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Transgender Pride in the Park Aug. 11

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COVER
6 Michigan Supreme Court Race Offers LGBTQ Ally

NEWS

- 4 BTL 25th Anniversary History Wheel 4
- 6 LGBTQ Ally Vies for Seat on Michigan Supreme Court
- 10 Transgender Pride in the Park on Aug. 11
- 10 DOJ Touts Anti-LGBT Views, Task Force at 'Religious Freedom' Summit
- 14 Emma González's Summer of Activism
- 20 SEMHAC Hosts Project L.E.A.P. to Increase Awareness On HIV Funding
- 20 Remembering Beth Brant

OPINION

- 12 Parting Glances
- 12 Viewpoint
- 13 Creep of the Week

LIFE

- 22 I Spy Justin Theroux
- 32 Sisters in the Name of Love to be Staged at Gigi's
- 34 Deep Inside Hollywood

COOL CITIES: LANSING/ANN ARBOR

- 24 Wharton Center's 'School of Rock – The Musical' Tickets Now Available
- 24 MDC 2018 Home Tour Tix
- 27 Ark Hosts Community Sing Featuring Matt Watroba
- 27 Zingerman's Delicatessen Hosts Summer Pantry Essentials Event

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



36 LGBT Certification Offers Businesses More Exposure
37 Detroit Artist Siena Liggins Debuts Single 'Flowerbomb'

See Page 36

THE INTERVIEW



See Page 22

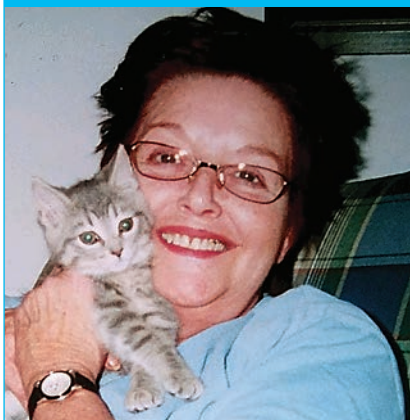
MARRIAGE



Parisian Proposal Puts Couple on Path Toward Intimate Wedding

See Page 18

OUR HISTORY



Remembering Beth Brant

See Page 20

POLITICS



Emma Gonzalez's Summer of Activism

See Page 14

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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 Knopow, 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

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THE '90S - 1996

Successful Merger

April – Wellness Networks, Inc. in Ferndale and AIDS Care Connection in Detroit merged on April 1 to become AIDS Partnership Michigan (now UNIFIED - HIV Healthy & Beyond), the largest AIDS service provider in Michigan with an estimated annual budget in excess of \$3 million, and a staff of around 38.



Anti-LGBT Legislation

June – Gov. John Engler signed legislation in Lansing that makes same-sex marriage illegal in Michigan. Michigan was the 13th state to have enacted such legislation since the beginning of 1996.

FLASHING BACK TO THE PAST:



Capitol Commitment

June – Billed as Capitol Commitment, the 1996 Michigan Pride March held its first mass commitment ceremony on June 22 on the state Capitol steps. Presiding over the ceremonies was the Rev. Dr. Mel White, justice minister of the Metropolitan Community Church. 85 couples participated.



Gays in Politics

August – Michigan Democratic Party selects first openly gay delegate, John Burchett, to go to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.



Under Attack

June – Lansing State Journal sports writer Bob Gross was found brutally murdered in his downtown home on June 27. His body was mutilated, then the body and his home were set on fire. Gross' murder is one of several high profile murders of gay men that year. His murder was discussed in a historic meeting

HISTORICAL MOMENTS FOR COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Pontchatrain in downtown Detroit.

1995: The Black community saves and supports Harmon House AIDS Agency, which lost a large part of its funding in April. Donations of food, medical supplies,



1996: The Joyful Sounds of Soul was selected as one of the groups to open the 1996 Centennial Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta from July 19 through August 4. This marked the first time that any Detroit group had opened at the Olympics. Their debut on Soul City Records, "Hold On," featured the vocals of Donnie Mark.

1994: Detroit's Full Truth Unity Fellowship serves the urban gay community. The church, founded by pastor Rev. Renee McCoy, a native Detroiter, was in the forefront of all progressive and social changes for African Americans.

1995: Black community leaders united to establish Detroit's first gay pride for people of African descent. Hotter Than July, hosted by the Billionaire Boys Club, was set for the last week of July at the Crowne Plaza

household items, linens, furniture, and money poured in. The Harmon House was founded by Stephen Turner and Herb Knight. Cornelius Wilson was hired as the Program Director.

1996: The gay Latino/a group LLEGO - Latino Lesbian and Gay Organization for Southeast Michigan - was formed to provide physical and emotional support within LGBTQ Spanish-speaking communities, as well as Latino/a programming in and around Detroit. It was founded by Tony O'Rourke-Quintana, and disbanded in 2013.

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{PREP}



LGBTQ Ally Vies for Seat on Michigan Supreme Court

Candidate Sam Bagenstos 'More Committed Than Ever to Fighting for Equal Rights'

Editor's note: This is the first of two pieces on the election for Michigan Supreme Court Nov. 7.

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Considered by some to be the most important race for the people, the campaign for justice of the Michigan Supreme Court can often be overlooked when the public is particularly focused on the gubernatorial and congressional races. This year, two of the court's seven seats are up for consideration and following the November election, 25-year strong civil rights attorney Sam Bagenstos is hoping to fill one of them.

"Why people should care has really come into very sharp relief in the last few weeks as we've seen Donald Trump making his second appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court," he said referencing Brett Kavanaugh. "We have come to rely in the civil rights world on the federal courts as the place that we can go to enforce our basic rights, and I think we have to face the reality that - thanks to Donald Trump - the federal courts are going to be closed for business for the protection of our basic rights for the next generation. I'm not being hyperbolic here. I think that's really true. He's appointed a bunch of very young, very ideological judges to the lower courts. He's about to cement control of the Supreme Court with this second nomination."

And as this becomes an important moment for justice in America, the only place, according to Bagenstos, that people are going to be able to look for protections of their basic rights is to the state courts, and particularly the state Supreme Courts.

"I really do think this is a crucial moment for our state Supreme Court," he said. "We're at a crossroads about whether this is a court that can be counted on to fill the gaps created by a conservative dominated federal judiciary or not."

The current Michigan Supreme Court makeup is 5-2 with a Republican majority, four of whom were appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder, and one by former Gov. John Engler. Both Democrats, Bridget Mary McCormack and Richard Bernstein, were elected in 2012 and 2014, respectively.

The seven justices of the Michigan Supreme Court are chosen in nonpartisan elections and they serve eight-year terms and must be re-elected if they wish to continue serving. In the event of a mid-term vacancy, the governor appoints a temporary replacement to serve until the next general election.

"Justices seem to tend to time their departures so they leave when a governor of



Sam Bagenstos

their party is in office. They leave before the end of their term so the governor can appoint someone with an incumbency advantage," Bagenstos said. "That's what happened here. The two people we're running against (Kurtis Wilder and Elizabeth Clement) are Snyder appointees who replaced Republicans who left in the middle of their term."

This year, Bagenstos is running with Megan Cavanagh.

"We have a chance to flip the Michigan Supreme Court this year with those two Snyder appointees up for election for the first time," he said. "If we take both of those seats then we can flip control of the court. It seems like an incredibly important moment to try to do that."

The Evidence

Bagenstos has built a reputation for defending workers' rights, protecting the right to vote, defending the rights of Americans with disabilities, fighting for women's rights and pursuing LGBTQ rights.

Since the beginning of his career, he has

worked on LGBTQ cases, and as a young attorney, Bagenstos argued the precedent setting case *Bragdon v. Abbott*. In its first case addressing HIV, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that the federal Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination against people living with HIV, whether or not they show any visible symptoms or have an AIDS diagnosis.

Growing up, Bagenstos was raised by a single mother in the '70s and '80s who was involved in the feminist movement. He said that this was perhaps the reason that social justice issues have been important to him for a long time.

"I remember the time then when a lot of her friends came out, and hearing their stories of what it was like at a time when there was a supportive community within the LGBT community and maybe within my mother's circles, but not so much outside," he said. "I remember having friends in law school who were out at law school, but had to be closeted at the firms they worked at during the summer. Those were important experiences for me so when I got into civil rights law, I wanted to work on a whole range of civil rights issues, as

I have, but LGBT issues would be one of those issues. So, I was really happy to work on the HIV discrimination stuff in the '90s."

Bagenstos' background could also lead potential voters to believe that he would vote to protect the LGBTQ community. He twice filed briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court to defend members of the LGBTQ community against discrimination. Once for the *G.G. v. Gloucester County School Board* case when a federal judge in Virginia found in favor of transgender student, Gavin Grimm, who had to fight to use the boys' bathroom at school. With the ACLU's help, Grimm sued the school district for violating his rights under the constitution and Title IX, a civil rights law protecting students from sex discrimination.

The other is the *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* case when the Supreme Court ruled in favor of a Colorado Baker who had refused to create a wedding cake for a gay couple. The court's decision was narrow, and it sparked a national debate about whether or not a business can discriminate against LGBTQ couples based on rights protected by the First Amendment.

"I signed a brief of scholars arguing against a free speech defense to discrimination. The argument being that discrimination in the marketplace is not an exercise of First Amendment rights," said Bagenstos. "Obviously the Supreme Court ducked a big issue there, but we thought it was an important position to take."

Bagenstos also testified in 2012 in Congress in favor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would protect workers against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Under President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder, he served as the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice.

LGBTQ rights were a huge part of his work at that time, too. He was involved in the initial implementation and the constitutional defense of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act signed into law in October 2009. This marked the inclusion of language for sexual orientation and gender identity and expression into the federal hate crimes law.

Bagenstos participated in the deliberations within the Department of Justice about whether or not to defend the Defense of Marriage Act - which defines marriage for federal purposes as only between a man and a woman - in court in *Windsor v. United States*.

See **Mi Supreme Court**, continued on p. 8

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► Mi Supreme Court

Continued from p. 6



“That was sort of an amazing experience to sit in the command center of the justice department with Eric Holder and a whole bunch of folks across the justice department arguing out what you should do. I was really proud,” he said. “We did a lot of work trying to find the spaces within existing law to extend protections to LGBTQ individuals whether under the Family Medical Leave Act or under the Fair Housing Act or Title VII. It was a great experience.”

Bagenstos is now a professor of law at the University of Michigan. He graduated with

highest honors and highest distinction from the University of North Carolina, and was first in his class at the Harvard Law School. Early in his career, Bagenstos was a law clerk to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Supreme Court.

What’s to Come

When asked about which social justice issues might be most important if he is elected, Bagenstos said he was worried about one in particular.

“While I can’t say how I would rule on particular issues, I can talk about the issues that are going to come up, which the community should care a lot about,” said Bagenstos, adding that there is a real chance that Obergefell v. Hodges will be overruled.

“That’s worrisome,” he said. “Even if not, there are all these questions that have come up about the scope of Obergefell. What does it mean for adoption and child custody and child welfare issues, and divorce rights? ... they could say that it’s going to fall on the state courts to decide what are the rights of LGBT individuals who enter into marriage or who are parents of kids outside of marriage or in the context of a divorce or dissolution of marriage ... all those things are up for grabs in a world where we have a Donald Trump Supreme Court. It’s really the Michigan Supreme Court that’s going to be crucial to deciding them.”

Beyond Obergefell, Bagenstos points to discrimination in the workplace or in the marketplace where he knows these issues will be moving ahead to the Michigan Supreme Court. For example, should the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act cover discrimination against individuals based on their sexual orientation or gender identity?

“This is bound to get to the Michigan Supreme Court in a couple of years so the Michigan Supreme Court matters enormously. It matters much more now than it did before Donald Trump because before Donald Trump we could at least see the federal courts as open to hearing claims about the protection of basic rights,” he said. “With Trump’s appointees, that door is closing pretty fast at the federal level and state courts are more important.”

Bagenstos lives with his wife, Margo Schlanger - the Wade H. and Dores M. McCree Collegiate Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School - and their two teenage children in Ann Arbor.

He was a civil rights attorney before he was a husband or a father, so it’s not like being a husband or father was what motivated him to do civil rights work; that came much earlier.

“But it’s true that I’ve had some experiences as a father that helped me see the civil rights issues I had been working on from a different perspective,” he said.

For example, he’s been doing disability rights

work since the beginning of his career, but when he had a son with a physical disability he, “Certainly got a richer understanding of the discriminatory attitudes and barriers that are ever-present in the daily lives of many disabled people.”

