

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

BTL

25th
ANNIVERSARY

Between Lines

Circuit Court Judge Candidate to Voters: 'Flip Over the Ballot'

Fight to Keep Redistricting Proposal on Ballot at Supreme Court

Michigan Same-Sex Couples Challenge Adoption Agency Discrimination

Collecting Homegrown Creatives

**Hotter Than July Fine Arts Exhibition
Spotlights Emerging Artists**





**LABEL
LESS.**

**LOVE
MORE.**

At Kroger, our purpose is to Feed the Human Spirit™ in all of us. No matter what label you might be, we're proud to join you in building thriving and diverse communities where bias is no longer recognized and love is love—no matter what shape, size, color or gender it takes.



©2018 The Kroger Co.



COVER

BTL Photo: Andrew Potter
6 Collecting Homegrown Creatives

NEWS:

- 6 Collecting Homegrown Creatives
- 10 Register to Vote
- 10 Circuit Court Judge Candidate to Voters: 'Flip Over the Ballot'
- 10 Dean Nasreddine is on a Voting Mission
- 11 Fight to Keep Redistricting Proposal on Ballot at Supreme Court
- 14 Planned Parenthood Power of Pink Conference Comes to Detroit
- 14 Michigan Same-Sex Couples Challenge Adoption Agency Discrimination
- 18 'No Right to Consent' Raises Privacy Concerns

OPINION

- 16 Parting Glances
- 16 Viewpoint
- 17 Creep of the Week

LIFE

- 22 Jennifer Nettles
- 24 Jon Strand: Dots! Exclamation Points! Smiles!
- 33 Patience Rewarded
- 36 Deep Inside Hollywood
- 32 Happenings
- 37 Puzzle and Crossword

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- 38 10th Annual Miss Woodward Pageant

MICHIGAN NEWS

POWER OF PINK CONFERENCE
Planned Parenthood gathers to educate, strategize

See Page 14

THE INTERVIEW

JENNIFER NETTLES
Sugarland's Frontwoman on Celebrating the Queer Community with Latest Album and Why 'Tolerance' Isn't Enough

See Page 22

ART EXHIBIT

JON STRAND
WSU Exhibit Opens Aug. 3

See Page 24

VOTING 2018

ELECTION 2018
Dean Nasreddine is on a Voting Mission

See Page 10

ADOPTION RIGHTS IN THE NEWS

CHALLENGING DISCRIMINATION
Michigan Same-sex Couples Go to Court

See Page 14

VOL. 2630 / 2631 • JULY 26 - AUG. 8, 2018
ISSUE 1074

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP
20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS
Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

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



EDITORIAL
Editor in Chief
Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor
Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Feature News Editor
Kate Opalewski, 734.293.7200 x 108
kate@pridesource.com

Editorial Assistant
Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105
eve@pridesource.com

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

CREATIVE
Webmaster & MIS Director
Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

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

Cartoonists
Paul Berg, Dave Brousseau

Contributing Photographers
Andrew Potter, Alexander Godin, Andrew Cohen

ADVERTISING & SALES
Director of Sales
Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives
Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103
anncox@pridesource.com

Donelle Kremke, 734.293.7200 x 104
donelle@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

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

ONLINE AT
"Between The Lines Newspaper"

Follow us @YourBTL

Email your op-eds to
editor@pridesource.com

Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

Copyright 2018 Pride Source Media Group



PRIDE *Pack*

DETROIT TIGERS V. CHICAGO CUBS
AUGUST 22 | 7:10 PM



EACH TICKET PACKAGE INCLUDES A GAME
TICKET, A T-SHIRT AND A DONATION
TO THE DETROIT REGIONAL
LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



FOR TICKETS AND MORE
INFORMATION VISIT:

tigers.com/pridepack

HOME OF THE DETROIT TIGERS



35% OFF
one item

25% OFF
the rest of your order

Discounts taken from list price, certain manufacturers excluded. Restrictions may apply. Cannot be combined with other offers.



Where Your Imagination... Is Our Inspiration®



Grand Rapids
701 36th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49548

Grand Ledge
10801 Grand River
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Holland
783 Chicago Drive
Holland, MI 49423

Kalamazoo
5231 East ML Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Traverse City
1969 West South Airport Road
Traverse City, MI 49686

Wixom
29949 Beck Road
Wixom, MI 48393

www.infusionshowrooms.com



Cover Story

Collecting Homegrown Creatives

Hotter Than July Fine Arts Exhibition Spotlights Emerging Artists

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Geno Harris is “excited” to bridge the gap between the LGBTQ community and the straight community using creativity as a platform.

The self-taught artist will curate for his fourth consecutive year the annual Hotter Than July Fine Arts Exhibition beginning Thursday, July 26 through Monday, Aug. 13 at The Carr Center in Detroit.

“What I’ve explained before is that these exhibitions that I do are not solely for LGBTQ people,” he said. “It is for those who want to know and understand more about people who identify as LGBTQ. It’s really important for me to let people know that we’re the same as you.”

The exhibit features homegrown art created by a mix of LGBTQ people and their straight allies. All the artwork is available for viewing and for purchase. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to LGBT Detroit, host of the 23rd annual HTJ event, themed “Honor & Rejoice,” which lasts through July 29.

“When you get a chance to meet these 23 artists, each one of them has a story that is valid that they put into their artwork. Providing a platform for them is what my goal is,” said Harris. He is known for establishing the Poor Man’s Art Collective in early 2003 with a group of African American Detroit artists – Mychal Noir, Kenya Vinson and Jack Johnson – to find

and nurture the talents of emerging artists who otherwise would not know where to begin to have their work exhibited.

“Geno’s consistent commitment to leadership has been stellar and dynamic ... Hotter Than July is fortunate to have his dedication and unique point of view as a part of the pride experience,” said Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit.

Harris said his artwork that will be on display is “completely emotional.” He chose decoupage as his form of expression and uses handmade Japanese paper to create abstract forms and shapes.

“It was created out of a sense of needing to heal myself,” he said. “It was and still is therapy for me. It is a contradiction to my pain – bright and colorful.”

Susan Bankston, too, intends to provoke thought and emotion through her work.

“It’s important to express yourself,” said the Detroit artist. “Everybody should express themselves. It’s important emotionally and physically to get it out. It really helps your health.”

Bankston’s love for art started as a child in kindergarten. She studied different mediums including watercolors, sculpture, pen and ink, and jewelry all through high school and some college. But painting with acrylics is her favorite.

Bankston encourages members of the

Artist and curator of this year’s show Geno Harris. BTL Photos: Andrew Potter



Artist Susan Bankston

community to “get out and see what we’re doing. Support your people. It’s important. It wouldn’t hurt if they bring their wallets.”

Not all the high-quality art on display will be expensive. Harris said the artwork is “affordable” and “priced to sell.”

“I’m a true believer in that art should be accessible to everybody,” said James Chism, adding that he wants viewers to look, and touch, his artwork.

“I’ve always been into art, but every time I wanted to touch something that was intriguing, I couldn’t touch it. I want to invite viewers in to feel my work. I want my work to be an experience,” he said. The abstract artist, who resides in Harper Woods, strives to create his works of art using a Yoruba concept known as *Asé*, meaning power, command and authority.

Chism doesn’t approach his canvass with any type of plan or conventional tools. He has traded in his paintbrushes for plastic scrapers, spatulas, forks, knives and spoons. These everyday items help create texture using thick layers of acrylic paint and a broad range

of colors.

“Art for me comes from a place deep, deep inside. When I approach a piece, I’m not trying to conform to anybody. It’s whatever I have on my mind. I’m not trying to fit in any type of box. Whatever I have up here in my mind I put out and once I’m done, I’m happy with it, however it may turn out,” he said.

For Detroit artist Tristan Slade, his work – painting, screen printing, woodworking, photography, and even sewing – is influenced by many things in his life that others can relate to from love and humor to depression and being stereotyped. Slade’s recent works, in their Pop Art style, center around relationships. A few of his pieces feature a kiss between same-sex couples. He said, “A kiss is a kiss no matter who it’s with, and love is all the same.”

Ashley Benke from Kalamazoo hopes that viewers can relate to her art, also.

“That’s what encourages me to keep moving

See **Home Grown**, continued on p. 8

— HOTTER THAN JULY —

HONOR & REJOICE

FAMILY • FRIENDS • FAITH • FUN
JULY, 24-29 | DETROIT

#HTJ • @DETROITHTJ • 313-397-2127

HOTTERTHANJULY.ORG

<p>SPONSORS :</p> <p>INFERNO LGBT Detroit Beaumont Hospital Between The Lines Community Health Awareness Group Swerve Magazine Woodward Cocktail Bar & Grill Viiv Healthcare</p> <p>LIGHT Motor City Casino</p>	<p>HOT Black Boy Addiction Black Treatment Advocacy Network Boost Mobile Detroit Department of Health Equality Michigan House of Mizrahi Human Rights Campaign Imagine This Productions Malone Entertainment One Church Detroit Poor Man’s Art Collective Ruth Ellis Center</p>	<p>BLAZING Unified HIV Health and Beyond</p> <p>FIRE AARP Program Bishop Allyson Abrams Ministries/YepUCan Counter Narrative Project Advantage Health Center Affirmation Haven National LGBT Task Force</p>
--	--	---



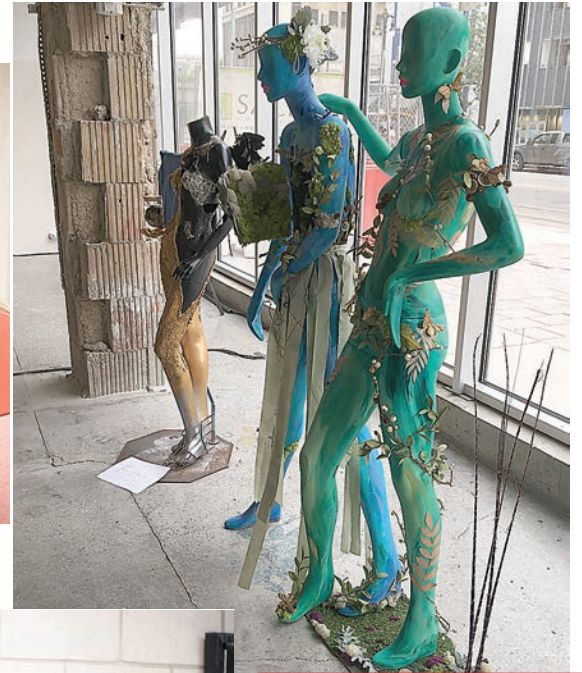
Artist Tristan Slade

Artists featured in the Hotter Than July Fine Arts Show:

Jack Kenny - Documentary Photographer, Author
 Jay Coleman - Painter, Wood Carver
 Anthony Williams - Photographer, Painter
 Ashley Benke - Mixed Media Sculptor
 Ari Hampton - Painter
 Demetrius R. Green - Mixed Media Painter
 Duane Vaughn - Painter
 Christie Love - Poet
 James Chism - Mixed Media Abstract Painter
 Jeffrey Cross - Photographer
 L.M.Cozy - Mixed Media Painter
 Jimmie Scott Robinson - Painter
 (Jimmie is deceased. His work is represented by his wife Latanya Orr)
 Lauren Bullar - Painter
 Nathaniel Haris Muhammad - Mixed Media Abstract Painter
 D.J. Perrett - Painter
 Quenton Wright - Vocalist
 Reggie Singleton - Abstract painter, Wood Sculptor
 Slaw Stanislwaski - Painter
 Susan Bankston - Painter
 Tristan Slade - Mixed Media Painter
 Verbert Bennett Jr. (The Bearded Chef) - Culinary Arts
 Geno Harris - Mixed Media Abstract Paper Artist
 Jice Demere - Poet Storyteller



Artist Ashley Benke



Artist James Chism

Friday, July 27

Hotter Than July 2018! Conference 9 a.m. LGBT Detroit and Community Health Awareness Group hosts The 23rd Annual Hotter Than July Conference. This annual gathering for LGBT issues addresses relevant and important concerns. The day consists of "The Candidates Forum" in the Community Health Awareness Group, 1300 W. Fort Street, Detroit. www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly

Saturday, July 28

Hotter Than July 2018! Palmer Park Picnic! 11 a.m. The pinnacle event of Detroit's annual celebration is a family reunion and you're invited. A Day with The Mizharis, Ballroom, House Party, Merchant Row, Testing Zone are highlighted along with free food and fun! Palmer park, 17888 pontchartrain Blvd., Detroit.

Sunday, July 29

Hotter Than July 2018! Worship Service 11 a.m. The LGBTQ worship service hosted by Detroit's faith community. Chairs: Rev. Jeffery Seals of One Church Detroit and Detroit Police Department LGBT Liaison Corporal Dani Woods Tindal Recreation Center, 10301 West Seven Mile Road, Detroit. www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/

Hotter Than July 2018! Sunday Brunch! 12 p.m. Great friends, great food, great location and great music! So come out and end Hotter Than July with a great brunch with lots of love and laughs. Charlevoix Street, 14505 Charlevoix Street, Detroit. <https://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly>

► Home Grown

Continued from p. 7

on. To know that what I have to say isn't just for myself. It's for everyone else, too," she said. "I hope people can say, 'Oh, I went through that,' or, 'Oh, that's exactly how I felt.' I hope that it brings up happiness or peace or joy or whatever they need."

She has created with the use of mannequins the Women Project, a found object and sculpture series about the common and uncommon thread of life women share.

When asked about the best way to approach

the exhibition, Benke said, "It's just about going and opening your mind and visually just getting a new experience. You don't have to know about art. It's really about expanding your mind. So for anyone who wants to come down and see these pieces, they will feel happy at the end because they're beautiful pieces."

The Hotter Than July Fine Arts Exhibition opens with a reception on Thursday, July 26 from 6-10 p.m. at The Carr Center, 1505 Woodward Ave. in Detroit. The exhibit runs through Monday, Aug. 13. Call 313-965-8430 for more information or visit facebook.com/carrcenter

BETWEEN THE LINES PRESENTS...



Tig Notaro

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH
MASONIC TEMPLE - CATHEDRAL THEATRE
DETROIT, MI**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH
FOUNTAIN STREET CHURCH
GRAND RAPIDS, MI**

WWW.THECROFOOT.COM



THECROFOOT

FUSION SHOWS



On the go? No appointment needed.

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

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



2018 BRZ (JZA)



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

21205 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220

248.547.8800 • www.hodgessubaru.com

HOURS: TUES, WED, & FRIDAY SALES – 9 A.M.-6 P.M. SERVICE – 7:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.

MONDAY & THURS SALES – 9 A.M. - 8 P.M. SERVICE – 7:30 A.M. - 8 P.M.

SATURDAY SALES – 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. SERVICE – 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

EVERYDAY!

EXCELLENT SERVICE • OUTSTANDING SELECTION • FANTASTIC PRICES....

ROCK SHOPPE

– Since 1979 –

6275 Gotfredson Road

Plymouth MI, 48170

(Just off M-14)

734-455-5560

www.Rock-Shoppe.com



Rock

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

"Say it in Stone" Gifts and Signs

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

Landscape Supplies

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

Retaining Walls & Patios

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

Statuary

- Bird baths
- Fountains
- Garden benches
- Planters, Pots & Urns
- Statuary

Register to Vote

If the LGBTQ community doesn't come out to vote on Nov. 6, they forfeit the opportunity to impact change. But in order to vote in Michigan, you must register to vote at least 30 days before the next election. Your vote is critical to ensure candidates are elected who will fight for progressive values like equality for the LGBTQ community, women, and people of color, and will stand up for unions, be good stewards of the environment, and more.

