sent and a conversation between Administrator McMahon and myself was

held,” Nelson and Mitchell said. “Clearly she and the SBA recognize that LGBT business owners across the nation bring countless innovations, contribute over \$1.7 trillion to the GDP, and create tens of thousands of jobs where they live. America’s LGBT entrepreneurs, and in fact very diverse community, should be given unfettered access to opportunities to succeed at every level of government and in every marketplace.”

The Washington Blade first reported in January 2017 the SBA deleted webpages dedicated to LGBT-owned small businesses. At the time, SBA officials said the information was removed as part of restructuring for the website at the start of the Trump administration, but the pages weren’t restored for more than a year.

The issue gained renewed attention earlier this month after two House Democrats – Reps. Yvette Clarke (N.Y.) and Rep. Nydia Velázquez (N.Y.) – sent a letter to McMahon asking questions about the continued omission of the LGBT content.

The removal of LGBT information for U.S. government websites, including the White House website, has been a trend during the Trump administration. Although the SBA has restored its LGBT material, other websites haven’t restored the LGBT-focused content in a meaningful way.

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

LGBTQ State Legislative Candidates Win Big in Pennsylvania, Oregon, Idaho

BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON – Pennsylvania candidates Malcolm Kenyatta and Kristin Seale are on track to make history after winning their primaries on Tuesday night. Malcolm will become the first openly LGBTQ person of color to serve in the Pennsylvania state legislature if elected in November, and Kristin Seale will become the first queer state legislator. Brian Sims, the first and only openly LGBTQ state legislator in Pennsylvania – won his race unopposed. Six of seven Victory Fund-endorsed candidates with primaries on Tuesday, May 15, won their races.

“Representative Brian Sims has been our lone LGBTQ voice in the state legislature – standing up to bigoted colleagues and putting forward pro-equality legislation – but he won’t be alone much longer,” said Mayor Annise Parker, President & CEO of LGBTQ

Victory Fund. “With tonight’s victories, we are poised to triple the number of openly LGBTQ state legislators in Pennsylvania – an important step in moving equality forward in the state. While these out leaders will be champions for our community, their campaign platforms are about improving the lives of all Pennsylvanians. That is why they won tonight, and why they will win in November.”

Malcolm Kenyatta was awarded “Spotlight” status by Victory Fund in April – a designation given to state or local candidates in history-making races.

Beyond Pennsylvania, three Victory-Fund endorsed incumbents won their primaries: Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Oregon state Rep. Karin Power and Idaho State Rep. John McCrostie.

More information about the organization and its history can be found at victoryfund.org.

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The girls of "Casa Valentina": (top row) Joe Bailey, David Gram, Arthur Beer, Greg Trzaskoma; (bottom row) Vince Kelley, Ron Williams, Charles VanHoose. Photo: Ron Williams

Dishin' with the Girls of 'Casa Valentina'

Straight, White-Collar Men Escape Families and Dress as Women in JET Drama

BY DONALD V. CALAMIA

A story about the lives of women named Miranda, Bessie, Valentina, Charlotte, Gloria, Terry and Amy who meet regularly at their favorite vacation spot in the Catskills doesn't sound like a terribly exciting play. But, how about if their real names are Jonathon, Albert, George, Isadore, Michael, Theodore and one simply referred to as The Judge? And what if their beloved resort is a secluded hideaway that caters to straight men who secretly love to dress as women?

That's the far more entertaining spin Harvey Fierstein puts on his 2014 Tony Award-winning "Casa Valentina" that opens May 24 and runs through June 17 – but not at The Ringwald, where you'd likely expect to find it. Instead, the drama will take place on the stage of The Jewish Ensemble Theatre in West Bloomfield, although don't be surprised if a couple of familiar Ringwald stalwarts are

among the cast.

Among them is Joe Bailey, co-founder and artistic director of The Ringwald, who portrays Albert/Bessie, described in the script as "Willy Loman by day, Ethel Merman at night." Nominated for an Encore Michigan Wilde Award more than a dozen times – many of which featured him in bright red lipstick and a dress – Bailey recently told BTL while on break from a rehearsal that the play "is set in 1962 at a resort in the Catskills, where heterosexual men can go and dress as women and live for a weekend or a week at a time completely free of prying eyes or outside interlopers, and just really be who they feel they really are."

One weekend, however, their comfort zone gets tested.

"Someone shows up who has bigger ideas for this resort and for this organization to which they belong and tries to incorporate it as a non-profit organization," Bailey said. "But

that comes with strings attached."

One of which is the risk of public exposure, something the characters work hard to prevent.

"We all have families," explained Vince Kelley, another popular Ringwald regular who earned a 2016 Wilde Award for his dynamite, cross-dressing performance in "Heathers: The Musical," who plays Michael/Gloria. "Joe has a nice lengthy bit about how he's defined a balance with his wife and his children and everything. It's all perfectly aligned, and how could you throw a wrench in that?" he said. "I have some lines about what would happen to my business. I think that today, you might be able to come out the other side of it, whereas back then there wasn't an option. You would be risking absolutely everything."

Indeed they would.

"Everything was so black and white in the past," added Charles VanHoose, who plays one of the group's elders, the sweet and silly Theodore/Terry. "Now it's just

millions of shades of gray. You're talking transsexual, transvestite, cross-dressing, bisexual, homosexual, heterosexual; it's just there's so many different aspects other than just gay/straight."

True. But for these characters, navigating the world of cross-dressing as married, heterosexual men is confusing and difficult enough.

"I mean, it just seems sad. It seems like (they were) trapped. It seems unfortunate that you can only be yourself under such very, very strict guidelines and rules and schedules and all that stuff," said Kelley.

And that begs an answer to a very important question according to VanHoose.

"I find it a bit difficult to understand why a heterosexual man would want to dress as a woman," said VanHoose. "I understand certain aspects of the smoothness of the cloth and all of that. Still, you kind of think, is there a little bit of gay (there)? Is there a gay

personality behind these guys, even though they're married and have children? I won't give away the ending of the show, but we learn a lot about why these guys do what they do and why they do it."

There are no simple answers, of course.

"It's interesting, because today we have so many more avenues of gender neutral and non-conforming and all of that sort of stuff," Bailey said, "(Yet) in the time of this play, it's really just men who wear women's clothing. I think that's how we see ourselves as the characters in the play. But I do think that there are some of us who are gay men. I think there are some of us who really — it's a sexual thing wearing women's clothing. Or bisexual. But in the world of this play, we are heterosexual men who wear women's clothing, period. And that's it."