In addition to the LGBTQ rights work he’s been doing since the ‘90s, when his daughter who worked through her own sense of identity as a teenager and ultimately came out as a lesbian, Bagenstos said he “Saw the pressures on LGBT young people in a very direct way.” “Of course I came away from those parental experiences more committed than ever to fighting for equal rights,” he said.

When asked why members of the community should remember to vote for him, Bagenstos reiterates that with Donald Trump’s appointments, the federal courts are going to be under the control of ideological, conservative judges for decades to come.

“The state courts are going to be the only place we can go to protect our basic rights,” he said. “The Michigan Supreme Court is going to be a crucial location for this fight. I’ve been fighting for civil rights for my whole career, which makes me the right person for this position right now.”

Show your support for or find more information about Sam Bagenstos online at bagenstosforjustice.com.

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Transgender Pride in the Park in Ferndale on Aug. 11

BY BTL STAFF

As the summer rolls to a close, so does pride season, but not before Transgender Michigan hosts its annual, Transgender Pride in the Park. On Saturday, Aug. 11 at Ferndale's Donald Red Geary Park from noon to 6 p.m., attendees can enjoy a day of food, vendors and community. Event organizer Rachel Crandall-Crocker said she expects record high levels of attendance this year.

"It's our gift to the transgender community and we got people from all over our country. It isn't only a Michigan event anymore," Crandall-Crocker said. "And I want people to know it's the largest transgender event in Michigan and surrounding states."

She also emphasized that the event is a free one.

"One main way it's different and we do this purposely is that everything is free, and that's really an important difference. A lot of trans people experience so much discrimination that they can't afford anything at all and there are some prides that cost \$10 to get in and then you have to buy food and we just didn't think that was right," She said. "It really excludes a lot of people, and I really want to emphasize the discrimination. We didn't want to exclude anybody, we are completely inclusive. And that's something that we're very, very proud about. Also, it's out in the open, however it is in a park where people can feel safe and protected."

More information about the event and Transgender Michigan can be found online

DOJ Touts Anti-LGBT Views, Task Force at 'Religious Freedom' Summit

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

A summit at the U.S. Justice Department on Monday ostensibly intended to promote religious freedom, including the creation of a Religious Liberty Task Force, often highlighted efforts to enable anti-LGBT discrimination.

At the summit in the Justice Department's Great Hall, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the creation of the task force to implement "religious freedom" guidance he issued last year.

"The task force will help the department fully implement our religious liberty guidance by ensuring that all Justice Department components — and we got a lot of components around the country — are upholding that guidance in the cases they bring and defend, the arguments they make in court, the policies and regulations they adopt and how we conduct our operations," Sessions said.

According to the Justice Department, Sessions will serve as chair of the task force, which will be co-chaired by Acting Associate Attorney General Jesse Panuccio and Associate Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy Beth Williams.

Sessions said a primary mission of the Religious Liberty Task Force will be ensuring Justice Department employees "know their duty is to accommodate people of faith."

"This administration is animated by the same American view that has led us for 242 years that every American has a right to believe and worship and exercise their faith in the public square," Sessions added.

The underlying guidance on which the task force is based seeks to allow individuals and businesses to act in the name of religious freedom — often used as an exercise for anti-LGBT discrimination — without fear of government reprisal. Nowhere in the guidance is there a limiting principle assuring the right to free exercise of religion should be an excuse to engage in anti-LGBT discrimination.

Announcing the new task force, Sessions referenced the Masterpiece Cakeshop case in which a Colorado baker was sued after he refused to make a custom-made wedding cake for a same-sex couple. The U.S. Supreme Court narrowly ruled in his favor based on the facts of his case, citing anti-religion sentiment on the Colorado Civil Rights Commission.

Sessions commended Phillips for having endured an "ordeal faced so gravely," touting an amicus brief the Justice Department filed on his behalf before the Supreme Court. U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco also argued in favor of Phillips before justices in oral arguments.

"Let's be frank: A dangerous movement, undetected by many, but real, is now challenging and eroding our great tradition of religious



Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the creation of a Religious Liberty Task Force. Washington Blade photo by Michael Key

freedom," Sessions said at the start of his remarks. "There can be no doubt, it's no little matter. It must be confronted intellectually and politically, and defeated."

LGBT rights supporters said in response to the creation of the Religious Liberty Task Force its purpose was to further the Trump administration's goal of compromising LGBT rights.

Louise Melling, deputy legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union, said the agenda of the Religious Liberty Task Force "isn't consistent with religious freedom."

"Religious freedom protects our right to our beliefs, not a right to discriminate or harm others," Melling said. "Jeff Session's Department of Justice is again turning that understanding of religious freedom on its head."

Lucas Acosta, director of LGBTQ media for the Democratic National Committee, said in a statement the task force is "just the latest assault in this administration's continued campaign against LGBTQ people and our civil rights."

"By creating this task force, Sessions is establishing a unit dedicated to undermining LGBTQ rights and giving anti-LGBTQ far-right extremists like task force head Jesse Panuccio a taxpayer-funded platform to push their anti-equality agenda," Acosta said. "Rather than ensuring every person has equal protections and opportunities, Sessions is shamefully doubling down on bigotry."

But the creation of the Religious Liberty Task Force was just one portion of the summit, which also included the voices of participants who

urged a commitment to religious freedom to advance anti-LGBT discrimination.

Archbishop of Louisville Joseph Edward Kurtz, who formerly served as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said religious freedom is facing challenges that amount to "power-seeking for the purpose of imposing one's will on others."

Kurtz cited as an example Catholic adoption agencies being "targeted for closure" for refusing to place children with LGBT families out of religious objections.

"One of the biggest concerns is the ability of our child welfare providers to continue to be able to place children with foster and adoptive families consistent with our teaching," Kurtz said.

Although no government is actively seeking to close Catholic adoption agencies, they have threatened to shut their doors on their own in the wake of the legalization of same-sex marriage because they feel they'll be forced to place children with gay couples who marry.

As a result, a growing number of states have enacted anti-LGBT adoption laws allowing taxpayer-funded agencies to refuse to place children with LGBT families over religious objections. House Republicans have inserted an amendment in a pending appropriations bill that would penalize states and localities for having policies barring anti-LGBT discrimination among adoption agencies.

Phillips, the owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, was himself present at the summit and took part in a panel of individuals who say they are

facing challenges to their religious freedom.

Moderating his panel was Justice Department spokesperson Kerri Kupec, formerly a spokesperson for the anti-LGBT Alliance Defending Freedom. At a time when that term is used as justification for anti-LGBT discrimination, Kupec said in her introduction of the panel religious freedom is often “housed in scare quotes, as if it’s not a real thing, or even worse, a bad thing, which is tragic.”

Much of Kupec’s questioning of Phillips sought to elicit sympathy for him, which meant his act of refusing to make a custom-made wedding cake for a same-sex couple who entered his store was glossed over as he explained his commitment to his religious views.

In addition to refusing to make a same-sex wedding cake, Phillips said his religious beliefs compel him to close on Sundays, refuse to service Halloween celebrations or make cakes with denigrating messages.

“It’s the message of the cake that I evaluate, not the person who ordered the cake,” Phillips said. “In one instance, I had a man who wanted me to make a cake basically telling his boss that he was a jerk, so I wouldn’t do that, but I’ve also had people asked me to do cakes that would disparage gay people, the gay lifestyle, but I wouldn’t do that either because they’re hurtful cakes.”

As the litigation went forward, Phillips said he received death threats as well as a threat over the phone against his daughter. As a result, Phillips said he wouldn’t allow employees to answer the phone at Masterpiece Cakeshop and would only take calls himself.

Noting the U.S. Supreme Court only takes a few select cases each year, Phillips became emotional when he recalled news that justices had agreed to take up his petition after the state of Colorado ruled against him.

Even though the result of the case was narrowly in his favor and didn’t open up a First Amendment right for anti-LGBT discrimination, Phillips said it was worth the effort.

“True tolerance has to be a two-way street,” Phillips said. “We’re thrilled that the United States ruled in our favor, this ruling solidifying religious freedom in our country, but it’s not just for me, it’s for all us, every American should now be able to live and work freely and according to their conscience without fear of punishment from the government.”

Other speakers at the summit expressed concerns about threats to religious minorities in a manner that progressives would likely agree is a threat to religious freedom.

Among them was Harpreet Singh, who works with Muslim, Arab, Sikh, South Asian and Hindu religions on behalf of the Justice

Department, and Asma Uddin, senior scholar at the Religious Freedom Center of the Freedom Forum Institute, who talked about anti-Muslim sentiments.

Singh said his agency has found hate crimes against minority religions have been increasing, which he said is substantiated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s annual reports and studies from universities, although “there’s a lot of underreporting going on.”

But other speakers on the panel railed against efforts to uphold LGBT rights as they face compromise in the name of religious freedom, including Emilie Kao, director of the Richard & Helen DeVos Center for Religion & Civil Society at the anti-LGBT Heritage Foundation.

Kao was critical of litigation filed by the ACLU against the Michigan law enabling Catholic adoption agencies to refuse placement to LGBT families over religious objections.

Asserting same-sex couples seeking to adopt face no problem in access to adoption, Kao said the plaintiff in the lawsuit drove past four other adoption agencies to reach St. Vincent’s Catholic Charities, which she said “still holds the belief that they should put every child with a mother and father.”

“The lesbian couple says they were personally offended by St. Vincent’s not placing a child with them,” Kao said. “I think it’s important for us to recognize that throughout the history of our country and the Supreme Court’s cases, we have always protected the right of people to follow their religious beliefs, and we’ve never protected the right not to have your feelings hurt.”

Michael McConnell, a law professor at the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford University, warned of the growing compromise that religious liberty faces in the wake of growing “sexual freedom.”

“An extremely popular argument in religious circles has been that religious accommodations are necessarily unconstitutional if they lead to so-called third-party harm,” McConnell said. “If there’s anyone whose rights or interests... are interfered with, that that means the accommodation is simply unconstitutional. To my mind, that’s an extremely implausible argument because virtually every accommodation, and indeed, virtually any application of any constitutional right — free speech, property, due process — there’s always someone on the other side of ledger who’s interests are being harmed.”

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



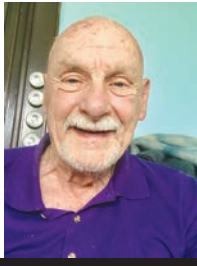
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Parting Glances

BYLINE

Lights (and Gurgles) Remembered

"I'm burning my candle at both ends. It will not last the night. But, oh, my foes, and, ah, my friends. It gives a lovely light!"

These words are by bisexual poet Edna St. Vincent Millay (1892-1950), the subject of a fascinating best-selling biography called "Savage Beauty," by Nancy Milford (Random House).

Millay's poetry — touching, independent, light, feminist, sardonic — is once again reaching new, younger audiences, many LGBTQ.

My acquaintance with her poetic gifts began with her sonnets. When I was getting over my first "big gay affair," I memorized Millay's words:

"Time does not bring relief/ All you have lied who told me time would ease me of my pain./ I miss him in the weeping of the rain/ I want him in the shrinking of the tide"

Pain indeed. I was 23 and into my fourth year of a rewarding affair when I was dumped by my partner Ernie for a soldier on leave named Joe (Ernie and I were working at Discount Records in downtown Detroit and Joe was a hunky customer).

Pain indeed. I was 23 and into my fourth year of a rewarding affair when I was dumped by my partner Ernie for a soldier on leave named Joe (Ernie and I were working at Discount Records in downtown Detroit and Joe was a hunky customer).

Soon, I met new friends at Detroit's Woodward Bar, circa 1959: Tom, Paul and Jonya, each of whom I found out was a bona fide candle queen.

My first dinner in their enlightened company was midsummer. It could just as well have been Christmas for all the flickering-fairy, highlighted enchantment I walked into.

I think I counted a dozen candles of varying sizes, shapes, scents in strategic places of the living room. The effect was wonderful, but I began to worry.

Was a group seduction planned? Was all this flicker and flare to enhance the taste of mediocre food (another tuna-potato-chip casserole!)? Were we going to have an impromptu rosary?