You can register to vote with the Michigan Secretary of State by mail and in person at any branch offices, the offices of your local city or township clerk, and other state agencies.

Visit gaybe.am/CO to find out who is running for office in Michigan, find out who has endorsed the candidates, take a look at your ballot, find your polling place, and find your district numbers.

Visit gaybe.am/gt to find a list of all Michigan candidates.

Visit the Michigan Voter Information Center gaybe.am/0X to verify your voter registration, find your polling place, view your sample ballot for the upcoming election, request and track your absentee ballot, and find answers to frequently asked questions.

What to Know about Registering

Pre-Registration

17.5-year-olds who will be 18 by the next general election can pre-register to vote. On your 18th birthday, your voter registration application will be fully processed.

Same Day Registration

Michigan does not offer the opportunity to register to vote on Election Day.

Automatic Voter Registration

Michigan does not automatically register eligible citizens to vote when they go to a government agency, like the DMV.

If You've Moved

Michigan requires registrants to live in the state for at least 30 days before registering to vote.

Documentation Requirements

When submitting a voter registration application, no additional documents are required for your registration to be processed. The state confirms your citizenship and eligibility through the information provided on your registration form, such as your state-issued license/ID number or the last four digits of your SSN.

Voting Rights Restoration

The voting rights of convicted persons are restored upon release. Returning citizens must re-register to vote after their rights are restored.

Interstate Voter Rolls Accuracy & Maintenance

Michigan participates in the Interstate Crosscheck program to compare voter rolls with other states for maintenance purposes.

Coming Aug. 15 for general election Nov. 6 - visit www.MiMichiganVoterGuide.com to learn about equality-minded candidates.

Circuit Court Judge Candidate to Voters: 'Flip Over the Ballot'

BY DREW HOWARD

Jake Cunningham, candidate for Circuit Court Judge in Oakland County, has an important message for those voting this November: "Flip over the ballot."

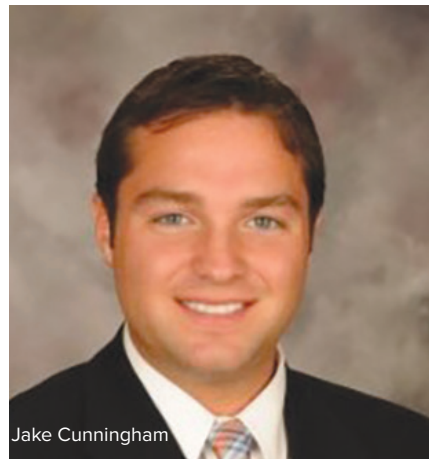
"A lot of people don't realize there are judicial candidates," Cunningham told BTL. "I find that people have the most interaction with the government through the judicial branch, more than any other branch. And people don't know who their judges are, or that we vote for judges – we're on the backside of the ballot."

A graduate of the Western Michigan University Law School, Cunningham has spent the past three-and-a-half years serving as a judicial staff attorney under Oakland County Circuit Judge Mary Ellen Brennan. The position has allowed him to get his feet wet in all three dockets of the circuit court, he said, which includes the Civil/Criminal Division, Business Court, and the Family Division.

This November, Cunningham will face off against his opponent Dan Christ to fill one of two open judicial seats in Oakland County Circuit Court Family Division. Cunningham describes the potential move as ideal, considering he currently works in the same division.

"I work with anything involving children – divorce, custody, child support, juvenile abuse, termination of parental rights, juvenile delinquency, etc.," he said. "As the staff attorney I help the judge make all the decisions. Anything that will be coming across her desk is in my hands as well to get the decision recommended to her and ready."

If elected, Cunningham says the new position would be closer to a promotion from his current job than anything. While his experience spans all three circuit dockets, he considers the Family Division to be his current specialty.



Jake Cunningham

"It feels like a natural progression," he said. "Judges have taught me knowing it's my passion and goal to be a judge. Brennan has been really gracious in letting me know her process, what's going on in her mind, and what she's looking for. I've been taught by the best, so I'm ready to go."

With no primary in August, Cunningham is in the early stages of seeking endorsements and organizing campaign events to meet with potential voters. He says he's currently endorsed by all six of the Oakland County Family Division judges, as well as more than half of the rest of the bench.

One of Cunningham's first public meet-

and-greets took place during Ferndale Pride on Saturday, June 2. As an openly gay candidate running for public office, Cunningham says the opportunity to represent his community on the campaign trail is a rare one.

"As far as being a gay candidate, there aren't many openly gay judges," he said. "I first came out when I was 16, and have had no qualms about it since. I'm very proud of who I am and what I've been able to accomplish. I am who I am, and I can't help that."

He adds that while he's proud of who he is, his orientation alone should have no bearing on his position whatsoever.

"Good judges don't see whether someone is straight or gay, black or white, or male or female. Good judges just see the set of facts and apply the law as we have it."

At the end of the day, Cunningham says voters should consider not only his professional qualifications but also his character in the courtroom. "In my courtroom I'll treat people how I want to be treated. In the family court that's a really important place to come from."

He continues: "In family court there are people that are in the middle of a really tough and emotional time in life. They need to just have their voice heard in court ... I'm going to be cognizant of that – that's where I'm starting from."

For more information on candidate Cunningham, please visit the Facebook page "Jake Cunningham For Oakland County Circuit Court."

Dean Nasreddine is on a Voting Mission

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Dean Nasreddine is on a mission. The 24-year-old queer activist and NextGen Michigan field organizer is determined to ensure that every young adult in Michigan is registered to vote. And he's planned a social gathering to give everyone that opportunity this Friday, July 27 at Affirmations in Ferndale. All are welcome to enjoy an open mic. night and voter registration drive called What Makes Us: A Night of Activism, Community & Performance.

NextGen Michigan, the statewide initiative of NextGen America, is working to register, engage and organize young voters. As of this month, NextGen Michigan had registered 12,911 young voters, fueled by the energy of more than 218 volunteers and 40 organizers over a six-month period.

"I'm emailing and networking and trying to find a channel for us to be there and to get



Pictured from left to right: Annmarie Eovaldi, Caroline Wolber and Dean Nasreddine of NextGen Michigan at the Families Belong Together rally in Pontiac on June 30. The three registered attendees to vote.

NextGen's name out, so that people know that it's super easy to register, because I think that specifically for that age bracket, we aren't given the civic understanding [of] how voting works, how we figure into the democratic

process."

Young adults from NextGen are canvassing, showing up at rallies and protests, speaking

See **Mission**, continued on p. 20

The New
2018 Honda Accord
LX 4DR CVT

Model #CV1F1JEW

Honda Summer
SPECTACULAR
Event



\$1999 DOWN
ONLY \$225

OR

\$999 DOWN
ONLY \$255



It's CLEARANCE time at Ferndale Honda

Call Eric Hay, Sales Manager

248-548-6300 x204 hay@ferndalehonda.com
 21350 Woodward Ave., Ferndale, MI 48220

All payments are plus tax, Money down is plus tax, title, license, registration and doc.
 36 month lease with 12,000 miles. On approved tier 1 credit thru A.H.F.C. All incentives to dealer.
 Sale ends 7.31.2018



Town & Country
Garage Door, LLC



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

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

NGLCC
LGBTUNITY

2018 INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE PHILADELPHIA
AUGUST 14-17



3 DAYS OF LGBT BUSINESS SUCCESS
OVER 1,200 ATTENDEES
200+ INCLUSIVE CORPORATIONS
OUTSTANDING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS
INCREDIBLE NETWORKING
THE BEST BUSINESS DECISION YOU WILL MAKE ALL YEAR



VISIT NGLCC.ORG/NGLCC18 TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER

Michigan Civil Rights Commission Ignores AG Schuette's Opinion

NEWS

During a meeting on Monday, July 23 in Williamsburg near Traverse City, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission reiterated their support for the interpretive statement they issued on May 21, interpreting the word “sex” in the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

This follows a formal opinion issued on Friday, July 20 by Attorney General – and candidate for governor – Bill Schuette asserting his opinion that state law “prohibits discrimination based on sex but does not cover distinctions based on sexual orientation or gender identity ... The commission’s ruling is invalid.”

The Commission’s action directed the Michigan Department of Civil Rights – the operational arm of the Commission – to continue investigating complaints of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

“The Michigan Civil Rights Commission is an independent, constitutionally created and established body,” said Agustin Arbulu, Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights in a statement. “The Commission is not bound by the opinion of the attorney general. The only recourse is for the courts to determine if issuing the interpretive statement was within the scope of the Commission’s authority, and that is the appropriate venue for resolving this issue. Until that time, the department will continue to carry out the directive of the Commission.”

Schuette’s 19-page opinion, addressed to Republican leaders in the state House and Senate who requested it, said “Michigan’s Constitution entrusts the legislature, and not executive agencies or commissions, with the authority to change, extend, or narrow statutes.”

The MCRC became the first commission of its kind in the nation to determine that laws prohibiting sex discrimination also prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

This is not the first attempt by Attorney General Schuette to derail the Commission. In September 2017, after a last-minute intervention by the attorney general’s office, the Commission tabled a request by Equality Michigan and 37 other LGBTQ organizations that petitioned the Commission to issue the interpretive statement.

EQMI’s request was added to the agenda for reconsideration after several law professors and lawyers specializing in administrative, constitutional and civil rights law wrote to the Commission to rebut arguments used by the attorney general to block Commission action.

“The Commission has the legal authority to interpret statutes the legislature has empowered them to enforce,” said Stephanie White, executive director of Equality Michigan in a statement. “This empowerment has been made clear by the Michigan Supreme Court, and are also consistent with the structure and language of both the Administrative Procedures Act and the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.”

Other legal bodies – including the the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in *Macy v. Holder* (2012) and *Baldwin v. Foxx* (2015) – that have similarly found that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects against discrimination based on sexual orientation. Numerous federal courts have also determined that sexual orientation and gender identity are forms of sex discrimination. The Sixth Circuit, which covers Michigan, recently determined for the fourth time that federal laws prohibiting sex discrimination also prohibit gender identity discrimination in *EEOC v. Harris Funeral Homes*. Neighboring circuits have determined that sex also includes sexual orientation.

Human Rights Campaign Michigan State Director Amritha Venkataraman said, “Bill Schuette is unfit to serve as attorney general, and this latest outrageous act proves once again that he cannot represent all Michiganders equally and fairly. Attorney General Schuette has chosen to ignore legal precedent and leave thousands of LGBTQ Michiganders at risk of discrimination. Numerous federal courts have determined that discrimination against an individual based on their sexual orientation or gender identity is fundamentally a form of sex discrimination – which is prohibited both under federal law, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Michigan’s Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act. The Human Rights Campaign is on the ground working hard to elect pro-equality champions who support commonsense protections for LGBTQ

Michiganders and ensure that Schuette never makes it to the governor’s mansion.”

“The Attorney General has no role in the process, and his opinion cannot invalidate the Commission’s interpretation, as he is not a judge, nor are his opinions judicial decisions,” said White. “The Attorney General’s analysis of the underlying interpretive question is wrong. He cherry-picked precedents to arrive at his preferred policy, citing precedents that have been overruled, dissenting opinions, and ignores the bulk of precedent from around the country, including federal courts encompassing Michigan.”

Attorney Dana Nessel, who is running as the Democratic candidate for Michigan attorney general weighed in.

“This is just another move in a long line of actions taken by Bill Schuette to persecute a community he should be protecting,” she said. “Is it any wonder LGBTQ people in our state are subjected to record-high rates of serious assaults and other hate crimes when our attorney general consistently conveys the message that this community is not worthy of the same protections as all other Michigan residents? Let’s use Schuette’s terrible opinion as motivation to do everything we can to replace this bigot with an attorney general who will always have the best interests of LGBTQ residents in mind.”

Fight to Keep Redistricting Proposal on Ballot at Supreme Court

BY TODD A. HEYWOOD

A movement that started with a Facebook post by an earnest 28-year-old woman, and blossomed into a full-fledged citizen run movement that then collected over 430,000 valid signatures for a ballot initiative, is facing its final and perhaps largest obstacle yet.

The Republican controlled Michigan Supreme Court.

The proposal would create an independent citizens’ redistricting commission. The objective of the commission would be to draw new congressional districts, as well as state house and senate districts. Supporters say the will of the voters is thwarted in many of Michigan’s districts because they have been drawn to give one party or the other – depending on which is in power when the districts are drawn.

Opponents, backed by the

Michigan Chamber of Commerce and Attorney General Bill Schuette, argue the proposal changes so much of the Michigan constitution that it would require a constitutional convention in order to properly adopt it. They argue the proposal is not just an amendment to the constitution therefore the ballot process is the wrong way to go.

The Supreme Court heard arguments Monday in the case from Voters Not Politicians, the group that has been spearheading the ballot measure, The ACLU, the NAACP, The League of Women Voters and others. They also heard arguments from Chamber attorneys as well as Schuette, who is vying for the GOP nomination for governor.

The court is not expected to rule until a later date.

As the hearing was going on in the Hall of Justice in Lansing, a rally of more than 150 supporters chanted,

cheered, sang and hoisted posters and signs in the air demanding the right to vote on the issue.

Supporters of the initiative have targeted members of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce for public protests to sway them away from continuing the lawsuit. The Chamber, just over a week ago, countered that supporters of the ballot proposal had threatened them.

But Katie Fahey, who organized the Voters Not Politicians initiative, called those allegations “a distraction” and part of “dirty politics” in an interview Tuesday night on WILS 1320 AM’s Capital City Recap.

She said Chamber officials had failed to provide details of the alleged threats. She denied the organization condoned or supported violence or calls for violence.

Todd A. Heywood is the host of Capital City Recap.



A supporter of a ballot measure that would create an independent citizens’ redistricting commission came dressed up as Michigan’s 11th Congressional District, showing how elective districts are often created to favor one party or another. BTL Photo: Todd A. Heywood



Wolverine
Human Services
Helping Children to be Victors

ANY CHILD, ANY PARENT, ANY TIME.

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

RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS

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



**Zoom Special
\$249
One-hour Teeth
Whitening**

*Must mention this BTL ad - Expires 5/29/15

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

Care Credit



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

**Find us on
facebook**

#TIME2KNOW GET TESTED

NOW OFFERING INTEGRATED TESTING



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

CONVENIENT METRO DETROIT LOCATIONS

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

**ALSO TESTING IN BARS, CLUBS AND
OTHER METRO AREA LOCATIONS**

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

**NO
SUNDAY
TESTING**

Call 1.888.226.6366 to make an appointment or for information.

1 (888) A CONDOM



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

Planned Parenthood Power of Pink Conference Comes to Detroit

Across the U.S. there are over 600 Planned Parenthood health centers that provide a variety of services focusing on reproductive health care, but worldwide there are more than 10 million activists, supporters and donors to the organization. But beyond just the medical clinics, perhaps one of Planned Parenthood's most notable arms is its Action Fund. This fund is nonprofit, non-partisan group that works to advance access to sexual health care and reproductive rights. And this year many action fund supporters will convene in Detroit for the Power of Pink conference from Friday, July 27, through Sunday, July 29.

"Over the course of two days, thousands of Planned Parenthood Action Fund members and supporters of all ages, races, ethnicities, zip codes, gender identities and abilities will come together in Detroit to participate in trainings, in-depth workshops, and volunteer-led actions to build power," write event organizers. "Participants will leave Power of Pink with the tools they need to strengthen our movement's collective impact in our communities, under the the domes of state and federal legislatures, and at the ballot box, now and well into the future!"