After seeing the play in New York, Kelley left the show thinking about the difficulty of a repressed lifestyle like that.

"Those poor people! I dress up like a woman because I think it's fun and I love attention. But they were doing it because of something inside of them that they felt that they had to," Kelley said. "It wasn't performance art or anything like that. It was just, sort of, they're doing it in hiding, whereas I only dress up as a woman when there's at least 20 to 25 people watching me. I hope that's what people leave (the show) with: It's not a choice; it's ingrained in who you are. Let people feel the way that they want to feel without intervening."

"Especially if it doesn't affect you in any sort of way, you know what I mean?" VanHoose added.

Although "Casa Valentina" is based on a true



Charles VanHoose, Vince Kelley and Joe Bailey on break from a rehearsal of "Casa Valentina" at The Jewish Ensemble Theatre in West Bloomfield. Photo: D. V. Calamia

story, if Fierstein tackled the issue today, one of the characters would likely be transitioning, Bailey believes. Kelley agrees, and he sees what's happening today as continuation of the struggle for LGBTQ rights that started with people such as those in the play.

"It's like now it's kind of becoming (the trans community's) turn," he said. "They get to experience what the gays fought for in the last two decades, if you will. I think that

they're having their moment, so that's why I think the show is very timely. As the layers start breaking down and you have non-binary and you have all these other new labels, I think each one of them is going to have their own little battle."

Likely so. And it all comes down to this, Bailey believes: "It's so funny. I mean, really. Why is this skirt that I'm wearing for a woman? It's a piece of material! But we view

PREVIEW

Casa Valentina

The Jewish Ensemble Theatre
Aaron Deroy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center

6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield
248-788-2900, jetttheatre.org

Tickets: \$16 to \$44

7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 24

2 p.m. Thursday, June 7

8 p.m. Fridays, June 1, 15

5 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. Saturday, May 26, June 2, 9, 16

2 p.m. Sunday, May 27, June 3, 10, 17

it with such meaning, genderwise, that when I sit down and think about it, it's just so silly. It's just a piece of clothing."

"Casa Valentina," directed by Harold Jurkiewicz, also features Jean Leppard, Ron Williams, David Gram, Greg Trzaskoma, Arthur Beer and Kelly Komlen. It will be JET's final main stage production at the Aaron DeRoy Theatre inside the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield before the company moves elsewhere in the fall. The production contains adult themes and is recommended for mature audiences only.

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Photo Courtesy of Rachel Herstein

Screen Queen: Oscars at Home

Unforgettable Moments from Academy Award-Winning Gay Faves, Yours Forever to Stream



BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

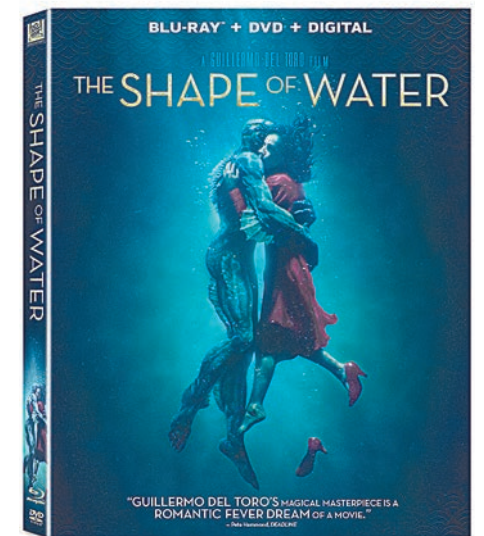
Call Me By Your Name

Oliver (Armie Hammer) is facedown on the bed, fully clothed. He’s just arrived at his professor’s (Michael Stuhlbarg) home in picturesque northern Italy, and as the professor’s son, Elio (Timothée Chalamet, astounding in this breakout role), gets him settled in his room, he gleefully stops just long enough to soak in the object of his desire, Oliver, simply lying there. Though brief, it’s the beginning of a series of intensely intimate exchanges between Elio and Oliver that tease out their imminent summer romance. Every twitch and apprehensive recoil, every long, word-searching breath. And the kiss, in a field, amid a stretch of nature in bloom much like their budding tryst, is delightfully sumptuous.

However, the film’s heartfelt pinnacle comes during its final stretch, as Elio’s father recognizes what we’ve known all along: that he sees and admires the burning desire and longing Elio has for Oliver. Director Luca Guadagnino’s “Call Me By Your Name,” which won screenwriter James Ivory the Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay, moves with confident ease and a hypnotic slow burn. Stuhlbarg describes the cuts as non-lingering during an illuminating dialogue with Chalamet on the Blu-ray’s commentary, shedding new perspective on seemingly lesser character interactions: “It’s just a moment, and it’s gone.” That would be true for Stuhlbarg’s remarkable speech if every transformative word – for Elio, for the audience – didn’t land with the emotional resonance of something you’ll never forget.

I, Tonya

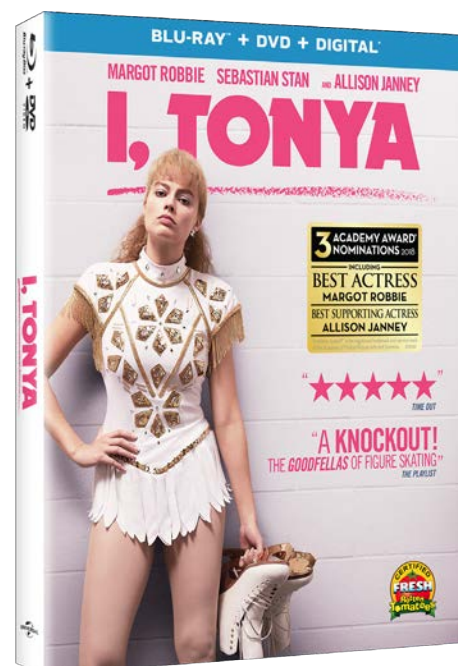
In “I, Tonya,” the mockumentary that does a good job of making you feel bad for Tonya Harding, Allison Janney is the mommie dearest we’ve been waiting for since, well, “Mommie Dearest.” Winner of the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress, Janney’s vulturous LaVona, the mother of Tonya Harding (Margot Robbie), is a horror-comedy show replete with outrageous, maybe-true, moral-testing moments. What does it say about us if we keel over in laughter when LaVona knocks young Tonya’s chair to the floor? What does it say about us if we don’t? Janney’s scenes have a lot of teeth, but my favorite: When cute-kid Tonya is seen on the ice for the first time, and Janney’s LaVona swallows that poor child whole. When Tonya has to pee, LaVona won’t let her, because “I paid for you to skate, you’re gonna stay on the ice and skate.” So, Tonya pees on the ice. “Skate wet,” LaVona scolds, to our morbid sense of delight. Of course, a public piss scene is critical in selling Tonya’s story as one of queer underdog triumph, when she finally takes to the ice and successfully lands a triple axel in competition – no visible pee. LaVona isn’t impressed, but we are: Watching CGI magic turn Robbie (to her credit, she trained for months and did perform some of the ice dancing) into an Olympic skater is exhilarating. Those stunning “how’d they do that?” visual effects are explored during a fascinating behind-the-scenes



feature, included among deleted scenes and a commentary from director Craig Gillespie.