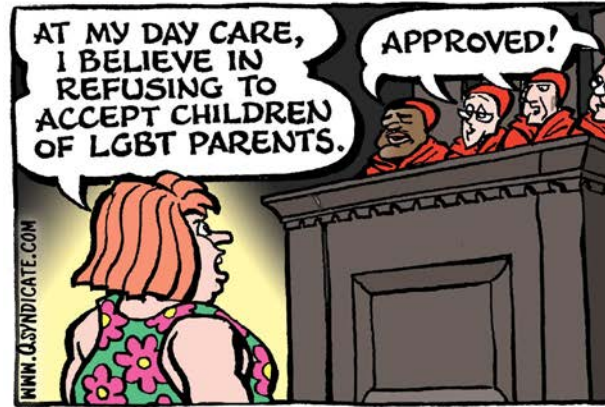
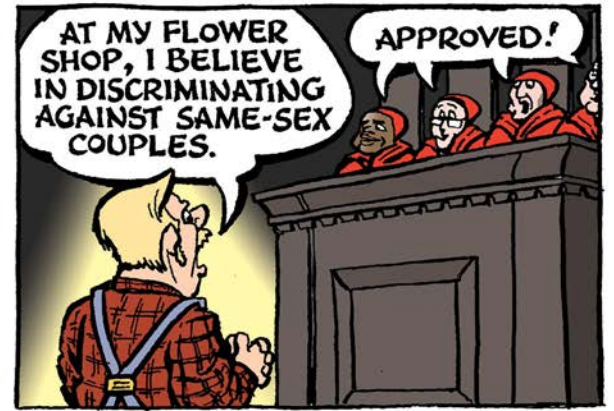
The simple truth is that these guys loved candles. Jonya, who was Dutch, took pride in a family silver heirloom, once hidden during the Nazi occupation of his country. He called the candle holder a "SHANdalaria," which made his lover Paul smile indulgently.

I think I saw Jonya genuflect as he lit the candles gracing the dining table. A carpenter by trade, his rough hands lovingly arranged flowers as well, of which there was also an abundance on display that festive night.

Tom, who was with Paul before Jonya (and the son of a Detroit precinct police captain), took pleasure in an elaborate dime store-bought fountain in the living room. He called it Miss Trevi. It held plants, glass beads, ice cubes, gold fish. The water's color varied from party to party, augmented by leftover Manhattans.

Little wonder that Miss Trevi gurgled, occasionally burped and wheezed. Compliments given to this bubbling contraption usually resulted in amply free-poured drinks by proud-owner

See **Headline**, continued on p. 13



Transmissions



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Their Past, Our Present

Recently happened upon a photo from 1921. In it, a quartet of people stands outside an imposing stone structure. All four look as if they were in conversation with each other moments before the camera came out, and now they face the lens. One wears an immaculate three-piece suit and tie, while the other three wear fashionable frocks, hats and heels befitting the time.

Willie Römer took the photo in front of the Institut für Sexualwissenschaft, during the First International Congress for Sex Reform on the Basis of Sexology, pioneered by Magnus Hirschfeld. The four people in the photo are, in modern parlance, transgender.

Hirschfeld was a pioneer in the study of both homosexual and transgender people, and his Institut was well known. It was a refuge for both, and a place not only of scientific study, but also of community and support. It even led to a lot of great advances in trans rights for the time, including the first modern examples of trans identity documents.

Yet just 12 short years after this photo was taken, another, more famous one was snapped. In it, a large assembly of Germans, many wearing uniforms of the Nazi party, stand at attention, giving the infamous straight-armed salute. In the foreground, a large pile of books and papers burns.

These books were the remains of the Institut für Sexualwissenschaft. Four days earlier, the staff had been beaten, and the windows smashed. Hirschfeld himself was on a speaking tour outside of the country. He never returned, and passed in exile.

Those identity passes that allowed transgender people to exist publicly in Germany, too, were made obsolete.

I've had that first photo sitting on my hard drive lately. These four people, and their resolute expressions strike me as they stand along the street. Aside from clothing nearly a century out of date, the people themselves feel oddly contemporary.

After the election of Donald Trump, a mad dash started to get one's paperwork in order. People feared swift changes on the part of the incoming administration. There was a push to quickly to correct passports, which allowed an updated gender marker that would be valid for the next few years, hopefully longer than Trump might cling to power.

I was one of those who hurriedly got my papers in order, begging my mother and sister to get notarized letters on my behalf, acquiring the services of a friendly local physician to do the appropriate consultation, and spending a couple

Next Page

► Transmissions

Continued from p. 13

months on high alert, wading through the various layers of bureaucracy.

It finally arrived on the 17th of January, 2017 — three days before the inauguration.

I don't know how many other trans people did the same, but there were enough that massive crowd funding sources popped up overnight, helping people to get their paperwork in order as quick as they could.

Yet nothing happened. Passports seemed forgotten, as the administration instead attacked our military fitness in between despicable attacks on immigrants and non-whites. Then, in July, that shaky peace was shattered.

One friend of mine was told that paperwork of hers from 20 years ago would need to be reviewed before she could use her passport, while another friend got a call from the State Department, saying that the letter from her doctor was, seemingly, in error. As of this writing, some 10 trans people have had their passports challenged.

Tucked in between tweets asking for donations and a call supporting transgender healthcare for veterans, the National Center for Transgender Equality has a notice. They have been investigating the issue, and say that all of them so far feature “unusual circumstances” and “bureaucratic mistakes,” while reminding the community that the rules haven't changed. I hope that's true.

Nevertheless, people are scared and — to be honest — I'm amongst them. The president is continuing to attack transgender people, and his whole administration has worked to chip away at our rights little by little. After all, the executive branch isn't just one person, and this one is chock full of people willing to do the bidding of some of the most vile people imaginable.

On top of that, the actions of this administration have emboldened other citizens to revel in their bigotry. In short, the monsters are revealing themselves, as they have no fear of being seen as monsters.

I look at that photo from 1921, at those proud, resolute transgender people from nearly 100 years ago. How many of them were able to escape what

I look at that photo from 1921, at those proud, resolute transgender people from nearly 100 years ago. How many of them were able to escape what was happening around them, or were they forced into hiding? We're any of them amongst those beaten when the Institut für Sexualwissenschaft was destroyed? Dare I even ponder if these folks enjoying a nice day in the sun would, just a few years later, be forced to wear the pink triangle and live out their remaining days in a concentration camp?

was happening around them, or were they forced into hiding? We're any of them amongst those beaten when the Institut für Sexualwissenschaft was destroyed? Dare I even ponder if these folks enjoying a nice day in the sun would, just a few years later, be forced to wear the pink triangle and live out their remaining days in a concentration camp?

It would be too easy to think I'm being melodramatic, and that we've come too far to see such horrors revisited. Then I remember that this is an administration that is more than willing to lock young children in cages with nary a flinch, and I feel far less assured.

So now, we need to fight back. In 100 days, give or take, we need to vote — and every day we need to be willing to fight back, arm-in-arm, with immigrants, people of color, sex workers, Muslims and everyone else fighting these same struggles.

I don't want — in a century from today — for some future someone to view a photo of the transgender activists of today, and have to wonder what happened to our proud faces.

Gwen Smith wishes to spend more days in the sun. You can find her at www.gwensmith.com.

the president of a successful video arts recording company. His third partner for over 40 years, Tom Stewart, died a year ago. Tom was a give-from-the-heart kind of guy.

Me? I'm still burning my candle at both ends. And — if you really must know — my vanilla-flavored wick has waxed somewhat shorter. But it flickers ever so brightly. Now and then.

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. 12

Tom.

Alone in my cluttered art studio these days, I often light a candle and watch shadows dance softly, silently, so sadly empty, on my walls. Images of the past appear, wink and vanish.

Paul has been married almost 50 years to Susan, “a wonderfully understanding wife.” Jonya died of a heart attack aboard ship during a return visit to Amsterdam. Tom, who in 1972 was told that because he had an abused pancreas his next drink “would be it,” ignored the warning. He was 36.

Ernie and I are in touch. He lives in New York,

Creep Of The Week

Voter Suppression

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

It is a matter of record that Republicans do not like it when people vote, especially when it's brown and black people voting. They holler and cry about “voting integrity,” claiming that onerous voter ID laws are the only way to protect this cherished institution. And yet they also work behind the scenes to make it as hard as possible, or at least stand in the way of making it easy.

They say if you don't vote you can't complain. This is actually not true. You can complain all you want. Especially if you're someone who has been blocked from voting. And in the U.S., we block a whole lot of people from voting. It's supposed to be a super important right, but it's often easier to buy a gun than it is to vote.

Around every election, especially presidential ones, we hear about voter roll purges on the news. Often, these purges are performed in Republican-controlled states and the people purged just happen to be — oh gosh wouldn't you know it — people in heavily Democratic areas. When these people show up to vote, not knowing that their name has been thrown off the list, they can't.

It is a matter of record that Republicans do not like it when people vote, especially when it's brown and black people voting. They holler and cry about “voting integrity,” claiming that onerous voter ID laws are the only way to protect this cherished institution. And yet they also work behind the scenes to make it as hard as possible, or at least stand in the way of making it easy.

Remember way back in 2000? The hanging chad fiasco? Lawmakers declared that we needed better laws about voting! So the Help America Vote Act was passed in 2002. And it solved all of our problems, the end, goodnight.

Just kidding. HAVA established some standards for elections and created the Election Assistance Commission. It also got rid of punch card ballots. However, all the HAVAs in the world can't help when one of the major parties is actively hostile toward voting rights (and welcomed interference from Russia into our elections to boot).

It also doesn't help that Democrats have often ignored this issue, taking for granted that a large swath of their supporters often have to jump through extra hoops to get to the polls. The more hoops a person has to jump through, the less likely they are to vote. And it's not because they're lazy. It's because they're tired.

And if you have never found voting to be a challenge at all, if you've always been able to breeze in and out of your polling place to use shiny new voting equipment, never worrying about whether or not you had the proper ID or that your name might

be crossed off the list, using your own reliable transportation while on your lunch break from your job that gives its employees time off to vote, congratulations. Please note your privilege and keep it in mind when you judge other people for not voting.

And be very skeptical of anyone who says that the problem with elections in this country is voter fraud, because that is simply not true. Trump may say that 3,000,000 “illegals” voted in the 2016 election, thereby denying him the popular vote, but there is absolutely no evidence of that. Not to mention the fact that it would have required a conspiracy among election officials on an epic scale. But then, of course, Trump is a big fan of conspiracies.

Voter suppression, however, is very real. People who scheme to find ways to get fewer people to vote are anti-American and anti-Democratic. If a person wants to make it easy for you to get an assault rifle but wants to make it hard for you to cast a vote, then that person can stop claiming that they care about is constitutional right. Also, they're probably a Republican.

As I write this it is the eve of the 2018 primary election. By the time you read this, people who want nothing more than to destroy the civil rights gains LGBTQ people have made (and those people will mostly be Republicans) will be real contenders for offices far and wide. Find out who is running where you live and for what offices. And don't wait until November. Find a candidate you support and get involved in their campaign. Voting alone is not enough.

If you don't vote, go ahead and complain all you want. But chances are you'll have a lot less to complain about if you are part of the process.

Emma González's Summer of Activism

BY KAREN OCAMB

LOS ANGELES – Emma González is famous now. She'd rather be enjoying the summer before college hanging out with friends.

But the Valentine's Day massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, stole away that carefree freedom, morally forcing the survivors to take on the responsibility of doing something about the gun violence that has impacted more than 150,000 students in the two decades since the mass shooting at Columbine High School.

The 18-year-old senior first caught America's attention as the furious-faced warrior, fighting back tears, chastising politicians beholden to the National Rifle Association.

"All these people should be home grieving. But instead we are up here standing together because if all our government and President can do is send thoughts and prayers, then it's time for victims to be the change that we need to see," González said at an angry rally at the Federal Courthouse in Fort Lauderdale three days after the shooting. "To every politician who is taking donations from the NRA, shame on you!"

González let loose:

"Politicians who sit in their gilded House and Senate seats funded by the NRA, telling us nothing could have ever been done to prevent this: We call BS!"

They say that tougher gun laws do not decrease gun violence: We call BS!

They say a good guy with a gun stops a bad guy with a gun: We call BS!"

A string of public appearances followed, helping generate funding for a national March For Our Lives tour to spread the message about gun violence prevention and nullifying the power of the NRA. "

On Feb. 26, Harpers Bazaar published an essay by González, with photos of her at a Valentine's Day event one hour before the shooting and another (with hair) decked out for Pride week at school last year.

"My Name is Emma González. I'm 18 years old, Cuban and bisexual. I'm so indecisive that I can't pick a favorite color, and I'm allergic to 12 things. I draw, paint, crochet, sew, embroider—anything productive I can do with my hands while watching Netflix. But none of this matters anymore," she wrote. "What matters is that the majority of American people have become complacent in a senseless injustice that occurs all around them."