This year the event will also feature 10 speakers from across the U.S. ranging from politicians like Virginia Second House District Delegate Jennifer Carroll Foy, to the Co-Founder of Black Lives Matter Alicia Garza. Attendees will also be able to take a "deep dive" into 14 topics like the #youthvote in NextGen America, Abortion Storytelling and Organizing with Communities of Color with Community Outreach Group. Included in the conference are also 42 workshops that participants can attend. Below is a full schedule of the weekend's events:

DAY 1 - FRIDAY, JULY 27	DAY 2 - SATURDAY, JULY 28	6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Affinity Caucuses (Optional)
10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Pre-Conference Institutes	8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Opening Plenary: We've Got the Power: Building an Inclusive, Powerful, and WINNING Movement!	7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Dinner on Your Own
12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m. Lunch On Your Own (vouchers to be provided and can be used at Cobo concession stands)	10:20 a.m. - 11:35 a.m. Workshop Block #1	9 p.m. Power of Pink Celebration
2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Pre-Conference Institutes	11:35 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch On Your Own (vouchers to be provided and can be used at Cobo concession stands)	DAY 3 - SUNDAY, JULY 29
4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. Campus Campaigns Pre Conference Session	1 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Workshop Block #2	9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Opening & Preparing for Action!
5:15 p.m. - 6 p.m. Intro to Planned Parenthood and Sexual and Reproductive Health	2:35 p.m. - 4 p.m. State and Regional Planning Sessions	9:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Action/Field Training
6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Opening Ceremony	4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. The PINK Wave: Winning Elections and Making Commitments	10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Taking Action with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan!
		12 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. Closing

Michigan Same-Sex Couples Challenge Adoption Agency Discrimination

Philadelphia Adoption Decision Resounds Nationally

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

This year, it is arguable that *Dumont v. Lyon* is one of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan's most recognizable cases. In it, the ACLU has claimed that Michigan unfairly allowed publicly contracted foster and adoption agencies St. Vincent's Catholic Charities and Bethany Christian Services to discriminate against same-sex couples wishing to act as adoptive or foster parents. But this topic isn't isolated in Michigan, it's being talked about on a national scale. And one such recent ruling in Philadelphia against anti-gay treatment might affect not only Michigan, but the whole U.S.

On Friday, July 13, U.S. District Judge Petrese B. Tucker of Philadelphia ruled against foster and adoption agency Catholic Social Services. The religious organization claimed that it had the right to refuse services to same-sex couples in its publicly-funded foster care programs, but Tucker rejected that argument. According to American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan LGBT Staff Attorney Jay Kaplan, the decision was a big win not only for the Pennsylvania LGBTQ community, but potentially the rest of the U.S.

"Certainly, these agencies, they have a right as a private entity to do private adoptions, to decide who they choose to work with," Kaplan said. "But here one does not have a Constitutional or fundamental right to a governmental contract, or the ability to be able to do a contract with the government solely on your own terms about who you wish to provide services to."

The named plaintiffs in the suit include two couples Kristy and Dana Dumont and Erin and Rebecca Busk-Sutton who were turned away because of their sexual orientation. Also included is Jennifer Ludolph who was once in foster care herself. Ludolph argues that although she was placed in a loving home, if the organization that handled her case had held religious objections to the fact that her foster father is an atheist



ACLU Attorney Jay Kaplan said that whatever the judge decides, the ACLU will keep fighting to ensure that "the best interests of a child does not take a backseat to what might be the religious philosophy or viewpoints of a certain agency that (the state) contract(s) with."

she might not have been placed there. The named defendant is Nick Lyon in his role as the director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Herman McCall who is the director of the Michigan Children's Services Agency, an agency within the MDHHS.

The suit's plaintiff's contend that the actions of the defendants violated both the First Amendment, which forbids the government from favoring any one religion, and the Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantees equal protections for U.S. citizens. Kaplan said that he is hopeful that the Philadelphia decision can help set a precedent that could impact how the Michigan case is handled.

"I think it's important to note that the judge in the eastern district for Michigan does not have to follow what a district court judge in another state has done. However, it can provide some guidance," Kaplan said. "So, we think it's very

important, the Philadelphia decision, to be considered as a supplemental authority to our claim that the state, by allowing contracted agencies that are operating on behalf of the state to provide foster and adoption services, shouldn't be able to discriminate based on a particular religious belief."

Kaplan went on to emphasize that both religious organizations broke explicit anti-discrimination rules in their contracts with the state.

"That's what the court in the Philadelphia case addressed," he said. "They addressed performing of governmental functions and how this can violate the principles of separation of church and state when a governmental entity is contracting with an entity that's promoting a particular viewpoint."

Kaplan said that once the government allows its public services to support a particular creed it can

See **Adoption**, continued on p. 20

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



Tired of planning your life around diarrhea? **Enough is Enough**

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

Mytesi (crofelemer):

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

What is Mytesi?

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

Important Safety Information

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

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

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

RELIEF, PURE AND SIMPLE

IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

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

What is Mytesi?

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

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

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

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

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

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

Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

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

A Nursing Mother?

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

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

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

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi

With Other Medicines?

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

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

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

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

Rx Only

Manufactured by Patheon, Inc.

for Napo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. San Francisco, CA 94105

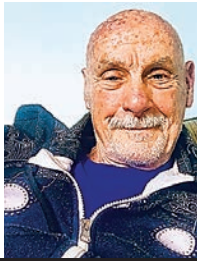
Copyright © Napo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

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



Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

NP-390-32



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Book in Progress #1

I keep on my laptop desk a corner of chalky red brick. It's all that's left of Cassboro Apartments, 444 Peterboro, Detroit. I found this memento among broken boards, shattered glass of the recently razed, four-story building. The red brick anchors childhood memories for me.

At the time of the onset years of World War II, Peterboro was lined with a half dozen house dating back to the 1880s, and four apartment building dating to the 1920s. Several of the houses had fenced victory gardens, alive with flowers and small vegetables.

In 1941, I was five when we moved into the Cassboro's apartment 114. My father, a factory worker, was 35; my mother, a laundry helper, 30. To this day I have no idea how and where they met, nor do I recall their demonstrating any affection for each other in my boyhood presence. We were not an affectionate family.

We lived in four small rooms, which might have provided family warmth and privacy, but my father's mother, matriarchal, southern-born Granny Lottie Lee Alexander came to stay.

She was related to Robert E. Lee. She prepared our dinner meals. She called me "Granny's Lil' Bubba." I was 18 when she died.

The Cassboro was built in 1920 (I remember a pre-refridge ice box, gas stove, a milkman with horse-drawn van). There were 60 apartments, owned by a Mr. Burston. Each month he drove up in his black sedan, collected rents, chatted with landlords Mr. and Mrs. Hoag. He rarely noticed us kids.

I liked landlord Hoag. He laughed a lot, showed me a basement storage room filled with furniture and toys. His wife was cranky. She caught me talking to Japhus, the building janitor, who was washing front porch windows.

Japhus told me he had seen a dead cat brought back to life after being stuffed with sand. "You're not to speak to him," Mrs. Hoag squinted. "Do you understand, Alexander?"

I carefully avoided her, though once I hid under a staircase listening to her gossip with sedate Mrs. Barnes who lived on the fourth floor. It was a scary thing to do.

The Cassboro was filled with kids. I didn't mind being an only child.

There was Betty Renny, whose ailing mother could sleep nights only by sitting upright. There was blond Patsy Katja, who had the best comic books to trade. Tomboy Joan McGonagle, who I heard through gossip did "things" with Tommy Tudman in his unmarried mom's bedroom.

There was Danny who lived across the hall. His clubfoot mom caught us, each age 8, showing our unbuttoned trophies in an abandoned car parked outside her window.

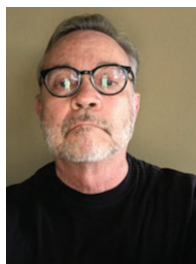
There was Tommy Black, at 116. From my bedroom window one summer evening I saw his mother's breasts when she left the bathroom light on. Tommy came out as a teenager.

There was red-haired Deanie, 13, who asked me, age 9, just for fun when his parents were gone to take off my clothes. For my

See **Parting Glances**, continued on p. 17



Viewpoint



The First in Michigan

BY DENNIS JACOBS

As far as I know my partner and I were the first openly gay men to adopt a child in Michigan. He and I had talked about having children almost from the beginning of our relationship. We knew it was a long shot. The year was 1994 and, to the best of my knowledge, two openly gay men had never done it before.

I had explored a variety of options but nothing seemed very viable until, one day, I was having a conversation with one of my staff and she mentioned that she had worked for a child welfare program. She said that they often had difficulty in placing children who were older than the average child up for adoption. I called the agency to set up a meeting, and no sooner had I walked through the door than I realized that the woman who was interviewing me was a lesbian and very sympathetic.

During our meeting she described to me the process of adopting a child with special needs, and asked me a series of question. She clearly liked my answers. I told her I lived with my partner and she did not bat an eye. I learned later that she normally would have turned our case over to one of her caseworkers and that she had gone way out on a limb with her boss to even get her to consider us as adoptive parents.

A few weeks went by and then I got a call from the case manager who said there were two little boys who had just come into the system. She described the children as ages two and four. They had come to the attention of social services because they found out that the 4-year-old had a broken nose while he waited at a bus stop. That was when social services took them away from their mother. Though they later tried to reunite they boys with her, she decided to drop them off in

See **Viewpoint**, continued on p. 17

► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 17

I had explored a variety of options but nothing seemed very viable until, one day, I was having a conversation with one of my staff and she mentioned that she had worked for a child welfare program. She said that they often had difficulty in placing children who were older than the average child up for adoption. I called the agency to set up a meeting, and no sooner had I walked through the door than I realized that the woman who was interviewing me was a lesbian and very sympathetic.

front of the social services building. She told them that she would never see them again.

It was then that our case manager asked if we'd like to meet with the boys who had been placed with a foster mother. We immediately said yes and went to pick the boys up for the first time. Their foster care home was in a very poor neighborhood, and I'll never forget going to the door and the foster mother opening it just a crack. That's when we hit our first major bump in the road.

The minute she saw that we were two guys she became openly hostile. We learned later that she had immediately called social services, horrified that two gay men were going to adopt two little boys. Luckily, our case manager was in our corner.

It turned out that the boys were considered severely behaviorally-impaired — meaning in layman's terms that their behavior was so extreme that they would be almost impossible to place. I thought that I could handle all the difficulties we would face trying to raise special needs children in what was often a hostile environment, but it proved even more difficult than I could even imagine.

But, difficult as it has been at times, I will never forget the first time we drove up the long, winding driveway to our house and I

heard the oldest boy ask from the backseat in a very small voice, "Is this my new home, dad?" That was the first time he had called me that.

We wanted to get the adoption finalized before the holidays. As it turned out, the judge who was to approve the adoption was someone whom my partner had appeared in front of many times as an attorney — he clearly knew that we were gay. Although in Michigan there could only be a single parent adoption it was clear that we were doing it together. We were definitely in uncharted waters, and this judge was known to be especially stodgy and very conservative. Clearly, he didn't know what to do under the circumstances. So, he called a good friend of ours who was a prominent attorney in Flint at the time and asked her whether or not we should be allowed to adopt children. She gave us a glowing recommendation, which probably turned the tide, and our case manager worked with us to expedite the adoption. After some work, we were able to get custody in time for the holidays. It was the first Christmas with our new family.

Dr. Jacobs is a retired clinical psychologist and the former CEO of a large behavioral health organization.

hallway. He had just showered, answering to a friend's knock. To this day I can still see his soapy, suntanned skin, flashy teenage smile, muscular body shake and shiver.

It was a daredevil moment just as I was conveniently passing by. Other successful and more daredevil encounters would occur from time to time as I moved into my coming out teens.

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.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 16

silence, he gave me his Captain Midnight ring.

There was teenager Bobby Hendrix. At Christmas time his mother invited neighbor kids in for Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" recordings. She smoked with a cigarette holder, acted like screen-star Betty Grable.

When I was 12, Bobby got us kids to play draw-a-dare. He wrote dares on paper scraps. You got points for each challenge accepted. I wanted to do more than kiss the living room fish bowl, but I wasn't sure just quite what.

One day Bobby popped naked into the

Creep Of The Week

Bill Schuette

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

A couple of columns ago I wrote about sitting in a chemo ward getting poison pumped into my body, worried that my insurance was about to run out. My wife's insurance was not available to me since our marriage wasn't recognized in Michigan. And while there were many people who contributed to this injustice, I hold one person in particular especially at fault.

Michigan's Attorney General Bill Schuette (rhymes with "booty").

You see, he fought against marriage equality at every turn. All the way to the Supreme Court, in fact. Where he lost. And I won what should have been mine all along.

Now Schuette is spending his last year as AG running for Governor. But he's still finding time to continue his attack on LGBTQ people in Michigan.

You see, in May the Michigan Civil Rights Commission decided that the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, Michigan's civil rights law, protects LGBTQ people from discrimination. This was a huge win for equality in Michigan as adding sexual orientation and gender identity to Elliott-Larsen has been a goal for decades. Because up until May 22, LGBTQ people had no legal recourse when it came to discrimination in Michigan. That means it was perfectly legal to fire someone for being gay, or refuse to rent to someone who is trans, for example.

So of course this made Schuette very unhappy. And so, at the request of Republicans in the legislature, on July 20, Schuette issued a formal opinion stating that Elliott-Larsen does not, in fact, protect LGBTQ people and that the MCRC overstepped its authority.

"Michigan's Constitution entrusts the Legislature, and not executive agencies or commissions, with the authority to change, extend, or narrow statutes," Schuette wrote in his opinion.

In a perfect world, we would have a legislature in Michigan that would, in fact, act to broaden protections. But we do not have that here. Instead, we have a heavily gerrymandered state heavily in favor of Republican, which means the most extreme Republicans are often the ones who win elections. The people of Michigan do not have a representative democracy. We have a rigged system. Which means the legislature has refused to act over and over again because it is packed with people who don't think LGBTQ people are fully human.

Now, you could say that Schuette only issued this ruling to throw meat to his base right before the Aug. 7 primary election, where he is the frontrunner for Governor.

In a perfect world, we would have a legislature in Michigan that would, in fact, act to broaden protections. But we do not have that here. Instead, we have a heavily gerrymandered state heavily in favor of Republican, which means the most extreme Republicans are often the ones who win elections.

But one could also say that telling LGBTQ people they aren't fully human is very on-brand for Schuette because he is awful. Also both things are true.

The scary thing is, Schuette isn't even the most extreme candidate vying for governor on the Republican ticket. That's how crazily right-wing the GOP is in Michigan. But make no mistake, just because there's someone worse, that doesn't make Schuette better. It's like being offered the choice of either having an arm or a leg broken. Choosing between bad options is no choice at all.

But here's the good news, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission received Schuette's opinion, read it, and told him to pound sand. They will keep investigating discrimination complaints based on sexual orientation and gender identity, thank you very much.

"The Michigan Civil Rights Commission is an independent, constitutionally created and established body," MCRC Director Agustin V. Arbulu said in a statement. "The Commission is not bound by the opinion of the Attorney General. The only recourse is for the courts to determine if issuing the interpretive statement was within the scope of the commission's authority, and that is the appropriate venue for resolving this issue."

In other words, the MCRC told Schuette, "You're not the boss of us," while at the same time acknowledging that this issue will wind up in court and welcoming that challenge.

Meanwhile, conservatives are calling for all the members of the MCRC to be removed by Gov. Rick Snyder, a man who poisoned an entire city and yet somehow still has his job.

The most obvious solution to the problem of anti-LGBTQ leadership in Michigan is to get rid of it. We must elect a Democratic governor and Dana Nessel as Attorney General in November.

Nessel was the attorney behind the case challenging Michigan's ban on adoption and marriage by same sex couples. That case went all the way to the Supreme Court where equality won. Having Nessel as Michigan's next AG would be the most beautiful karmic justice in the world and would make me, a two-time cancer survivor, very happy. Check her out at dana2018.com.