The Shape of Water

In Guillermo del Toro’s magical fairy-tale tribute to queerness, and the society that resists it, the Best Picture winner’s god-like amphibious humanoid creature (Doug Jones) is at the mercy of a dangerous government agent (Michael Shannon). At the lab where he soaks in a giant water tank, a lonely cleaning lady, Elisa (Sally Hawkins), shows the tortured outcast human decency, feeding him eggs, playing him old records. Because she’s a woman and he is a fish, her dearest friend, Giles (Richard Jenkins), resists the idea of rescuing this creature. That is, until he discovers how it feels when you can’t have something you love. As a gay man living in the Cold War era, circa 1960s, Jenkins’ scenes are imbued with heartbreaking outsider struggle, but never more than after he confronts racism and homophobia at a diner and tearfully ends up back at Elisa’s place to pledge full support for her one true thing. Though the Blu-ray boasts an array of bonus features, including the featurette “A Fairy Tale for Troubled Times,” del Toro lets his tender and transformative sci-fi drama speak for itself by not providing a commentary track.





Coco

Mexican culture, family values and individuality are at the center of the wonderful “Coco,” Oscar winner for Best Animated Feature. The queer duo comprised of producer Darla K. Anderson and co-director Adrian Molina (both thanked their respective partners during the Academy Awards telecast) share in telling the uplifting story of a young Latinx dreamer, Miguel, who has musician aspirations – despite his family’s disapproval – akin to the man who he thinks is his great-great-grandfather, famous singer Ernesto de la Cruz. Written by Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez, who wrote a song you might’ve heard of called “Let It Go,” Cruz’s biggest hit is the timeless tune “Remember Me,” which just so happens to be the heart beating inside Pixar’s latest beautifully told and animated tale of self-discovery. As Miguel learns about his family’s circle of life in the Land of the Dead, those who have passed and those who will pass, the film’s rich center – the song – builds to a special scene where Miguel strums along and sings “Remember Me” to his abuelita, Coco, whose memory now fails her. But then she sings along, awakening treasured but long-forgotten memories. You’re gonna cry so hard.

Phantom Thread

Breakfast with Daniel Day-Lewis’ Reynolds Woodcock, a dressmaker in ’50s post-war London with an unbendable demand for perfection, is a taut affair. Give him silence, or he will make a fuss. To our wicked amusement,

he fusses a lot, actually. About his perfect dresses, about the imperfect women who wear his perfect dresses, about the perfect dresses when they’re slept in by boozers who decide to take naps in them. Woodcock counts Alma (an exquisite Vicky Krieps), a dowdy waitress he courts, as one in a long line of his throwaway dress-up dolls, but agreeable when he’s a “spoiled baby.” Alma contests his masochistic streak with searing clapbacks and concoctive spells. “Phantom Thread” is about a selfish, needy man, until it becomes about a woman’s power over him. Alma and Woodcock’s love story is soured and frayed, expressed through writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson’s mystic lens, using dark comedy so deadpan and desert dry you could pour water on some of these scenes, only for it to evaporate. The use of butter, in particular, has a droll presence. Food as conflict is expressly palpable the second time Alma has breakfast with Woodcock, and the subtleties of the downplayed humor could almost go undetected: Alma, wiser to Woodcock’s incorrigibility, scrapes butter on her toast like she’s working construction, and then lifts the tea kettle high above her cup to make for a more audible pour. Not funny to Woodcock, but for that very reason, infinitely funny to me.

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



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Right: Tanya M. Vaughn, DNP, CNM, FNP-BC
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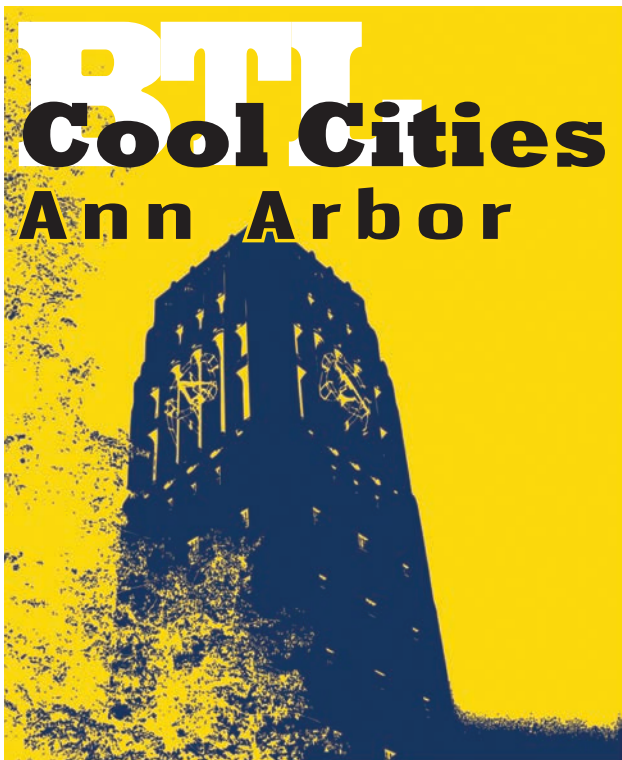
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Hayley Kiyoko at St. Andrew's Hall

When she's not being hailed as lesbian Jesus, Hayley Kiyoko is simply a pop star. The 27-year-old Los Angeles native just released her first full-length album "Expectations" and is in the middle of a North American tour. Her Detroit stop will be at St. Andrew's Hall in Detroit on Wednesday, June 6. More information can be found online at ticketmaster.com or saintandrewsdetroit.com.