González next caught America's attention on March 24 at the "March for Our Lives" rally in Washington, D.C., the main rally of about 800 student walkouts and rallies around the country. Head held high, tears streaming down her face, she stood before thousands of marchers and millions watching on TV.

"Six minutes and 20 seconds with an AR-15 and my friend Carmen (Schentrup) would



never complain to me about piano practice," she said, a catch in her voice. "Aaron Feis would never call Kyra 'Miss Sunshine.' Alex Schachter would never walk into school with his brother Ryan."

González went on, naming the names of those shot dead that Feb. 14. And then she stopped. For 6 minutes and 20 seconds—the time it took for the shooter to kill 17 people and wound 15 others—she stood silently, letting the confused crowd gradually absorb what that silence signified, filling the silence in their own imaginations with the screams of terror that must have accompanied the gunshots. Many wept.

"Fight for your lives before it's someone else's job," she said before leaving the stage. "One final plug: Get out there and vote."

The Parkland students' 20-state summer bus tour, March For Our Lives: Road To Change, stopped in NRA-loving towns to have civil conversations with gun-lovers, noting that they do not want to take away guns, but create common sense regulations to prevent gun violence. The tour hit Los Angeles in July and included a meeting with Mayor Eric Garcetti, who pledged to work with high schools and colleges for a voter registration drive on Sept. 25.

But the town hall at the California African American Museum on July 19 illuminated another aspect of Emma González. The Parkland students served as a draw but they also shared their platform with coalition partners and expanded the discussion to guns used during domestic violence, suicide and police shootings.

And Emma González listened. When a question was asked of the panel, she reached for the microphone, paused, and then deferred to the community panelist. It was as if González and the Parkland students were modeling a

different approach to public encounters: be authentic, have facts in hand, truly listen to the other person, and reply as a "human person."

González talked about coping and their intention to connect.

"I'm a mess and I'm messy," she said in an interview after the panel. "I'm very, very bad at organizing myself... We do eat whenever we get to restaurants. But we don't think about eating as much, especially because the topics we're talking about kinda take appetites away and like sadness fills your stomach more than food can. But then you smell food and you're like rrrr I need that."

"It's hard to get enough food in the day and hard to get enough sleep at night," González said, "because we have like 19-hour workdays, essentially. And we ride the bus. We ride the bus a lot and it's easy to sleep on the bus but it's not a full night's sleep, you know what I mean? It's choppy and blocked up."

Meeting with people who have faced gun violence is "an incredible experience" but "it's hard and it's sad to know that so many people are affected by gun violence. And of course we knew that they were. But hearing it is a whole different experience."

"We share our experiences as they share theirs—but it's also incredibly healing to know that you're not alone," González said. "That's the number one rule after you lose someone is go to somebody else, go to the people around you, be with the people that you love. And as you can see in 'Big Hero 6,' that doesn't always happen. A lot of people push away the people around them because they feel like they're alone."

"In our case, all we could do was be with the people around us because they were the only people who knew what we had gone through," she said. "I wanted to be around my family because I knew that they wanted me to be with them and they wanted to know that I was safe

and they wanted to hold onto me like that. But I wanted to be with the people at my school who had experienced that. I wanted to be with my friend who had sat next to me the whole time. It's a different sort of connection and because of that, it's easier for us to connect with the people around the country because we know, we've all experienced the same thing."

González noted that LGBT people are heavily involved in the March For Our Lives movement. "A lot of the people in our organization are LGBT+ so we bring it up in discussions and we make sure that people in the LGBT community are present in discussions," she said. "I do believe, personally, that like we have brought those topics to light in conversation [but] the solutions that we have will directly affect and support the LGBT community."

González said she feels like she's been threatened "generally," as much as in the context of conservative verbal attacks on the Parkland survivors.

"Anything is up for grabs to anybody around, ya know?" she said. "Like I'm a female. I'm a short female. I live in Florida. I'm Cuban and I have family members that live with me. I have survived a school shooting and I speak out politically and I'm bisexual—and all of these things are not desirable things to the people who are in power and especially the people who are getting money from other people who are in power."

"But I'm an 18-year-old girl, at the end of the day," González said. "I'm a human person and so are the people that I work with. And a lot of times, we either get put on a pedestal or we get treated like we're untouchable, like we're not human, we're undefeatable. But a bullet could take down any of us just as much as anybody else. And it's statistically more likely to happen nowadays."

"But I mean, like we're all the same and we all have the same amount of potential," she said. "Anybody could have done what I had done. I didn't even know what I was doing at the time. I looked back and saw what had happened. I did not think forward at all. None of that was like an intentional kaboom that had happened, it just did."

Most importantly: "Get out and vote. If you can't vote then register other people to vote. Get people to the polls, make sure that people who need to vote, can vote," González said, adding a plug for their merchandise. "Buy the shirts on our website because they can register people to vote. Electronics are lovely, lovely."

'Get out and vote. If you can't vote then register other people to vote,' says Emma González.

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

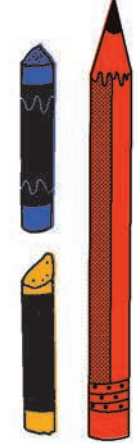
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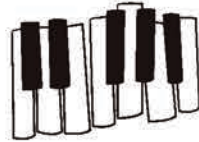
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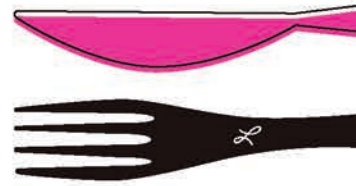
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Harris, Carper introduce bill to include LGBT questions on U.S. Census

In the wake of the Trump administration's decision not to allow Americans to identify as LGBT on the U.S. Census, two Democratic senators have introduced legislation that would require those questions in major federal surveys.

Sens. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) and Tom Carper (D-Del.) announced on Tuesday they had introduced in the U.S. Senate the Census Equality Act, which would begin the process of adding questions allowing respondents to identify their sexual orientation and gender identity in both the decennial U.S. Census and the annual American Community Survey.

Harris said in a statement the legislation is necessary because "the spirit of the census is that no one should go uncounted and no one should be invisible."

Read the whole story online at pridesource.com.

New GOP Bill Would Ban Flying of Pride Flag at U.S. Embassies

A Republican lawmaker in the U.S. House has introduced legislation that appears to be aimed at barring U.S. embassies from flying the Pride flag in recognition of the LGBT community.

With little fanfare last week, Rep. Jeff Duncan (R-S.C.) quietly introduced the measure, which seeks to "prohibit the flying of any flag other than the United States flag over United States diplomatic and consular posts, and for other purposes."

Read the whole story online at pridesource.com.

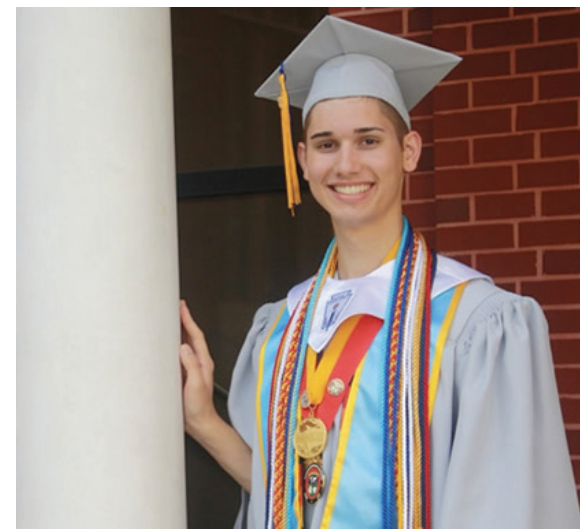
Gay Teen Kicked Out of Home Will Pay \$0 to Attend Georgetown

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — After raising nearly \$130,000 to cover tuition, the gay Florida valedictorian who says his parents kicked him out will pay nothing to go to college this fall.

News outlets report Georgetown University adjusted 18-year-old Seth Owen's financial aid package, reducing his expected out-of-pocket contribution from \$20,000 to \$0.

His aid package had been calculated based on his parents' ability to pay. But he says they kicked him out in February, following disagreements over his sexuality and an ultimatum: attend their Southern Baptist church or leave.

Having initially refused to adjust aid, Georgetown has now enrolled Owen in its scholarship program. Georgetown released a statement Friday in which Owen says he hopes to use the GoFundMe set up by his biology teacher to



Seth Owen will attend Georgetown University in the fall. (Photo courtesy of Seth Owen/GoFundMe)

create scholarships for LGBTQ students facing similar circumstances.

Indiana School Must Allow Transgender Student to Use Male Bathroom

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (AP) — A federal judge has ordered an Indiana school district to allow a transgender student to use male bathrooms.

Judge William Lawrence signed an injunction Friday, just days before classes resume in the Evansville Vanderburgh school district.

The 17-year-old student sued after

he was told to use the female restroom or bathrooms in the nurse's office. He says his rights were violated.

School officials said the student could use the male bathroom if his birth certificate was changed to identify him as a male.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana says the student was born

in a state that won't do that unless a surgery takes place. The ACLU says the teen is under a doctor's care and getting hormone therapy.

The teen says he experiences distress when forced to use the female restroom. The judge found the claims credible.

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Parisian Proposal Puts Couple on Path Toward Intimate Wedding

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

When Josh Winowiecki and Andrew Morton planned a trip to Paris, they planned it with their mothers in mind.

"We took our moms with us because they both turned 60 this year," said Winowiecki.

The trip, which took place in May, was different from the start.

"We sort of joked a lot about doing the trip with our mothers," Morton said. "So we had been joking a lot not to expect a proposal. I certainly convinced myself of that as well. We had talked about getting married and I think we both knew it was inevitable at some point fairly soon."

But on May 12, at the Musée de l'Orangerie in Paris, Winowiecki popped the question.

"I think it was a lovely way to do it," said Morton. "It's a great memory. And it was nice to have my mom there as well."

Now, back in their downtown Detroit home, the couple is busy planning a wedding. They've set the date for May 31, 2019.

"We're just now delving into this crazy wedding planning business," Winowiecki said. "We talk about this a lot but it's very exciting where marriage equality has gone and the opportunity that exists. When I came out in 1996, for years I thought I'd never be able to be married."

"But it's also terrifying because there's not a lot of tradition to fall back on,"

"We're just now delving into this crazy wedding planning business," Winowiecki said. "We talk about this a lot but it's very exciting where marriage equality has gone and the opportunity that exists."

- Josh Winowiecki

Winowiecki continued. "So it's been exciting to determine what we wanted our wedding to look like but there's no frame work to follow. We're looking at a small ceremony, just immediate family. Then for the reception maybe about 100 people."

Flashback Three Years

"We met on OK Cupid," said Winowiecki. "We went out for coffee and then fairly quickly after that we started seeing each other. We moved into together about a year after that."

"I had been in a relationship that ended

not so well and I remember talking to a friend of mine, bemoaning my relationship and her advice was, 'You just need to go on another date,' Morton recalled. "So I went on a handful of dates over a few months. But when I met Josh I definitely felt it was something different, it was very easy. There was plenty to talk about. Something I admired about Josh and found attractive is the way he would talk about his work. He's a nurse and he would talk about it with such passion."

Winowiecki, too, knew things were getting seriously quickly.

"I think when I met Andrew I knew that something was different, for sure, with our connection," he said. "As the next two years went along not only our kind of view on the world and important issues lined up very well. But we didn't agree on everything, which I kind of appreciate. I appreciate the back and forth that we have and that we can intellectually discuss important issues and not always agree. Andrew helps me see things from a perspective I might not see normally."

When not comparing world views, Morton and Winowiecki can often be found traveling.

"We travel a lot," Winowiecki said. "We haven't given our honeymoon a whole lot of thought. Andrew is British, so there are family and friends who will not be able to come over for the wedding. So we're planning on having a second celebration in the UK for our friends and family there."



Andrew Morton and Josh Winowiecki in Paris.