Cuban Lawmakers Approve New Constitution with Marriage Equality

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

Cuban lawmakers on Sunday unanimously approved a new constitution that would extend marriage rights to same-sex couples.

The vote took place after Mariela Castro — the daughter of former Cuban President Raúl Castro who directs the country's National Center for Sexual Education (CENESEX) — and other members of the Cuban National Assembly spoke in favor of a proposed amendment that would define marriage as a “voluntary union into which two people who are legally eligible can enter.”

Activists who work independently of CENESEX in recent years launched campaigns in support of marriage rights for same-sex couples on the Communist island. Five Evangelical church groups last month publicly expressed their opposition to nuptials for gays and lesbians.

Cuba would become the first Caribbean country to extend marriage rights to same-sex couples if the new constitution is approved in a referendum that is expected to take place later this year.

Sunday's vote took place nearly six decades after gay men were among those who were sent to labor camps, known by the Spanish acronym UMAP, following the 1959 revolution that brought Mariela Castro's uncle, Fidel Castro, to power.

The Cuban government until 1993 forcibly quarantined people with HIV/AIDS in state-run sanitariums. Fidel Castro in 2010 apologized for the work camps during an interview with a Mexican newspaper.

Cuba since 2008 has offered free sex-reassignment surgeries through its national health care system, although only a few dozen people have been able to receive them. Mariela Castro, who is a member of the National Assembly, and CENESEX since that year have organized a series of events across the country each year that commemorate the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.

A three-judge panel in Havana last October granted Violeta Cardoso custody of her late daughter's three young children who she is raising with her partner of 32 years, Isabel Pacheco. The ruling is believed to be the first time the Cuban government has legally recognized a same-sex couple.

Independent LGBTI activists with whom the Washington Blade regularly speak say they continue to face discrimination and even arrest if they publicly criticize the Cuban government.

'No Right to Consent'

Michigan's Plan to Control, End HIV Raises Privacy Concerns

BY TODD HEYWOOD

Michigan health officials have been quietly rolling out a comprehensive new strategy to control and end the HIV crisis for months. But attorneys, AIDS Service Organization officials and more worry the plans could overstep the privacy rights of people living with or at risk for HIV and drive them away from testing and treatment. That could ultimately result in an increase in cases, rather than a desired decrease.

Katie Macomber, director of the Division of HIV/STD Programs for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, said the new initiatives will help address the HIV crisis.

Stage 1

Macomber said two specific plans are being rolled out. First, health officials are seeking a change to Michigan's partner services law. Under the current law, local health officials are allowed to keep the names or other identifying information of sexual and needle sharing partners gathered during a post diagnosis interview for those with HIV and some sexually transmitted infections.

That is unhelpful, Macomber said, and as a result, the state wants to be allowed to keep that data forever. For the past decade at least, health officials have circumvented this law by hosting information solicited in those interviews on databases. Until 2016, the database was owned and operated by the state. Since then, the database is run and owned by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the federal health agency.

When a person is diagnosed with HIV, a disease investigator for the state meets with that person and solicits information on partners who may be at risk. The program is supposed to be voluntary, but under the new program, health officials rather than presenting the voluntary nature of the program, will “work to get people to yes,” said Macomber. The names, contact information and risk information is collected and entered into the database. It remains there indefinitely and health officials can access the identification of partners at any time, and compare them to new or old partner identification situations.

If a person declines such services, which is their right under the law, Macomber said the workers will be encouraged to revisit that client again in a few weeks.

“We want to work to get them to yes,” she said of the direction. “When that law was written, we didn't really have anything to offer a person who was diagnosed or their partners. But today

we have PEP (Post-Exposure Prophylaxis) and PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) for those who are not living with HIV. And we have Treatment which can make it so someone cannot transmit the infection.”

And Macomber said health officials will continue to contact those living with HIV, even when they have declined partner services, on a regular basis to offer them partner support services.

“Partner notification is going to be a lifelong thing,” she said in an interview. “We want to continue to offer it.”

She said the state is not interested in becoming a the “sex police,” for people living with HIV, merely working with them to continue to disclose their status to their sexual and needle sharing partners.

If a person living with HIV declines partners services, and changes contact information, state health officials will be leaning on AIDS Service Organizations to provide them an “in” with the disease investigators, Macomber said.

“We would maybe ask them to contact the client and invite them in for a coordinated meeting with us at the agency,” she said.

ASO officials who spoke to BTL on the condition of anonymity for fear of impacting prevention grants said the move could jeopardize already tenuous relationships with those struggling with their diagnosis and the social impact and stigma which follows.

“We become an arm of that,” said one agency staffer. “The health department folks do not have a great reputation in the community. If we are seen as an arm, that will hamper the trust.”

Macomber did acknowledge that investigators with local health departments have had a contentious relationship with those living with HIV. That has often led to serious confrontations, fueled by rumors of how the health department staff track down and communicate with those newly diagnosed with HIV.

And while that may require a makeover, Macomber said the state is moving forward and expects ASOs to be “partners” with local health agencies.

Stage 2

The second stage of the plan is to use lab tests that are reported to the state by law in tracking down potential undiagnosed cases and identifying underground meeting spaces where HIV may be being transmitted.

State health officials have access to thousands of genetic tests of the virus found in people living in with HIV in Michigan. Because HIV mutates very quickly, but in a identifiable pattern, health officials, with the assistance of

a computer program provided by the CDC, can identify related cases.

The studies do not, however, show directionality of transmission. All they show is that the infections are genetically similar.

As an example, just because Joey and Fred have a similar genetic makeup, it does not mean one of the two transmitted the virus to the other. There could be additional people, not identified, who transmitted the infection.

And it's those unidentified persons living with HIV Macomber said the state is hoping to identify, get tested and get into treatment.

Interestingly, although those living with HIV who have an undetectable virus are unable to transmit the virus, Macomber said the growing clusters identified by the state so far include persons who have undetectable viral loads.

“So we're going to them and asking them about their social networks,” she said. “We're asking them who they are having sex with, where they hang out, how they connect. And that may lead to targeted testing events in those locations or other outreach. It will also mean reaching out to partners.”

There is a risk, she conceded, that eager prosecutors could use this genotype cluster studies as evidence in criminal proceedings against persons living with HIV. But she said people living with HIV have no right to remove their data from the state's systems.

Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the LGBT Project of the ACLU of Michigan, said his agency is reviewing this information and is unable to render a legal opinion at this time.

Philip Ellison, an attorney in Saginaw, is suing the MDHHS over it's collection of the blood of newborn babies in Michigan. That blood is used by the state to detect genetic diseases, but then is stored. He claims in his federal suit that the state did not obtain consent for the blood, tests or storage. He also claims that law enforcement has accessed the database for genetic comparisons.

He reviewed all the documents BTL used in this reporting, including the interview with Macomber.

“The Department and its officials (like Katie Macomber in her interview) simply do not value or even remotely protect Michigander's rights under the US Constitution,” he wrote in an email statement to BTL. “Even potentially worse, they know they are in violation and still are intentionally violating the rights of individuals to decline participation in medical treatments and testing. Medical decisions should be privately made between doctors and patients. Instead, state officials in the Newborn Screening Program (and now the HIV/STD division) of the Department of Health and Human Services are essentially invading, copying, and using patient blood tests, DNA results, and medical files without consent. It is both unlawful and wholly Orwellian.”

Asked if people would be informed and allowed to consent or not to the use of their genetic data by the state, her response was, “You have no right to consent to that.”

Find The Home of Your Dreams.



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

Real Estate One®



Lynn L. Stange
Realtor Associate

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

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



Norton's 
FLOWERS & GIFTS

SERVING WASHTENAW AND WESTERN WAYNE COUNTIES

Largest Florist Serving All of Washtenaw and Western Wayne Counties • One of America's Top 100 Florists • Let our talented, experienced staff design the perfect arrangements for your weddings and special events. We're equally ready to help you make everyday occasions extra special with our flowers, plants, gifts, cards, keepsakes, chocolates and unique home decor items.

Established in 1892. We Deliver the WOW!
Visit or call us at one of our three locations:



YPSILANTI STORE
Open 7 Days a Week!
2900 Washtenaw Ave.,
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734-434-2700

ANN ARBOR - WEST SIDE
2558 W. Stadium Blvd.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734-769-9100

ANN ARBOR - DOWNTOWN
Chelsea Flower Shop
203 E. Liberty St.,
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-662-5616

800-682-8667 - WWW.NORTONSFLOWERS.COM

PATTERSON
DOG



CAT
HOSPITAL

Established in 1844

Glynes D. Graham, DVM
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

3800 Grand River, Detroit, MI 48208-2866
tel: 313.832.7282 fax: 313.832.4990

www.pattersondogandcat.com

 Find us on:
facebook.

ANNOUNCING

Gian Clair
MEDICAL SPA

AT PARTRIDGE CREEK OBGYN

Love
without
discomfort

Laugh
without fear of
embarrassment

Live
reclaim your
body with vaginal
rejuvenation



FemTouch™

Now offering Vaginal rejuvenation treatments.

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

586-247-8609



Center: Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOOG

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

Marcie S. Mullins, MSN, CNM

Angela V. Viviano, MSN, FNP-BC


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

Beth K. Mutch, MSN, FNP-BC

Corinne Sakyi, MSN, CNM, WHNP-BC

(Not pictured: Hina Javaid, MD)

partridgecreekobgyn.com

19991 Hall Road, Suite 105
Macomb, MI 48044 



Ferndale Community Welcomes Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence



Democratic candidate for attorney general Dana Nessel and State Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) rallied in support of Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence on Sunday, July 21 at SOHO in Ferndale for her work on the federal level to support the LGBT community in Michigan.

► Mission

Continued from p. 10

to local groups, tabling at events and bringing their clipboards and enthusiasm to shows like Lady Parts Justice League's recent Vagical Mystery Tour. All with one thing in mind: voter registration.

Nasreddine explains that his job as an organizer for NextGen Rising, the specific division he works for, is "to connect, engage and educate the electorate." Mainly, he makes connection in the community to find where large populations of the youth bracket (age 18 to 35) are not registered, find ways to get them registered and on to the polls in August and November.

As a first-generation American, with parents from Egypt and Lebanon, Nasreddine described his background and how he became

so passionate about engaging people in politics. His parents weren't particularly political when he was growing up, and Nasreddine had questions.

"I guess I had always kind of felt like I didn't understand why oppression happened. When I was young, I didn't get why people were the way that they were with other people. Like, how do you treat someone like this? It made me mad."

It was through studying history that Nasreddine channeled his interests and his energy.

"I truly believe you need to know where you've been, to know where you're going, to kind of lay out the roadmap, so to speak." Discovering his passion for history, being conscious of his Arabic identity and coming out as transgender all came together.

"It was hard to understand myself as an Arab queer, within the context of the broader,

white world I lived in. There's part of me that goes to school every day, to work, and I'm seen as a 'white passing' and queer or like gay or whatever. It's fine, I get shit sometimes from people on the street But then I go home, and it's the same thing, but amplified because it's my family doing it."

While Nasreddine continues to feel frustrated with the apathy he sees, particular among young LGBTQ people, he takes it in stride. And with his singular focus, Nasreddine has a message for those whom he thinks are disillusioned when he hears they only vote in presidential elections.

"My biggest thing is that I think that folks who are angry with the system as it stands, to look at their local politicians that are out there for elections and re-elections. Because I think that local politics ... is what's going to affect you way more, I think, than a federal legislature will. You can't just start with the president."

Ultimately, Nasreddine's main message is one of hope, because he knows how easy it is to feel helpless.

"If you're watching the news your gonna be sad," he said, "but it's important to understand that you have the power to change things. And we spend so much time being told that we don't. And we spend so much time being told these are just the way things are. But that's not how it has to be. I want people to get inspired. I want people to look around at their community and get inspired and excited to do the work."

Find the entire article online at pridesource.com. What Makes Us: A Night of Activism, Community & Performance will be held Friday, July 27 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Affirmations, 290 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. Please direct all questions to Dean Nasreddine at dean.nasreddine@nextgenamerica.org

► Adoption

Continued from p. 14

be a "slippery slope."

"Once you permit this form of discrimination you can have agencies saying, 'We don't want to work with couples who might have been divorced previously. We don't want to work with couples where the mother works because we think the mother should stay home and take care of children. We don't want to work with people because maybe they're of the Muslim faith — their religion, we don't agree with those principles,'" Kaplan said. "And what you do is you make this pool of potential parents who

can provide a loving and secure home for kids smaller and smaller. And, ultimately, it's the child that gets hurt."

Representatives from the Michigan attorney general's office, which is representing the state in this legal battle, and the MDHHS have made the argument that if St. Vincent's and CSS are forced by the court to provide equal consideration to same-sex couples they will be strong-armed into closing their doors. Also arguing that this could result in an even smaller pool of homes for children in need of adoption and foster care services. However, Kaplan emphasized that the suit by the ACLU is not an attempt to force these agencies to close, simply to have them change their practices.

"You know, it's ironic that on the one hand

the argument is being made that, 'We provide this very unique service and that no other agency is able to provide these foster care services or these adoptive services' and on the second, on the other side of the coin is, 'Well, you can go someplace else. There are other agencies that will serve you,'" Kaplan said.

Kaplan then went on to cite a similar case of a religious foster care contract violation in San Francisco that was used in the decision of the Philadelphia case. In that instance, defendants argued they would have to close if they offered services to same-sex couples but instead ended up collaborating with other same-sex-affirming organizations.

"That's why you do have a hearing and you present factual evidence," Kaplan said. "If, in

fact, it's true (that) these agencies cannot refuse to work with same-sex couples as a condition of their contract are they actually going to shut down? And if so, are there not going to be other agencies to provide those services?"

Kaplan said that there are, pointing to the dozens of other same-sex-affirming agencies across Michigan. For now, next steps include waiting on the decision of U.S. District Judge Paul Borman who is weighing the arguments of both sides. Kaplan said that whatever the judge decides, the ACLU will keep fighting to ensure that "the best interests of a child does not take a backseat to what might be the religious philosophy or viewpoints of a certain agency that (the state) contract(s) with."



- 100 juried artists from 17 states.
- Heritage tent featuring senior artists.
- Mint Artists Guild with teen artists.
- Beer tent and food trucks. Specialty foods.
- Hands-on Art projects with the DIA and Arts & Scraps.
- Music, theater and surprises.



August 4th & 5th, 2018

Saturday 10am - 7pm
 Sunday 11am - 5pm

www.belleisleartfair.com

Plenty to see, do and buy! Visit our website for more details.

Image © Alanna St. Laurent



JENNIFER NETTLES SEES THE UNSEEN



Sugarland's Frontwoman on Celebrating the Queer Community with Latest Album and Why 'Tolerance' Isn't Enough

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Just before releasing a hotly anticipated new album with Sugarland bandmate Kristian Bush, duo frontwoman Jennifer Nettles summed up her history of progressive politics and queer advocacy and love for chicken with one defiant tweet: “Steals recipe for world’s best chicken sandwich and opens ‘Chic-fi-Gay.’ Serves EVERYBODY deliciousness and is open on Sundays. Wins world,” she wrote on May 15, her unfettered outspokenness still a rare but significant thing in country music.

“Or the spinoff of it: It can start as Chick-fil-Gay and then it could just turn into Chick-fil-*Heyyy!*, which would be super fun too,” she tells me with a robust guffaw.