Happenings



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OUTINGS

Thursday, May 24

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 7 p.m. Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620. oaklandumc.org. standwithtrans.org

Wednesday, May 30

Get Your People: The Role of White People in Ending Racism 6:30 p.m. 'Get Your People: The Role of White People in Ending Racism' is an interactive discussion and moderated panel on the role of white people in ending racism in metro Detroit and beyond. Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. 248-647-2380 bucmi.org.

Friday, June 1

2nd Annual Ypsi Pride 6 to 10 p.m. S. Washington St. facebook.com/YpsiPride/

Catfight for the Crown

8 to 11 p.m. Hosted by the Ruth Ellis Center The Fillmore Detroit 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit Project Beautiful - Inside & Out, Catfight is an elaborate, "tongue in cheek" drag show "beauty" pageant that features amateur drag performers as contestants fighting for the title of Miss Kitty. ruthelliscenter.org

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber Night at Comerica Park! 7 p.m. It's the Tiger vs Blue Jays at Comerica Park! Go to our website to buy tickets. Comerica Park, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-962-4000 info@detroitlgbtchamber.com. mlb.com/tigers/ballpark. detroitlgbtchamber.com.

Ferndale Pride Birthday Weekend

Through June 3. 4 to 10 p.m. Axle Brewing Co. 567 Livernois St., Ferndale Expect new beers, a throwback food menu, outdoor beer drinking, raffles, giveaways and more.

Saturday, June 2

Ferndale Pride. 1 to 4 p.m. Since 2011, Ferndale has kicked off summer with its annual pride festival. Listed on the website After Ellen as a "Small City Pride That is Worth the Trip," Ferndale Pride draws more than 15,000 attendees for a full week of events leading up to Pride's premiere event the daylong street fair. facebook.com/ferndalepride.

Sunday, June 3

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 6:30 p.m. Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. standwithtrans.org hilltopcounseling.org

A Drag Race Elaganza. Through Monday, June 4. To kick off Pride month, Slipstream offers a two-day only extravaganza of the community's favorite Drag Race stars. Celebrate Pride with the queens that own it. Slipstream Theatre. 460 Hilton Road, Ferndale. 313-986-9156 or insidetheslipstream@gmail.com. slipstreamti.com.

Tuesday, June 5

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 7 p.m. St. Mary's in The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663 stmarysinthehills.org. standwithtrans.org.

Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2018

Mainstage Lineup! 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. Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327 info@a2sf.org info@a2sf.org. smt.umich.edu.

Thursday, June 7

Safetalk Training 5 p.m. Hosted by American Indian Health and Family Services and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, safeTALK is a half-day alertness training that prepares anyone 15 or older, regardless of prior experience or training, to become a suicide-alert helper. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105.

Friday, June 8

Kalamazoo Pride. 6 p.m. This year marks Kalamazoo's 11th Annual Pride Event and the two-day festival will take place on Friday, June 8th and Saturday, June 9th. Arcadia Creek Festival Site, Kalamazoo. facebook.com/KalamazooPride.

Marianne Williamson's National "Love America" Tour

7 p.m. Historic Detroit Unity Temple is honored to have been selected as the first Michigan appearance for internationally acclaimed author and lecturer, Unity Temple, 17505 Second Ave., Detroit. 313-945-4848 pegriffin@sbcglobal.net. sbcglobal.net. detroitunity.com.

America The Beautiful: Songs from the Great American Songbook, and More! 7:30 p.m. An evening of male choral music paying tribute the vast array of music that is contained in the Great American Songbook. You'll enjoy a variety of American popular music from the last 100 years. First Presbyterian Church of Lansing, 510 West Ottawa St., Lansing. lansingfirstpres.com. lansingout.org.

Saturday, June 9

Motor City Pride Festival. Motor City Pride is a volunteer run organization devoted to spreading awareness of the LGBTQ community through our community events. Hart Plaza, Detroit. motorcitypride.org

Drippin' In Denim 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Studio 51 1995 Woodbridge, Detroit \$10 before 10 p.m.; Gemini's 1/2 off all night Attire: Sexy denim, 21+ A Motor City Pride celebration of M. Diddy's birthday and Star Statuz Ent. 10-year reunion

11th Annual Pride Ball: "Magical Mischief" 7:30 p.m.

The Majestic Theater 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit Contact Keith at 313-446-9800 or khughes@miunified.org statussexy.com/pride-ball Free entry; Hosted by Unified - HIV Health & Beyond to bring greater visibility and strengthen the relationships with Ball Scene members to help guide them to obtain optimal health.

Kalamazoo Pride

2 p.m. Arcadia Creek Festival Site, Kalamazoo. facebook.com/KalamazooPride.

12th Annual Motor City "Bears in Speedos" Car Wash. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Level One Bank. 22635 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. The Bears will be washing cars, truck, bikes, scooters and even a roller blade or two. A portion of the proceeds to benefit the Ruth Ellis Center and Affirmations. facebook.com/motorcitybears.

Grosse Pointe Pride. 9:30 a.m. Grosse Pointe South High School. 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms. We GP's family friendly LGBTQA Pride March. There will be face painting, choirs, food trucks and a big banner to sign. We GP is sharing proceeds with the Ruth Ellis Center. facebook.com/gppride.

Sunday, June 10

Motor City Pride Festival and Parade. Hart Plaza, Detroit. motorcitypride.org

Monday, June 11

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups 6:30 p.m. Dakota High School, 2105.1 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700. chippewavalleyschools.org.

Thursday, June 14

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. ferndalesoho.com. detroitlgbtchamber.com.

Editor's Pick

Garden Brunch by Greening of Detroit

Those interested in urban gardening can get excited for the upcoming Garden Brunch Fundraiser by the Greening of Detroit. The environmental group, dedicated to planting trees and environmentally-friendly job training for youth and adults around Detroit, is raising money for its Lafayette Greens Garden in the center of downtown. The event is on Sunday, June 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lafayette Greens at 132 W. Lafayette Blvd. The event is held in partnership with MGM Grand. More information can be found online at eventbrite.com.



Editor's Pick

UMMA Showcases 'Aftermath: Landscapes of Devastation'

The University of Michigan Museum of Art is putting on a photography exhibit dedicated to examining devastating scenes from history in the past 150 years. The exhibit will show "landscape photographs made at the sites of natural or human-made disasters, capturing the results of destructive forces wrought on the land and its inhabitants," according to event descriptions. The goal is to serve as a reminder of how disaster can both tear apart and bring communities together. The exhibit runs through May 27. More information can be found online at umma.umich.edu.