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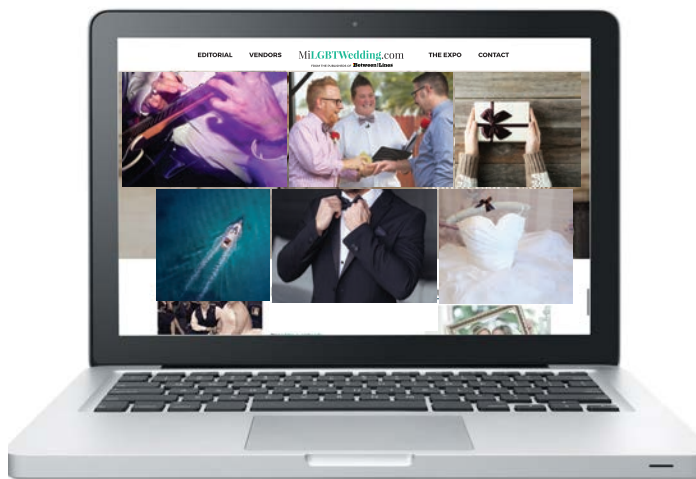
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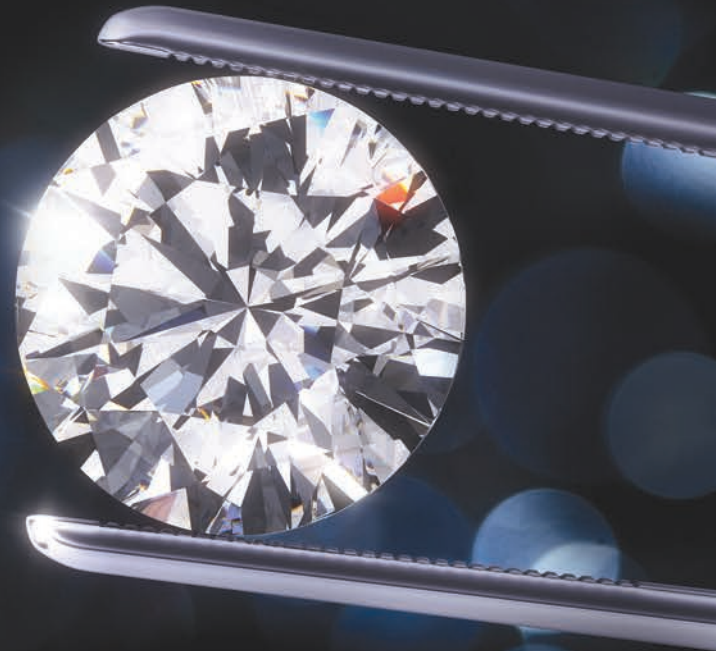
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SEMHAC Hosts Project L.E.A.P. to Increase Awareness On HIV Funding

BY BTL STAFF

The Southeastern Michigan HIV/AIDS Council is an organization dedicated to bringing community awareness to fighting HIV and AIDS, and this year they plan to go a step further and teach people how to advocate for people living with HIV through Project L.E.A.P.

“Sharpen your knowledge with a unique opportunity offered in Detroit,” wrote event organizers. “Beginning this year, SEMHAC sponsors Project L.E.A.P. (Learning, Empowerment, Advocacy, Participation), the most comprehensive advocacy training program in the nation for people living with HIV. Training hosted by SEMHAC.”

The six week-long program will provide participants with information about who needs HIV-related services, the specific needs of the HIV community in Detroit, how HIV organizations receive funding, who makes decisions regarding funding, where HIV funding originates, how government decisions affect the community and how participants can impact these decisions. The program will begin meeting from Oct. 18 through Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To participate, interested people must fill out an online application that can be found online at semhac.org/leap, or by having the application mailed by calling 313-638-2891 or by emailing ugoodwin@semhac.org.

More information about SEMHAC and Project L.E.A.P. can be found online at semhac.org and semhac.org/leap. Any questions about the class should be directed to ugoodwin@semhac.org or by calling the SEMHAC office of support at 313-638-2891.

Remembering Beth Brant



BY JULIE R. ENSZER AND TIM RETZLOFF

When writer Beth Brant died on Aug. 6, 2015, she left behind a loving family and a vibrant literary legacy documenting her life as a Native American lesbian. A mother, grandmother and longtime Melvindale resident, Brant is remembered as a pathbreaking lesbian author, poet, essayist, editor, lecturer and literary activist.

Due to the lack of availability of her books, however, Brant’s legacy has risked being forgotten. Many of her works have fallen out of print. A new copy of one title is currently offered on Amazon for nearly \$1,500. For someone whose public life centered on words, finding new generations of readers is key to being remembered.

Thanks to the Sapphic Classics series published by the journal *Sinister Wisdom*, Brant will soon find new readers and become available to familiar readers as well. Three years after Brant’s passing, *Sinister Wisdom* plans to issue a collection of Brant’s work, edited by Janice Gould and with a preface by Deborah Miranda, to be published in 2019.

Born May 6, 1941, Brant was a Bay of Quinte Mohawk from Deseronto, Ontario and Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. Her father moved from the reservation to Detroit just prior to World War II to find work in an auto factory. He was perhaps the earliest Native American member of the UAW.

Brant found herself attracted to female friends as a teenager in the 1950s.

“I didn’t know what it was, really,” she explained in a 1992 oral history interview with Roey Thorpe. “I just had nothing to call it, except queer.”

At the time she associated the term queer mostly with men.

At the age of 17, Brant got heterosexually married because she was pregnant and dropped out of high school. After having three daughters, she divorced her husband and supported the family with a variety of jobs including salesclerk, waitress, sweeper, cleaning woman, Title IV coordinator and working a soda fountain.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Brant discovered the emerging women’s movement in Metro Detroit. She experienced NOW, the National

Organization for Women, to be predominantly white, middle-class and “lesbian-hating.”

Then she began attending the Women’s Liberation Coalition, authors of the Fourth World Manifesto, and felt welcome. The group was diverse and strongly feminist and she embraced her sexuality as a crucial part of her being.

“I’ve never been closeted,” she told Roey Thorpe. “I feel that it would be a betrayal of who I am, of women that came before me.”

She also recognized the transformative impact of the Red Power Movement, which politicized Native Americans in the early 1970s, though she found it was dominated by men and reflected a considerable amount of homophobia.

In 1977, Brant met Denise Dorsz, co-founder of a short-lived feminist performance venue called *Poor Women’s Paradise*. Dorsz moved in with her and the two were partners for over 20 years.

Brant began writing at the age of 40 following a deeply profound encounter with a bald eagle while on a motor trip through the Mohawk Valley in upstate New York. She recounted the moment in a 1996 interview she did with Ann Perrault and Jackie Victor for *Between The Lines*.

“A bald eagle passed in front of our car and landed in the white pine in front of us. I got out of the car and looked at the eagle and he looked at me,” she said.

For an unknown amount of time as she looked at the bird, Brant was transfixed and transported to another place.

“I thought about that a lot and keep wondering about that eagle because I had never seen a bald eagle before and especially that circumstance of being so close together. I felt the eagle brought me the gift of writing,” Brant said. “When I got home I just started writing and have kept writing ever since.”

Not long after, Brant’s friends Adrienne Rich and Michelle Cliff, then editors of *Sinister Wisdom*, invited Brant to editing a special issue. The result was *Sinister Wisdom* no. 22/23. It was published in 1983 and entitled “A Gathering of Spirit.” Recognized as a groundbreaking collection of writing and art by Native women, the issue soon sold out. Firebrand Books and Women’s Press of Canada later published *A Gathering of Spirit* as a

stand-alone anthology.

A decade after its initial publication Brant described the issue in her 1994 collection *Writing as Witness* as an “earthquake.” She noted, “When Natives have the opportunities to do our own editing and writing, a remarkable thing can happen. This thing is called telling the truth for ourselves — a novel idea to be sure.”

In the mid-1980s, Brant began to see her writings published in books of her own. In 1985, Firebrand Books published Brant’s collection of poetry and prose *Mohawk Trail*. It was one of the earliest books from the iconic feminist publisher. In 1991, Firebrand published *Food & Spirits*, a collection of short fiction simultaneously released with Press Gang publishers in Canada.

In May 1993, Brant spent six months as the Writer-In-Residence at Ka:nhiothe Library at Tyendinaga in southern Ontario, where she interviewed Tyendinaga tribal elders. These oral histories were gathered in *I’ll Sing ‘til the Day I Die* published by McGilligan Books in 1995.

Brant’s writings also appeared in numerous Native and feminist journals and anthologies in Canada and the U.S. She wrote about family, class, the struggle to love another and the struggle to survive. Her other recurring themes included recovering from racism, recovering from colonialism and recovering from addiction.

“Beth Brant’s legacy continues to make an impression on younger writers today and will surely be held tightly by writers in the generations to come,” poet and literary activist Christopher Soto said of Brant. “For the native, queer, feminist, literary world: Beth is a home, reminding us that we are not alone in our movements towards liberation. We are thankful for her writing and mentorship and activism, the nuance that she brings to our lives.”

In addition to writing, Brant performed her poetry at the Detroit Women’s Coffeehouse and traveled around the U.S. and Canada speaking and reading from her work and talking about lesbian, feminist and indigenous writing. She critiqued attempts of the women’s movement to appropriate symbols and histories from other cultures, noting “one can only come from one’s own culture and class.”

Racism, sexism, classism and homophobia were regular subjects.

Brant was two-time recipient of the Michigan Council for the Arts Creative Artist award. She received an Ontario Arts Council award, a Canada Council grant and a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship. She also taught at the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto.

Brant was survived by three daughters, including Jennifer Kierszkowski (Leonard) and Jill Walden, five grandchildren including Nathanael German (Kelly), Benjamin Walden, Alexander Walden, and Olivia Walden, and two great grandchildren, Hazel German and Luke Walden.

Check out the Queer Remembering blog online at queer-remembering.blog for more queer history/herstory through obits. This is a companion blog to Michigan LGBTQ Remember, a website at michiganlgbtqremember.com dedicated to documenting the diverse lives of LGBTQ Michiganders and their allies who are no longer with us.








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When Not Fashioning Crop Tops for Gay Guys, the Actor Is the Spy You Wouldn't Mind Being Dumped By

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

No straight man has ever offered to make me a crop top, but Justin Theroux is no ordinary straight man. If you've seen him in all his shirtless, ripped, oiled glory in 2003's "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" or bore witness to all that was bouncing around in his grey sweatpants in HBO's "The Leftovers" (I know you saw that; you haven't *stopped* seeing that), you have likely wished him gay.

The 46-year-old actor is, at least, the closest a straight man can get to being gay, palling around with the new "Queer Eye" posse and portraying a deep well of gay characters

during his two-decade career, from Marshall in 2000's "The Broken Hearts Club" to an assortment of gay Englishmen in numerous New York theater productions. Significant gay cred aside, his acting instincts have resulted in an impressive mix of unpredictable career choices rooted in pathos and humor, David Lynchian mystery and Herculean ruggedness: from 1997's "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion" on through "Mulholland Drive," "Strangers with Candy," "Sex and the City," "Zoolander" and, most recently, "The Spy Who Dumped Me." Directed by Susanna Fogel, the action-comedy caper stars Theroux as Drew, an on-the-run spy who inadvertently gets his

ex (Mila Kunis) and her best gal pal (Kate McKinnon) embroiled in his messy assassin-fighting mission.

Things are tamer in a hotel suite in New York City on the day Theroux sits across from me with his rescue pit bull Kuma. Theroux – imagine if he dumped you; what an honor – is not wearing sweatpants. But my mock disappointment isn't sweatpants-related; it's knowing that he made "Queer Eye" guy Jonathan Van Ness a crop top but didn't bring me one. And do I let Justin Theroux wreck the shirt on my back? I do, right? "I would so do it," he politely insists. "If you have a t-shirt and a pair of scissors, I'm happy to quickly

fashion you one."

Let's talk about how you invented sweatpants.

(Laughs) I invented the grey sweatpants! I brought them back, I know! You know, I was the one who made a shirt for Jonathan. We were going to gay Pride and he was like, "Fuck, I gotta go out," and so I made him a shirt. I was like, "I wanna make one of those crop top t-shirts with the tassels," and he ended up wearing that.

Do you regularly make crop tops for your gay friends?

No, that was the first one I've done. It was just

like, "It's a perfect moment in time. I'm with Jonathan and I have a t-shirt and we have scissors and I think I could pull it off."

We've become a good little clutch. Tan, Antoni and Jonathan have come over a bunch of times and we've gone back and forth, and I've disappeared into the bathroom with Jonathan and we've talked products.

Can a straight guy have a queer eye?

Keeping my fingers crossed. Season 3! Maybe we should do a whole thing where it's like, "Straight Eye for the Gay Guy." Find some gay guy who's not got his shit together and I can go and help him out. I don't know if I'd be that helpful.

I must say, you've got your shit together.

I put a little effort in sometimes. ("Queer Eye" guy) Tan's trying to get me to wear some color. I'm pretty much blacks and greys. White is technically a color for me.