“Bigger,” the band’s first release since their long-established country sound was cranked to arena-rock heights on 2010’s “The Incredible Machine,” reflects on our emotionally and politically strained modern world (their powerful lament, “Tuesday’s Broken,” addresses America’s gun problem and school shootings) with love, hope, unity and inclusiveness, themes near and dear to Sugarland since the release of their 2002 debut. “These are the days of the underdog, the counted out, the ones you don’t see coming; times of the left-behinds...” Nettles sings on “Not the Only,” counting herself among us. “Silent voices I’ve never heard, all waiting to say the words, held up and kept inside, but we don’t have to hide.”

Here, Nettles wins the world by phoning to talk about Sugarland’s mission to shine a light on the unseen, being political post-Dixie Chicks, and why it’s important for people (see: homophobes) to not get it twisted: that “Mother” lyric is most definitely referring to a gay couple in love.

Did recent world tragedies and the country’s overall divisiveness have anything to do with you getting back to your Sugarland roots?

Yeah. I had been feeling the urges to get back and do something and see what that would feel like again. At first it seemed to be a matter of the calendar, and then we started writing and then when we looked at this collection and what was coming out of us we realized, “Whoa, we have a lot to say, and this is actually the reason for the timing” – that these messages that we have are, well, no pun intended, bigger than what, initially, this reconvening was going to be. It was very much a bigger message for the world.

I hear myself and my community’s struggles represented in some of these songs, and I feel emboldened by them. To what extent was the queer community on your mind while creating this album?

It was on our minds significantly. You hear those messages poke through within the music: messages of unity and inclusion, and of not only tolerance – sometimes tolerance to me is such a... *ack!*... it’s not even the right word anymore. We need to move beyond just tolerance. And it even needs to move beyond acceptance. It needs to move into celebration and just outright humanism.

I don’t think any person wants to just be tolerated.

Tolerated, no – I don’t even know where that word came from. It’s

INFO

Sugarland

7 p.m. Aug. 9

Huntington Center, Toledo
(500 Jefferson Ave.)

7 p.m. Aug. 10

Van Andel Arena, Grand Rapids
(130 Fulton St. W.)

>>> huntingtoncentertoledo.com

clear that whoever started throwing that term around was already coming from a defensive standpoint. So that being said, I think you hear those messages celebrated in songs like “Tuesday’s Broken,” “Mother” and “Not the Only,” and even in songs like “Bigger.” But you hear it much more clearly and outright on “Mothe,” where it says, “She’s got a ring to give to you she hopes you’ll give away. She don’t care who you give it to, where they’re from, if they pray like you...”

And “first thing she taught you is love is love.”

Yeah, that love is love, right? So you hear it very distinctly and you hear it in the messages of heartaches in “Tuesday’s Broken.” Even in the second verse you don’t know why the teenage girl is on the bed and why she is possibly considering self-harming because of not feeling love and not feeling celebrated and not feeling a part of her community and being online, dear God help us all. So you hear those messages, for sure, throughout.

And for me, obviously always being a champion of the marginalized, always being a champion of those who are being oppressed – and all of these really horribly divisive tones that we hear now in our culture and in our community that have always been there but we’re hearing them now in a way that is super ugly – when you hear those messages of self-love and of inclusion on this record, absolutely the LGBTQA community was on our minds when we were writing this.

In the lyric video for “Mother,” two gay men are seen holding hands. I don’t think I’ve ever seen a gay couple featured in a major, mainstream country music video. Is that precisely why you chose to include them?

Yes! I mean, not to say like, “Hey! We’re the first ones in country music to feature a gay couple visually!” But to be able to say, “Just so you know, what you hear in this and what you might be assuming is absolutely visually and literally true. Like, if you might be toiling around with the idea of what this might be about, let’s go ahead and show you.”

It feels bold, but in 2018, I feel like it shouldn’t feel that way.

No, you’re right, it should not feel bold. But the interesting thing is the reason many times it feels bold within the country music community is because everyone talks about

the Dixie Chicks syndrome of what we saw all those years ago. I think times are different. I think it is time for people within all of the music community, but especially in the country music community, where we have such a beautifully diverse audience – we are not preaching to the choir here. We are offering messages. We are offering them to hopefully inspire people to be open and think differently for those who may not already.

Did you learn that love is love from your mom?

Absolutely. I have a mother who’s beautifully open and unconditionally loving, not only to myself but to the world and, yeah, she definitely taught me very, very early on.

How have you passed that same sentiment onto your own son?

Magnus is 5, so certain concepts feel abstract in terms of “let me teach you a lesson.” What I do is show him through life. The gay community is a big part of our lives in terms of people. My manager is gay and my personal assistant is gay, and these are people who are family to me. My PA was my roommate all four years of college. You know what I’m saying? It’s a family.

So, it’s in life, it’s just a matter of fact. And if questions arise, as children many times will have, I will be very open and celebratory in that way. But children live what you show them, and if you show them love and if you show them openness, that is what they will enjoy. If you keep them closed off and you show them hate, that is what they will reflect. So, he reflects my values in that way.

When confronted with backlash from conservative country fans, how do you stay motivated to keep letting your voice be heard in a genre that once sought to quiet artists like, for instance, the Dixie Chicks?

I believe that times are different and social media is an echo chamber. People shout their hate and other people shout hate back. So, I try to be mindful. Don’t get me wrong, I would love to keep people in check. But really, at the end of the day, that’s just noise. The importance is the message that I am putting out there. And if somebody fires back and they don’t like it on social media, who cares. And if people are going to judge someone’s art and someone’s music based on this really new concept of an artist being more personally connected, because now we do have immediate access through social media between fans and artist, then you know, don’t listen to the music, don’t buy it. To each his own. (Laughs)

There used to be a direct connection between the two, that you couldn’t say too much because people wouldn’t buy your music and record labels would worry, but that doesn’t seem to be the case anymore.

No, I don’t think it can be because, especially

See **Nettles**, continued on p. 28

NOW ON STAGE!
Best availability: Tuesday – Friday evenings

Disney PRESENTS
THE LION KING
THE WORLD'S #1 MUSICAL

THRU JULY 29 ONLY
WHARTON CENTER
WHARTONCENTER.COM
1-800-WHARTON

BROADWAY AT
WHARTON CENTER
SUPPORTED BY MSU FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

©Disney

Jon Strand Exhibit Opens Aug. 3: Dots! Exclamation Points! Smiles!

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

For those with an obsession for counting things there are 10,000 alphabet letters in this review of pointillist artist Jon Strand's exhibition: Oracles, Temples and Waves ... and a dragon named Raoul. But 10,000 is a piddling word count to be sure, compared to Strand's creative dot, dot, dot detailing over nearly 50 years of painting and fascinated viewer acclaim in some 29 exhibitions of his art — including an onset exhibition at the Detroit Institute of Arts in 1971 (the DIA currently owns two of his pieces). Now, his work is scheduled to be shown from Aug. 3 through 24, at the Wayne State University Arts Gallery.

In the upcoming WSU exhibit there are 62 pieces, with perhaps an overall count of close to one million dots for the compulsive artist (and a now personal friend ever since I first interviewed “the loquacious Jon Strand” for BTL in 2007). One million dots!

Strand is a self-styled, self-taught, pointillist artist, in the time-honored tradition of artists Georges Seurat, Paul Signac and Vincent Van Gogh.

This is his second major exhibition in recent years in the vicinity of the WSU campus. His last, titled “The Secret of Jonny Strange,” was held in 2007 at Detroit's Orchestra Hall and featured 21 of his art pieces on three staircases, and the debut of an animated Jonny Strange film that was scored by well-known radio personality, pianist and composer Judy Adams. Adams also performed live on opening night (Strand wore a blessed silk scarf given him by a Buddhist monk admirer).

Strand creates his dramatic art pieces dot by dot by dot by dot, layer upon layer upon layer. He'll proudly tell anyone who views his works — sometimes 4" x 6" but often 4' x 6' — that there are 2500 dots, sometimes five or six layers in depth, per square inch. He and a collaborator actually counted the dots.

All dots are applied deftly, exactly and many would say impeccably with a \$50 rapidograph pen, while Strand watches reruns of I Love Lucy, Downton Abbey, news reports and BBC specials. Otie, his black retriever companion of three years, patiently sits or dozes out Strand's daily four- and five-hour dotting sessions underneath his drawing table. Recently, a team

of would-be TV entrepreneurs spent seven hours filming Strand's treasure-trove art studio.

He also supplied them with running commentary and historical footnotes. Otie made friends

(Strand also somehow finds time to record, annotate and recall timely gossip. Aesthetic observations in a well-written daily journal. To date, he has filled over 117 journals since 1970. Wayne State Press is considering publishing a “select” anthology).

It is no exaggeration to state for the record (perhaps “The Guinness Book of World Records”) that since Strand first began dotting — not too long after leaving Tiffany's gay bar, where he was a popular waiter — he has dot, dot, dotted nearly five, six, seven or eight — maybe even 10 — million dots.

Strand has touchstoned his current Wayne State exhibition work with art, artifacts and commentary/analysis by several friends, artists, sculptors and highly-qualified art critics. Included too are several wooden tabletop temples, Strand self-used facial masks and occasionally-horrific severed head, stone sculptures.

Included also are inspired “incentives” by photographer S. Kay Young, a Detroit-based clothing and fabric designer Leslie Ann Pilling, Canadian artist Jeff Hucul, arts impresario and longtime gay friend and his recently same-sex partner Bobby LaRose, and the late Jack Whitehead, artist.

Attendees to Strand's art opening will each receive a 32-page, autographed, high gloss exhibition catalogue — a veritable work of design, art and contemporary analysis. Layout and design are coordinated by Strand and media designer Jerome Patryjak, himself an artist and member of the Detroit Scarab Club's board of directors. The center page is magically awash with 50 miniatures of a Strand wave piece

The booklet is foreworded by Marion “Mame” Jackson, WSU distinguished professor emerita, with a laudatory essay about his pointillist art — its many levels of transcendental meaning and relation to past and current metaphysical trends in literature and art.

“[Strand's] waves, however, go beyond the familiar appearance of waves and — borrowing from modern physics — seem to suggest as well the granularity and instability of the physical world,” wrote Jackson. “He shares through his paintings, his



Dragon of the Mysterious Blue Harbour (2016)



Jon Strand

sculptures, and through his personal reflections — his story as a seeker of truth and creator of beauty.”

Included is a laudatory essay by local and national art critic and established creative writer Matthew Piper, who compares Strand to being akin in artistic outlook and reach for poetic visual grandeur to Herman Melville of “Moby Dick” literary fame.

Piper pinpoints Strand's A dragon Called Raoul as a kinship image to the great 19th century writer's own Moby.

“Consider that Jon Strand works almost exclusively in a kind of distributed, diffuse self-portraiture,” wrote Piper. “He was always Jonny Strange, of course, but imagine that his oracles are his horror and his temples his solace.

“His waves? Detailed documents of his growing awareness and acceptance of timelessness and transcendence. Now enter the dragon, the necessary monster, full of magic, fire and fury, at once formidable and light as air, riding the fathoms from which he has emerged, master, inscrutable, and smiling.”

High praise indeed. One dot at a time. But, who's counting? Visually, in this exhibit, only Strand counts!

Specializing and experienced in issues specific to LGBTQ individuals and couples.

“I am in the best mental health shape in my life. I have developed skills that will keep me there for a lifetime. You deserve mental health and wellbeing. You deserve Sara as your therapist!”

Sara Gellner
Psychotherapist

25600 Woodward Ave. Ste. 102
Royal Oak MI 48067
810-599-8286
Visit my Website: www.saragellner.com



SAVE THE DATE

Jon Strand: Oracles, Temples and Waves

Wayne State University Community Arts Gallery
5400 Gullen Mall
Detroit
Aug. 3 - 24

16th Annual HotWorks.org
Orchard Lake Fine Art Show[®]
July 28 & 29 West Bloomfield



www.hotworks.org [Facebook.com/HotWorksArtShows](https://www.facebook.com/HotWorksArtShows) [Instagram @HotWorksArtShows](https://www.instagram.com/HotWorksArtShows)

Marvin 'Murf' Murphy, Painting

Juried Fine Art & Fine Craft Show – Voted top 100 art Shows in America
All Art is Original and Personally Handmade by the Artist who is Present at the Show!

Admission \$5; 13 & under free

Powers & Daly Rds, S of Maple, W of Orchard Lake Rd ~ Plenty of parking behind Beaumont Medical Center, 6900 Orchard Lake Rd

Youth Art Competition for K-8 or Ages 5-13 – \$250 cash awards!  PERFORMANCE
"YOUR HOME IS OUR BUSINESS"

More Info www.HotWorks.org



BRING THIS AD FOR \$2 OFF ONE ADMISSION

BTL

BTL Cool Cities Royal Oak

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD • YOUR MARKET

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

The Print **STOP** Inc.

If you can think it, we can ink it

248-543-7867

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

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



ROYAL OAK BTL ADVERTISERS

LGBT NON-PROFITS

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

BTL ADVERTISERS

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

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

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

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

BTL Shop The Rainbow
Between Lines
There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and welcome everyone.
Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan's LGBTQ community!

Broadway National Tour Company Members Come to Royal Oak for Witches' Night Off

BY BTL STAFF

Company Members of the National Touring Company of "Wicked" will host Witches' Night Off, an evening of entertainment and fundraising at St. John's Episcopal Church in Royal Oak on Monday, Aug. 13. Net proceeds from the show will benefit Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (BC/EFA) and Open Hands Food Pantry.

Produced by the company members of "Wicked," the evening is an opportunity for them to step out of their roles in the musical and kick up their heels performing some of their favorite non-Ozian material. The show is part of an ongoing series of performances by the touring company to support charitable causes. So far, the "Wicked," Munchkinland Tour has raised over \$4.8 million in donations for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and local health and AIDS service organizations all over the country.



Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the performance will begin at 7 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church at 26998 Woodward Ave. (at 11 Mile) in Royal Oak. VIP Admission is available for \$50, which includes front area seating and a post-show

meet & greet reception with the WICKED company members. Advanced General Admission tickets are available for \$25, and \$30 tickets will be available day of at the door. Please visit OpenHandsPantry.org or call (248)546-1255 for tickets.

S&L
SCHMIDT & LONG PLLC
Lisa Schmidt & Benjamin Long
Because No Case is Typical, When It's Yours.

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

www.SchmidtLong.com 248-764-8584



MOTOR CITY SMILES

GRAND OPENING

Royal Oak's Premier
Orthodontic Team

BRACES & INVISALIGN
for adolescents and adults

Complimentary New Patient Evaluation
In-network with most insurances



Dr. Richard Friedman, DMD, MS

903 N. Main Street, Royal Oak, Michigan
248-268-8886 • www.motorcitysmiles.com

Present this ad to receive

\$1,000 OFF

comprehensive braces
or Invisalign treatment*

*Cannot be combined with any other offer

BIDWELL TOVAREZ PLLC
PROVIDING BANKRUPTCY SOLUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES



For a Fresh Start and
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

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

What clients say about Bidwell Tovarez:
"Most trustworthy and experienced"
"Outstanding representation"
"Services with a personal touch"



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

www.bidwelltovarez.com
david@bidwelltovarez.com

Call 248-270-3333

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





C & N PARTY RENTALS

5140 Meijer Drive,
Royal Oak, MI 48073

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

We have Beautiful Linens for all events and budgets!

248-435-3580 • 800-351-0031 • www.cnparty.com

Michigan's Definitive LGBTQ-Friendly
Wedding & Anniversary Guide

MiLGBTWedding.com

A PROJECT OF

Between THE Lines™

To learn more contact
donelle@pridesource.com

Call 734-293-7200 ext. 22

NOIR LEATHER
Pin-Up Dresses
Sexy Stockings
Gothic Couture
Seductive Lingerie
Sultry Swimwear
Erotic Menswear
Spike Heels
Lubes & Enhancers
Adult Toys

Dreams of Summer

124 W 4TH ST ROYAL OAK 248-541-3979
MON-THURS 11-9 FRI-SAT 11-10 SUN 12-7 WWW.NOIRLEATHER.COM
MODEL: SOPHIA VON STADT STYLING: LETHAL LA FORD PHOTO: SEAN GRAYM

CLOVERLEAF FINE WINE

Good wine has soul.