MUSIC & MORE

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 cinetopiafestival.org.

Barb Barton CD Release Concert June 1, 7:30 p.m. Come celebrate the release of Barb's seventh album and her newest book, *Manoomin – The Story of Wild Rice in Michigan* (MSU Press). MSU Community Music School, 4930 Hagadorn Rd., East Lansing. 517-484-1712. goldenrod.com. barbbarton.com/calender-of-events.html.

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.

Brandi Carlile – In Concert June 9, 7:30 p.m. Brandi M. Carlile is a Grammy-nominated American folk rock and Americana singer-songwriter. The Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 michtheater.org/show/brandi-carlile

Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2018 Mainstage Lineup Continues! June 9, 8 p.m. It's all part of the saucy, vintage nouveau world of Postmodern Jukebox, a tongue-in-cheek musical project for all ages spearheaded by Scott Bradlee, a revered pianist and genius of song arrangement. Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. info@a2sf.org info@a2sf.org. smt.umich.edu.

Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2018 Mainstage Lineup Continues! June 10, 1 p.m. ACROBUFFO'S AIR PLAY: Fabrics dance, balloons have a mind of their own, confetti turns into the night sky, and a gorgeous canopy becomes a river

of silk hovering over the audience in this modern circus. Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327 info@a2sf.org.

Sing Out Detroit Presents: Encore June 16, 7 p.m. Come Out and Support Sing Out Detroit Chorus as we celebrate 10 years of making music together. We will be performing some of our favorite songs and will be joined by chorus alumni. Ferndale High School, 881 Pinecrest Drive, Ferndale. 248-943-2411. eventbrite.com.

eVenti Verticali's Wanted June 19, 7:30 p.m. Aerial theater combines with video projections on a giant outdoor screen and concocts a mind-bending visual comedy extravaganza for all ages. Suspended in a world of animation, two Italian brothers hang from ropes and harnesses. Top of the Park, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. 734-994-5999 info@a2sf.org info@a2sf.org. a2sf.org.

Sam Smith June 22, 8 p.m. Sam Smith's sophomore album, *The Thrill Of It All*, was released worldwide on November 3 via Capitol Records. In support, Smith announced the North American dates for "The Thrill Of It All Tour." Little Caesar's Arena, 2645 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 3133495777

Ann Arbor Summer Festival 2018 Main Stage Lineup Continues! June 26, 6:30 p.m. AT THE ILLUSIONIST'S TABLE: Hosted by the world-renowned Scottish mentalist/storyteller Scott Silven, 22 strangers will share an elegant candlelit 3-course meal as mesmerizing illusions complement everything from the cocktails to the dessert course. Ann Arbor Club, 103 E. Liberty, 3rd Floor, Ste 300, Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538 info@a2sf.org info@a2sf.org. a2sf.org/events/at-the-illusionists-table-1/

THEATER

Company. May 31 through June 11 8 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays & Mondays; 5 p.m. on June 3 & 10
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Tickets: \$25 on Fridays & Saturdays; \$20 on Sundays; \$10 on Mondays
theringwald.com

All Childish Things: The Special Edition May 31-June 17, 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 roustabouttheatre.com roustabouttheatre.com brownpapertickets.com

MRS. FIFTY BAKES A PIE by Linda Ramsay-Detherage – World Premiere June 1-24, 8 p.m. Stuck in an abusive marriage, a 1960s housewife stumbles into a dominatrix's session and discovers personal power. Bondage and baking mix in a twisted fantasy as her alter-ego "Mrs. Fifty" doles out the punishment. Theatre NOVA, 410 W. Huron, Ann Arbor. 7346358450 theatrenova.org

Church & State by Jason Odell Williams June 8, 8 p.m. Just before his bid for reelection, and following a school shooting in his N.C. hometown, a U.S. senator (R) makes a comment that gets leaked, calling into question his stance on guns and God. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley St., Detroit. 313-967-0599 info@matrixtheatre.org matrixtheatre.org matrixtheatre.org/mainstage-season

Polyglot Theatre's Ants June 26-28, 4:30 p.m. Ants is an interactive roving performance which has giant ants bringing children together in a gentle and intriguing landscaping project. Gradually a world of meaning unfolds, illustrating the human desire for order. Top of the Park, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. 734-994-5999 info@a2sf.org a2sf.org/category/top-of-the-park/ a2sf.org/events/polyglot-theatres-ants-1/

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

John Cameron Mitchell's latest 'Anthem'

Here comes your next favorite podcast. Topic Studios, the people who produced "Missing Richard Simmons," recently announced that they're partnering with "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" creator John Cameron Mitchell for a new musical anthology podcast called "Anthem." The premise for the series will be neglected American stories, told by songwriters and storytellers working collaboratively, and that list of collaborators is impressive: Patti LuPone, Glenn Close, South African singer/songwriter Nakhane, Denis O'Hare, Laurie Anderson, Broadway star Simone (yes, the daughter of Nina Simone), Ben Foster, Justin Vivien Bond, Bridget Everett and Bryan Weller, who is currently working with Cameron Mitchell on the upcoming film "How to Talk to Girls at Parties." The first season, Anthem: Homunculus, will tell a single story in ten 30-minute podcasts, perfect for bingeing or that tedious commute home from work. The series is currently in production and will drop sometime later this year. Clear space on your playlist.

RuPaul to star alongside adorable orphan

On "RuPaul's Drag Race," the expression "She done already done had herses" might be something of a colloquialism-meets-a-non sequitur, but it has more or less come to mean that Ru's already done whatever you thought about doing and made money from it. And if you were thinking of starring in your own Netflix series about a drag queen who travels the country with a tough-talking orphan, then you can think twice about that one, too. RuPaul Charles will star in a new one-hour comedy series called "AJ and The Queen," co-produced by Ru and Michael Patrick King ("Sex and the City"). The Supermodel of The World will play against type as a down-on-her-luck queen traveling in a wheezing old RV with an unlikely child stowaway, performing in drag clubs all across this great drag-loving land, and teaching lessons about love along the way. She's going to sing in every episode, too, just like a one-drag-queen Partridge Family. Listen, we can't believe it's real either, but we're sure as hell going to watch. And that fascination factor is exactly how Miss Charles keeps getting hers(es).