We need to get you in floral.

I don't think it's gonna happen! I just can't pull it off. I keep looking for a Hawaiian shirt that's 95 percent black with just a little pop of color in the flowers.

Recently, Jonathan was obsessing over your shirtlessness in "Charlie's Angels." Is that the role most gay men fangirl over when they meet you?

I mean, the first one was actually "The Broken Hearts Club," which was a movie I did years and years ago. I remember being at gay Pride and people being like, "Oh my god, this is the guy from 'Broken Hearts Club!'" (Playing gay) was kind of my bread and butter in New York on stage. I would do Joe Orton plays, or "Shopping and Fucking." I'd do all these gay Englishmen. That was my thing, that was my calling card.

Why go for the gay roles?

It was something that just happened. It wasn't like I was seeking them out. It was just something that presented itself. At the time, there was that kind of question when you'd go into the audition: "Are you comfortable kissing a guy?" "Yeah, of course."

In 2000, some actors were being told not to play gay characters for the sake of preserving their careers. Was there any pressure on you not to play that role?

No. My agent at the time was gay, so it was never a discussion. It always boils down to, is the part good or is the play good? If the material is good, I'm happy to do it. If it's bad, then I don't wanna do it. But I wouldn't want to do it for a straight part either.

Did it feel like an important movie at the time for the LGBTQ community?

It didn't, because it's not necessarily my community. But it was one of those I was happy (about). It was the first (LGBTQ) movie that showed – at least that I had been a part

of, or had seen – just a normal relationship. No one's dying of a disease, no one's fighting with their parents. It felt like a great episode of "Thirtysomething" or a great episode of "This Is Us." (Its gay themes were) just built into the fabric of the movie, as opposed to *being* the fabric of the movie. There weren't big red arrows pointing at each character going, "Oh, and by the way, they're gay!" They were functioning, normal people in their lives, which is reality. In a weird way, it's normalcy was the thing that made it special and that felt like a good reason to do it.

Growing up in Washington D.C., what was your introduction to the LGBTQ community?

God, you could argue it was probably Catholic school and noticing the priests. Not their behavior; I didn't think anything nefarious was going on. I don't think they were doing anything horrible to the boys of the school, but I remember thinking, "These men seem effeminate and they carry themselves in a different way, and I think these guys like other men, like other gay men I've seen."

They didn't fit the typical heteronormative archetype.

Yeah, exactly. And it was an odd kind of thing, where I thought, "Oh." I've since come to think maybe the priesthood is like an enclave for people who aren't comfortable with their sexuality and they wanna shut it down and they think, "Please make it go away. I'm just gonna go to this place and go to seminary school and hope that this feeling leaves me," which is a shame.

You strike me as the kind of guy who's surrounded by gay men for various reasons.

Yeah, of course. I went to a very progressive high school that had gay boys in it. In college, it becomes quickly normalized. But you can't live in New York and not be friends with every kind of person, whether they're gay, trans, straight, whatever. When this sort of cultural shift started to happen, started to spread into the middle of the country in a way that became in the public consciousness...

You were ahead of the game?

Well, I think most people in the city or in pockets of the country were kind of ahead of the game. It felt like, "Wait, this conversation is still happening? Oh yeah, I guess it still is. I guess we *do* need to keep having this discussion." (I) marvel at people who are still made uncomfortable by it. Like, how on earth? It's like being made uncomfortable by a sofa; you're like, "It's a sofa." It couldn't be more normal.

You should know that you've been called a "gay men's dream" by the National Enquirer, probably their most accurate reporting.

Cut to 10 years later: Ew, who's that old guy? (Laughs)

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See Justin, continued on p. 28

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Wharton Center's 'School of Rock — The Musical' Tickets Now Available

BY BTL STAFF

Based on the 2003 hit film of the same name, "School of Rock — The Musical" will make its way to the Wharton Center for Performing Arts' stage this September. Guests interested in the rock comedy can now purchase tickets which start at \$35.

"School of Rock — The Musical" opened on Broadway to rave reviews on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015. This Ben Brantley New York Times 'Critics' Pick' is an inspiring jolt of energy and mad skillz," said Jesse Oxfeld of

Entertainment Weekly, who gave the show four stars.

The show follows the story of Dewey Finn, a failed rock star who decides to get some extra money by pretending to be a substitute teacher. His first gig is at a prestigious prep school where he turns his class into a bonafide band.

More information about ticketing for the performance can be found at whartoncenter.com, or by calling 517-432-2000. The performance will be held at the Cobb Great Hall.

MDC 2018 Home Tour Tix

BY BTL STAFF

Tickets are now on sale for MDC's third-annual home tour called Smart Solutions. It will be held on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will allow participants to guide themselves through a variety of homes around Southeast Michigan.

"The self-guided tour includes stunning homes designed by Diane Hancock, Ann-Marie Anton, Rita O'Brien and Carrie Long, all of whom will be on the premises to answer questions," write event organizers. "Residences are in the Birmingham, Bloomfield and Franklin areas and include architectural styles ranging from Cape Cod to contemporary. Ticket holders may visit the homes in the order of their choice."

Tickets are \$35 each, or a pair for \$60. All proceeds benefit the Junior League of Birmingham, which partners with organizations to train women to act as catalysts for lasting community change.

Tickets may be purchased online only through Sept. 17 at michigandesign.com. Ticket buyers will be mailed a brochure and blue wristband, which will serve as a ticket. Organizers suggest to remember to wear wristbands on the day of the tour and to buy tickets early as the last two years have sold out.

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Ark Hosts Community Sing Featuring Matt Watroba

Ann Arbor's venue The Ark has hosted everyone in Americana from Mary Chapin Carpenter to The Avett Brothers and even The Carolina Chocolate Drops — and that's barely scratching the surface. Now, scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 16, is a chance for the community members who enjoy The Ark's sound to contribute their own voices for the 3rd Annual Ark Community Sing.

"The Ark is widely known to have one of the best singing audiences in the country. For the third year running, we celebrate that with a full night devoted to songs that everyone can sing," write event organizers. "Michigan's own Matt Watroba has devoted the last few years of his musical work to spreading community singing throughout the country. Matt will transform the audience in to a spontaneous choir."

Matt Watroba is a Detroit-born, Plymouth-raised musician, teacher and radio host, and he will be hosting this year's event. He said he's excited to see everyone join in, regardless of existing singing experience.

"Community singing is not performing," Watroba said. "It exists so that all willing singers, at all levels of skill, can experience the power of song and musical participation. Performing choruses and musical groups often spring out of the community singing experience, but that is not the purpose — it's just a welcomed consequence!"

The community sing event will start at 8 p.m., doors open at 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 for the general public and \$5 for Ark members. More information both about the event and The Ark can be found online at theark.org.

Zingerman's Delicatessen Hosts Summer Pantry Essentials Event

As summer winds down and the height of the harvest and market seasons pick up into full swing, Zingerman's Delicatessen is hosting an event on Wednesday, Aug. 22, to prepare its customers for any culinary requirement in the coming months.

"Do you wish you could be prepared to handle surprise drop-in guests at any time or want some new flavor combinations to experiment with? If you want your foods to have more zing or wonder what you should have in your pantry to add great taste to any dish you make, then this is the tasting for you!" write event organizers.

The event will be hosted by Zingerman's Managing Partner and professional chef Grace Singleton.

"We'll be in the height of the market season for Michigan foods and I'll show you several different simple recipes using local ingredients and my favorite foods to have around 'just in case' some friends stop by," she said. "We'll taste seasonal dishes that highlight the favorite foods I always keep on hand in my pantry to pair with summer foods."

The event is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and costs \$35 for all attendees. To reserve a spot visit gaybe.am/mO online. All tastings include a 20 percent off coupon to shop at Zingerman's Deli to purchase either items included in the tasting or things to take home and experiment. Zingerman's Deli is located at 422 Detroit St., Ann Arbor.



Tuesday, 8/14, 8 pm

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▶ Justin

Continued from p. 23

No way. Our gay icons never age.

Oh yeah, that's right!

So this movie: Was the title "The Spy Who Dumped On Me" ever considered?

(Laughs) It's the James Bond they never made! Idris Elba, Daniel Craig, why wouldn't you do that movie?

Susanna's friends call her the "lesbian whisperer." And, of course, Kate McKinnon is queer and one of two leading ladies in this film.

It's so cool.

Did you get a lesbian read on Kate McKinnon's character, Morgan, in the movie?

Yeah. But what I liked about her character: again, it wasn't the focal (point). It's kind of ambiguous. What she brought to the part was super hilarious. She works really hard on specific jokes, beats, alternate lines, trying to come up with other stuff that isn't necessarily on the page or in the direction. Kate really goes in and scribbles on the sides (of her script) and it looks like "A Beautiful Mind" on her script. She approaches her work (in) really sort of (an) academic way.



You're long overdue for a gay role.

What's the last one I've done? Maybe (my character) Kevin Garvey from "The Leftovers" is, who knows. Don't tell anybody. No, I'm joking. (Laughs) You could argue he was really put-upon and maybe that was the reason why, 'cause he was in a hetero marriage.

Theroux's handler peeks in to say, "One last

question." "Two more," Theroux whispers, giving me two fingers.

What would you look for in a gay role now?

I don't know. It's really always the story. I want the story to be good and compelling. I want the character to be good and compelling, and that could be anything. A la "Broken Hearts Club," you do sort of hope that eventually these all become just the background to the

characters, because it's way more interesting just playing the relationship and playing the story than it is playing the orientation.

If you were to date any of the guys you have played in your career, which ones might you go for? Personally, I'd shack up with Joe from "Six Feet Under."

Joe in "Six Feet Under" was a sweetheart. But if I dated Joe, he was straight, and so I think that would be problematic.

He's only straight till he drinks four beers.

Until he drinks four beers, then all bets are off! The bondage gear comes out. Like, we all know Joe liked being tied to the bed. (Laughs) I don't know if there's anyone I'd really wanna date. And it's weird to think about dating yourself. Just visually awkward.

Actually, Matt McGrath's "Broken Hearts" character was an adorable character. But I don't know, I played some pretty fucked up guys, so they all seem like they're not great relationship material.

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



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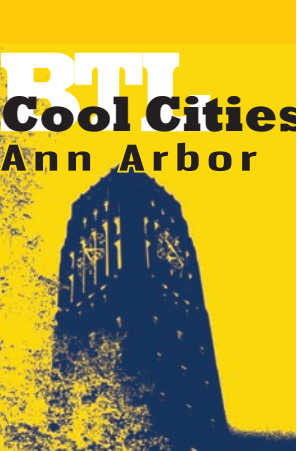
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Punch Brothers Come to Royal Oak Music Theatre

On Friday, Aug. 10, fans can come to the Royal Oak Music Theatre to see acoustic quintet the Punch Brothers in concert. The group has been nationally celebrated for their experimental and enthusiastic sound that has largely changed the face of what is expected in standard Americana, hailed by such publications as The Washington Post. Tickets start at \$33. More information can be found online at royaloakmusictheatre.com.

Happenings

OUTINGS

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. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646 info@detroitlgbtchamber.com <http://www.ferndalesoho.com> <http://www.detroitlgbtchamber.com>

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>

Toastmasters International Speakout! LGBTQ Meeting 7 p.m. Professional & personal communication skills development. With better communications skills, you'll better your leadership style as well as your relationships. Warm & welcoming members. Find out what Toastmasters can do for you. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867 lawrencemoeb@gmail.com

<http://speakout.toastmastersclubs.org/>

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>

Sunday, August 12

Stand With Trans Family Picnic 1 p.m. Come join the Stand with Trans community at their family picnic. Attendees can bring a side dish to share. Stand with Trans will

be providing hot dogs and complimentary desserts of Achatz Handmade Pie Co. Memorial Park, 31050 Woodward, Royal Oak.

RuPaul's Drag Race – Werq the World 9 p.m. The Official RuPaul's Drag Race World Tour returns with an all new show for 2018! Hosted by celebrity judge Michelle Visage with sickening performances by your favorite drag superstars! Motor City Casino Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 313-309-4700 www.motorcitycasino.com/soundboard.aspx <https://www1.ticketmaster.com/ruPauls-drag-race-werq-world-tour-detroit-michigan-09-12-2018/event/0800546DA5CC433E>

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. We meet the 2nd Monday of each month. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700 <http://www.chippewavalley.schools.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, ksessle@yahoo.com or 734-673-3590 and Scott Sessler, pastorsscott@emmanuel-livonia.org or 734-673-2485 Trans Youth Support Group (12+). Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. <http://www.standwithtrans.org>

Sunday, 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 [Greaterlansingpflag.com](http://www.greaterlansingpflag.com) [saluscenter.org](http://www.saluscenter.org)

Wednesday, August 22

SAGE Metro Detroit and Affirmations Host Dual Fundraiser 6 p.m. Affirmations LGBTQ Community Center will host a dual fundraiser for itself and SAGE Metro Detroit-an advocacy organization for LGBT Elders. Refreshments will be provided, including beer and wine. All proceeds support both organizations. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 <http://www.goaffirmations.org>

Saturday, August 25

Golden Girls Trivia Night at Affirmations! 3 p.m. Test your knowledge on the hilarious hit show, win fun prizes and support your LGBTQ Community Center. Teams should consist of 2 to 5 people. Contact Kyle Taylor at Affirmations for more information. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 <http://www.goaffirmations.org/programs-services/community-events-activities>

Tuesday, August 28

Strand with Trans Support Groups – Ann Arbor – Washtenaw 6:30 p.m. Trans Support Group meeting the 4th Tuesday of each month @ Journey of Faith Christian Church. Parent Support Group Facilitator – Yma Johnson, ymaj1968@gmail.com or 734-780-4092. Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. <http://www.standwithtrans.org>

MUSIC & MORE

Royal Oak Summer Concerts 2018 August 9, 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>

7th Annual Detroit Fine Art Fair

August 11, 11 a.m. The 7th Annual Fine Art Fair returns to a new location, Detroit's Old Miami on Cass Avenue in Midtown. Featuring 20 of Detroit's best artists showcasing sculpture, photography, fine art, metals, wood, textiles, ceramics and Old Miami, 3930 Cass Ave., Detroit. 313-831-3830 www.oldmiami.com <http://www.detroitfaf.com>

Saline Antiques Market August 12, 9 a.m. Since the Saline Antiques & Vintage Market debuted a few years ago, it has been our goal to offer a quality monthly market for your buying enjoyment. Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor. 734-761-2796 salinemarket@gmail.com <http://www.foodgatherers.org> <http://www.salineantiquesmarket.com/>

Emily Rose Album Release Concert August 18, 8 p.m. Award-winning singer-songwriter Emily Rose will mark the release of her third full-length studio album with a concert. Opening the show is Scott Fab and Carmel Liburdi. The Ant Hall, 2320 Caniff St., Hamtramck. 313-365-4848 www.planetant.com <https://www.facebook.com/events/193887094614221/>

World Humanitarian Day Networking and Fundraiser Event August 19, 4:30 p.m. World Humanitarian Day recognizes and honors the incredible work and sacrifices of humanitarian aid workers worldwide. Our event will also be a great time to network with other global thinkers. Join us! \$10 suggested donation. Bobcat Bonnie's, 1800 Michigan Ave, Detroit. 313-962-1383 Info@unadetroit.org www.unadetroit.org <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/networking-and-fundraiser-on-world-humanitarian-day-in-detroit-tickets-47965512138>

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>

Satori Circus presents "The Choir" August 25, 8 p.m. SATORI CIRCUS will present almost 30 years of original music with a new twist-by performing them with a choir! SATORI CIRCUS, accompanied by a slew of Detroit and Port Huron friends, will reinterpret original tunes for you. st. albertus, 4231 St. Aubin, Detroit. 313-831-9727 www.stalbertus.org <https://www.facebook.com/events/418413538678610/>

THEATER

Michigan Shakespeare Festival Presents The Rover August 4, 2 p.m. Three Englishmen-a soldier, a gentleman, and a stoic-are banished from Cromwell's England and head to Naples to experience Carnevale and find adventure. The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. 734-394-5300 ext 3. gm@michiganshakespearefestival.com <http://www.cantonvillagetheater.org/439/Performances-by-Month> <http://www.cantonvillagetheater.org>

Michigan Shakespeare Festival Presents Measure for Measure August 4, 7:30 p.m. One of Shakespeare's most problematic comedies, Measure for Measure rings true with legal, social, and political issues we are still battling today, all tempered with a darkly-comic wit. Check website for more details. The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. 734-394-5300 ext 3. gm@michiganshakespearefestival.com <http://www.cantonvillagetheater.org/439/Performances-by-Month> <http://www.cantonvillagetheater.org>

Editor's Pick

Michigan Comic Con Hits Detroit

Fans of pop culture can rejoice as Michigan Comic Con comes to Detroit's Cobo Hall. This year the event will be held Aug. 17 through 19 and will feature such names as John Rhys-Davis, Ray Park, Nichelle Nichols, Billy West and many more. For more information and photo-op pricing, visit michigancomiccon.com.



Editor's Pick

Eastern Market Hosts Detroit Sushi Festival

Fans of perhaps Japan's most famous culinary creation can now pre-register to take part in the Detroit Sushi Festival. This 21+ event features access to local sushi vendors, live entertainment, access to giveaways and souvenir chopsticks, not to mention tastings of a variety of sushi creations. Tickets start at \$40, but VIP passes are also available. More information can be found online at eventbrite.com.



www.cantonvillageattheater.org

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 insidetheslipstream@gmail.com http://gaybe.am/2o

Shakespeare Royal Oak Present "Much Ado About Nothing" August 4, 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 Housemanager@waterworkstheatre.com http://shakespeareroyaloak.com/category/shows/

Michigan Shakespeare Festival presents The Tempest August 5, 3 p.m. Shakespeare's final masterpiece, The Tempest is a stirring fairy tale of depraved royalty, foolish clowns, languishing lovers, and the quest to make things right in the face of terrible wrongs. The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. 734-394-5300 ext 3. gm@michiganshakespearefestival.com gm@michiganshakespearefestival.com http://www.cantonvillageattheater.org/439/Performances-by-Month http://www.cantonvillageattheater.org/439/Performances-by-Month

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. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 313-237-SING https://www.broadwayindetroit.com/shows/wicked

Spinning Dot Theatre presents "The Mountain" August 16-26, 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 jkoppera@spinningdot.org http://www.spinningdot.org

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August 19, 2018

Sisters

In the name of Love



STARRING

Sisters in the Name of Love to be Staged at Gigi's

Roles of Gladys, Patti, Dionne Revived

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

It's been 32 years since HBO first aired the iconic *Sisters in the Name of Love* concert. The television special starred Gladys Knight, Patti LaBelle and Dionne Warwick and was both a critical and rating success. Now, local event producer El Ross is putting on the special in Gigi's Cabaret Room with local drag legends. DeAngela "Show" Shannon will play Gladys, Diva will play Patti LaBelle and Fantaysa will play Dionne Warwick.

"I grew up watching the concert over and over," said Ross. "My mom and brother always had it playing in the house. I was at work one day listening to it and I thought this would be great idea to bring back to the stage. Although it has been done before it hasn't been seen in some time and I just thought it was time to bring back a great classic."

All three stars of the show have experience playing their roles.

"Dionne has always been a part of my career," said Fantaysa, who first started performing in the 1970s. "When I first started doing this type of entertainment you really had to do a character to fit into a cast. And the individual who booked the shows, she looked at me and said 'Dionne Warwick.' And it pretty much stuck with me. I was taught to emulate her."

Ross said that casting Fantaysa was

the only possible choice.

"No one else could embody Dionne like Fantaysa," he said. "I couldn't see this production without her."

And most Detroiters know that the city's premier Patti LaBelle impersonator is the legendary April Summers.

"I first reached out to April Summers and after talking with her she gave me the blessing to ask Diva to play the role," said Ross. "Next to April nobody, in my opinion, comes close to doing Patti like Diva. And DeAngela was chosen to play Gladys because I felt that she could do the part justice. I have seen her do Gladys as a character on two occasions and it was epic to watch."

Diva to Make Return Appearance in Detroit

While DeAngela and Fantaysa live in the city, Diva relocated to Jacksonville, Florida, seven years ago. There, she recently bought a new home and continues to perform regularly when she's not working her day job as a senior makeup artist for MAC Cosmetics.

"I was assistant manager for a year when I first came down here but I started doing drag so had to let that go," she said. "When I moved down here I thought I was going to retire. But that wasn't the case, obviously."

Diva said she performs on average five times a week.

"I love performing in Florida because they have a different respect for drag," said Diva. "In the south. Period. They have

more respect for female impersonation because down here pageantry is very prevalent."

Diva, who once told *Between The Lines* she had retired from drag at age 30, shows no signs of slowing down now that she's in her 40s.

"The love of the art form keeps me going," she said. "And now that I'm in a new spot it's like all is new again. So moving down here revived me a little bit to keep it going. They love me down here and I love it."


Despite that fact that Diva is in Florida, the ladies, said Ross, are having no trouble preparing for the show.

"They are in constant contact with one another and myself," he said "All the ladies are professional and legends and all you have to do is give them their parts and directions and let them go from there. I'm learning so much from them. They all have seen the original concert and are bringing their own flavor to their parts."

Ross said the choosing the venue for the show was a no-brainer.


"I choose to have the show at Gigi's because Gigi's is legendary in our community," he said. "It has stood the test of times for over 40 years and to bring this type of show and production it could only be at Gigi's."

The one and only performance of Sisters in the Name of Love will take place Sunday, Aug. 19. Gigi's is located at 16920 Warren Ave. in Detroit. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the door.



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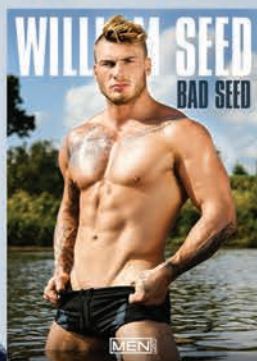


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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

'Moonlight' writer McCraney 'Makes Man' for OWN

"David Makes Man" is the name of a series from OWN, currently in production, a coming-of-age drama from Academy Award-winning "Moonlight" writer Tarell Alvin McCraney. This will be his scripted television debut and there's an impressive cast led by Phylicia Rashad and young actor Akili McDowell. Set in South Florida and inspired by McCraney's own life, "Man" will revolve around teenage David (McDowell), living in poverty with a single mother, finding his way toward adulthood, attending a magnet school for academically gifted students, and trying to survive. Rashad will play a teacher who takes an interest in David and becomes his advocate. No word on whether or not this young man will be a queer character, but a supporting role will involve a gender non-binary neighbor who helps David's mother watch and raise him. Keep this one in mind for its eventual 2019 bow.



Indya Moore. Photo: FX

from New York, whose short films have picked up numerous awards and whose self-published comic book series, "Rigamo," is about a young black female superhero whose tears bring people back to life. But that's not why she's news right now. She is also the driving force behind a new, currently untitled, anthology series, the pilot for which, called "Magic Hour" will star "Pose"'s Indya Moore as a Frankenstein-like

creature in search of her humanity and possibly love. Now, usually, pilots are only memorable when they become actual shows. But this one feels special, mostly because Moore's star is currently on the rise. The "Vogue" model-turned-actress is one of the breakout stars of the series (recently renewed for a second season - watch it now, it's great, seriously), and her acting talent has made for some of that show's most moving, resonant moments. She'll serve as a producer on "Magic Hour," as well, so we hope that whatever clout she's currently earning will get this fresh idea of a series looked at and placed. We are rooting for more queer TV, and we'd be thrilled if Moore were on our screens regularly.

One to Watch: Nicole Maines

Laverne Cox kicked open the door, "Pose" sashayed through it, "Sense 8" made it so cool it got itself cancelled, and now Nicole Maines is going to be a superhero. Forgive that one-sentence-long, woefully incomplete primer on the current state of transgender actors and stories on TV, but it's important to remember that we are currently in a pop culture revolution of sorts and it's very exciting to see it unfold on our screens. Next in line? "Supergirl," the little superhero show that keeps on kicking. We already reported that the series planned to add a transgender character, and now that incoming additional superhero, Nia Nal/Dream Girl, has an actress to play the role. Nicole Maines, the focus of a groundbreaking lawsuit when she was in school (surprise, they didn't want her using the bathroom, so she sued and won) and the subject of the book "Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family," has been cast in the part. She's still new on the acting scene - she's played a trans teen in one episode of Royal Pains - so we can't really tell you much about her, but we're going to assume she's here to stay. Next stop: find a trans man to fill that ScarJo role.

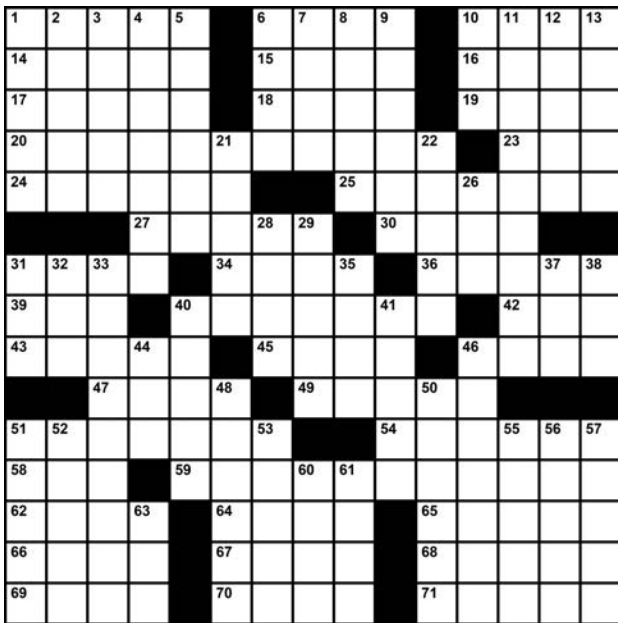
A salute to Utah's 'Quiet Heroes'

If you lived through the 1980s, you probably remember it as a time of fear and struggle for the LGBT community. Ronald Reagan was the President, and his administration ignored the AIDS crisis as most of an entire generation of gay men lost their lives. To live in the country's biggest cities with HIV/AIDS was bad enough, but at least in those places there was a queer community and medical help. Meanwhile, in the rest of the country, the fear of AIDS and the failure of many members of the medical field to even work with AIDS patients meant that people like Salt Lake City's Dr. Kristen Ries became experts in the field of care. Ries and assistant Maggie Snyder made house calls, provided education, and helped patients in the extremely conservative and religious area when others shunned them. Earlier this year, at the Sundance Film Festival, a documentary about Ries, "Quiet Heroes," from directors Jenny Mackenzie and Jared Ruga, debuted to standing ovations. Now that film about one woman's fight against ignorance, bigotry and time will debut Aug. 23 on Logo. If you weren't there, you owe it to your sense of history to watch it.

'Pose' star Indya Moore will serve Frankenstein realness

Che Grayson is a young black filmmaker

Romeo San Vicente can, from memory, and for the sake of journalism, rank all Comic-Con cosplaying Wolverines in order of animal attraction.



Of Paramount Importance QPuzzle

Across

- 1 "The Queen of Mean" Helmsley
 6 They aren't straight
 10 In the sack
 14 Come to mind
 15 Penetrate the cracks
 16 Jethrene Bodine portrayer Max
 17 As a companion
 18 Enjoy a bear market
 19 French existentialist's word

- 20 1958 film of 33-Down
 23 Contraction in a gay apparel carol
 24 Brosnan TV role
 25 Brian Epstein managed them
 27 Fashionably nostalgic
 30 Cook in the microwave
 31 Brand name for a drag queen, perhaps
 34 Minor bones to pick
 36 Gets ready to shoot off
 39 Nutty-fruitcake filler

Down

- 1 Male deliveries?
 2 Ostentatious display
 3 Beginning of a carol about orgasm?
 4 Hamlet told Ophelia to go there
 5 Diamond design
 6 The A in GLARP (abbr.)
 7 Smell awful
 8 "Advocate" cover, often
 9 Baudelaire collection, "Paris ___"

- 40 Quinto, who is developing a biopic about 33-Down for Paramount
 42 Norma, in a Field film
 43 Persian Gulf port
 45 "___ Lady" (cross-dressers' show of old)
 46 Memory unit
 47 Rose fruit
 49 Sometime label of Dusty Springfield
 51 Evans of "Bewitched"
 54 Two threesomes in bed?
 58 The O of BYOB
 59 Partner of 33-Down
 62 Sib of David "Six Feet Under"
 64 "The Lion King" sound
 65 End of a farewell from Frida
 66 Just makes, with "out"
 67 "Tickle-me" doll
 68 It puts people out
 69 Maryland athlete
 70 Sound like Harvey Fierstein
 71 "Growing Up Gay in the South" author James

- 10 Vigoda of sitcoms
 11 1955 film of 33-Down
 12 Bone-chilling
 13 Drag queen's garment
 21 Prudential rival
 22 Smart-mouthed
 26 Boxing ref's end to a butt-whipping
 28 "If I Were a ___ Man"
 29 Colette's "The ___ One"
 31 Guy who cheats on his boyfriend, e.g.
 32 Big Columbus sch.
 33 Gay icon who died July 8, 2018
 35 Merit badge site for the "morally straight"
 37 "Cabaret"'s Kit-___ Klub
 38 "Got it?"
 40 "Button your lip!" or "Check your fly!"
 41 Erect
 44 Earhart milieu
 46 Windy-day toy
 48 Wicks making a basket, e.g.
 50 Case of the jitters
 51 Contemporary of Bonheur
 52 Back from dreamland
 53 ___ Gay
 55 Campbell of "Martin"
 56 Penetrate
 57 Peter the Great, and more
 60 Tasty tubers
 61 Broadway stage piece
 63 Sixth sense



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LGBT Certification Offers Businesses More Exposure

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

BY BTL STAFF

A little recognition can go a long way and open a lot of doors. And getting properly certified as an LGBT-owned business enterprise can have many benefits for business owners.

While it is not a new concept, it is one that continues to pick up momentum as LGBT business owners look for ways to increase exposure for their companies, connect with leading corporations as partners and suppliers, interact with other LGBT-owned businesses, and promote overall awareness of LGBT-owned enterprises.

David Coleman of Care One, Inc. said he became aware of the certification through the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce as he was researching hospital systems for new business opportunities. Headquartered in Ypsilanti, Care One, Inc. is a premier health care staffing provider, matching highly qualified nurses and other health care professionals with facilities in need of their time and talent. It was founded by President and CEO Steven Cook in 1993.

As Coleman reviewed supplier programs, the term “LGBT supplier” piqued his interest.

He delved into the topic a bit further and his initial thought was that it would be a good opportunity to pursue in order to help open the door and compete for contracts against larger companies. What he discovered is that while achieving LGBT certification is a way to gain more business, the benefits go far beyond dollars and cents.

Should Your Business Consider LGBT Certification?

LGBT certification provides businesses a stamp of approval to bid for certain projects, said Kevin Heard, president of the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

As more and more companies seek diverse suppliers to provide products and/or services, LGBT certification is the first step in the process to help differentiate businesses, he said.

However, owners still have to work to earn contracts, make professional connections and grow their business.

That’s exactly what Claude Jones, owner of Town & Country Door LLC in Bloomfield Township is working toward. Currently in the process of becoming LGBT-certified, Jones sees tremendous growth in the downtown area and believes opening a minority-certified

satellite office in Detroit will help him secure city contracts as his business expands from installing and repairing residential garage doors to installing commercial and residential entry doors.

It’s a proactive move he wanted to make for his 16 employees to help keep the work flowing and his 22-year-old company thriving.

Care One, Inc. has been LGBT-certified for a little over one year, and while supplier diversity is an undeveloped marketplace for LGBT businesses, Coleman agreed, for him it’s also another opportunity to promote LGBT inclusion by changing the hearts of people one conversation at a time through education and advocacy efforts.

Still, Coleman, a straight man who strongly supports gay rights, said the decision to seek LGBT certification wasn’t an easy one.

“There is still a stigma to being LGBT in a certain part of the business community,” he said. “There was an unspoken concern about how this would impact our business, but it turned out to be an unfounded fear.”

Jones said he focuses on operating a fair and honest business, and if customers don’t want to deal with his company because it is owned by a gay man, then it is their loss.

The National LGBT Chamber of Commerce reports that slightly more than 1,000 businesses nationwide are LGBT-certified, with the largest concentration of those businesses in California.

According to the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce, only a small number of Michigan businesses – 11 to be exact – have achieved LGBT certification.

Heard is working diligently to increase those numbers across southeastern Michigan.

What it Takes to Become LGBT-Certified

To prevent people from stating they are LGBT simply to gain diversity supplier status, there is a fair amount of vetting to the procedure.

Businesses are eligible for LGBT certification if they are:

- A member of their local LGBT Chamber of Commerce chapter, such as the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce
- A legal LLC or corporation in the United States
- At least 51 percent owned, operated, managed and controlled by an LGBT individual who is a legal resident of the U.S.

Care One’s president and CEO, Steven Cook, is married so he was able to submit



The LGBT Chamber hosted a MERGE Networking Mixer Sponsored by GM Plus and BASF Employee Resource Groups. A diverse crowd including Chamber members, Corporate partners, and LGBTQ employees across SE Michigan.

an application as well as his marriage certificate and other documents for certification. After an on-site interview to verify his documentation and a review by the National Certification Committee, it didn’t take much time at all to become certified, said Coleman.

Certification can be earned in as little as 60 to 90 days with proper documentation, said Heard, but it is possible to take up to six months.

“I was impressed by the certification process,” said Coleman. “It is not easy to slip through the cracks.”

The Benefits of LGBT Certification

Suppliers that hire LGBT-certified businesses directly have a positive impact on local communities. As Heard explained, when these small businesses earn contracts, they are able to hire and re-invest in the neighborhoods they live and work in, some of which are underserved communities. Boosting the local economy in this manner can have a long-reaching affect which can extend way past the contract deadline.

In addition, businesses can expand their offerings by teaming up with other LGBT-certified suppliers for contract opportunities,



David Coleman of Care One, Inc. said he became aware of the certification through the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce as he was researching hospital systems for new business opportunities.

said Heard.

Coleman is pleased that they sought the certification, saying that he has experienced many intangible benefits as a result. The most important of these assets, he said, is meeting and making connections with people who advocate for LGBT inclusion.

“Everyone involved with this is moving LGBT issues forward,” he said.

For more information about becoming a certified LGBT-owned business, visit the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce at www.detroitlgbtchamber.com.



Detroit Artist Siena Liggins Debuts Single 'Flowerbomb'

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Dress off. Hair down. "Flowerbomb." Like many sexual experiences, there's a slow but powerful build, and it takes Siena Liggins' brand-new song a full minute to drop. But at that point, it's still far from over. As an openly lesbian artist, it's no mistake that she chose "Flowerbomb" as her debut single. Liggins said that she wanted to write an unapologetically sex-positive song for the many other "girls who like girls" in the world.

"I wanted to write a song that encapsulated the high feelings of sex with someone untouchable because girls like to have sex, too, and sometimes it's just a beautiful mess," Liggins said. "For me, the best connections are the ones where you remember every detail; the way her hair felt, what perfume she was wearing, when she left ... and when she came back."

Inspired mostly by real-life events, even the song's title is a nod to an intimate moment that actually happened in Liggins' life.

"Flowerbomb is literally the name of the fragrance worn by the person who inspired this song. I guess it's my way of honoring that experience and that person with my art," Liggins said. "I like to hide little gems in my songs that will be a call out to the person who inspired this song."

However, Liggins said that she hopes that this track will not only serve as a "racy," fun, summer playlist addition but a true attempt at bringing visibility to the LGBTQ community.

"My hope is that a pop song like this will reach other girls, women, femme-identifying individuals, lesbians and bisexuals (and) so on and so forth who have been looking for songs like this on their playlists but haven't quite found them yet," she said. "I stand (for) women unapologetically owning their bodies and

Inspired mostly by real-life events, even the song's title is a nod to an intimate moment that actually happened in Liggins' life.

sexuality and speaking about sex from their own lens. Men get to make all types of songs about sex, I hope there will be more visibility for women doing the same — especially for girls who like girls."

The Detroit-based artist spends much of her creative process at the indie development hub Assemble Sound in the city's historic Corktown neighborhood. There, she's collaborated with "a gang of other residents and artists" like Flint Eastwood, Sam Austins, Tunde Olaniran, Nydge and others. And though the fully-formed single dropped on Friday, July 27, Liggins said she'd been working on it as "recently as a month ago" with friend and producer Nydge.

"I'm really excited to see all of us bring our projects to life because there's great music coming out of that place," Liggins said.

Liggins said that fans of Flowerbomb can start to get excited about more music from her soon.

"An EP sounds like a lot of fun and is definitely on the horizon," she said. "But for now, this song is very single ladies."

And, intentionally or not, her news about an upcoming EP hinted at her ideal collaboration.

"As far as dreams go, I know this is my debut but is it too soon to say Beyoncé?" she said.

Find "Flowerbomb" on all major music streaming sites. More information about her and her music can be found online at assemblesound.com or by following her on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



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Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

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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
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- 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
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Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

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What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi

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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.

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