248-399-7166
www.CloverLeafWine.com

711 South Main St.
Royal Oak, MI

► **Nettles**

Continued from p. 23

now – again in the age of social media where you have a direct outlet to the world, not just to your fanbase but to the world – I don't think that dynamic exists anymore. The publicists and labels can't worry about that in the same way because it's like, look, you're gonna be who you are.

Especially once you've opened the floodgates. And you've opened the floodgates.

Yes, yes. (Laughs)

But some artists choose not to use their platform for political reasons. For instance, your collaborator on "Babe," Taylor Swift, isn't known for making political statements and she gets a lot of flak for that.

Really?

Yeah, she isn't as politically outspoken as you, for example. Do you think artists have a responsibility to use their platform to speak out on matters of concern?

I think human beings have a responsibility. I definitely feel a calling within myself to speak my truth. I'm very outspoken in my own personal life as well so it bears to reason that I would be that authentic in my public life. Some people aren't very outspoken, even in their private lives.

Have you prepared for the country conservatives who may have an issue with you broaching gun policy on "Tuesday's Broken"?

Yes, but I feel really confident, Chris, in the sense that, look, what happens is everyone on the far margins scream and are terribly afraid that suddenly each of their rights are going to be completely obliterated by comprising at all. If you give anyone an inch, they're gonna take a mile and pull you to the opposite pole – I don't believe that. I believe that sensible gun control is possible. I believe we are in a challenging time right now with lobbyists and the NRA and different money powers, and I believe the waters are convoluted. I believe there needs to be tort reform within our congress and within the ways we vote on all of these issues.

Those are huge, broad issues, but at the end of the day, I believe it's absolutely possible for us to do anything we want to. We can change the rules, we can remake the rules. We wrote 'em the first time. It's possible to fix this. It's possible to look at gun laws, it's possible to look at mental health, it's possible to look at all of these pieces. We just have to be willing to do it and to elect the people who are going to do it.

Have you thought about how this album could bridge gaps between people who think like you and your conservative fanbase?

Look, art has many purposes. Sometimes it's to entertain, sometimes it's to inspire

and sometimes it is even to provoke, and all of those are valid. What I hope we are able to do in Sugarland and in all of my music is to be able to inspire dialogue and to invite conversation. Rather than pressing the buttons, I want to sit in a corner, point a subversive finger and say, "What do you think about this over here? How could we make it better?"

To ask you a lighter question that's tour related: Do you have a favorite Christian Siriano dress that you can't wait to wear?

(Excitedly) Mmmm! There are several pieces I cannot wait to wear! I mean, he really did his thing on this, and we had such fun in this collaboration just because it already had a theme to it. So, he was able to then just take that and really have fun with it because the theme for the tour, visually and aesthetically, is this beautifully, other-world vintage circus-y look, so we had a lot of fun doing research for that.

How will the healing vibes of the album translate to the stage?

We try to make it feel transportive so when you leave you feel like you have been offered an escape and some asylum and some refuge, and that you leave feeling seen.

Sugarland is known for sneaking cover songs into the shows. Have you considered any cover songs that may fit the healing vibes of the album?

The fun part about the live shows is that over the course of the tour they will continue to evolve. We've got some cover choices and a remix situation that's super, super funky and fun, and we also have sort of an all-skate that we like to do at the end with all of our openers to come on and join us, and that's usually a big, fun party.

I am sure that within that we will be able to figure out messages of unity; the potential is ripe for all of those messages. (Laughs) Right now, we're leaning toward the fun party side, but that's not to say that isn't about unity too.

What do you hope your queer fans take away from this album?

I would harken back to our conversation regarding the tour: to feel seen. I think it's such an interesting time where we are supposedly more technologically, in terms of ideas, connected than ever. But at the same time – the last song on the album, "Not the Only," especially speaks to this – a lot of us still feel very alone and very unseen, and I hope that within the queer community, within the gay community, the trans community – the LGBTQA! All the letters! I hope that everyone feels seen, and let's say again: celebrated.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBTQ wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé.



SHELTON & DEON Law Group

Anticipate
Innovate
Advocate

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

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

612 East 4th Street, Royal Oak, MI 48067
248-494-7444 | www.sheltondeonlaw.com

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

Seasonal Organic Vegetables
Seasonal Fruits and Vegetables
Many Local Specialty Food Vendors

Hormone FREE Meats &
Free Range Eggs & Chicken
Fresh Baked Bread

Full Service Cafe
Gourmet
Coffee Stand

Hours: Friday
& Saturday
7am - 1pm



Come to Royal Oak Antiques & Collectables!

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

Over 60 Dealers
Indoors & Outdoors
Vintage Resale
Shabby Chic



 **Royal Oak FARMERS MARKET**

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



HOLIDAY MARKET

ENJOY OUR

World-Class Catering

AT YOUR NEXT WEDDING OR SPECIAL EVENT

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

HOLIDAY MARKET • 1203 S MAIN ST ROYAL OAK
248.541.1414 • HOLIDAY-MARKET.COM • CONNECT WITH US  

The Ark
where music lives

Friday, 8/3, 8 pm

Lori McKenna
Stunning country-folk song-writing, back from Folk Festival with new music!



Saturday, 8/4, 8 pm

Hawktail
A progressive acoustic supergroup

Tickets at MUTO in the Michigan League, The Ark Box Office or theark.org
734.763.TKTS
316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, MI
www.theark.org




Ann Arbor Pride Marks 24th Anniversary

BY BTL STAFF

For almost a quarter of a century Ann Arbor's Jim Toy Community Center has been hosting an iteration of Ann Arbor Pride, formerly known as OutFest. This year is no different and starting on Friday, Aug. 3 through Aug. 5 attendees are encouraged to attend and celebrate the LGBTQ community.

"Ann Arbor Pride is a celebration of LGBTQ and allied community accomplishments, as well as an opportunity to understand how to build on the success of establishing marriage equality and what to focus on next," write event organizers. "This celebration is meant to be inclusive to people from all walks of life. Event proceeds help benefit the Jim Toy Community Center."

Included in the festivities will be a performance by Brian Justin Crum of America's Got Talent fame on Saturday, Aug. 4 as well as a silent auction to benefit the Jim Toy Community Center. Other activities focus on all ages featuring a "kid zone, inspirational guest speakers, workshops, gaming, yoga, art, food, dancing and more."

The 24th annual Ann Arbor Pride will be held in Ann Arbor's Kerrytown District with weekend activities open to all attendees. Interested volunteers are encouraged to sign up to help event organizers at jimtoycenter.org. More information about the event, along with a full schedule, can be found online at annarborpride.com.

Ann Arbor Art Center Hosts Painting and Poetry Weekend Workshop

BY BTL STAFF

When one discusses art, poetry and watercolor painting are likely to be some of the first-mentioned mediums. And though they are different methods of self-expression, the Ann Arbor Art Center has paired the two in a Painting and Poetry Weekend Workshop. For a flat rate of \$120, on Aug. 11 and 12, attendees can attend two three-hour sessions to develop their existing skills. But beginners are welcome, too.

"Spend a weekend working with artist Rhonda Sherwin and writer Jan Shoemaker learning watercolor techniques and poetry basics," write event organizers. "There is no experience necessary as students are guided through making an abstract watercolor painting inspired from a poem. All materials will be provided you simply need to bring your creative energy."

The Ann Arbor Art Center has been around for more than a century providing events similar to these. Its self-described goal is, "To be a contemporary forum for the visual arts through education, exploration, collaboration and exhibition, and to engage minds, expand perspectives and inspire growth in students of all ages, teachers, artists and the community."

More information about the Painting and Poetry Weekend Workshop can be found online by visiting gaybe.am/3l. The event is located at the Ann Arbor Art Center which can be found at 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Go online to annarborartcenter.org for more information about the center, or call 734-994-8004.

Linda Lom Team
AT TRILLIUM

Linda Helps People Make Good Decisions.
Come find out why Linda Lombardini was voted Washtenaw County's Favorite Realtor.

Thrice.



734-302-3600
www.LindaLom.com

323 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor
Linda@LindaLom.com



BTL Shop The Rainbow
Between Lines

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

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




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

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

LOVE Wins

Between THE Lines™



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Café VERDE
FAIR TRADE COFFEE BAR



PEOPLE'S FOOD CO-OP
BAKERY & NATURAL FOODS GROCERY STORE

216 N. FOURTH AVENUE ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN • 734-994-9174 • PEOPLESFOOD.COOP

STD/HIV CLINIC

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



Health
Department

Services Provided:

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



Testing and Treatment:

Confidential, Appointment Only, persons 12 and older

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

"We take pride in taking care of our residents"

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

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

Sign up and receive a FREE copy of my new e-book

Learn how to have a sex-positive attitude
toward your sexual fantasies and minimize
any shame you carry about your erotic
interests.

Visit JoeKort.com
for your free copy
during Pride Month



Dr. Kort specializes in:

- Individual and couples therapy
- Out of control sexual behavior
- Sex therapy
- Depression and anxiety disorders
- LGBTQ affirmative therapy
- IMAGO relationship therapy

 **JoeKort**^{Ph.D.}
AND ASSOCIATES

(248) 399-7317

Royal Oak | joeKort.com

ANN ARBOR PRIDE AUGUST 3-5 2018

Street Festival

Saturday, August 4, Beginning at 10:00AM

Beer & Wine Tent | Festival Booths
All Day Entertainment | Kid Zone



NECTO



Jim Toy Community Center
319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor, MI
AnnArborPride.com
734-995-9867

All Ages Welcome

Festival information
is available at
AnnArborPride.com



Shakira to Headline at Little Caesars Arena

On Saturday, Aug. 4 at 7:30 p.m., 12-time Grammy Award-winning artist Shakira will catch up with her Detroit fans at Little Caesars Arena. In the middle of her El Dorado World Tour, the singer will be appearing in Detroit as part of a formerly-postponed tour date. Tickets start at \$40.50 and are available for the new date. Refund tickets are also available for those who purchased a spot at the original January date.

Happenings

OUTINGS

Thursday, July 26

Hotter Than July 2018! Fine Art Reception! 6 p.m. Come out and join us at the Hotter Than July Fine Art Reception. We will have art from our great local artists so please come out and support some of wonderful Detroit art! Can't wait The Carr Center, 1505 Woodward

Ave, Detroit. 313-965-8430 <https://www.thecarrcenter.org/> <https://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/>

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County 7 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. This group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at Orchard United Methodist Church, Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. 248-626-

3620 www.oaklandumc.org <http://www.standwithtrans.org>

Friday, July 27

Hotter Than July 2018! Conference 9 a.m. LGBT Detroit and Community Health Awareness Group hosts The 23rd Annual Hotter Than July Conference. This annual gathering for LGBT issues addresses relevant and important concerns. The day consists of "The Candidates Forum" in

the Community Health Awareness Group, 1300 W. Fort Street, Detroit. <https://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/>

Saturday, July 28

Hotter Than July 2018! Palmer Park Picnic! 11 a.m. The pinnacle event of Detroit's annual celebration is a family reunion and you're invited. A Day with The Mizharis, Ballroom, House Party, Merchant Row, Testing Zone are highlighted along with free food and fun! Palmer park, 17888 pontchartrain Blvd., Detroit.

Sunday, July 29

Hotter Than July 2018! Worship Service 11 a.m. The LGBTQ worship service hosted by Detroit's faith community. Chairs: Rev. Jeffery Seals of One Church Detroit and Detroit Police Department LGBT Liaison Corporal Dani Woods Tindal Recreation Center, 10301 West Seven Mile Road, Detroit. <https://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/>

Hotter Than July 2018! Sunday Brunch! 12 p.m. Great friends, great food, great location and great music! So come out and end Hotter Than July with a great brunch with lots of love and laughs. Charlevoix Street, 14505 Charlevoix Street, Detroit. <https://www.lgbtdetroit.org/hotterthanjuly/>

Friday, August 3

Ann Arbor Pride 2018 (formerly known as OUTFest)! 9 p.m. This 3 day festival,

first in 1995, Ann Arbor Pride(OUTFest) celebrates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer identities, community and allyship. All proceeds go to support the efforts of Jim Toy Community Center. Check our website One event on August 4 at 10:00am One event on August 5 at 11:00am Ann Arbor Kerrytown District, Ann Arbor. info@kerrytown.org <https://www.annarborpride.com/>

Sunday, August 5

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4 p.m. There is no fee to attend the groups. This group meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month @ St. Stephens Episcopal Church. For Parent Support Group information, contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st Street, Wyandotte. 734-747-4363 <http://www.standwithtrans.org>

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For parents of transgender kids, this group meets the 1st Sunday of each month @ Hilltop Counseling For Trans Youth Support Group information, contact facilitator Socorro Sevilla, MSW: socorro@hilltopcounseling.org Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee Street, Adrian. 313-909-5408 www.standwithtrans.org <http://www.hilltopcounseling.org>

Tuesday, August 7

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Lake Orion / Oakland County 7 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For parents of transgender kids, this group meets the 1st Tuesday of each month @ St. Mary's In-the-Hills Episcopal Church, St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663 www.stmarysinthehills.org <http://www.standwithtrans.org>

Wednesday, August 8

Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genesee 6:30 p.m. Free to all, Trans Youth Support Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month @ Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint. Facilitator Sara Griffin, MA, LPC is a psychotherapist and a parent of a transgender son, eiregriff@aol.com Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023 <http://www.standwithtrans.org>

Thursday, August 9

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. www.standwithtrans.org

Editor's Pick

Detroit Dance City Festival to Showcase Over 50 Acts

The three-day community-building event that is the Detroit Dance City Festival is set to take place in the city on Aug. 10 through 12 at the International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit. There, a variety of dancers from all styles will "celebrate dance in its various forms and disciplines," according to DDCF organizers.

"This includes performances, master classes and networking opportunities held at various locations throughout the city of Detroit," said DDCF organizers. "Our mission is to educate audiences about the impact of dance, provide opportunities for artists to share their work and create an artistic network between Michigan, the United States and the world!"

More information about upcoming events can be found online at detroitdancecityfestival.com.



See **Happenings**, on p. 34

Patience Rewarded

Artist Robert Stadnycki to Appear at Orchard Lake Fine Arts Show

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

If a piece of clothing isn't comfortable, it's safe to say that it wasn't made by Robert Stadnycki. That's because the linen artist prides himself on his meticulous attention to the wearer's comfort, and his fans recognize the importance of that quality.

"I just came from Ikea and a woman stopped me wearing one of my pairs of pants. She said, 'That's what I want. Easy, flowing, simple, comfortable,'" Stadnycki said. "My motto is that I don't design anything for myself unless I can sleep in it and feel comfortable in it. I don't want any restraints."

That's part of the reason that his clothing line has just expanded from exclusively jackets to pants and tops. And, not only are his fashions wearable, they're fashionable. Stadnycki blends his former primarily canvas-based designs with his clothing to make prints that are all his own. And though Stadnycki is originally based out of Pennsylvania, he will be displaying his fashions and other artwork in Michigan soon at the 16th Annual Orchard Lake Fine Arts Show on July 28 and 29 in West Bloomfield.

Stadnycki said that he first got the idea to put his designs onto clothing several years ago through one of his customers at a similar arts show. At the time, he was taking care of his sick mother and the show was nearing its end. Just as he was about to close up shop some customers, a mother and a daughter, walked in. He reluctantly decided to let them browse through his artwork for a few minutes before rushing home.