Ezra Miller says hello to 'Dali'

Ezra Miller, star of "Justice League," isn't sitting around waiting for the DC Cinematic Universe to keep his career afloat. He's no stranger to the arthouse world in films like "We Need to Talk About Kevin," and now he's signed on to the latest from director Mary Harron ("American Psycho"), the biopic "Dali Land." Miller will star in flashback sequences as the young Salvador Dali (Ben Kingsley will play the legendary artist as an older man) for a story set in New York and Spain in the early 1970s, and told from the perspective of a gallery assistant played by Frank Dillane ("Fear The Walking Dead"). "Phantom Thread" breakout star Lesley Manville will play Dali's formidable wife and Tim Roth the artist's best friend. Expect this one to kickoff big festivals



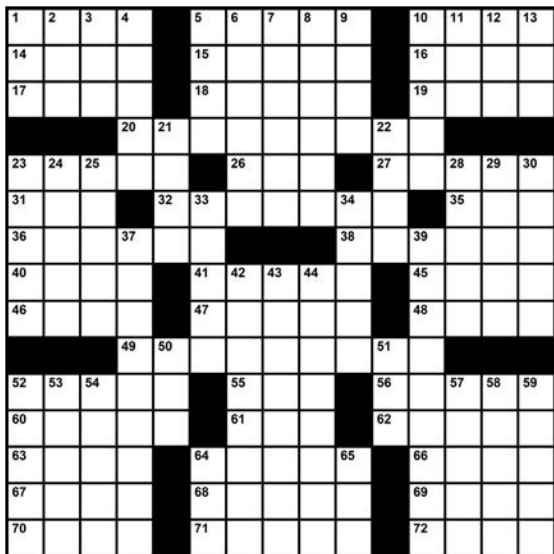
John Cameron Mitchell. Photo: Denis Makarenko

when it's finished. In the meantime you can impress your friends by doing your surrealism homework, and then you can annoy them all by pedantically explaining what is and is not surreal in everyday life.

You'll probably want to live in the 'House of Cardin'

Directors P. David Ebersole and Todd Hughes of The Ebersole Hughes Company recently presented a work-in-progress trailer at Cannes for their authorized biographical documentary, "House of Cardin," and the worldwide rights were snapped up by France's Doc & Film. For fashion fans and, really for anyone who cares about how merchandising and status shifted gears after World War II, this is very good news. And if you're quite young and the question on your mind is "What is a Cardin?" then you're in for a dizzying education. Pierre Cardin, 95, French/Italian, gay, and still at work, is one of the 20th century's most influential designers. The man made clothes for everyone including astronauts; he put his stamp on perfume bottles and jets; he designed cars and cigarettes; he slapped his logo on his work before anyone else thought to do that, and he made so much money doing it that now he lives in a house that's shaped like bubbles (not making that up). You think your personal brand is something special? This guy invented the idea, so when the film is finally finished and streaming on a smartphone near you, pay your respects and let a queer legend take you to school.

Romeo San Vicente is still obsessed with the shape of that Cardin cologne bottle



Homophobes in the Cabinet

Q Puzzle

Across

- 1 Rainbow banner, e.g.
 5 The Riddler, to Batman
 10 "Kiss Me ____"
 14 1993 title role for Kevin Kline
 15 Loads
 16 "To be," in Tours
 17 Zinke, who pushed for

- LGBT discrimination in federal agencies
 18 Words of compassion
 19 Gorsuch, first Supreme Court appointment ever opposed by Lambda Legal
 20 He compared being gay to being an alcoholic
 23 Beyond ____ (condom brand)

- 26 Curve shape
 27 Some musicians pluck them
 31 Lumberjack's tool
 32 "Gigi" author
 35 Soho pub drink
 36 Headwear for Otello
 38 Like Shakespeare's feet
 40 Additional
 41 Ford of the '50s
 45 "Yeah, sure"
 46 Marsh of "South Park"
 47 "____ you the clever one?"
 48 Lip service?
 49 Athens, in Socrates day
 52 Disney film set in China
 55 Country est. in 1948
 56 Off to one side
 60 Visitors at gay.com
 61 Peeples of "Fame"
 62 "Over my dead body!"
 63 Bubble on a brew
 64 "The ____ and the Ecstasy"
 66 Evening, in ads
 67 It comes before sum
 68 Kind of cap
 69 Grant in the cinematic

- field
 70 Like an unbuttoned blouse
 71 Recesses for Rev. Spahr
 72 Mireille of "Big Love"

Down

- 1 New Deal prez
 2 One-night-stand partner, crudely
 3 Gardener on screen
 4 Gay men's lifestyle magazine
 5 "Gladiator," for example
 6 Coin depicting Jefferson (but not 43-Down)
 7 Run out
 8 Like the guy with the tiniest hands
 9 North Sea feeder
 10 Obama birthplace, in a Trump smear
 11 Stopped fasting
 12 A little more than bi-
 13 Long, slippery one
 21 Peruvian of old
 22 Daughter of Uranus
 23 Satisfies fully
 24 Rejoice
 25 First lesbian magazine
 Vice ____
 28 Steven Greenberg,

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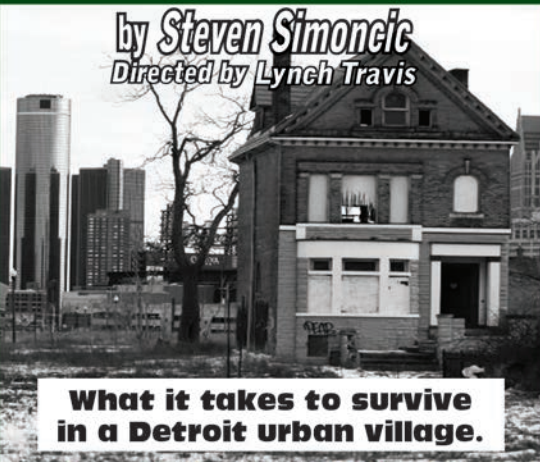
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Calling Together Community

Detroit Lesbian Social Group Seeks Regular Meeting Space

Walk into a Queer Untitled meeting and you'll be surrounded by a variety of women, likely all from various walks of life. However, the unifying factor for most of the attendees is their sexuality. The monthly event co-founder, Candice Williams said that this is by no means accidental.

"In Philly they literally have a gayborhood. They literally have rainbow on the street and they have like a sidewalk with a rainbow on it, they have a naked bike ride, a dyke march, all kinds of cool stuff," Williams said. "I didn't see any of that here (in Detroit). I mean, you have Ferndale Pride, I went a couple of years ago, but I thought, 'OK, where am I at? Where are my people?'"