"Her daughter wanted to buy a little purse, they were about \$20. They were exactly the same except one had a pink dot and one had a purple dot. My mother always taught me, 'Be patient with everyone.' I was thinking, 'OK, I've got to get home, I've got to get home,' but the little girl just couldn't decide," Stadnycki said. "So, (the) mom and I started talking and she said, 'Your designs are so beautiful and so geometric, I could see you printing them onto fabric and making pillows or clothing.' I was like,



Artist Robert Stadnycki

Stadnycki said that he first got the idea to put his designs onto clothing several years ago through one of his customers.

and she called, and she said, 'I'm kind of desperate, do you have any work for me right now?' I said, 'Why don't you come over and we'll talk?' I'm always looking for people to prep my canvasses and that sort of thing," Stadnycki said. "It took us a while, (but) we figured out a beautiful coat design ... I truly just took a small sampling of this new creation (to a show) and I had so many orders. I had a little instant success."


More information about Robert Stadnycki, his designs and upcoming appearances can be found online at antsonyourpants.com

SAVE THE DATE

Orchard Lake Fine Arts Show


July 28 - 29 in West Bloomfield
See ad on pg. 25

TRIANGLE CHIROPRACTIC



JOHN TSAKOS, DC

MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED



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

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

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

Gabrielle D'Angelo

Financial Advisor

248.655.4147

2600 W Big Beaver Rd, Suite 110
Troy MI 48084



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

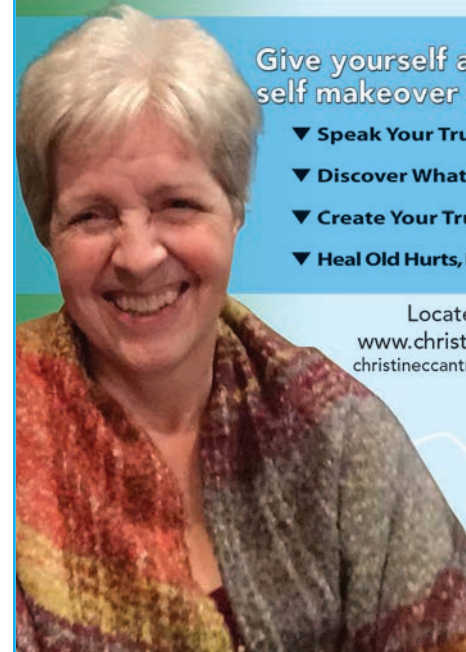
© 2018 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. ARVBHCMB | MLWM-100-AD | 470944PM-1017 | 10/2017

Prism of Possibilities Psychotherapy

Christine Cantrell, PhD
Fully Licensed Psychologist

Give yourself an extreme
self makeover ...

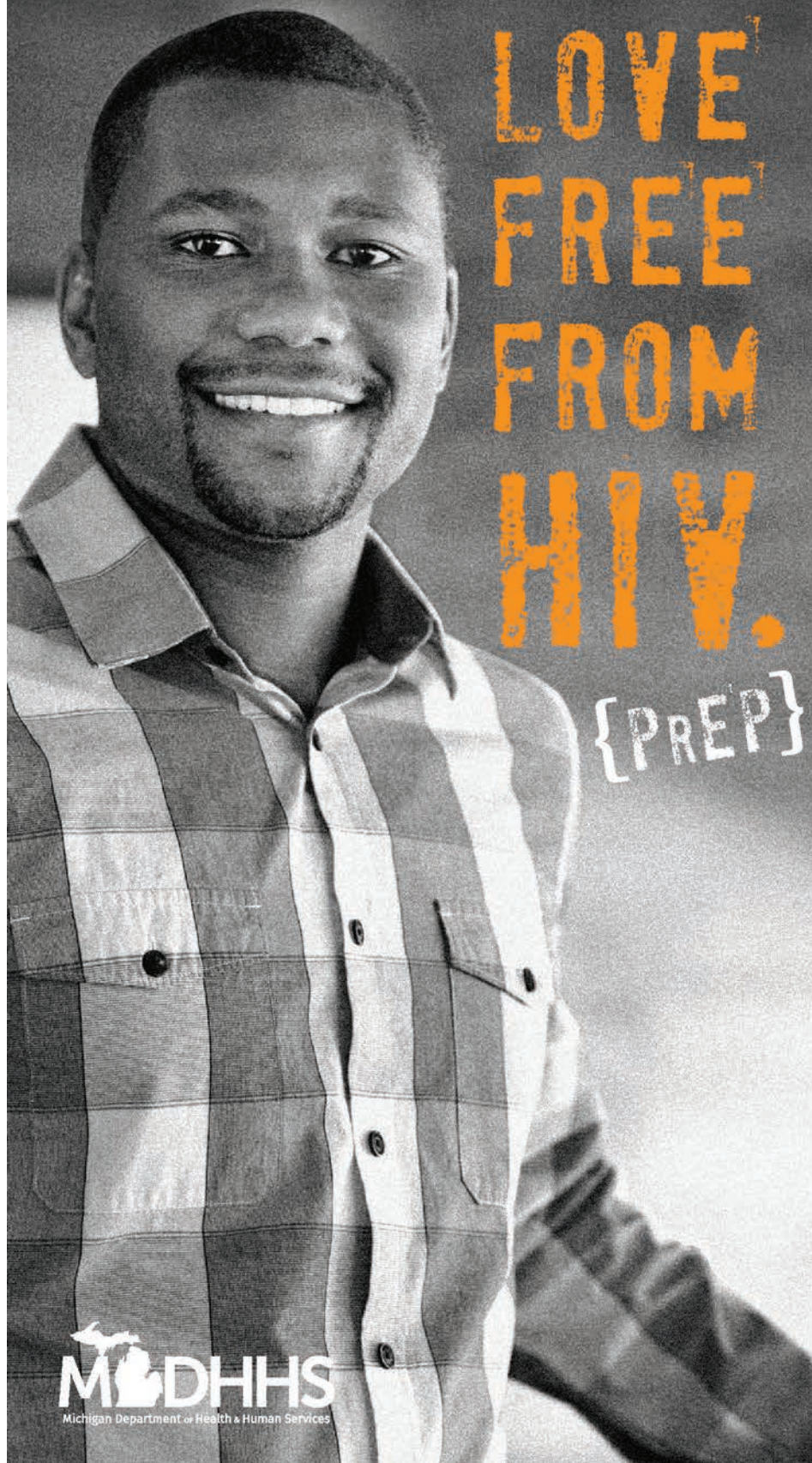
- ▼ Speak Your Truth
- ▼ Discover What You Want
- ▼ Create Your True Self
- ▼ Heal Old Hurts, Find Wholeness



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

CALL NOW! 248-591-2888

If you are HIV negative, a medicine called PrEP can help keep you that way. When you add PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) to your daily routine and combine it with other preventative measures like using protection and regular HIV testing, it could help you reduce your risk of getting HIV by over 90%. Ask your healthcare provider about PrEP. Learn more at michigan.gov/hivstd.



Editor's Pick

16th Annual Orchard Lake Fine Arts Show

The Orchard Lake Fine Arts Show was once voted as one of the Top 100 art shows across the U.S., and now Hotworks.org and Bloomfield Township are teaming up to bring it back for its 16th year. Located in Bloomfield, the show will feature a variety of works from 150 artists from around the country. More information can be found online at hotworks.org.



▶ Happenings

Continued from p. 32

www.ferndalesoho.com,
www.detroitgbtchamber.com

Saturday, August 11

Transgender Pride in the Park 12 p.m. Celebrating Transgender Pride since 1997! All Trans-people and Allies welcome! Picnic, Free Food, Free Fun and Great Friends! We will provide the hot dogs, hamburgers and stuff. Please bring a side dish if you wish. Donald Red Geary Park, 1198 Earl Blvd, Ferndale. <http://transgendermichigan.org/events/tgpride/index.html>

Monday, August 13

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Macomb County 6:30 p.m. Macomb Teen/Youth Support Group: All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. Come and meet other trans* youth and teens and support each other through your journeys. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700 <http://www.chippewavalleyhighschools.org/schools/high-schools/dhs/>

Wednesday, August 15

Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County 6:30 p.m. Free to all, group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month @ Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Parent Support Group Facilitators Karen Sessler, kssessle@yahoo.com or 734-673-3590 and Scott Sessler, pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org or 734-673-2485

Trans Youth Support Group (12+) 2020 Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. <http://www.standwithtrans.org>

Saturday, August 19

PFLAG Greater Lansing 3 p.m. PFLAG Greater Lansing has a new meeting address. Founded in 1973 after the simple act of a mother publicly supporting her gay son, PFLAG is the nation's largest

family and ally organization. National information: <https://www.pflag.org/> Salus Center, 624 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-580-4593 Greaterlansingpflag@google.com saluscenter.org

MUSIC & MORE

Royal Oak Summer Concerts 2018 July 26, 6 p.m. Royal Oak Summer Concerts 2018, presented by the Royal Oak Commission for the Arts, will take place at Center Street Pop-Up Park on Thursdays this summer beginning July 5. Royal Oak Pop Up Park, 4th and Center Street, Royal Oak. <https://www.romi.gov/218/Summer-Concert-Series> <https://www.romi.gov/218/Summer-Concert-Series>

IF You Can Walk You Can Tap Motor City Tap Festival August 8, 12:30 p.m. The Motor City Tap Festival is four days of master classes with Leading Tap Artists in the Industry in which students participant in a showcase, tap jam, young choreographers competition and work with esteemed master. Detroit Music Hall, 350 Madison St., Detroit. 313-887-8501 info@motorcitytapfest.com <http://motorcitytapfest.com> <http://motorcitytapfest.com/motor-city-soles.html#reg>

GEORGE BEDARD'S "FROM SWING TO SURF" August 25, 8 p.m. Bedard will be joined by two longtime friends and former bandmates, Pianist Mark "Mr. B" Braun and guitarist Steve Nardella. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 734-763-TKTS www.theark.org <http://www.theark.org>

Metro Detroit Autoimmune Walk August 26, 1 p.m. We walk to raise awareness, to honor and support loved ones dealing with autoimmune diseases and to help fund services and research. The day includes speakers, exhibitors, giveaways, music, and a Warriors Walk around the Milliken State Park & Harbor, 1900 Atwater Street, Detroit. walk@aarda.org <http://detroitriverfront.org/riverfront/east-riverfront/milliken-state-park-lighthouse> <http://autoimmunewalk.org/locationpage.asp?BranchID=124>

ART 'N' AROUND

Shakespeare Royal Oak Present "Much Ado About Nothing" July 26-August 5, 8 p.m. William Shakespeare's comedy "Much Ado About Nothing" was written in 1598 and 1599. Benedick and Beatrice are tricked into confessing their love for each other, and Claudio is tricked into rejecting Hero at the altar. Star Jaycee Park, 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Housemanager@waterworkstheatre.com <http://shakespeareroyaloak.com/category/shows/>

Shakespeare Royal Oak Presents "The Comedy of Terrible Errors!" July 28-August 4, 4 p.m. World Premiere of "The Comedy of Terrible Errors" by Don Zolidis is the daylight presentation for the festival. Star Jaycee Park, 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak. Housemanager@waterworkstheatre.com <http://shakespeareroyaloak.com>

A Night of Stars with Tennessee Williams by Maxim Vinogradov August 4, 8 p.m. Asking if he lived the right life, Tennessee and his assistant guide the audience through the museum of his hazy mind, revisiting lovers, siblings, and stars upon stars. Theatre NOVA, 410 W Huron, Ann Arbor. 7346358450 insidetheslipstream@gmail.com <http://insidetheslipstream@gmail.com> <http://gaybe.am/2o>

Wicked is Flying Back to Detroit! August 8, 8 p.m. Back By Popular Demand!! WICKED, the Broadway sensation, looks at what happened in the Land of Oz ... but from a different angle. The untold true story of the Witches of Oz transfixes audiences. 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 313-237-SING <http://www.broadwayindetroit.com/shows/wicked>

Spinning Dot Theatre presents "The Mountain" August 16, 7 p.m. The Mountain deals with anti-immigrant feelings from the lens of two eight-year-olds, a quiet Canadian boy and a spirited Arab girl, on a Canadian playground. Theatre NOVA, 410 W Huron, Ann Arbor. 7346358450 jkoppera@spinningdot.org <http://www.spinningdot.org>

AFFIRMATIONS

FALL *bling* 2018

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2018
AFFIRMATIONS COMMUNITY CENTER
COSTUME OPTIONAL

PRESENTED BY MASCO CORPORATION

Ink Paintings
Sculptures
Fluxus
Installation

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY'S
ART GALLERY PROUDLY PRESENTS

JON STRAND'S...
ORACLES, TEMPLES AND WAVES
and a dragon called Raoul

August 3 through August 24
OPENING RECEPTION
FRIDAY AUGUST 3
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Fashion by
Leslie Ann Pilling

Featuring Collaborators: Bob LaBore, Jeff Hucal, Leslie Ann Pilling, Barb Prusak, Christine Welch, Judy Adams (and Fabrazzio), Jack Whitehead, Dolly Whitehead and Jo Levett.

STRAND

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY'S
ART GALLERY
JON STRAND'S...

LIVING WITH HIV? WE'RE HERE TO HELP.
(248) 266-5545 | MetroCareNetwork.org | (877) 931-3248

METRO CARE
COORDINATION NETWORK
ACCESS, MAC Health, Matrix Human Services, OLHSA

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

ACCESS HIV
TESTING | TREATMENT | PREVENTION
WWW.ACCESSCOMMUNITY.ORG/SCREENINGHOURS

OLHSA
A Community Action Agency

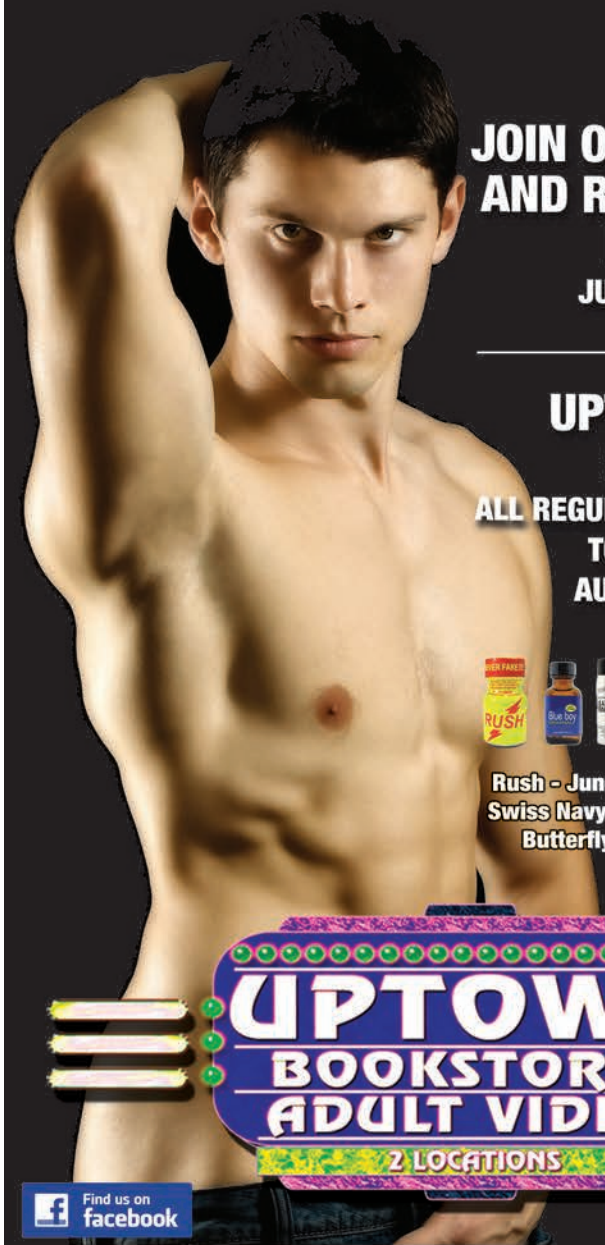
MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES
"Touching Hearts, Changing Lives"
Established 1906

THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!