Originally from Southfield, Williams moved back to Detroit from a 12-year stint in Philadelphia three years ago when she learned that members of her family were ill. Upon arriving in her hometown, she said she felt a severe lack of cultural influence when it came to not only the Detroit LGBTQ community, but the black lesbian community.

"I was just looking for my people and I didn't find them. I was looking for my connections the same way I did on the east coast," Williams said.

She started to crave a unifying factor that would join many people together. It was after going to a few events around the city that mirrored her experiences on the east coast that Williams began to get inspired.

"One of my really, really best friends, her best friend is a filmmaker and she did a film called 'The Revival' and it's about doing poetry. She had an event at a café that's no longer there. We all came out and it

was beautiful. It was all black women and we were supported. It was powerful," Williams said. "I was like, 'This woman came from out of town and she could bring all these women here!' She connected me to a lot of folks."

Those connections eventually helped Williams put on a 50-person Friendsmas aimed toward the black lesbian community, a New Year's Eve party and a variety bar meet-ups and parties around the city. And even with fluctuating numbers at each event, Williams decided the group she was helping to form needed a regular name. Williams said that Keri Roberts, a Detroit socialite that she met at one of these events, was instrumental in getting Queer Untitled off the ground and finding a solid brand for it.

"We didn't want to box anyone in. So, Keri was really part of that. We were just talking and brainstorming and trying to come up with the name in the first couple of meetings," Williams said. "We came up with Queer, Black and Melinated. It was a bit too strong, and we then we started saying, 'We want it to be for us, by us, but we also wanted to be inclusive.'"

Thus, the "Untitled" portion of the name was added in.

"The whole idea was to take it from Detroit and create a flagship, perfect box and put it everywhere. It then became Queer Untitled. Hopefully, one day, it'll just become Untitled and it'll just be the part that you go to, because you know," Williams said. "So, Queer Untitled is inclusive, because what does queer mean? It doesn't mean you're a same-gender loving person, it means you're a bit different. We wanted to be inclusive for all folks. You don't have to identify as lesbian."

However, Williams said she doesn't want potential attendees to think that each event is just a regular party — although she said she hopes there will be many planned in the future. The events are aimed at welcoming a wide variety of people, so they too are just as varied.

"The premise behind Queer Untitled is, in a nutshell, exposure and cultural education. We want to expose our queer community to something different. So, I truly believe that exposure is the difference between the haves and have-nots and the dream chasers and the people that don't get to fulfill their potential," Williams said. "In addition to that, we wanted it to be fun, and, in addition to just drinking and partying, we wanted to have other stuff going on, so if you don't drink you still feel comfortable coming. And then we wanted to create a safe, healthy space. We wanted to incorporate food and music and all that kind of stuff."

And so far, Williams said that these regular groups — formerly weekly, now monthly — have been starting to fill that exposure gap. Although Queer Untitled is not the first event of its kind, its attendance seems to suggest that Detroit city proper definitely has room for events like these.

However, even as well as events have been going throughout the city, the one factor that Williams said could be improved is having a regular meeting space. Formerly, Williams was able to use her brother's bar space, but as that's no longer available, she said she needs to be proactive in finding something to replace it.

"Right now, we're still trying to find a venue to keep doing it and then still balancing my work life," Williams said. "There's so much separation and all I want to do is create a coffeshop discussion and have community we can build and have a place that we can go, for us, by us."

After all, Williams lived in Philadelphia for a long time, a city which Gallup listed among the top 30 cities in the U.S. with the highest LGBTQ population. However, not far behind on that list is Detroit, too.

More information about Queer Untitled can be found via the group's instagram page @queeruntitled.

New Collaborative to Support LGBTQ People of Color

LGBT Detroit has become the facilitator of the Detroit Bi, Trans, Lesbian, Gay and Queer Anti-Violence Collaborative, formally known as the Michigan Network of Bi, Trans, Lesbian, Gay and Queer Survivors of Abuse (MI Network). The appointed facilitator is Jacquelyn Hippe, community advocate and counselor of LGBT Detroit's Healing and Support Services program.

"This Collaborative is an evolution of the MI Network to establish an intersectional and trauma-informed approach to advocacy for bi, trans, lesbian, gay, and queer people of color who are survivors of abuse," said Hippe.

The Collaborative brings together service providers from various community organizations, like Equality Michigan, WC SAFE, Affirmations, HAVEN, LaVIDA, Turning Point and First Step to uplift unheard voices and "invisible" identities, specifically LGBTQ people of color.

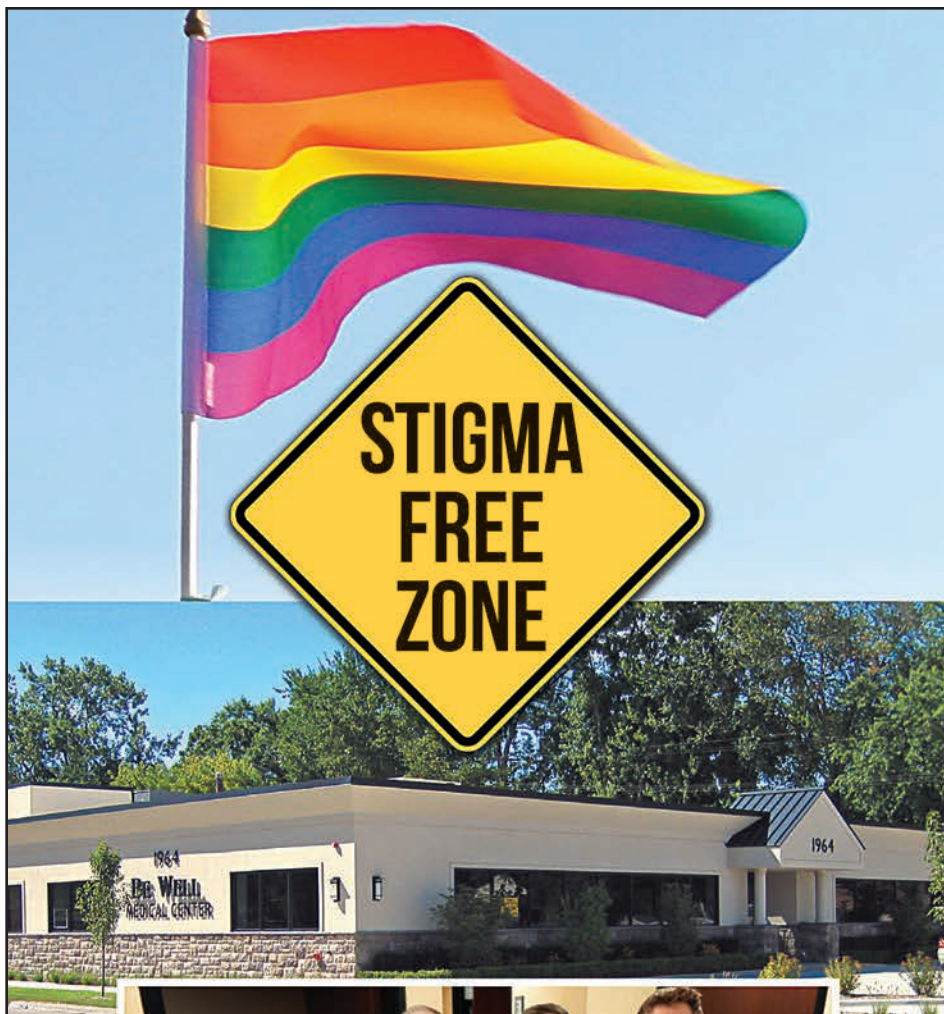
This work uses an intersectional lens to identify current gaps in services for survivors of violence within an urban context taking into account historical trauma and epigenetics. Additionally, it is an educational forum to identify the needs of diverse communities in the Metro-Detroit area by providing culturally specific/sensitive workshops and trainings for members of roundtable.

It is a space to collaborate on LGBTQ-specific assessment for services and a location to provide resource referrals. The main goal of the Collaborative is to promote LGBTQ POC leadership and support, and increase prevention education and training opportunities for community resources that service LGBTQ POC. The Collaborative meets every two months on the fourth Friday, beginning June 29.

The Macomb Community Domestic Violence Council is a founding organizer of the MI Network. The MI Network creates community and organizational change to respond to abuse and promote healthy relationships in LGBTQ communities. Affirmations, HAVEN, Equality Michigan and Turning Point are the founding organizers of the MI Network. As a survivor centered movement promoting healthy relationships, they offer a gender robust approach to responding to and preventing LGBTQ+ partner abuse and sexual violence that is centered on self-determination and anti-oppression values. They work in solidarity with the NW Network and The Network/La Red.

For the last seven years, MI Network has responded to abuse by providing training and technical assistance to domestic and sexual violence organizations on LGBTQ abuse. Additionally, the organization has engaged LGBTQ communities in discussions around community accountability and responses to survivors. The Collaborative prevents abuse by facilitating relationship skills classes for LGBTQ communities, and by connecting people who share these values and goals with each other through the MI Network Roundtable, a group of service providers dedicated to learning more about LGBTQ abuse.

For more information about the Collaborative, please contact Jacquelyn Hippe at 313-397-2127.



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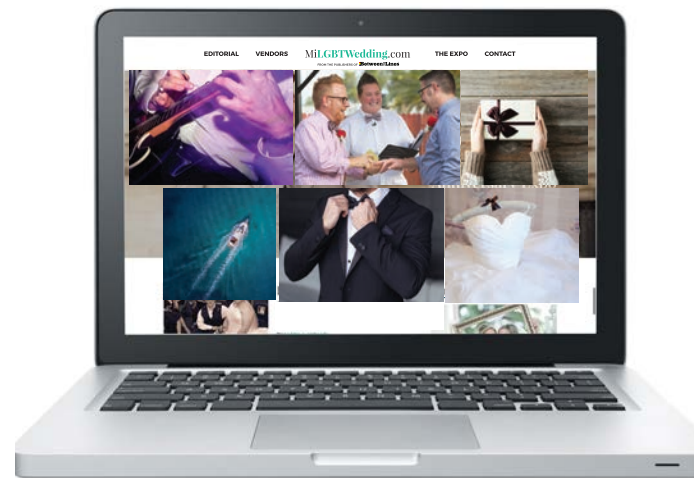
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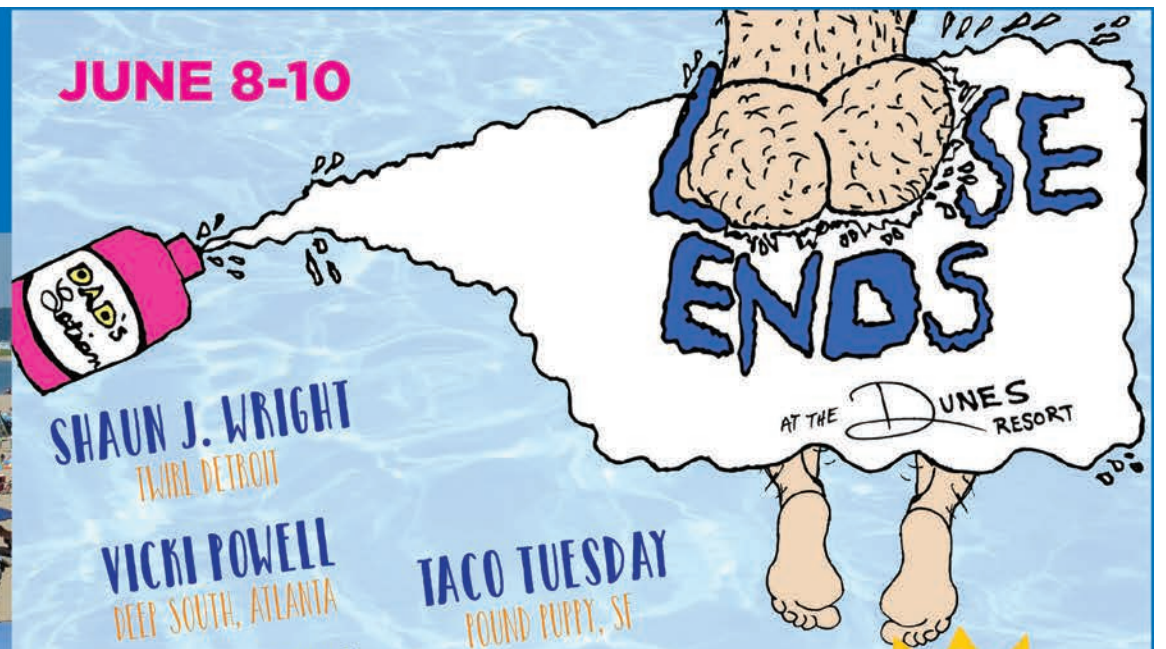


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