BUY
ADULT DVD'S
STARTING AT
\$5.95

EVERY TUES & FRIDAY
NEW
RELEASE
DAY

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



JOIN OUR VIDEO CLUB
AND RECEIVE 5 FREE
RENTALS
JULY 13-22, 2018

UPTOWN SALE
20% OFF
ALL REGULAR PRICED NOVELTIES,
TOYS & LOTIONS
AUGUST 2-5, 2018



Rush - Jungle Juice - Maximum Impact -
Swiss Navy - Amsterdam - ID Glide - COLT-
Butterfly Kiss Pink- The Womanizer

UPTOWN
BOOKSTORES
ADULT VIDEO

2 LOCATIONS

Find us on
facebook

follow us on
twitter

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

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

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

Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Tessa Thompson spins off

Tessa Thompson is tearing up movie screens this summer in "Sorry to Bother You" as the woman with the world's most anarchic earrings. And if you think you've seen her before, it's because she's spent 13 years working regularly in film and TV: on "Westworld," in "Dear White People," "Thor: Ragnarok," and, most recently, that Janelle Monae video that spawned all the rumors of their now-confirmed-now-denied romantic relationship (both women recently came out but are still keeping their private details private, so we're happy to give them their space). Now all those years of dues-paying has yet another franchise opportunity, this time outside the Marvel Cinematic Universe; Thompson will play a lead role in next year's "Men In Black" spin-off film (as yet untitled). Director F. Gary Gray ("Straight Outta Compton") has taken on helming duties, and Thompson's co-stars include Chris Hemsworth, Rafe Spall, Liam Neeson and Kumail Nanjiani. No story details yet - they're rightly keeping everything under wraps - but you'll know everything you need to know come summer of 2019.



Tessa Thompson. Photo: Shutterstock

you're one of her brunch pals. Otherwise it wouldn't be out of the question if you didn't know Marja-Lewis Ryan. But this is the era of creators like Lena Waithe and Bryan Fuller becoming fanned over names due to the quality of their output, and Ryan has a lot of irons in the fire right now. Her queer drama, "The Four-Faced Liar," won the Outstanding First Narrative Feature award from Los Angeles' LGBTQ film festival Outfest. She also

wrote and directed "6 Balloons," starring Abbi Jacobson and Dave Franco, streaming now on Netflix. She's been tapped as showrunner for the Showtime reboot of "The L Word." And now she's signed a deal for an Amazon TV series called "College," about six university roommates who, according to the official log line, "hook up, mess up, and grow up." Co-produced by Transparent's Jill Soloway and Channing Tatum (with whom Ryan is also working on a remake of "Splash"), it should keep Ryan busy for those remaining hours of the day when she might otherwise sleep or eat. Go catch up on this talented woman's body of work because right now it looks like it's not going to slow down for dawdlers.

It's time to 'Mess with Roy Cohn'

Was there ever a more damaged and destructive gay villain in modern political history than the late Roy Cohn? In the 1950s he got his feet wet as an assistant to anti-Communist life-wrecker Senator Joseph McCarthy and his House Un-American Activities Committee. Then in the '80s he was Donald Trump's lawyer, a fairly consistently evil power broker, and a vicious public homophobe even though he was himself a closeted gay man with AIDS. Now Matt Tyrnauer, the documentary filmmaker responsible for "Valentino: The Last Emperor," this summer's theatrically released doc "Scotty and the Secret History of Hollywood," as well as A&E's forthcoming "Studio 54," is hard at work on "Don't Mess With Roy Cohn." The film will cover what amounts to the lasting effects of Cohn, how his political tactics and deeply polarizing actions set the stage for the ascendance of maniacal conservatives like the current U.S. President, whom he mentored decades ago. So it won't be exactly an uplifting story, but one we need to remember and guard against allowing to happen again.

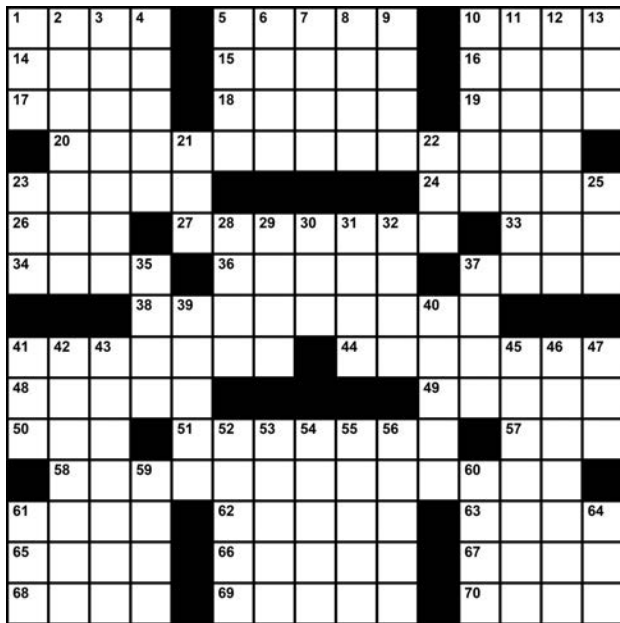
Sean Hayes' drag race

It's a comedy tradition, the man in a dress. Milton Berle, Tyler Perry, Tom Hanks, Martin Lawrence, Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis and Eddie Murphy have all done it to great success. Adam Sandler has, too, but we're trying to forget about that. Now it's Sean Hayes' turn in an indie comedy called "Lazy Susan." Co-written by Hayes, Darlene Hunt ("The Big C"), and Carrie Aizley ("Transparent"), it's about a woman named Susan - that's Hayes - with a lot of problems, including a lack of motivation to solve those problems. It co-stars Aizley, Margo Martindale, Jim Rash, Matthew Broderick and Allison Janney. These are, to a person, comedy names we trust, but still we have no idea if the final product will work in the tradition of "Some Like It Hot" or crash and burn like "Jack and Jill" (that's the Sandler one, and it hurts to even type out the title). For now we trust and hope and wait and watch some reruns of "Trixie & Katya" to keep our enthusiasm stoked.

Learn this name: Marja-Lewis Ryan

Maybe you've got your ear very close to the ground of LGBTQ creative endeavors. Maybe

Romeo San Vicente hasn't given up hope.



Medication Frustration QPuzzle

Across

- 1 "Nuts!"
- 5 Zorro was a gay one
- 10 Diced meat
- 14 Roasting place
- 15 Nick Adams as Johnny Yuma, e.g.
- 16 The "A" in A.D.
- 17 "Brothers & Sisters" matriarch
- 18 Train that comes quickly
- 19 Try ___ for size
- 20 Start of a quote from "Dallas Buyers Club"
- 23 Reproach
- 24 Took away in cuffs
- 26 Pet physician
- 27 Like Trump's ego
- 33 Disney's "Monsters, ___"
- 34 Frankfurt's river
- 36 More of the quote
- 37 Shakespearean villain
- 38 More of the quote

- 41 Queer meat source
- 44 Car feature in "Grease"
- 48 Aged, to Byron
- 49 Burke of baseball
- 50 F.D.R. or J.F.K., e.g.
- 51 Dame Edna
- 57 66, e.g.
- 58 End of the quote
- 61 Like some print
- 62 Cel mate of Nala
- 63 Let out
- 65 Strap on a stallion
- 66 Work with Trojans
- 67 Words before many words
- 68 Straight ___ arrow
- 69 Sends a selfie, for example
- 70 From C to D, to Debussy

Down

- 1 Woodroof, played by Matthew McConaughey and source of the quote
- 2 Skirted, but not like a cross-dresser
- 3 Attacker of woody objects
- 4 Screw-up
- 5 Blow your own horn
- 6 Satyr, slangily
- 7 Aid's partner
- 8 Where to eat a hero
- 9 Joie de vivre
- 10 Israeli seaport
- 11 Willa Cather character
- 12 Making noise in bed
- 13 Title for Baldwin (abbr.)
- 21 Org. of big bucks
- 22 Test for college srs.
- 23 Ab ___ (from the beginning)
- 25 Gomer's Sgt. Carter, for one
- 28 Male actor named Julia
- 29 On top of that
- 30 Annoying person, to Harry Potter
- 31 "___ first you don't suck seed..."
- 32 "Star Wars" princess played by Carrie
- 35 Very plentiful
- 37 "___ never fly!"
- 39 Susan in "Rocky Horror"
- 40 "Finding Nemo" pelican
- 41 Muscle Mary's pride
- 42 Some Whitman works
- 43 Sculptor Lewis
- 45 Hot-blooded
- 46 Like Mapplethorpe photos
- 47 U-turn from SSW
- 52 Brief stay
- 53 Nellie-lover in "South Pacific"
- 54 Record a Johnny Mathis song again
- 55 Opportunity for Billy Bean
- 56 Eggs on
- 59 Dramatist Williams, for short?
- 60 2001 Dench/Winslet film
- 61 Title for a brother
- 64 Bottom's date

Find solution to this puzzle at www.pridesource.com

MASSAGE FOR MEN

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

CALL LEE 248-548-6516

VOTE

Primary Tues. Aug. 7
General Election
Tues. Nov. 6

Hookups = SQUIRT.org



Visit www.squirt.org to hook up today





Talk to a live expert about STDs

800 872 2437

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



Michigan's Statewide Resource For Sexual Health Information



Online Chat Now Available At WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG

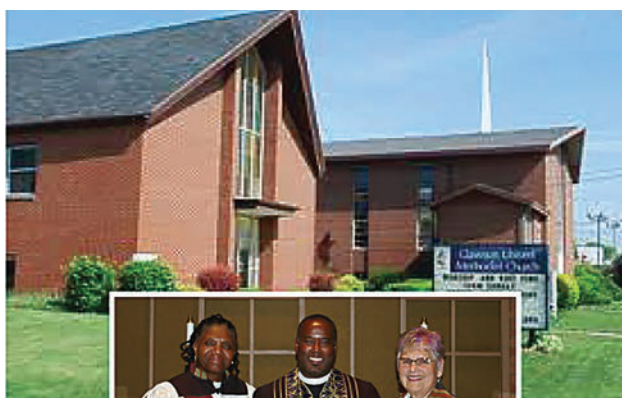


Trained Operators Available Weekdays 9 AM - 5 PM

Free trainings and certifications for Hotline volunteers.

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

Beyond the Hotline: Opportunities for field experience for volunteers.



MCC. Detroit

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

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

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

The Woodward Bar & Grill Hosts its 10th Annual Miss Woodward Pageant

On Monday, July 23, guests at the Woodward Bar & Grill were treated to the 10 year anniversary of the annual Miss Woodward Pageant. Hopefuls for the renowned Miss Woodward Title gathered from across the city to strut their stuff in a talent portion that lasted 5 to 7 minutes per contestant. The theme of this year's festivities was Fairy Tales. Here are some photos from some standout performances of the night. Photo credit: Andrew Potter.



Healthy Sexual Care

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

Your well-being is our priority. Our medical team is experienced, compassionate and sensitive to our diverse lifestyles. Also, our providers are board certified and accredited as HIV specialists by AAHIVM.

We maintain an extensive network of specialists to refer to as appropriate. We celebrate and embrace diversity and are non-discriminatory.

Quality health care, experience counts

- ◆ Preventative health services & primary care for your whole family
- ◆ State-of-the-art facility: lab, x-ray, pharmacy on site
- ◆ Most insurances accepted
- ◆ Designated a "Patient-Centered Medical Home" by Blue Cross Blue Shield, a high standard of excellence

Physician led – Patient Centered!

PAUL BENSON, D.O. is a Board Certified Family Medicine physician and Medical Director of the Be Well Medical Center.

Dr. Paul Benson's
Be Well
 Medical Center

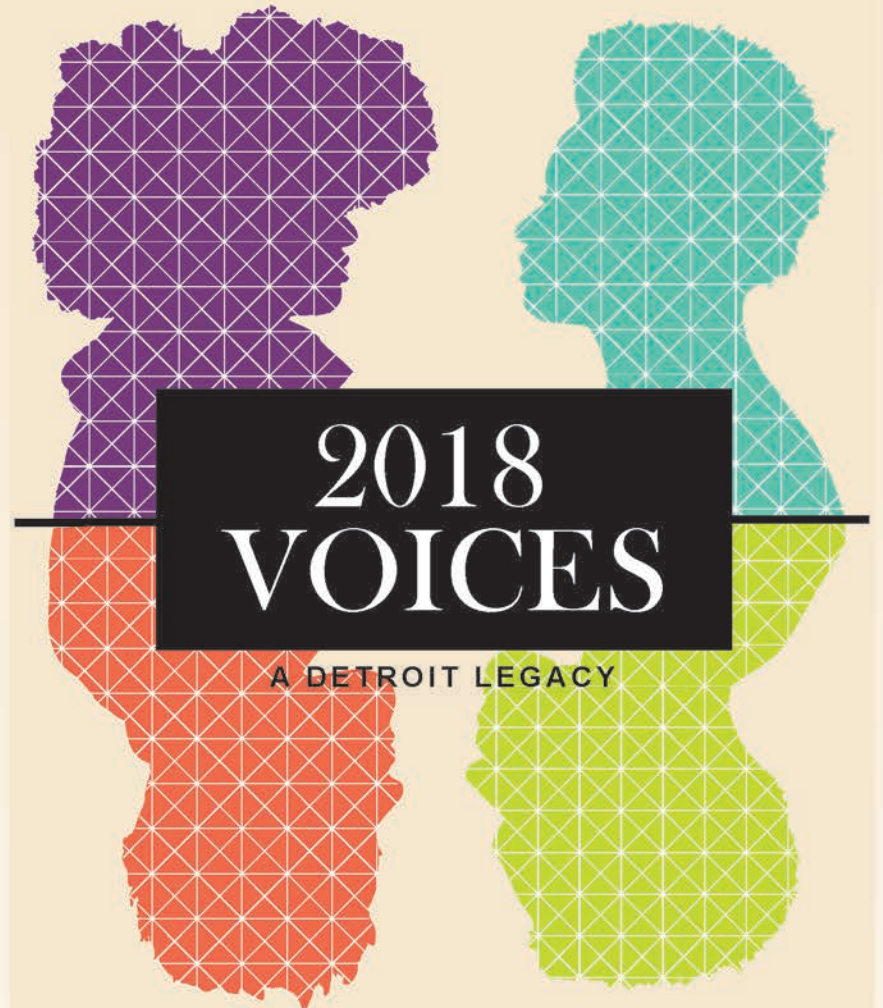


1964 Eleven Mile Rd • Berkley, MI 40872
(248) 544-9300 • doctorbewell.com

Media Sponsors:



Limited Tickets Available at:
ruthelliscenter.org



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH 2018

SOUND BOARD, MOTORCITY CASINO HOTEL
 VIP RECEPTION @ 6 P.M. / MAIN EVENT @ 7 P.M.



MARGARET CHO
 2018 RUTH ELLIS LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENT



Diversity makes for a better cocktail party.

★ TitosVodka.com ★ Crafted to be savored responsibly. DISTILLED & BOTTLED BY FIFTH GENERATION INC. 40% ALC./VOL. © 2018 TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA.