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Megan Cavanagh for  
Michigan Supreme Court'

U.S. Supreme Court Will Be  
Busy with LGBTQ Cases

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Werks the Queer Narrative

Trixie Mattel Brings Her  
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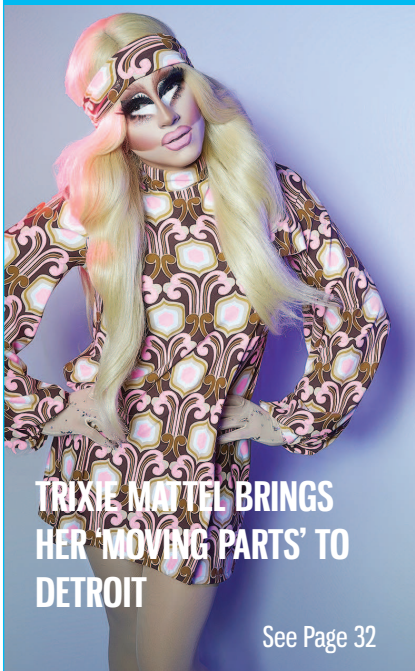


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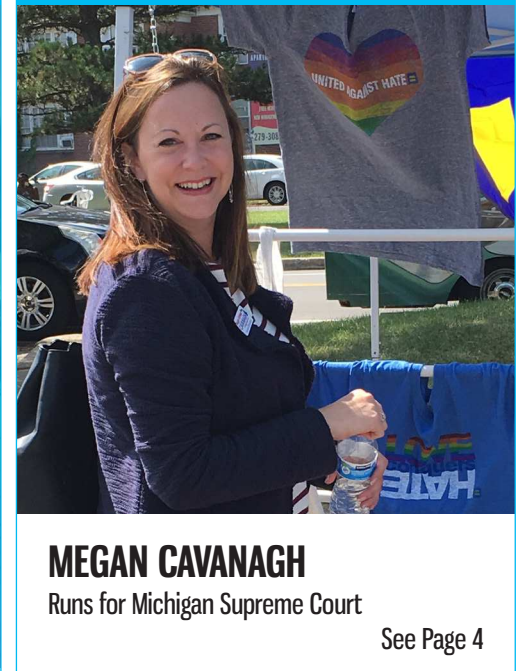
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# Megan Cavanagh for Michigan Supreme Court: ‘More Perspectives Lead to Better Decisions’

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Michigan Supreme Court candidate Megan Kathleen Cavanagh didn't plan on a law career when she was a high school student in East Lansing. With a dad like Michael Cavanagh, Michigan's longest-serving Supreme Court justice, plus about 20 first cousins who are lawyers, she was steered away from the family business.

“It was my dad who sort of discouraged going to law school, saying, ‘With that many lawyers, we're sort of a useless family.’ He said we need somebody who can actually fix things,” she said with a laugh.

Cavanagh enjoyed her first career as an environmental engineer, but found her true passion was law soon after she began taking evening classes at Wayne State University Law School.

Cavanagh has worked in appellate law for 15 years, not only as an appellate attorney for the law firm of Garan Lucow Miller P.C. where she is a shareholder, but also in other organizations through the state bar and the Attorney Grievance Commission, as well as with appellate judges “to make appellate law, and the appellate legal system work the way that it should.”

She has represented a wide range of clients before both the state and federal appellate courts, and has earned honors that include Lawyer of the Year in 2006 and Outstanding Woman in the Law in 2017.

## An LGBTQ-Supportive Career

Cavanagh's career as an appellate attorney has included civil defense cases involving the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, Title VII equal protection claims — referring to Title VII of the of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the federal law that prohibits employers from discriminating against employees based on a number of protected classes, including sex — and 14th Amendment due process claims. Although those cases were related to certain protected classes not involving the LGBTQ community specifically, Cavanagh is well-versed on legal issues that impact LGBTQ Michiganders.

She spoke of her experience in the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, witnessing the proceedings of a case that originated in Michigan, *EEOC v. R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes*. In that case, funeral director Aimee Stephens was fired when she came out as transgender at work. Cavanagh was in that court to make an argument for a different case, but she took interest and provided that as an example of a court where individual protections still matter.



Megan Cavanagh. BTL Photo: Ellen Shanna Koppow

“It was a fascinating argument and the three judges were a really good draw for the EEOC and the ACLU's case. There are some very thoughtful judges who still exist on the federal court, who approach things from looking at protecting individual rights,” she said of the judges who issued that ruling.

That ruling overturned a lower court's decision and affirmed that transgender individuals are protected by federal sex discrimination laws, and that religious belief does not give employers the right to discriminate against them.

Still, Cavanagh emphasizes, “I don't want it ever to be taken as saying, ‘I will always vote for a plaintiff,’ or, ‘I will always vote for one side or the other,’ because that's equally as bad as what's going on on the other side.”

In her view, courts should remain independent, “So that you know you're going to stand on equal footing.”

Cavanagh cited that court, the 6th Circuit, as an exception to the trend of the federal courts swinging ideologically to the right. Because of that, she says, our state courts matter now

more than ever.

“I think federal court used to be — and it's becoming less so now — the place where you would go for protection of individual rights,” she said. “With the bench shifting more on the conservative side, it's not that place to look for those protections so much anymore, which makes the state courts that much more important.”

## Running for a Seat

With her extensive experience in appellate law, what made the most sense to Cavanagh was to run for a seat on the state's highest appellate court, one of two seats that are up for election this November. While the judiciary is nonpartisan, Michigan Supreme Court candidates are nominated by political party.

According to Cavanagh, who was nominated by the Democratic Party and is running with Sam Bagenstos, it's not a perfect system.

“I don't think the mere fact that the candidates are nominated by the party means

“Our courts must be the place in our government where every person is treated equally, no matter who they are.”

— [cavanaghforsupremecourt.com](http://cavanaghforsupremecourt.com).

they're influenced by the political party,” she said. “I think that rests on the candidates, to make sure that's not the case.”

For that reason, Cavanagh believes the elective system is preferable to the appointive system for choosing state Supreme Court justices — a conclusion she reached after she began her campaign. Appointments to the Supreme Court are made by the governor when a sitting justice steps down mid-term and there is a vacancy; they are then up for consideration at the next general election. Currently in Michigan, four of seven justices were appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder, two of whom are up for election.

“I wanted to run for the Court because I think it's important for voters to know who they're electing to the court,” Cavanagh said. “I think it's important that the people who are voting for them have an opportunity to meet them, and the candidate has to get out and explain why they should vote for them.”

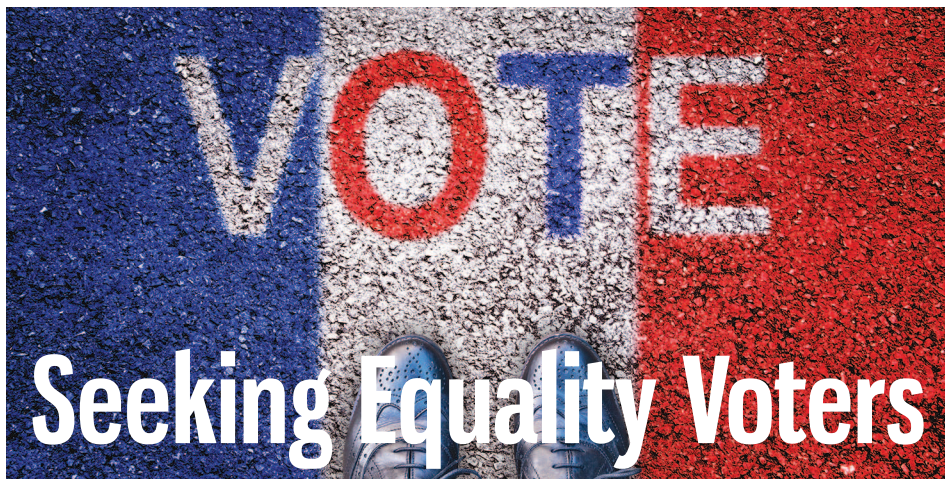
As Cavanagh sees it, the bigger problem of political influence in judicial races is the influx of dark money, whereby the public isn't aware of who is contributing to judicial races. Although she believes the reality is otherwise, the mere perception that that judges are making decisions based on promises made to donors is damaging.

Along with ensuring an independent, nonpartisan judicial system, judges must be open to hearing from parties whose lives may be impacted by the Court's decisions. And that includes the LGBTQ community.

## State of LGBTQ Civil Rights

Cavanagh spoke of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, regarding the May decision by the Michigan Civil Rights Commission to begin hearing cases of discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Attorney General Bill Schuette challenged

See **Election: Cavanagh**, continued on p. 10



# Seeking Equality Voters

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Currently working as Human Rights Campaign's Michigan State Director, Amritha Venkataraman's interest in all things politics started young. She said that as early as in high school she "was always that person talking about politics," and her interests didn't stop there. Eventually, she found herself front and center into the world of grassroots community organizing and on the campaign trails of a variety of candidates.

"I really got involved in 2012 with the Obama campaign and being a neighborhood team leader. That was really fun and really inspiring," she said. "But then going into the next election cycle in 2014, getting to work on a State House race and then really seeing the power of the community when it comes together to get an awesome candidate elected got me the bug — I was officially hooked."

Venkataraman's work eventually took her across the country, working in places as far-reaching as New York and Nevada. However, as soon as several months ago the Bloomfield Hills native was in California when she heard of an opportunity to come back to her home state and give back to the LGBTQ community.

"Immediately before this I was actually in Oakland, California. I was training Democratic Women to run for office with Emerge California," she said. "I saw HRC's program that they were trying to launch in Michigan, HRC Rising, and I really wanted to be a part of it. I wanted to come home and be a part of doing some long-term HRC organizing in my home state."

HRC Rising is a grassroots initiative launched by the organization that targets six states that have a chance at voting out or impacting politicians who are not LGBTQ-friendly, and as Michigan State Director, Venkataraman plays a big role in helping to make that happen.



HRC Michigan State Director Amritha Venkataraman

"In Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona and Nevada, HRC will make an especially strong, early push to organize against the Trump-Pence agenda and support pro-equality candidates in coming elections," said the HRC website.

Currently, for Venkataraman she is gearing up for the upcoming election. She said the most vital work there is to be done between now and Nov. 6 is getting as many progressive, or equality voters familiar with local candidates who can make a difference and then on to the polls.

"So we have more than 1 million equality voters in Michigan. That's a lot of people," she said. "When we lost a presidential election by 10,000 votes basically, 1 million voters more than makes the difference. So, at HRC, we are working every day to support candidates, knock on doors, making phone calls and making sure that voters understand the importance of voting. And to make sure that no one in our community sits out this November."

However, even with all the potential voters out there, Venkataraman said that perhaps the biggest hurdle to overcome before then is combatting the mindset that voters can't make a difference in their communities.

"Sometimes people don't feel that their work matters or that they can make a difference and having that conversation with people so that they understand that you getting involved really does matter," she said. "These conversations make a huge difference and the most fun part of this job for me, without a doubt, is watching new folks who have never volunteered before having a conversation with a new voter have that first conversation and realize what an impact it makes. That's what we've got to do. We've got to convince people and show them that these conversations really are going to make a difference."

When asked if there are specific elections or

See **Election: Equality Voters**, continued on p. 10



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# Supreme Court 2018-2019 Session Busy with LGBTQ Cases

BY LISA KEEN

Cases before the U.S. Supreme Court seem almost like an afterthought after last week's political slugfest over the confirmation process for President Trump's second nominee, Judge Brett Kavanaugh. But there are several cases before the high court that are of great importance to the LGBTQ community as the high court began its 2018-2019 session this week. In fact, this session could be one of the busiest in history for LGBTQ-related concerns.

At least three cases appealed to the Supreme Court ask whether existing federal law protects LGBTQ people from employment discrimination and a fourth one is on the way; at least four cases could revisit the question of whether a business person can cite their religious beliefs to violate state law prohibiting discrimination against LGBTQ people; and three lawsuits challenging President Trump's ban on transgender people in the military could wind their ways up to the high court this session.

## Employment Cases

The Supreme Court had three LGBTQ-related employment cases on its list of potential appeals so far this session. Two were on the agenda for the justices' Sept. 24 conference but were "rescheduled" for an as yet unidentified date. The third has been given more time for briefs to be submitted, until Oct. 24.

*Zarda v. Altitude Express, Inc.* (from the 2nd Circuit) asks whether Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act — which prohibits employment discrimination "because of ... sex" — covers discrimination because of sexual orientation. The 2nd Circuit ruled that Title VII does cover discrimination because of sexual orientation. The employer has appealed to the Supreme Court. The case involves a recreational parachuting company that fired one of its trainers, David Zarda, after learning he was gay. Zarda died before his lawsuit could be resolved but his sister has pursued his claim. The 2nd Circuit covers New York, Connecticut and Vermont. Only one other circuit (the 7th, which includes Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin) has made a similar ruling in the case *Hively v. Ivy Tech*.

*Bostock v. Clayton County*, from the 11th Circuit, similar to *Altitude Express*, asks whether Title VII can prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. The difference is that, in *Altitude Express*, the employee won the lower court decision and, in *Horton*, the employer won. So, while LGBTQ people in New York, Connecticut and Vermont (and the 7th Circuit states) can seek protection under Title VII, LGBTQ people in Georgia, Florida and Alabama cannot. This split in the circuits makes it more probable that the Supreme Court



will get involved. In this case, a child services coordinator who held their job for 10 years for Clayton County, Georgia, was fired for alleged mismanagement after his supervisor learned he played in a gay softball league.

*EEOC v. R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes* (from the 6th Circuit) asks whether Title VII's "because ... of sex" language covers discrimination because of gender identity and whether another federal law, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) provides an exemption from Title VII if the employer claims the discrimination is based on religious beliefs. The 6th Circuit ruled that Title VII does protect transgender employees and that the religious beliefs of the employer were not "substantially burdened" by complying with Title VII. The case involved a funeral home that fired a longtime employee after the employee began transitioning. The employee, Aimee Stephens, first took her complaint to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which ruled in her favor.

At least one more Title VII-sexual orientation case is pending in lower courts: In the 8th Circuit, Lambda Legal has *Horton v. Midwest Geriatric*.

## Public Accommodations Cases

The last Supreme Court session essentially balked at ruling on a case about whether a business can refuse to serve customers because of their sexual orientation. The case was *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*. By dispensing with the case on procedural grounds, it put the issue off to another day. That day may come this session, and there are several cases that might provide the opportunity.

*Cervelli v. Aloha Bed & Breakfast* (Hawaii Supreme Court): This case, which has until mid-October to file an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court, asks whether the operator of a bed and breakfast can refuse to rent rooms to guests based on their sexual orientation. A state appeals court said no; the Hawaii Supreme Court refused further appeal. The Aloha B&B offers guest rooms for rent in a residential section of Oahu that includes a bay popular

for snorkeling. A lesbian couple from California sought to rent a room there because they were visiting friends nearby. When Diane Cervelli called the B&B to make the reservation and mentioned her partner's name, the operator of the B&B asked whether the two women were lesbians. Cervelli answered yes. The B&B operator said, "We're strong Christians. I'm very uncomfortable in accepting the reservation from you," and hung up. Lambda Legal helped the couple file suit, and the state courts found the operator violated the state law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations. The B&B argued that, because it operates out of the owner's personal residence, it should not be subject to the public accommodations law. Additionally it was argued that the non-discrimination law violated the owner's right to free exercise of religion.

However, the state courts said that, if the B&B is open to the public, it must abide by the state law governing public accommodations. And the courts said the state non-discrimination law was neutral on the matter of religion and does not interfere in a substantial way with the owner's religious exercise.

At least three other cases testing the strength of non-discrimination laws against the claims of religious exercise are making their ways through state courts at the moment — in Washington, Oregon and Colorado. Each involves a bakery refusing to sell a cake to a person because the person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Colorado case involves the *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* that won a temporary reprieve from a Supreme Court ruling this year that found the state human rights commission had demonstrated hostility for baker Jack Phillips' claim that religious beliefs prompted him to refuse to sell a cake for a same-sex couple's wedding reception. The current lawsuit against him is for refusing to sell an attorney, Autumn Scardina, a cake to celebrate her birthday and anniversary of coming out as transgender. Importantly, Scardina did not ask for the cake to include any message — just that it be pink on the inside and blue on the outside. Phillips refused, saying his religious beliefs prevented

him from doing so. The Colorado Civil Rights Commission has ruled Phillips to be in violation of state discrimination laws. The Alliance Defending Freedom, the anti-LGBT group that represented Phillips in his first case, has once again filed a federal lawsuit (*Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Elenis* on Aug. 14), claiming the Commission is exhibiting hostility to Phillips' religious beliefs. Parties are due before a magistrate on Oct. 24.

## Transgender People in the Military

At least three lawsuits are challenging whether President Trump's 2017 directive against allowing transgender people to serve in the military can stand. Three federal district courts have blocked the administration from implementing the ban, and the Trump administration has reworded its ban in an effort to make it more palatable to the courts. But opponents say it's still a ban on transgender people serving in the military.

All three cases are in federal district court and, thus, may not make it through the appellate courts in time to reach the U.S. Supreme Court this session. However, the Trump administration made an appeal to the Supreme Court on one case already: *Karnoski v. Trump*, brought by Lambda Legal. In mid-September the administration asked the Supreme Court to stay an order of the U.S. District Court in Washington State that the Trump administration produce documents related to "presidential communication" related to development of the ban. One day later, it withdrew the request, noting the 9th Circuit had granted the stay.

In U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, a judge has ruled that a challenge brought by the National Center for Lesbian Rights and Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders may go forward (*Doe v. Trump*).

And in U.S. District Court for Maryland, the ACLU has a challenge, *Stone v. Trump*.

The lawsuits argue that the proposed ban would violate the rights to equal protection and due process for existing and prospective transgender members of the military.

## Discrimination in Education

A former student at the University of North Carolina has filed a petition with the Supreme Court, asking whether the school may have violated Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act, which prohibits discrimination based on gender. Kenda Kirby, now living in Oklahoma, wrote the petition herself and says her former school took adverse action against her after she attended a "gay rights rally" and supported Democrat Hillary Clinton for president.



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## Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### When in Rome ... Slam Doors

One of Rome's more prolific male escorts — who goes by the name of Francesco Mangiacapra, and the nickname Mangi-Me-I-Mangi-you — decided recently to give the Vatican a queerful, earful.

Mangiacapra, who claims he no longer can put up with the rampant hypocrisy of 34 'actively gay' priests — presumably members of his extensive theological clients in need of penis, er, penance remissions — sent to select members of the Holy See a 1,200 page dossier on 34 priests and six seminarians. Clients all.

As a gesture of Roman Catholic good will, Mangiacapra's compilation of names and accusations of the Roman Catholic offending, near occasion of sin, theocratic tops and bottoms, was sent by — Hail Marys, full of disgrace — imprimatur of the Archdiocese of Naples.

Says Mangiacapra, "My aim is not to hurt the people mentioned, but to help them understand their double life, however seemingly convenient, is not useful to them or to all the people for whom they should be a guide and an example to follow."

Mangiacapra's comments were reported by the prestigious Courier della Sera. With the succinct comment — one assumes it is the Naples newspaper cohort expounding — "It's indeed remarkable that this male escort exhibits such spiritual goodwill in his candid remarks, and, at the same time shows a grammatical fluency so often lacking among, and between, Catholic, Protestant, Southern Baptist sexual hustlers!"

"Remarkable too is the reservation shown by Mangiacapra in that he lists neither priestly repeats of his Christian lip services, nor a cost analysis of varied performance of his standing or kneeling, genuflection skills during week days, Sundays, Easter, Christmas or Holy Days of Client Obligation."

Worthy also sharing is an item taken recently from one of Rome's sagacious journals, The Daily Beast, written by one Barbie Latzu Nadeau, who, one might assume with some justification, probably goes by the alias Barbie Doll, when reporting on salacious Roman Catholic scandals with enticing lead sentences.

"Nosy neighbors are never a good thing," Nadeau said. "Especially if you are a Monsignor hosting orgies and your neighbors are cardinals."

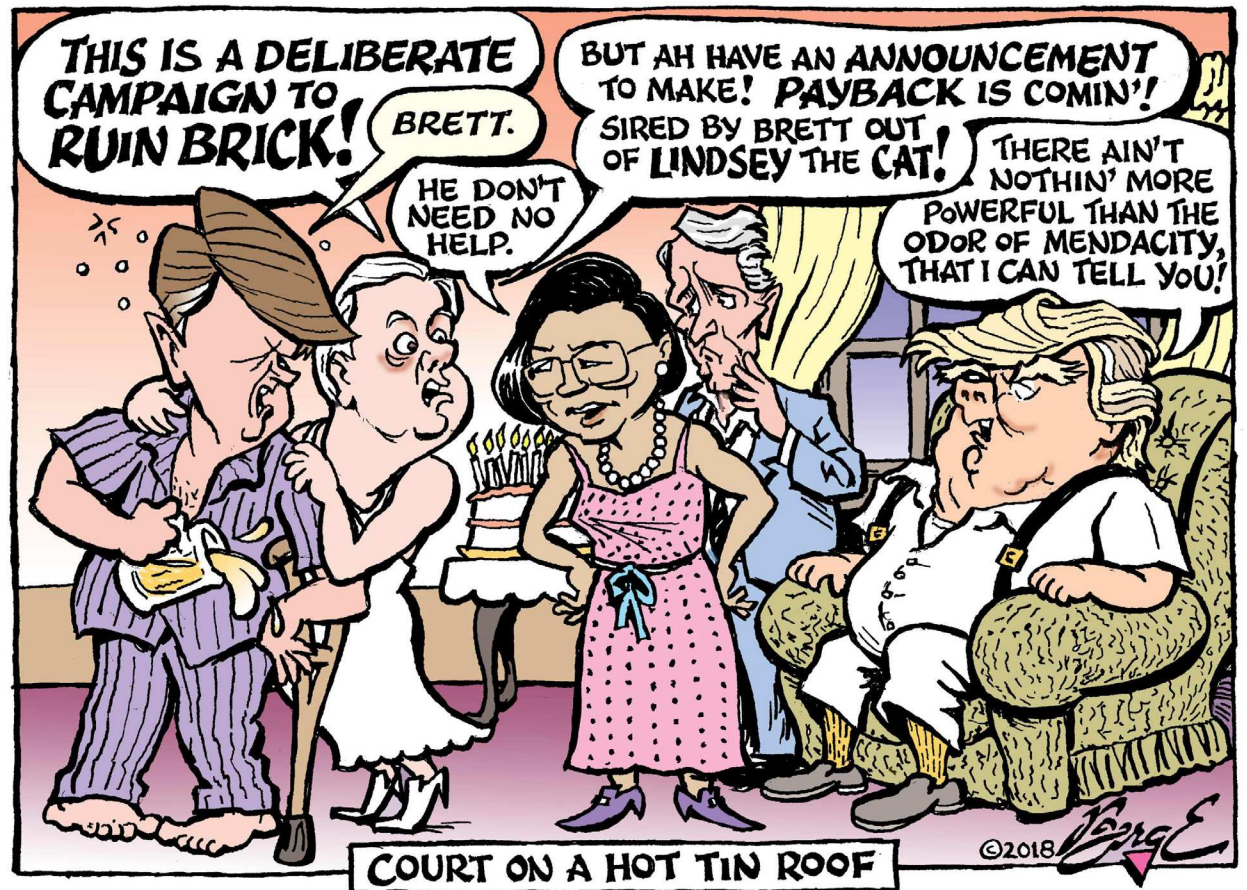
Barbie Doll continues, "It all started with the usual complaints from disgruntled neighbors: funny smells, slamming doors, loud music, the sound of squeaky beds and laughter late into the night.

"In almost any other situation anywhere is the world, the angry neighbors would have confronted the noisy tenant, maybe left a mean note on the door or complained to the landlord and the matter would be settled. ..."

Alas. Dear Parting Glance spiritual novices, Roman Catholic life of late, as we all ruefully know, is not that simple.

"But this particular dispute occurred in one of the most prestigious addresses in Rome, the so-called Ex Sant'Uffizio

See **Parting Glances**, continued on next page



### Viewpoint



### Standing with Survivors, Standing for Justice

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

The stories are all different, but they are the same.

The family friend or member who comes into the bedroom at night. The uncle, grandparent or friend who touches inappropriately with a hug. The boys who cop a feel in the hallway. The "nice" guy who after a few beers forgot that "No means No."

It's the jokes that aren't funny. The lingering looks. The promise of employment if you comply and unemployment if you don't. It's harassment, intimidation, abuse and rape whether it happened yesterday or decades ago.

I can't tell you the date, where the house was or how I got from there to the bus stop to home, but I remember that face, I remember the fear I felt from his anger when I fought back and said no. I said nothing.

As I listened to the reporting before the hearing and watched Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's testimony before the Senate Judiciary committee I remembered all the feelings, all the reasons I said nothing. I remembered.

I believed Anita Hill in 1991! I believe Dr. Christine Blasey Ford! I believe Deborah Ramirez! I believe Julie Swetnick. I believe survivors!

Like so many other women, I have been triggered by these proceedings, but more than triggered I am enraged.

Men have exercised the right to rape, assault and harass

women, with no recourse, accountability or consequence not just because of patriarchy but also, in part, because we, as a society, have cosigned these actions by slut-shaming, stigmatizing and promoting silence.

We must be "good" girls while "boys will be boys" just "sowing their wild outs." And even when they admit to sexual assault, bragging in vulgar terms about kissing, groping and trying to have sex with women and grabbing women by their genitals, the remarks are called "locker room banter" and the perpetrator of these acts can go on to become president of the United States.

The Supreme Court is the final judge in all cases involving laws of Congress, and the highest law of all — the Constitution. Its decisions have shaped much of the world we know today.

Brown v. Board of Education ruled unanimously that racial segregation of children in public schools was unconstitutional. The Court's Roe v. Wade decision changed laws that criminalized or restricted access to abortions, Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission dealt with regulation of political campaign spending by organizations and the Obergefell v. Hodges decision ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples.

See **Transmissions**, continued on next page



I can't tell you the date, where the house was or how I got from there to the bus stop to home, but I remember that face, I remember the fear I felt from his anger when I fought back and said no. I said nothing.

### ► Viewpoint: Brown

Continued from p. 8

Decisions made by the Supreme Court are always of national importance. In fact, "equal justice under Law" is its motto, but there was little justice in the Senate Judiciary Committee's hearings this week with Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh who was accused of sexual assault by Dr. Christine Blasey Ford.

And Dr. Ford's courageous decision to step forward and speak about her own experience of sexual assault is not the only accusation against Judge Kavanaugh. Two other women, Deborah Ramirez and Julie Swetnick have also come forward. It also comes in the wake of the thousands of women speaking out against sexual harassment and violence with the #MeToo movement.

Kavanaugh's nomination took a step forward, as the Senate Judiciary Committee endorsed Kavanaugh in an 11-10 party-line vote. The eleven being the all white, male Republican members of the committee – score one for the patriarchy.

So, here's where we stand: After a brief one-week FBI investigation the vote goes before the Senate. Eleven white men with a greater allegiance to party than to the people they represent, especially women, have moved forward the nomination Kavanaugh.

In his remarks, Kavanaugh basically declared himself pure as the proverbially-driven snow and, by his account, a candidate for sainthood for his exemplary life, with a testimony filled with tears, barbs and vitriol displaying a temperament no one

should want to see on the highest court of the land. But, if confirmed as he stands to be now, the man we saw testifying would sit on the Supreme Court making decisions affecting all of us for decades and we have been triggered by these proceedings. We know the tremendous strength it takes to speak our truths and fight for our survival.

And now, more than ever, we must do just that, speak our truths and fight not just for our survival but for our daughters, our children and their future.

In a few short weeks before the midterm elections and moving forward we must tell our stories, no matter how long ago they occurred. Because these occurrences are not brand-new and they need to end.

We must remind our sisters, mothers, fathers, brothers, friends and neighbors. We must remind them of the times they saw but chose not to see. We must remind them of the beliefs, stigmas and cultural influences that have allowed the violation of women's bodies, and the bodies of femmes and gender non-conforming people. We must remind them of the politicians' efforts to silence survivors. We must remember the courage of Ford and take our anger to the polls in November.

I believe Anita Hill! I believe Dr. Christine Blasey Ford! I believe Deborah Ramirez! I believe Julie Swetnick!

I BELIEVE SURVIVORS!

*Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. Her blog radio podcast "Collections by Michelle Brown-Blog Radio" airs every Thursday at 7 p.m. Current and archived episodes can be heard on Blog Talk Radio, iTunes, Stitcher or SoundCloud. Follow her on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.*

### ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 8

Palace, in the very apartment owned by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith," Nadeau said. "This is where our once beloved Joseph Ratzinger lived for decades before becoming Pope Benedict XVI."

The papal teaser continues with this elaboration, "The Vatican police showed up to find an orgy in progress, with an untold number of naked men allegedly writhing around on the floor with Luigi Capozzi — who heads the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts — and his cohorts, under the influence of hard drugs."

Barbie Doll concludes, "Calls to the Swiss Guard turned up neither confirmations nor denials, but Luigi Capozzi is no longer on his his job."

And, as we all know, Pope Benedict XVI stepped

down from his recently expunged temporal, not eternal, glory.

Addendum to the foregoing expose: Whether the Swiss Guard turned up for the ongoing orgy or not isn't clear from Barbie Doll's article. One can only hope. Earlier article "funny smells" mentioned were probably patchouli-scented votive candles.

Oh, yes. The reading of this redemptive Parting Glances comes with 30 days indulgence, courtesy of Between The Lines and Monsignor Alexander, Blessed Society of Gee Whiz. What you indulge in is your own redemptive business. Amen. Ah-men! Whoever.

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

## Creep Of The Week

### Donald Trump

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

**This is the kind of move you'd expect to see in a place like Vladimir Putin's Russia. Then again, Trump has declared his love for him, too. It's an alarming pattern. Vote on Nov. 6 like lives depend on it. Because they do.**

It has been a strange week. For starters, Donald Trump announced that, after an on-again, off-again rollercoaster relationship, he and North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un are officially an item now.

"I was really being tough and so was he," Trump told a rally of supporters in West Virginia. "And we would go back and forth. And then we fell in love. No really. He wrote me beautiful letters."

Isn't it romantic? Or, at least, it would be if Trump knew how to read.

Boy, are Republicans going to be mad when they learn that Trump is gay!

I'm kidding, of course. Well, kind of. It's striking that Republicans would probably freak out if Trump came out as gay, but they have no problem with him embracing authoritarian dictators who murder and starve their people. #SquadGoals

In other words, in Republicanica being gay is bad, but being a murderous dictator shows that you're a macho man who gets things done!

This is an important distinction given the news that the Trump administration has begun "denying visas to same-sex domestic partners of foreign diplomats and United Nations employees, and requiring those already in the United States to get married by the end of the year or leave the country," according to foreignpolicy.com.

Now, on the surface this might not seem like a big deal. I mean, opposite-sex couples can't get visas for their partners if they're not married, and marriage equality is the law of the land in the U.S., so this change just makes everything equal right?

Wrong. We're talking about the most anti-LGBTQ administration since Stonewall here, so let's not kid ourselves.

Former U.S. Ambassador to UN Samantha Power Tweeted on Sept. 28, "Needlessly cruel & bigoted: State Dept. will no longer let same-sex domestic partners of UN employees get visas unless they are married. But only 12% of UN member states allow same-sex marriage."

Only 12 percent. That's, um, really low. If a doctor told you that your chances of survival were 12 percent, you'd better have all of your affairs in order.

But these same-sex couples can just get married in the U.S. where it's legal, right? No big deal, just take the "I do" plunge!

Except it's not that easy. Not only do most United Nations countries not allow same-sex couples to marry, but, according to Fortune, "in more than 70, same-sex relationships are punishable by law."

According to Akshaya Kumar, the

Deputy United Nations Director at Human Rights Watch, in these 70+ countries, "homosexual conduct remains illegal and in many, anyone found 'guilty' can be sentenced to harsh punishments including years in prison or even public caning."

Morocco, which has thrown gay men in prison, and Malaysia, where a lesbian couple were recently subjected to a public caning, are just two examples.

"The U.S. government should recognize, as it had for almost nine years until today, that requiring a marriage as proof of bona fide partnership is a bad and cruel policy, one that replicates the terrible discrimination many LGBT people face in their own countries," writes Kumar, "and should be immediately reversed."

This policy, writes Kumar, "may make it impossible for some LGBT UN staff to live together with their partners in the United States."

Not that the Trump administration cares about keeping families together. "Bad and cruel" policies are the administration's specialty. After all, the U.S. is still keeping immigrant children away from their parents, warehoused in tent cities. Something that should be a five-alarm outrage receiving wall-to-wall coverage, but has to compete with the nonstop barrage of scandals coming from this administration. Not to mention the gross inequities in our criminal justice system that tears and keeps families, a vast proportion of which are racial minorities, apart.

Which makes it easy to overlook something like discrimination against LGBTQ United Nations staff disguised as a benevolent push toward equality.

Getting married for some of these couples is not a safe option. A legal, public marriage might put them in real danger. The kind of danger that same-sex couples in the U.S., though certainly facing backlash under the Trump regime, don't have to worry about.

This is the kind of move you'd expect to see in a place like Vladimir Putin's Russia. Then again, Trump has declared his love for him, too. It's an alarming pattern. Vote on Nov. 6 like lives depend on it. Because they do.

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### ► Election: Cavanagh

Continued from p. 4

their authority to make that interpretation; the MCRC communicated they would ignore Schuette's opinion.

"I think the federal courts have looked at it, that issue, in terms of Title VII," she said. "... the 6th Circuit case [EEOC v. R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes] held that it does, Title VII does prohibit discrimination as written, 'because of sex' includes gender identity and sexual orientation discrimination, and so I think the [Michigan] Supreme Court is gonna have to decide whether or not the existing statute does that, or if it gets changed or amended."

Cavanagh brought up another case impacting LGBTQ Michiganders, one that dealt a blow to many in the community, and then offered her own take on it. In 2016, *Mabry v. Mabry* asked judges to adopt the equitable parent doctrine. This would have ensured parenting rights to parents of nonbiological children — specifically, same-sex couples who adopted children before the U.S. Supreme Court invalidated Michigan's same-sex marriage ban in *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

The Michigan Supreme Court refused to take an appeal of the lower court decision, and effectively swept it under the rug. While she cannot take a position, Cavanagh disagreed with the majority's refusal to hear the case.

"It was something that should have been looked at in light of *Obergefell*, because that changed the definition of what was legal, and what wasn't," Cavanagh said. "And not saying one way or the other how it would end up, [but] that's an important case that affects a lot of people that I think the state deserves a decision on. And an informed decision ... where you get the opportunity to have all of these things aired out, and perspectives heard."

### A Desire for Diversity

For Cavanagh, the desire to hear diverse opinions extends to her campaign. For instance, over the summer, she attended a number of pride festivals.

"I think it's important to know who it is who's electing you, [to] know the public, the full gamut of the ... citizens in Michigan," she said. "I also think that's the way to understand what their perspective is, because the role, I think, of a judge is to know what you don't know, listen

to people who do ... and give it value. And that's why I have been trying with [the] LGBT community, to go to events and hear what their issues are and what's important to them."

Open-mindedness and recognizing the need "to know what you don't know" are values that begin at home for the Cavanaghs, who reside in Birmingham. And she said it's something she's trying to instill in her daughters, ages 9 and 12.

"I'm sort of constantly — probably annoyingly so to them — trying to get them outside of their bubble, seeing things from other people's perspectives," she said.

Cavanagh has brought them along when she argued cases before the Michigan Supreme Court, because she wants her children to see "that what you do for a job or a career should be fulfilling your desires, but also serving something bigger than just yourself."

To further illustrate how she teaches her daughters to see from others' perspectives, Cavanagh shared how she spoke with them about the transgender son of one of her best friends. They knew the child from toddlerhood, and her girls had questions when he transitioned. Cavanagh had questions, too.

"My kids are like, 'What does that mean?'" she said, "We spent a lot of time talking about it. And more importantly, I asked my friend, 'You tell me how to talk about it. You tell me what matters to you. You tell me what will help him or what he needs.' ... I think you have to have an openness and a willingness to consider things outside of your own [self]. I think you have to expose yourself to that, and I think it's important that my kids are exposed to that, too."

Cavanagh said she is running for Supreme Court so that all Michiganders have a voice, and while judicial candidates shouldn't telegraph their political opinions, Cavanagh frankly expressed her nonpartisan conviction that members of the LGBTQ community have the right to equal protection and equal treatment under the law.

"I don't view it as a political issue," she said. "I think it's fundamentally a human issue. ... I don't mean to sound sort of Pollyannaish, but it's just a nonstarter. It's not a hard issue for me. And I think what's also important is yes, you want someone like that on the court, but I think again you want justices who are willing to listen ... and who are of the perspective [that] more information and more perspectives lead to better decisions."

if elected, so that's a super, super important election for us," she said. "We have endorsed Haley Stevens and Elissa Slotkin who are both running for Congress who are both excellent on LGBT issues and would be wonderful representatives for their communities, so we've been working with those teams to make sure that we turn out the equality vote."

To find out more about HRC or HRC Rising, visit [HRC.org](http://HRC.org).

### ► Election: Equality Voters

Continued from p. 5

candidates that have caught Venkataraman's eye, she recommended three races in particular on which voters should definitely keep up-to-date.

"Obviously the gubernatorial is really important. Bill Schuette has been extremely anti-LGBTQ and would not be LGBTQ-friendly

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Photo by Andrew Eccles.

# New State Department Diplomatic Visa Policy Takes Effect

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

A new State Department policy that requires partners of foreign mission personnel and employees of international organizations to be married in order to qualify for a diplomatic visa took effect on Monday.

A State Department letter the Washington Blade obtained last month states, “consistent with internal Department of State policy changes, partners accompanying officers and employees of international organizations or seeking to join the same must be married in order to be eligible for a derivative G-4 nonimmigrant visa or to seek a change into such status beginning October 1, 2018.” The letter also says the State Department as of Monday “will only accept the accreditation of spouses of newly arrived officers and employees of international organizations, both same-sex and opposite-sex, as members of the family of the respective international organization.”

The State Department letter that was distributed on July 20 also says, “all currently accredited same-sex domestic partners of officers and employees of international organizations serving in the United States who wish to maintain their derivative G-4 nonimmigrant visa status and acceptance of accreditation” should ask their organization “to submit appropriate documentation” to the State Department’s Office of Foreign Missions

no later than Dec. 31 that indicates “the couple has legally married.”

“After December 31, 2018, unless such individuals are able to obtain separate authorization to remain in the United States through a change of nonimmigrant status with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, they will generally be expected to depart the country within 30 days,” reads the letter. “However, on or after October 1, 2018, partners of officers and employees of international organizations applying for a visa renewal in the United States must be married in order to qualify for a derivative G-4 visa.”

Senior administration officials who spoke with reporters on a conference call on Tuesday said the new policy is consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2015 ruling in the Obergefell case that extended marriage rights to same-sex couples across the country. They also said the new policy would impact 105 families, with 55 of them working with international organizations.

The State Department letter notes the new policy applies to same-sex and opposite-sex partners.

“Is to promote the equal treatment of all family members and couples,” said a senior administration official on Tuesday.

Alfonso Nam, president of UN-GLOBE, a group that advocates on behalf of the U.N.’s LGBTI employees, told the Blade last month that most countries have yet to extend marriage

rights to same-sex couples. Human Rights Campaign Government Affairs Director David Stacy in a statement described the new policy as “an unconscionable, needless attack on some LGBTQ diplomats from around the world, and it reflects the hostility of the Trump-Pence administration toward LGBTQ people.”

“It is unnecessary, mean-spirited, and unacceptable,” he said.

Former U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic James “Wally” Brewster on Tuesday told the Blade he “saw how difficult it was to get accreditation for my husband (Bob Satawake) as a diplomat to a country where same-sex marriage was not recognized.”

“It will limit quality leaders from around the globe from working here in international organizations,” added Brewster, referring to the new visa policy. “The argument of treating it the same as opposite sex relationships is either a smokescreen or another example of how this administration is blind to the facts. Either way the physical and legal damage many would face in their countries where it illegal to be married is real.”

Former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power in a tweet described it as “needlessly cruel and bigoted.”

The Obama administration in 2009 implemented a policy that asked countries to accredit same-sex partners of U.S. Foreign Service personnel on a “reciprocal basis” in order to receive diplomatic visas. A State

Department official with whom the Blade spoke last month said U.S. Foreign Service personnel as of Monday “must be married to enjoy the rights and benefits of spouses.”

“Parallel to that, and based on the principle of reciprocity, under which our current policy is based, the department will likewise require that, as a general matter, officials from other governments be married to enjoy the rights and benefits of spouses for purposes of visa issuance and privileges and immunities,” said the official.

“We will continue to rely on modified principles of reciprocity to advocate for equality in countries which will not permit same sex marriage or accept our same sex spouses as persons forming part of the family of the US officer, with appropriate privileges and immunities,” added the official.

A senior administration official on Tuesday told the Blade the new policy is “not meant to be punitive” against LGBTI diplomats and their families.

“This is certainly not an attack,” said the official.

The Washington Blade will update this story with additional reaction.

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*The Washington Blade will update this story with additional reaction. This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National LGBT Media Association.*

## Judge Rules HB2 Deal Doesn’t Impair Bathroom Access for Trans People

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

A federal judge has allowed a lawsuit against the compromise over North Carolina’s anti-LGBT House Bill 2 to continue, but found the new law doesn’t inhibit bathroom access to transgender people in the state.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Schroeder, a George W. Bush appointee, ruled Sunday night the challenge to House Bill 142 can proceed in so far it pertains Section 3 of the law, which prohibits municipalities from enacting ordinances regulating private employment practices or regulating public accommodations until December 1, 2020.

“While HB142 presents the same barrier to anyone else seeking a protective ordinance as it does to transgender individuals, plaintiffs observe that transgender individuals have a greater need for protective ordinances than other groups,” Schroeder writes. “This is because protective statutes and ordinances that preexist HB142 — such as Charlotte’s ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sex — continue to be valid. Thus, plaintiffs plausibly allege they

lack the protections that individuals in other vulnerable groups enjoy.”

But Schroeder doesn’t allow the lawsuit to proceed regarding Section 2 of the law, which bars state agencies and colleges from “regulation of access” to restrooms and locker rooms.

“While plaintiffs are correct that Section 2 prevents state entities like UNC from regulating access to restrooms, the court is unpersuaded that the mere provision of separate male and female facilities is regulation of restroom access, in the relevant sense,” Schroeder writes.

As a result, Schroeder finds plaintiffs in the case “fail to state a claim based on Section 2, but succeed in stating a claim based on Section 3.”

HB142 was signed into law last year by North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper as a result of a compromise with Republican lawmakers seeking to ease the burden of economic boycott on the state over HB2, which barred transgender people from using public restrooms consistent with their gender identity and cities from enacting pro-LGBT ordinances. Former Gov. Pat McCrory signed HB2 into law, then was voted out of office that year.

The new law prohibits municipalities from enacting ordinances regulating private

employment practices or regulating public accommodations until December 1, 2020 and bars state agencies and colleges from “regulation of access” to restrooms and locker rooms.

Although major economic boycotts were curtailed with HB142 in place, LGBT rights supporters continued to object on the basis the law continued to undermine LGBT rights and stigmatize transgender people.

The lawsuit against the statute, *Carcaño v. Cooper*, was initially filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and the LGBT legal group Lambda Legal when HB2 was on the books and was later modified to challenge against HB142 when the compromise was reached.

Attorneys for these groups hailed the decision as a victory even the judge ruled against allowing their claims against the portion of the law pertaining to bathrooms to proceed.

Chris Brook, legal director for the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina, said in a statement the decision “lessens some of the harm that has been caused by these laws’ disgraceful and indefensible attacks on LGBT North Carolinians.”

“The court’s decision does not account for the very real injuries LGBT people have faced under

both HB2 and HB142, but we will continue fighting for the rights of all LGBT people in North Carolina as this case proceeds,” Brook said. “The bottom line is that LGBT North Carolinians deserve to feel secure in knowing that when they go about their daily lives and interact with businesses open to the public, any discrimination they encounter is unacceptable.”

Tara Borelli, counsel for Lambda Legal, said in a statement the decision assures transgender people have access to the restrooms in North Carolina.

“In light of this ruling, there should no longer be any excuse for discrimination in government facilities against transgender students and employees, who are simply trying to get through daily life like everyone else,” Borelli said. “HB 142 and HB 2 no longer provide a fig leaf for denying transgender people equal dignity and access to public facilities on the same terms that all other North Carolinians can take for granted.”

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



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# Study: America's Views on LGBTQ Issues Divided, Rapidly Changing

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Especially since the issues were brought to the fore like in cases *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* and *Obergefell v. Hodges*, Americans have started to consider the rights of the LGBTQ community in the mainstream. And though peoples' views on same-sex service refusals are divided, one thing sticks out: they're changing more rapidly than most issues. In fact, according to a study called "Wedding Cakes, Same-Sex Marriage, and the Future of LGBT Rights in America," released in August by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Public Religion Research Institute, views are changing faster than on most other issues.

Dr. Rob Griffin is PRRI's associate director of research. When asked his thoughts on the evident shift in mindset of the American public, he said that the speed at which reported opinions changed was "fascinating."

"Just even as an organization, PRRI has been interested in tracking sentiment about the LGBT community and issues relating to the LGBT community for quite a while," Griffin said. "It's one of the fastest-changing and fastest-evolving areas of public opinion. The changes that we've seen evolving over the last 20 years, it's hard to sort of find changes like that on other issues. ... You know, we have 40 years of data on peoples' opinions on abortion. You see very little movement in it, but this is actually one of those issues where things are changing quite quickly."

And as these topics get continuously discussed by top officials, it doesn't seem as though they'll leave the public consciousness any time soon. PRRI CEO Robert P. Jones said LGBTQ rights are especially relevant now that Congress is vetting conservative judge Brett Kavanaugh for a potential lifetime appointment on the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Given the court's narrow decision in the case involving the Colorado baker, the Supreme Court will likely have another say on this and other related issues, and Judge Kavanaugh, if confirmed, could end up being the deciding vote," he said.

Below are highlights of the study that pertain to the LGBTQ community, quoted selections have been edited to reflect AP style. The margin of error for this survey is reported as plus or minus 2.6 percentage points and a group of 2,008 people were sampled in this survey. To download the full report go online to [gaybe.am/Ey](http://gaybe.am/Ey).

## Religiously-Based Service Refusals

According to the study, 46 percent of Americans feel that wedding-based businesses "such as caterers, florists, and bakers, should be

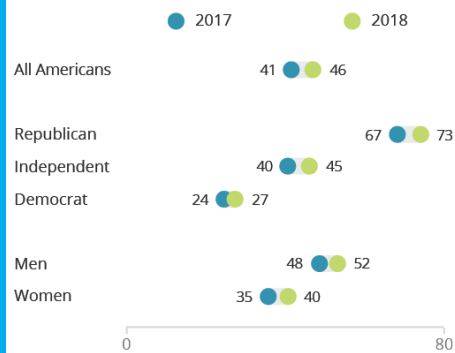
allowed to refuse to serve same-sex couples if doing so violates their religious beliefs, while about as many (48 percent) say these types of businesses should be required to serve same-sex couples."

This compared with statistics from a year ago shows that a large leap in findings.



**FIGURE 1. Increase in Support for Religiously Based Service Refusals by Wedding Businesses**

Percent who say that a business owner who provides wedding services should be allowed to refuse to provide those services to same-sex couples if it violates their religious beliefs.



Sources: PRRI August 2017 Survey; PRRI July 2018 Survey.

"One year earlier, a majority (53 percent) of the public said wedding-based businesses should be required to serve gay and lesbian couples," the study read. "While only about four in 10 (41 percent) said they should not."

There has also been a marked increase in the opinions of Republicans who support religiously-based service refusals, jumping six percentage points from 67 to 73 percent. On the Democratic side, there has also been an increase of three percentage points, from 24

to 27 percent.

Opinions among members of various religions also vary significantly:

- 70 percent of white evangelical Protestants support refusals.

- White mainline Protestants (48 to 45 percent) and black Protestants (49 to 44

category, too. This year almost two-thirds at 63 percent support refusals, while last year 57 percent expressed the same opinion. Democrats and Independents remained at roughly the same percentages, around 42 and 23 percent respectively.

Religious groups provided a range of answers:

- Catholics notably rose in their support of refusals from 29 percent in 2017 to 38 percent this year.

- White evangelical Protestant support is 61 percent today versus 60 percent, white mainline Protestants report at 40 percent in 2018 compared to 44 percent last year and religiously unaffiliated Americans have gone from a 31 percent support rate up to 34 percent.

## Record Support for Same-Sex Marriage

Same-sex marriage support is something that, on the whole, Americans support. Nearly two thirds of people at 64 percent, report that they express support for same-sex marriage with only 28 percent of Americans opposing it outright. This rise in support is significant since 2015 when *Obergefell v. Hodges* was decided. At that time, 55 percent of Americans were in favor of same-sex marriage.

Politically, almost half of Republicans (44 percent) say same-sex marriage should be legal, while 80 percent of Democrats and 67 percent of independents do.

Notably among specific generations, people in the age bracket of 18 to 29, 81 percent of people support same-sex unions, with 51 percent of seniors aged 65 and older supporting it, too.

## Views of Pro-LGBTQ Laws

In terms of legislation meant to support the LGBTQ community, Americans come in at 71 percent in support with only 22 percent of people against. This is pretty stable compared with 2015 when 69 percent of Americans supported these laws with 25 percent opposing.

## Overturing or Maintaining Obergefell v. Hodges

The Supreme Court case *Obergefell v. Hodges* established the constitutional right for same-sex couples to marry, and 62 percent of Americans support this decisions and want it to be upheld with 28 percent opposing.

Regarding politics, 78 percent of Democrats and 67 percent of independents would like to uphold the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision. Conversely, only 38 percent of Republicans

percent) are split almost in half in their support.

- Catholics and religiously unaffiliated Americans have opposite views, with 58 percent of both groups not supporting refusals at all.

Among men and women, 52 percent of men compared to 40 percent of women believe in the right to service refusals, as compared to 2017 when 48 percent of men and 35 percent of women supported it.

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A similar divide exists among Americans when considering if small businesses should have the right or not to refuse service to same-sex couples. Less than half of Americans, at 49 percent, believe that business shouldn't be able to refuse service compared to 42 percent who do. Last year, the majority of the public, 56 percent, opposed service refusals.

Among racial demographics, most black Americans at 63 percent said that service refusals should be permitted, a statistic that has stayed steady since 2017. White Americans are also stable in their views since last year, with 44 percent for and 47 percent against.

Republicans have increased support in this

See **LGBTQ Issues**, continued on p. 18

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# Kavanaugh Shifts to Masterpiece When Queried on Gay Marriage Ruling

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

President Trump's nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court Brett Kavanaugh shifted to the ruling in the Masterpiece Cakeshop case — which came down in favor of a Colorado baker who refused to make a custom-made wedding cake for a same-sex couple — when asked on Sept. 6 whether he supports the historic ruling for same-sex marriage nationwide.

Under questioning from Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), Kavanaugh refused to say whether he thinks the Supreme Court's 2015 decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* was correctly decided.



Brett Kavanaugh refused to say he supports the *Obergefell* decision. (Blade photo by Michael Key)

Kavanaugh cited a practice of nominees to refuse to comment on personal views or precedent set by the high court. That's consistent with his responses to questions on other decisions, including *Roe v. Wade*.

Instead, Kavanaugh referenced five cases on LGBT rights written by former Associate Justice Anthony Kennedy, whose seat he'd occupy on the high court, counting among them the Masterpiece Cakeshop decision narrowly in favor of Jack Phillips.

As Kavanaugh proceeded to enumerate the rulings, Harris interrupted and said "if we could just talk about *Obergefell*, that would be great," redirecting the nominee to address *Obergefell*. But Kavanaugh noted each of the decisions, the 1996 ruling in *Romer v. Evans*, the 2003 ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas*, the 2013 decision in *Windsor v. United States*, the 2015 decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, and the 2017 decision in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*.

Kavanaugh said he wanted to read a statement from Masterpiece Cakeshop, but Harris insisted he address the *Obergefell* decision, calling it a "yes or no" question. Nonetheless, Kavanaugh

pressed forward with the statement from the Masterpiece Cakeshop decision.

"In Masterpiece Cakeshop, and this is, I think, relevant to your question, Justice Kennedy wrote in the majority opinion joined by Chief Justice [John] Roberts and Justice [Samuel] Alito and Justice [Neil] Gorsuch and Justice [Stephen] Breyer, the days of discriminating against gay and lesbian Americans as inferior in dignity and worth are over," Kavanaugh said.

Asked by Harris if he agrees with that statement, Kavanaugh replied, "That is the precedent of the Supreme Court."

When Harris followed up by asking Kavanaugh again if he agrees with *Obergefell*, Kavanaugh dodged.

"Each of the justices have declined as a matter of judicial independence, each of them, to answer in that line of questions," Kavanaugh said.

Harris pointed out Kavanaugh once said the ruling in *Brown v. Board* was one of the greatest moments in the court's history and asked the nominee whether he thinks the same about *Obergefell*, but the nominee refused to say.

"I've said, senator, consistent with what the nominees have done, that the vast swath of modern case law, as Justice Kagan, you can't as a nominee in this seat, give a thumbs up or thumbs down," Kavanaugh said.

Pressed again by Harris on whether *Obergefell* was a great moment, Kavanaugh again referred to Masterpiece.

"Justice Kennedy wrote the majority opinion saying the days of treating gay and lesbian Americans, or gay and lesbian couples, as second-class citizens or inferior in dignity or worth are over in the Supreme Court," Kavanaugh said. "That's a very important statement."

Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, criticized Kavanaugh in a statement for refusing to support the *Obergefell* decision.

"Brett Kavanaugh's refusal to answer very basic, very direct questions about the Supreme Court's historic ruling bringing marriage equality nationwide is alarming and completely unacceptable," Griffin said. "The *Obergefell* decision is settled law. If this nominee cannot so much as affirm that or the fundamental equality of LGBTQ people and our families, he should not and must not be granted a lifetime appointment to our nation's highest court."

Gregory Angelo, president of Log Cabin Republicans, on the other hand said Kavanaugh's response was worthy of praise.

"A Supreme Court nominee who declares that 'the days of discrimination against gay and lesbian Americans are over' is someone every LGBT American should celebrate — without exception," Angelo said. "Even Ruth Bader Ginsburg refused to make such an assertion during her hearings, and she was confirmed by a vote of 96 to 3."





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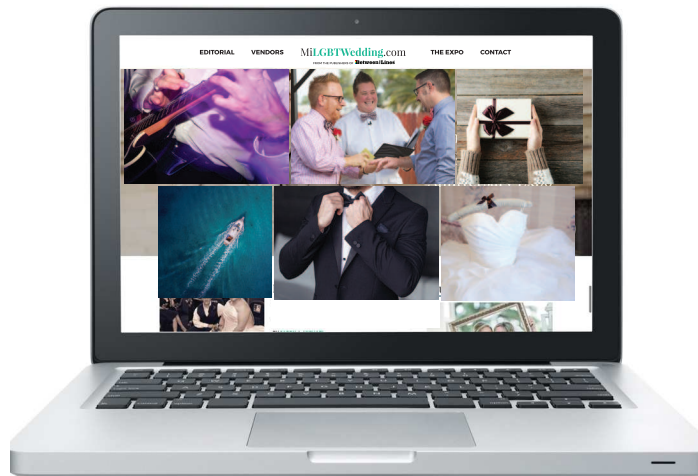
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Gillian Apps and Meghan Duggan. Instagram photos courtesy of Elizabeth LaDuca Photography

## Olympic Ice Hockey Rivals Meghan Duggan and Gillian Apps Marry

BY MARIAH COOPER, WASHINGTON BLADE

U.S. Olympic ice hockey champion Meghan Duggan married Canadian rival Gillian Apps in an outdoor ceremony in Pownal, Maine on Saturday, Sept. 22.

Duggan, 31, is the captain of the U.S. Olympic women's hockey team. She was also captain for Team USA at the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang. While there, she helped the team win a gold medal against Canada. Duggan has also helped Team USA win two silver medals, seven world titles and six Four Nations Cups over the course of her career.

Apps, 34, has played hockey for Team Canada for three

Olympic Winter Games. Dugan and Apps battled it out on the ice at Vancouver in 2010 and Sochi in 2014. Apps retired from her international team following the Sochi games.

Team USA congratulated the couple on the marriage in a statement: "True love overcomes even the largest of rivalries. Just ask Meghan Duggan."

Team Canada also offered its congratulations on Twitter: "From competitors on the ice to partners for life. Congrats! @gapps10 & @mduggan10"

Fellow Olympic athletes Kacey Bellamy, Brianna Decker and Erika Lawler served as bridesmaids.

### ► LGBTQ Issues

Continued from p. 14

agree with the decision, 49 percent believing the opinion of the Supreme Court was wrong.

Among the religiously unaffiliated, 81 percent support same-sex marriage, along with three-quarters of white mainline Protestants and 66 percent of Catholics.

"Even among white evangelical Protestants, who strongly object to same-sex marriage, there is not a strong appetite to overturn the ruling," said the report. "About one-third (34 percent) of white evangelical Protestants say the Obergefell decision was right and should be upheld, while about half (52 percent) say it should be overturned. Fourteen percent express

no opinion on the issue."

By age, 81 percent of young adults support the case being upheld, while only 52 percent of seniors do.

## On Brett Kavanaugh

At the time of this study, 51 percent of Americans polled believed that Trump would nominate a candidate who was likely to overturn Obergefell, with only 22 percent believing he'd uphold the decision.

Politically the divides are stark. Democrats believe overwhelmingly at 71 percent that Kavanaugh would overturn Obergefell, while Republicans are divided. Of republicans, 30 percent believe that the decision will be upheld, while 38 percent say it will be overturned.



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# Keira Knightley

WERKS THE QUEER NARRATIVE

Photo: Robert Vigiasky / Bleecker Street

## 'Colette' Actress on Playing Bisexual Author Colette and Sugar Plum Fairy Drag

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**Y**ou know what's to love, actually? How Keira Knightley has now played enough feminist roles to know her character, Juliet, in the bubbly holiday classic "Love Actually" doesn't exactly fall into that

category. In the Christmas rom-com, Juliet is the object of not one but two men's desire, and copious close-up shots insist on telling us what we've already known: Keira Knightley is breathtakingly beautiful.

The 33-year-old actress was just 17 when 2003's "Love Actually" was filmed. Since then,

Knightley's genre-spanning roles throughout her 23-year career have often positioned her as a heroine in girl-power period films, women characterized by their liberated state of mind (2008's "The Duchess") and patriarchal-defying genius (2014's "The Imitation Game," as Alan Turing's mathematician-fiancée Joan Clarke).

Real-life bisexual novelist Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette, who ghost-wrote for author-husband Henry Gauthier-Villars (known as "Willy" and played by Dominic West) until she reclaimed her autonomy *and* byline, is right within Knightley's wheelhouse of women smearing their male oppressors. Take Colette, whose

1944 book “Gigi” was adapted into a movie musical that won nine Oscars in 1959, including best picture.

Written and directed by out director and fellow Englander Wash Westmoreland (“Still Alice”), “Colette” is a tribute to his late husband and collaborator, Richard Glatzer, who died from the progressive neurodegenerative disease ALS. In the hospital before he passed away in 2015, Glatzer, who could not speak, typed “C-O-L-E-T-T-E” to Westmoreland on an iPad to communicate that his – but in many ways, *their* – next project should be “Colette.”

Recently, Knightley called to talk about her special connection to gay directors such as Westmoreland (and James Kent, who directs her in the forthcoming “The Aftermath”), her enthusiastic response to a “Bend It Like Beckham” sequel where best friends Jules and Jesse are lesbian lovers, and her desperate plea to drag queens.

**You're so good in this I wouldn't be mad if all you do is play period bisexuals for the rest of your career.**

Well, thank you very much! I'll quote you on that.

**Is there a special relationship between gay directors and female actors such as yourself that helps in telling a story like this one?**

That's an interesting question! Yes, I think so. I think that there's that quality of having to fight for your space and fight for your right to be who you feel you are and fight for your voice. So yes, I think there's a similarity in those two aspects, and one I think, probably, Wash identified with in the story of Colette.

**When it comes to the male gaze, is there a difference in having a gay director direct a sex scene?**

Yes and no. He did actually turn around when I think it was me and Eleanor (Tomlinson, who portrays bisexual American heiress Georgie Raoul-Duval) and he was like, “You know, it's really great 'cause there's no male gaze here,” and I'm like, “Wash, there are *only* men in this room!” (Laughs) He's like, “Yes, no – you know what I mean!” (Laughs) So yes, because sex is sort of taken out of it in a way, because obviously he doesn't find me attractive, and that's great (laughs). But I still think male sexuality in all of its forms is probably slightly different from female sexuality, so there are probably still subtle differences. But it *is* very nice to know that when I took my clothes off he didn't get off on it at all.

**Are there any other films you've worked on where you felt having a gay director helped in doing the story justice?**

Yes. I worked with... oh my god... my brain's just literally gone blank and I've forgotten every single other person's name that I've ever worked with before. Wait, what the fuck? He directed “Aftermath.” I can see his face. Oh my god, this is really annoying because literally I just spent eight weeks with him and he's the

loveliest man in the entire world.

But I don't know whether it's sexuality that does it or just – I think it's the individual. Possibly gay men, because of their fight for their identity and to be accepted and accepting of themselves, understand that there's a level of emotional intelligence, which often – not always – a heterosexual man will simply try to shut down. So I think that helps if you're dealing with emotions, which you are when you're making a film. It helps to have an emotional vocabulary and intelligence and openness. And look, I'm a heterosexual woman, so maybe I'm completely talking out of turn, but I do feel, because there is still a process of acceptance that gay men go through, that emotionally they can be very, very intelligent and open and accepting.

**Did Colette's approach to sexuality speak to you in any profound or personal way?**

Yes, because she was entirely natural to herself and she acted without shame. What a wonderful, positive way of looking at your sexuality and the people that you fall in love with. I really respected that about her. I loved that she was herself and that any rule that didn't fit she just broke and made the life that she wanted to live. I think that's a wonderful, empowering story, both from a feminist point of view and from the point of view of her sexuality.

**Speaking of feminism, I have a feeling Colette wouldn't love your character in “Love Actually.”**

Probably not. (Laughs)

**The men in that movie seem to have all the power, while your character is silent, cute; lots of close-ups of you looking pretty. How do you reflect on that role and what it says about women?**

I hadn't really until you just said that! But yes, I can see that. I was 17 when I played that one and I was so excited about just getting a role in a Richard Curtis film. You know, I think there were some pretty good strong women in that. Not *that* one, but the Martine McCutcheon character and the Emma Thompson character, which is so heartbreaking. I don't know. I'd have to look at it again with that frame of my mind. I do, however, know Scarlett Curtis, who is Richard Curtis' daughter and a radical-feminist activist, so he's done something right there.

**As for Emma Thompson, she sobs to Joni Mitchell. And her story doesn't have the happiest or even most empowered of endings.**

But strong people are allowed to break down; it doesn't mean you don't have emotions. You just have to then pick yourself up and stand up again. See, the problem is, I haven't actually seen it since it came out, which was over 10 years ago, so actually I don't remember quite enough to be able to argue either way. You really, really know it, so I feel like I'm just gonna have to go with whatever you say. (Laughs)

See **Keira**, continued on p. 22

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### ► Keira

Continued from p. 21

**You played gay computer scientist Alan Turing's fiancée in "Imitation Game." Have you ever fallen in love with a gay man before?**

No, luckily. I feel very fortunate in that, 'cause that would be tricky!

**Rumor has it that "Bend It Like Beckham" was originally written as a lesbian love story?**

I never read that version of the script! I mean, not as far as I know. But you might have information that I don't have. No, the only version of the script that I ever read was the one that we shot, so it was as it was.

**A lot of people in the LGBTQ community wanted Jess and Jules to be a couple in the end.**

Fuck yeah! That would've been amazing. I think they should've been too. I think that would've been great. We need a sequel.

**You've worn some fabulous period wigs over the years – is that your real hair in "Colette"?**

No, I don't think so. I think we had wigs, always through. Because there were so many different styles, and short, long. I think when it's long we used some of my hair with some extensions, and then when it was short, it was a wig.

**Do you realize how many drag queens are gonna be jealous of the one you wear in your role as the Sugar Plum Fairy in your forthcoming film "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms"?**

Oh, dude, yes. Hell yes. You know, we actually designed it with them in mind. I was so pleased. It was my first time where I could actually be like a drag queen, and I was so excited. We were all talking about it at the time; we were like, "Come on, this is the most amazing drag outfit!" and honestly, I was really excited because normally you have to be so subtle in films and I got these really long, fake eyelashes – I can't remember

whether we used them – but with bits of glitter over them, and we were all like, "This is perfect drag queen attire." It was so amazing, and I think there are some amazing drag queens out there who are gonna wear it even better than I did. I hope that this film inspires some amazing costumes.

**You sound like you could be an avid watcher of "RuPaul's Drag Race."**

Everybody's a fan! Yeah, there's a bit of "Drag Race" watching. And then there's a great drag night in East London, which I used to go to when I could go out before I had a child, which was always fun. So can I just put that out there: Please, please let there be a drag queen somewhere who will be in a Sugar Plum Fairy outfit.

**As a teenager, you were told your kiss with a gay female friend you went to prom with wasn't appropriate. What did that experience teach you about LGBTQ discrimination, and how did it influence you as an ally for the community?**

I thought it was bullshit at the time. Bullshit... bullshit! Our picture was not put up (on the event's photo wall) because it was deemed not appropriate. I'm not sure it was that particular experience that influenced me; I just remember thinking that was stupid and I think I've thought that – always along the line – any discrimination against people because of their sexuality has been utterly ridiculous. It was the way I was brought up, and so I've never questioned gay rights. So yes, that was one of them; but no, I don't think that was my sort of awakening. I've always had family with many gay friends, and people in the LGBTQ community have always been around me all my life and have been wonderful friends.

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

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# CLOSE QUARTERS

## A Metro Detroiter's Big Plans for a Tiny Home

## DEFINING HOME



building of tiny homes have much 'choice' when looking for places to do so," he said. "I would more likely say something along the lines of it was 'simply in the stars and total synchronicity.'"

Weyer grew up the youngest of three in a moderately sized home in Novi, Michigan. A departure from his upbringing, Weyer saw a tiny home as an opportunity for him to reduce his carbon footprint and live a life off the grid by changing himself. He will move his astrology business to his tiny home, and it will become the hub for all his herbal medicines. He is so committed that he said he could even see himself traveling in the future to ethically source his herbal remedies — a commitment that he said wasn't easy make at first.

"I wasn't quite sure it was for me right away, but the thing I admired most about the people who were choosing to do so in actuality was their sense of commitment to change themselves and their lifestyles, so dramatically, for a lot of incredibly noble and whimsical reasons," he said. "That commitment to drastic change seemed frightening yet enlivening to my senses and I knew I wanted to explore the idea further, even just to satisfy my imagination."

Today, Weyer added, "It's so much a part of my life now I can barely remember when it started."

Living tiny for him, he said, "is also about me having to spend less time on keeping track and care of my 'things' and my 'spaces' and be able to focus more of my vital energy into my work and the impact I seek to have with the people I can reach in my communities."

"The subconscious awareness that I have a basement that's been waiting to be thoroughly cleaned out for the past 12 years can be an incredible sap of energy on one's life without even realizing the full extent of it," Weyer said. "I seek to take care and rid myself of all the extraneous saps of energy on my life that hold me back from giving

my all to the present and our future."

For now, Weyer will be living in the home alone. But he is open to visitors who want to experience living small for a few nights. For anyone who is considering building a tiny home, Weyer offers up a bit of advice: "Don't be afraid to play with your life."

"If you can make it work and you feel called to make drastic change for the idea of the better, why waste time pretending you don't?" he said. "Begin now, because the time will pass anyway, and I bet you'd rather wake up in three years living your dream life rather than wishing you had started three years ago."

Weyer reminds those who want to live in a tiny home that they can always sell it or rent it out at any point if it doesn't work out.

"But seriously, be prepared to give yourself at least three or four times as much time as you think you'll need to get this done, yet know that it has the capacity to feel at least 10 to 1,000 times more worth it than you can imagine at this stage," Weyer said. "Like life, it will be best if you can think of the journey and process of building it as the destination rather than rushing to reach the finish line. Also like life, don't be afraid to ask for help, you'll need it."

When asked what his favorite part is about this particular project, Weyer said, "Perhaps my favorite part about standing inside the framed structure of my future is that it feels so all-encompassing and accurately reflective of who I am as a whole person."

"Every decision about this project from the dream of it to laying the first piece of plywood down as my subfloor, has been mine," he continued. "This isn't someone else's leftover shell that I'm moving into, it's something that I am personally bringing into reality straight out of the ether, and it's an incredible privilege I'm aware that I get to feel this way. It feels a bit like being a pioneer I suppose. Exploring a new territory in lifestyle choices."

*To learn more information about Weyer's astrological offerings email him at [AWAstrology@gmail.com](mailto:AWAstrology@gmail.com) or follow him on Instagram @continuouslife.*

BTL Photos: Andrew Potter



BY EMELL D. ADOLPHUS

If Alexander Weyer had to put a postmark on when he decided to build a tiny home, he'd guess it started about three years ago just as most of his thoughts begin: under the stars.

Weyer, an openly gay practicing astrologer and herbalist, was visiting a friend one night in Detroit, thinking about life's grand design and how freeing it would be to downsize.

"It was my friend who was playing with the idea of having a tiny-house community together and how idealistic and free-feeling it would be," he said. "I think what attracted me most to the idea that night was the thought that I could be so much closer to my friends and my community if we all lived small and together."

In just over a year, Weyer began building a tiny home in Chelsea, Michigan. This spring, he was invited to join a burgeoning community of people living small in Detroit's Brightmoor neighborhood.

"I wouldn't say so much that I 'chose' to bring my tiny house to Brightmoor, I don't feel that those pursuing the





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# LGBTQ Rent Versus Own: Does Marriage Matter?

## DEFINING HOME

BY BTL STAFF

It has been more than three years since the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality, paving the way for the continued increase of LGBTQ married couples purchasing homes, according to the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Real Estate Professionals' second annual LGBT Real Estate Report. NAGLREP, with more than 2,000 members, is one of the nation's largest LGBTQ trade associations.

Forty-nine percent of surveyed NAGLREP members reported an uptick in LGBTQ married couples buying homes since the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality on June 26, 2015. This was an increase over 47 percent last year.

And LGBTQ people continue to also have a positive impact on the nation's housing market in other ways. Forty-one percent of surveyed NAGLREP members expect a sizeable number of their LGBTQ clients will "move up" versus downsize (20 percent) in the near future. Additionally, 27 percent of members believe a sizable number of their LGBTQ clients will buy a second home in the near future, with 48 percent anticipating that their LGBTQ clients will soon make a major home renovation.

## Rent Versus Own

Although the LGBTQ community is noted as an economic driver, the second annual NAGLREP LGBT Real Estate Report, an online survey of 485 members, shed light on why LGBTQ people are choosing homeownership over renting.

"A discussion at our NAGLREP Housing Policy Summit in April showed that commentary about LGBT homeownership often revolves around two-income couples," said NAGLREP founder Jeff Berger. "And while these couples are buying and moving up, we also wanted to explore the reasons for first-time homeownership within the LGBT community and why others choose to remain renters."

## Reasons LGBTQ People Bought First Homes:

- Found the right property - 40%
- Job stability - 37%
- Enough financial stability to earn credit - 33%
- Pride of homeownership is greater than renting - 30%
- Saved for down payment - 29%



- Mortgage payments were comparable to rental fees - 24%
- Became comfortable with home buying process - 24%
- Home price was affordable - 20%
- Became aware of emotional benefits of homeownership - 16%
- Recently married - 12%
- Recently engaged - 6%

"Home buying and selling decisions are often predicated on such life events as marriage, children, new jobs, death and divorce, yet our members believe LGBTs have a more pragmatic approach based on financial security," Berger said. "It will be interesting to see over time how marriage and engagement drive interest in homeownership along with children, since 62 percent of our members believe the number of LGBT people with kids is increasing since marriage equality."

Berger pointed out that 59 percent of NAGLREP members believe that LGBTQ renters believe they live in an area where the cost of homeownership might be exorbitant.

The NAGLREP study found that financial considerations also largely drive LGBTQ people's decision to remain renters, although it appears there is a need for education and awareness about the home buying and mortgage processes.

## Reasons LGBTQ People Remain Renters:

- Concerned about financial status - 62%
- Believe they live in area where cost of homeownership might be exorbitant - 59%
- Concerned about long-term financial stability - 59%
- In need of further knowledge about home buying process - 57%
- Nervous/fearful about credit/mortgage process - 51%
- Unaware of how mortgage payments compare to rental fees - 47%
- They are waiting to find "right" partner before buying home - 18%
- They are waiting to get married before becoming homeowners - 14%
- Recently engaged - 6%

"These findings are eye-opening for us and we hope for all of the real estate community," Berger said. "There are a variety of reasons LGBT people may not be as aware of the emotional and financial benefits of homeownership but we now recognize the need for further, and potentially more targeted, education and enlightenment."

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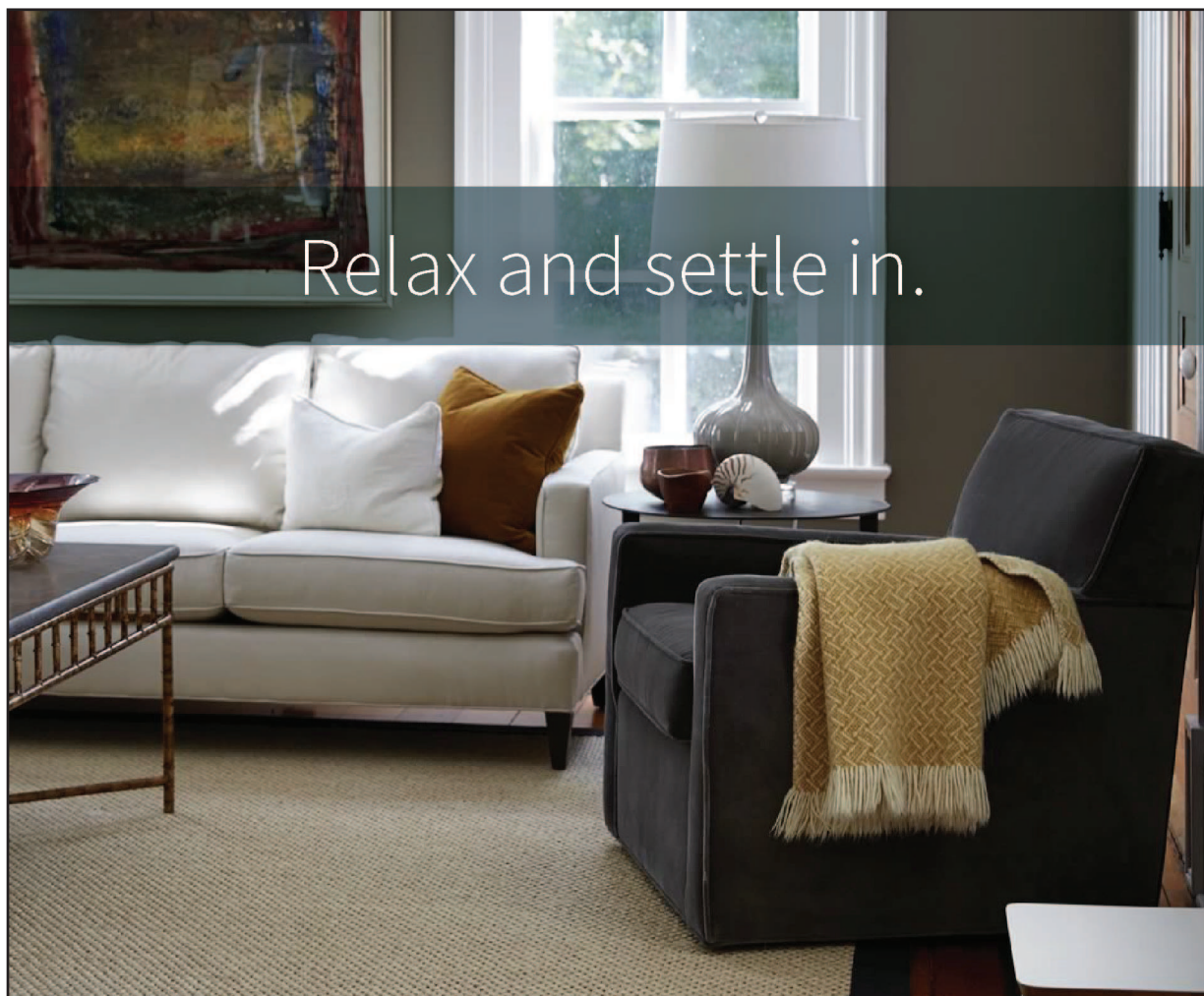


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# Local Domestic Violence Group Turns a 'House into a Home'

## DEFINING HOME

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The group is called Phoemale and, for anyone wondering, is pronounced just like the word "female." The unique spelling represents the words "phoenix" and "female" combined and the group celebrates women rising from the ashes. More specifically, Phoemale is a non-profit organization that enables women to empower fellow women in Metro Detroit who are rebuilding their lives after overcoming domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking or homelessness. The organization got its start almost three years ago when a some women from the Grosse Pointe area got together and decided to do something to combat those issues.

"What happens to a lot of young women today — whether it's human trafficking, sexual assault, domestic violence or homelessness — is horrible," said Jenelle Lefief, Phoemale's president. "A lot of women are left with children. They've had this trauma happen to them and they're barely scraping by. We saw that all they needed was a hand up and they could really go places."

Phoemale is a small group so their efforts, by their own admission, are modest. Still, they are also impactful, helping anywhere between four and 10 women every year.

"We know we can't help everybody," Lefief said. "We're a small charity, but we're looking for women who meet one of those four criteria who also have a plan. They are capable of getting on their feet but there's a gap that other charities can't fill so we help them."

While the group is making a name for itself with its fundraisers, the ladies of Phoemale decided they wanted a project that was more hands-on, one that would allow them to, in fact, get their hands dirty. So last September they started the House into a Home project.

Phoemale found a woman named Erica\* who needed that hand up that Lefief mentioned.

"She had been homeless for three years," Lefief said. "She was the victim of domestic violence and sexual assault. She had a family member die and leave her a house. She owned a house, but the house was in complete disarray. It needed paint badly. There was not a single light fixture in the house that was working. They were using a lamp and an extension cord and going from room to room."

And as extensive as that damage seems, then there were the porches.

"The front porch structurally was unsound," Lefief said. "When you walked down the stairs it leaned from one side to the other, and when you got to the top of the stairs you had to step to the right and around because the top boards were sinking in. The back porch was rotting and unusable so she couldn't leave out of her back door."

Phoemale partnered with another charity called To Detroit With Love and got to work. For two days they set about transforming Erica's house and, in the end, they did just that.

"We had about 12 or 15 volunteers," Lefief said. "We had help from a local contractor from Grosse Pointe named Tom Wire. He volunteered his entire crew for one day, Sherwin-Williams donated paint, we had an electrician come in. In two days we completely transformed the house."

Phoemale gave Erica's 6-year-old son, who was sleeping on



AFTER



BEFORE

a mattress on the floor, a new bed and a basketball-themed bedroom. They got her stove working and her kitchen functioning again. Outside, they laid new sod and cleaned up debris from the yard. Friends of the groups donated items such as a flat-screen TV, a solid-wood dining room set, linens, curtains and much more. And though it's not perfect, Lefief said that she's thrilled to have been able to help.

"Should it be in a magazine? Probably not. But this woman used to feel that her house was ugly. Now, she said she thinks her house is the prettiest one in the neighborhood. We gave the house a total facelift," Lefief said. "It's amazing what paint and a little bit of furniture and some elbow grease does. I think we were surprised at how well it turned out. We looked back at the house and said, 'Wow!' We thought we were just going to clean it up but it really became pretty and you could just feel the love in it. It was a great project for everyone. Not just for Erica, but for Phoemale and the neighborhood."

\* This person's name was changed to protect their privacy.

*The project was such a success that Phoemale decided to make it an annual event. For more information on the group, visit [phoemale.org](http://phoemale.org).*

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# 7 Tips for Navigating Income Disparity in Your New-ish Relationship

## The Frivolist



BY MIKEY ROX

When you're in a relationship, one partner is bound to make more money than the other.

Depending on how wide that financial gap, the person with the smaller paycheck can sometimes feel inadequate (whether it's justified or not), and the insecurity of earning less may cause problems.

There are, however, ways to facilitate healthy discussions about uneven financial affairs that lead to satisfying results for both parties. These seven tips will help facilitate feelings of worthiness and appreciation among partners – even if somebody's boss is being stingy.

### 1. Discuss the situation and expectations

Don't avoid having a conversation about where each partner stands financially. Pretending that the issue doesn't exist can lead to resentment. Sit down and talk about how much each of you makes, your savings plan and ultimate financial goals. Discuss how you'll

handle the everyday expenses, too. Perhaps your partner makes enough that he or she doesn't mind taking on more than you. Maybe you have enough in savings already to contribute equally for the time being. Whatever you decide, make sure that the communication is open and honest and all expectations are clear from the get-go.

### 2. Do the math

How much difference is there between your two incomes? Does your partner make twice as much as you do? A fair way to divvy up expenses is to base how much each person is required to pay for monthly expenses on how much each person earns in a month. If your partner makes double what you do, it's a reasonable compromise that they will pay twice as much in rent (or somewhere thereabouts). The discrepancies between salaries should be accommodated at bill time somewhat accordingly.

### 3. Contribute to a joint recreational account

Many partners who earn less feel guilty that they can't pay for as much during recreational outings or vacation. To ensure that both partners feel like they're contributing equally to these activities, consider establishing a joint account. Decide how much you can afford to put in the account on a regular basis – based on the lowest earner's ability to contribute – and start building up the slush fund. When it's time to use it, both partners can feel that they each worked equally as hard to enjoy that time together. I don't, however, recommend combining all your income into one account. Each partner should maintain their own financial independence in some aspects so the waters don't get too muddy in this regard.

### 4. Thinks of ways to have free or inexpensive fun

If money is particularly tight and saving for entertainment isn't feasible, research low- or no-cost activities in your area. There are an abundance of activities that don't cost a dime, like free outdoor movies, bike and kayak rentals, and admission to museums and exhibits, plus plenty of nature-bound DIY fitness activities – all free if you look hard enough. If no one has to put anything out of pocket, no one will feel guilty that one paid more than the other. Another perk: a free activity this time means that you saved even more money for next time.

### 5. Consider alternative ways of making cash

It's a harsh reality, but some careers don't pay much. If you're a teacher and your partner is a Wall Street broker, chances are you'll never earn as much as them. That's OK. But just because your salary is capped doesn't mean your creativity has to be. Maybe you're good at crocheting knit caps that you can sell on Etsy,

or perhaps you're a talented graphic designer who can provide freelance services. There are a million ways to make extra money outside of a nine-to-five when you embrace your own motivation.

### 6. Set limits at gifting times

Holidays can be hard for the financially strapped, so the best way to avoid hurt feelings and disappointment is to set a limit (again, based on what the lower earner can afford) for how much money will be spent. This isn't difficult to do. As we get older we tend to want less at holiday time anyway (probably because we buy ourselves presents all year round, but that's another issue), and it's the thought of the gift that ultimately counts. A limit also helps ensure that the lower earner doesn't overspend, which could push him or her into deeper – even if perceived – debt.

### 7. If your partner pays more, do more

If you're the lower earner and your partner is willing to take on more of the monthly expenses than you – no questions asked – show your appreciation by doing more of the household chores. Wash the dishes, take out the trash, and make dinner more frequently than he or she does. You're not getting paid to take on these tasks, per se, but in the real world those chores are considered work for some (people make a living from it) so it's OK to assign monetary value to the extra time and effort you're putting in. Taking on more of the household chores when he or she is taking on more of the expenses also is an excellent way to show your thanks in small, thoughtful and inexpensive ways.

*Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert. He spends his time writing from the beach with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyrox.*

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## Advocacy

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[equalitymi.org](http://equalitymi.org)  
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## Campus

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

### U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center  
[Spectrumcenter@umich.edu](mailto:Spectrumcenter@umich.edu)  
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### Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

### Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center  
[emich.edu/lgbtrc](http://emich.edu/lgbtrc)  
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[ltu.edu/student\\_affairs/lgbt.asp](http://ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp)  
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## Community Centers

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

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[sagemetrodetroit.org](http://sagemetrodetroit.org)  
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

## Political

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

[Facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP)  
Stonewall for Revolution  
[www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution](https://www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution)

## Professional Groups

### Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

### Ties Like Me

Professional networking events  
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.  
[TiesLikeMe.org](http://TiesLikeMe.org)  
Suits And The City  
Lansing, MI  
[suitsandthecity@gmail.com](mailto:suitsandthecity@gmail.com)  
[www.suitsandthecity.org](http://www.suitsandthecity.org)

## Transgender

### FtM Detroit

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

### FtM A2 Ypsi

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

### Transgender Michigan

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

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Professional Organizations  
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Senior Living  
Seniors  
Social/Community Organizations  
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# Trixie Mattel Brings Her 'Moving Parts' to Detroit

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

She was the unlikely winner of season three of “RuPaul’s Drag Race All-Stars” and she is quickly becoming one of the biggest standouts among the show’s alumni: she’s Trixie Mattel. And the show she’s bringing to Detroit on Oct. 11 is in keeping with her toy-themed name, it’s “Now With Moving Parts.”

“The show has a lot of things going on — like video, costume changes, wig changes, three different instruments — so it’s going to have a lot of moving parts,” said Mattel, speaking from her hotel room the morning after her latest performance. “But it’s also going to have parts that are poignant and moving.”

On tour since the spring, “Parts” has played to stellar reviews and enthusiastic crowds all across the country. And even though Mattel is still in the midst of performing her dozens of tour dates, she said she has even more planned for next year.

“We have 10 more dates left and that will cap us at, like, 70 North American dates,” Mattel said. “I’m going to be very tearful to retire a lot of those songs and jokes. I’m already recording the next album. I’m already knee-deep in what will be next year’s tour. ... It takes a lot of time to figure out what’s not funny.”

Television audiences first started laughing with Mattel when she appeared on Drag Race’s seventh season. She was eliminated in episode four, brought back in episode eight and sent home for good in episode 10 — or at least fans thought. Last year, she was approached about doing “All-Stars” season three.

“When I got the call it was funny, because I thought I had blocked that number,” Mattel said. “No, I’m just kidding. I was excited. I had just watched Katya do ‘All-Stars’ two and I was jelly. That’s what the kids call jealous. I was jelly. ... Then my second reaction was that all the sphincters in my body clenched — and there are a lot more sphincters in the body than people talk about.”

She gave an enthusiastic, “yes,” but after agreeing to do the show, Mattel said she started to worry. She knew that the standards of performance on “All-Stars” were significantly higher than on the regular version of “RuPaul’s Drag Race.”

“On a normal season of ‘Drag Race’ if you sort of just stand in the light and remember your lines you can stay for a while,” she said. “But on ‘All-Stars’ everyone is famous, confident and rich. You have to bring it. The judges are like, ‘Well, when you were doing handstand kicks we saw one of your bobby pins.’ They have to judge very severely.”

Mattel said she also felt a unique pressure



Cyriel Jacobs

when she appeared on the show because the way her career had gone after her original run on the show.

“On ‘All-Stars’ a lot of people are looking for a resurgence in their career,” Mattel explained. “They’re looking to put their face out there again. But, for me, with the albums I had done and the TV series and the YouTube series I had appeared on, it was like I had the pressure of living up to the real-life Trixie. I just felt that pressure right away.”

## ‘I came from nothing’

If anyone was used to being judged, though, it was Mattel. Born Brian Michael Firkus, Mattel grew up in rural Wisconsin, where she often felt out of place. Her stepfather was, she says, a difficult man.

“He used to call me a ‘Trixie’ when I was too feminine or emotional,” Mattel recalled.

“But I took back the night. Now I make money off that name. It used to have a much darker meaning. Now, it’s my favorite word. If you Google ‘Trixie’ I’m probably the Trixie that comes up, so, hopefully, I reassigned that name for everyone.”

Still, not all was bad in Wisconsin. With not much else to do to pass the time, Mattel discovered music.

“I started playing guitar at 13,” Mattel said. “My brother wanted to play guitar like Blink-182 and then he quit right away. So I picked it up. It came very naturally to me. It was the first thing I discovered that I did for myself and I really liked it.”

Instead of her brother’s affinity for rockers, Mattel was drawn toward Dolly Parton, whose style she would come to frequently emulate when performing in drag.

“Dolly, to me, represents the crossroads of great musicianship and comedy and beauty,”

said Mattel. “To me, what I do with drag, I feel, is similar. It’s important for me to be a good musician; it’s important for me to be funny; it’s important for me to look great. Dolly talks about how she doesn’t mind Dolly Parton jokes better than her. She has this effervescent gift, but she is legitimately an icon. She has a lot of philosophies that really matter to me.”

One of those philosophies is how Parton approaches beauty. Mattel said that Parton’s humorous approach to fashion and looks in an image-obsessed world has helped her navigate it throughout her career.

“I came from nothing,” Mattel said. “I like that she came from nothing and she had this idea of what beauty was. With Trixie, I have this fixation on this extreme beauty ideal and celebrating that and making fun of that at the same time. And Dolly Parton, with her looks, she makes fun of conventional beauty but also celebrates it.”

And just like her idol, Mattel has started to carve out a name for herself in the country and folk music scenes — perhaps becoming the first drag queen to do so.

“I produce my own music, pay for it. Right down to rhinestoning the costumes on the cover of the album,” she said. “The album ‘Two Birds’ came out a year and half ago and people loved it and it sold well and charted high and made all this money. I was stunned. I think with comedy and music people respond to a certain amount of authenticity, and I think in my stand-up and my music there is equal parts polish and equally part personal fingerprint on it. A lot of people who listen to my music don’t consider themselves country music or folks music fans, but they like Trixie because they like storytelling with a sense of humor.”

And bearing the success of her various projects in mind, Mattel seems to have already turned her 15 minutes of fame into a legitimate, long-standing career.

“After being on ‘Drag Race,’ you’re an instant star,” she said. “But more than that, you’re an in-this-instant star. I always say the real ‘Drag Race’ is after ‘Drag Race.’ Show business is 51 percent business and 49 percent art.”

When asked what is the key to success, Mattel answered simply: “individuality.”

“I think it’s a lot about staying in your own lane, but also it’s about creating a lane that no one else can go into,” she said. “If you want Latrice Royale there’s not really second phone call. That’s who you have to call. ... And if you want a Barbie doll drag queen doing comedy and singing folk songs, I’m the only one. You have to call me — or Dolly Parton.”





Photo courtesy of YouTube.

## 'Not in My House' Gives Dance New Meaning

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Coming out stories. In the LGBTQ community, we all have one. Now, a unique collaboration between Kristi Faulkner Dance and the Ruth Ellis Center is turning those stories into art. "Not in my House" radically shifts the narrative about LGBTQ identity through the creative re-imagining of coming out stories in an evening-length performance blending vogue, contemporary dance and storytelling," said event organizers.

It all started in 2016 when Faulkner received a Knight Challenge Award for enriching Detroit communities with the arts. That spring-boarded her into starting work with youth from the Ruth Ellis Center.

"We really started last summer with these movement workshops with the youth because voguing is a huge part of what they do at the center," Faulkner explained. "Myself and some of other artists in the Detroit dance community and some of the youth who are prominent folk at the center, we led the youth in free movement workshops all summer. We helped engage the youth with different way to move their body outside of vogue but things that could also inform their voguing process."

From there, the idea came about to create a performance piece: "Not in my House." The piece itself will feature a cast of six including four youths from Ruth Ellis and two other dancers who identify as LGBTQ.

"At first, I didn't know how this was going to take shape," said Faulkner. "We just started talking about our coming out stories. For me, my coming out story had a lot to do with the gay bars. So, I was really interested in what others experienced in the gay clubs and the movement vocabulary that comes out of being at gay clubs."

Slowly, the concept began to come together and the dancing and storytelling began to blend effortlessly.

"Our stories are different but they all kind

of revolve around coming out and how you find a family or home outside of the home," said cast member Paige Michaels Chanel. "It reflects on how a lot of us kind of went to the club scene as a place of comfort or sanctuary. I do shows and pageants so the club scene, for me, is an important part of my life and my coming out story."

When asked how the performance will be structured, Chanel said that each cast member will have their own time to shine along with their group performance.

"We individually tell our stories through movement and there's a portion of the performance where I actually give you a tidbit of my own coming out story," Chanel said. "We all have our own solos. We express ourselves through dance and words."

Chanel said that the show's title evolved from an expression many young LGBTQ people hear in their parents' home.

"A lot of times we're not allowed to be ourselves," she said. "Our parents say, 'You can't do that. Not in my house.' So, we go out and find new homes and families. Being with this group we've actually become a family. Some of us have known each other before. Others we may not have run across, but we've built a bond with each other."

The whole show, Chanel said, is "very empowering."

"It's almost like a healing process for us," Chanel said. "When we're hearing each others' stories we're encouraging each other to be strong and move forward and have more confidence in ourselves."

*"Not in my House" will be performed at the Planet Ant Theatre, which is located at 2357 Caniff in Hamtramck, Thursday, Oct. 11 through Saturday, Oct. 13. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 9 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$16. For more information, visit [kristifaulknerdance.com](http://kristifaulknerdance.com).*

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## Foo Fighters Perform in Detroit on Oct. 15

Originally from Seattle, former Nirvana drummer Dave Grohl founded The Foo Fighters in 1994. Since its origins, the band has won multiple Grammy Awards and sold millions of copies of their albums in the U.S. and abroad. Now in the midst of their Concrete and Gold Tour, the band will perform a show at Little Caesars Arena on Monday, Oct. 15. More information about the show and ticketing can be found online [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

# Happenings

## OUTINGS

### Sunday, October 7

**Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Groups** 4 p.m. Free. Contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st Street, Wyandotte. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County** 6:30 p.m. Free. For parents of transgender kids. For Trans Youth Support Group information, contact facilitator Socorro Sevilla, MSW: [socorro@hilltopcounseling.org](mailto:socorro@hilltopcounseling.org). Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org). [hilltopcounseling.org](http://hilltopcounseling.org).

### Monday, October 8

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Macomb County** 6:30 p.m. Macomb Teen/Youth Support Group. Free. Come and meet other trans youth and teens and support each other through your journeys. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700. [chippewavalley.schools.org](http://chippewavalley.schools.org).

### Wednesday, October 10

**Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genesee** 6:30 p.m. Free. Facilitator Sara Griffin, MA, LPC is a psychotherapist and a parent of a transgender son, [eiregriff@aol.com](mailto:eiregriff@aol.com). Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023. [uuf Flint.org](http://uuf Flint.org). [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

### Thursday, October 11

**Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce Merge & Mixer** 6:30 p.m. Michigan Employee Resource Groups for Equality (MERGE) Monthly Networking Event. All are welcomed to network. Host by: Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Check website for monthly location, RSVP is Required. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646. [info@detroitlgbtchamber.com](mailto:info@detroitlgbtchamber.com).

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County** 7 p.m. Free. Oakland United

Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620. [oaklandumc.org](http://oaklandumc.org). [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

**Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting** 7 p.m. Professional & personal communication skills development. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. [lawrencemoebis@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencemoebis@gmail.com). [speakout.toastmastersclubs.org](http://speakout.toastmastersclubs.org).

**Not In My House at Planet Ant** 8 p.m. A collaboration between Kristi Faulkner Dance and the Ruth Ellis Center. One event on Oct. 12 at 8 p.m. One event on Oct. 13 at 9 p.m. Planet Ant, 2320 Caniff St., Hamtramck. (313) 365-4255 [Kristi@KristiFaulknerDance.com](mailto:Kristi@KristiFaulknerDance.com). [planetant.com/tickets/notinmyhouse](http://planetant.com/tickets/notinmyhouse).

### Friday, October 12

**Friend w/ Benefits feature 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show'** 8 p.m. Screening of the cult classic "Rocky Horror Picture Show." Performances by Guilty Pleasures Burlesque artist Luna Legare and Drag King Rebellion's famous A-Train. Tunes spun by DJ Selina S. Tyle all night long and themed Bona Sera, 200 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilante. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

### Wednesday, October 17

**Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County** 6:30 p.m. Free. Parent Support Group Facilitators Karen Sessler, [ksessler@yahoo.com](mailto:ksessler@yahoo.com) or 734-673-3590 and Scott Sessler, [pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org](mailto:pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org) or 734-673-2485. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

### Friday, October 19

**Voices of Freedom** 6 p.m. Celebrate 35 years of welcoming those 'yearning to breathe free' with us. Motor City Casino, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 866-782-9622. [freedomhousedetroit.org/index.php/voices](http://freedomhousedetroit.org/index.php/voices).

### Saturday, October 20

**Affirmations Fall Fling 2018 – Save The Date!** 7 p.m. Join us in support of Affirmations for an evening filled with live entertainment, hors-d'oeuvres, drinks,

desserts, a raffle and silent auction with fantastic prizes for you to win. The event is 21+ and Costume Optional, Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105

### Tuesday, October 23

**Strand with Trans Support Groups – Ann Arbor – Washtenaw** 6:30 p.m. Trans Support Group. Parent Support Group Facilitator – Yma Johnson, [ymaj1968@gmail.com](mailto:ymaj1968@gmail.com) or 734-780-4092. Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

## MUSIC & MORE

**Sky Covington in Concert Hosted by: Michigan Democratic Future Political Action Committee** Oct. 7, 5 p.m. Sky Covington and Friends Jazz Concert and Jam Session follows. Tangent Gallery, 715 East Milwaukee Ave., Detroit. 248-445-1277. [isaacrobison.com](http://isaacrobison.com).

**Finding Your Voice** Oct. 10, 7 p.m. Contrary to popular belief, everyone of us has the ability to sing and overcome the fear. MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main Street, Clawson. 248-399-7741. [mccdetroit.org](http://mccdetroit.org).

**Culture Lab: Screening of Original 'RoboCop'** Oct. 10, 8 p.m. The new edition of the acclaimed cultural program will explore how beauty intersects with multiculturalism and more. Senate Theater, 6424 Michigan Ave., Detroit. 313-894-0850. [senatetheater.com](http://senatetheater.com)

**Culture Lab: 'The Aesthetics of Tomorrow'** Oct. 11, 6 p.m. The Aesthetics of Tomorrow features artists and theorists working on the cusp of technological innovation: Mark Pauline and Eyal Weizman's. Senate Theater, 6424 Michigan Ave., Detroit.

**Culture Lab: Seeing and Being Seen** 6 p.m. Seeing and Being Seen brings together three artists whose work shows how identity is both formed and performed and more. Dream The Church of the Messiah, 231 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-267-1010

**Dancing in the Street: A Symphonic Tribute to Motown** 10:30 a.m. Celebrate Motown and artists like Marvin Gaye, The Four Tops and Martha Reeves. One event on Oct. 12 at 8 p.m. One event on Oct. 13 at 8 p.m. One event on Oct. 14 at 3 p.m. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. [dso.org](http://dso.org).

**Arturo Sandoval** October 12, 8 p.m. 10-Time Grammy Award Winning Jazz Legend Arturo Sandoval is coming to Ann Arbor. The Ark, The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 734-763-TKTS [hello@blueellamaclub.com](mailto:hello@blueellamaclub.com) [hello@blueellamaclub.com](mailto:hello@blueellamaclub.com). [theark.org](http://theark.org).

**Addiction and Older Adults** Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. Charles E. Coleman LLMSW; and Matthew Cremin, LLMSW; will discuss the unique nature of how addiction affects older adults, myths and facts, and available local resources. Free. Sponsored by Dawn Farm. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. [dawnfarm.org](http://dawnfarm.org).

**The Firebird** Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m. The first masterpiece of a musical genius. Experience Stravinsky's "The Firebird" under the dynamic Fabian Gabel. One event on Oct. 19 at 10:30 a.m. One event on Oct. 20 at 8 p.m. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. [dso.org/ShowEventsView](http://dso.org/ShowEventsView).

**In Search of Satisfaction – Public Talk by Demo Rinpoche** Oct. 20, 11 a.m. Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. 248-647-2380. [bloomfield@jewelheart.org](mailto:bloomfield@jewelheart.org). [jewelheart.org/chapters/bloomfield-hills](http://jewelheart.org/chapters/bloomfield-hills).

**Christopher Titus** Oct. 20, 7 p.m. Christopher Titus' new show takes the audience on a wild ride through his personal life and explores fatherhood. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. 4th St., Royal Oak. 248-399-2980. [royalokmusictheatre.com](http://royalokmusictheatre.com). [soundchronicle.com](http://soundchronicle.com).

**The Intersectionality of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Substance Use/Substance Use Disorders** Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. Discuss the relationship between domestic violence/sexual assault and substance use and more. Free. St.

## Editor's Pick

### Blue Llama Jazz Club and The Ark Present Arturo Sandoval

On Friday, Oct. 12, jazz enthusiasts can see 10-time Grammy Award-winning artist Arturo Sandoval perform in Ann Arbor's The Ark. The famous jazz trumpeter, pianist and composer has also received an Emmy Award and six Billboard Music Awards. Tickets start at \$45. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. More information can be found online at [theark.org](http://theark.org).



Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. [dawnfarm.org](http://dawnfarm.org).

**Dianne Reeves and Christian McBride Duo** Oct. 26, 8 p.m. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111 [dso.org](http://dso.org).

**All Souls/Day of the Dead gathering** Oct. 28, 6 p.m. An interfaith gathering to remember and honor those who have passed—through music, a meal, and ceremony. Bring a photo or memento. Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 3257 Lohr Road., Ann Arbor. 734-546-0243. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**Personal Medicine: Becoming Active Agents in Our Own Recovery** Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. Jerry Fouchey, MA, CADC will discuss how conditions common to early addiction recovery can be effectively managed. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. [dawnfarm.org](http://dawnfarm.org).

**Cirque de la Symphonie** Nov. 2, 10:45 a.m. Orchestra Hall will once again be the setting for aerial acrobats, gravity-defying feats, contortionists, strongmen, jugglers and more. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. [dso.org](http://dso.org).

**Michigan Depression Glass Society Show and Sale** Nov. 3, 10 a.m. Enjoy one of the nation's best all-American made glass shows with makers such as Fostoria, Heisey, Fenton, Cambridge, Imperial, Westmoreland and Paden City. Dearborn Ford Community & Performing Arts, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 313-943-2350. [dearbornfordcenter.com](http://dearbornfordcenter.com). [michigandepressionglass.com](http://michigandepressionglass.com).

**Emanuel Ax Plays Beethoven** Nov. 9, 10:30 a.m. Emanuel Ax performs Beethoven's youthful First Piano Concerto, while Cristian Măcelaru conducts "Play" by Andrew Norman. Norman is one of today's most Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. [dso.org](http://dso.org).

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Star Wars and the Power of Costume** Star Wars™ and the Power of Costume explores the challenges in dressing the

Star Wars universe from the Galactic Senate and royalty to the Jedi, Sith and Droids™. Featuring more than 60 hand-crafted costumes. Detroit Institute of Arts, 2100 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-833-7900. [dia.org/starwarsattheDIA](http://dia.org/starwarsattheDIA)

**16th Annual Michigan Renaissance Festival** Take a time-travel adventure into the 16th century at the annual Michigan Renaissance Festival! Join our Queen Elizabeth in a jubilee! Inside our turreted gates, visitors enjoy the sights and sounds of a 17-acre village, Renaissance Festival Location, 12600 Dixie Hwy., Holly. 248-634-5552. [info@michrenfest.com](http://info@michrenfest.com) [info@michrenfest.com](http://info@michrenfest.com)

**Satori Circus 30th Anniversary Performances** Performance artist Satori Circus celebrates 30 years with performances of his avant-garde theatre of the absurd. One event on September 29 at 8:00pm One event on September 30 at 8:00pm Tangent Gallery, 715 East Milwaukee Ave., Detroit. 248-445-1277. [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

**The Post-Photographic Body: See Me As I Feel** October 5, 7 p.m. Renowned Michigan dancer, choreographer and video artist Peter Sparling presents his first solo exhibit of acrylic paintings that seamlessly translate the muscular flow and kinetic and visual immediacy of a dancer's body to canvas. Oct. 5-7, 19-21, 26-27 22 North Gallery, 22 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti, MI. 734-757-5708 [22north.org](http://22north.org).

**Michigan Depression Glass Society Show and Sale** Nov. 3, 10 a.m. Enjoy one of the nation's best all-American made glass shows with makers such as Fostoria, Heisey, Fenton, Cambridge, Imperial, Westmoreland and Paden City, along with well-known companies such as Anchor Hocking, Hazel Atlas, Pyrex and One event on November 4 at 10:00am Dearborn Ford Community & Performing Arts, 15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. 313.943.2350 [dearbornfordcenter.com/](http://dearbornfordcenter.com/) [michigandepressionglass.com](http://michigandepressionglass.com).

## THEATER

**Stagecrafters Presents Fool for Love** Oct. 5-14, 8 p.m. In a rundown motel on the edge of the Mojave Desert, former lovers May and Eddie square off to make sense of their intensely volatile

relationship. Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. 2485418027 <https://stagecrafters.org/on-stage/2nd-stage/31-fool-for-love.html>

**A2CT Junior Theatre Auditions for The Girl With The Golden Locks** Oct. 9, 4:30 p.m. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre's Junior Theatre program announces auditions for its first 2018-2019 production, The Girl with the Golden Locks by Brian D. Taylor, directed by Briana O'Neal. Auditions take place Tuesday, October 9 and One event on October 10 at 4:30pm A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228 [a2ct.org/junior-theatre/junior-theatre-auditions](http://a2ct.org/junior-theatre/junior-theatre-auditions)

**Not In My House at Planet Ant** Oct. 11, 8 p.m. This collaboration between Kristi Faulkner Dance and the Ruth Ellis Center radically shifts the narrative about LGBTQ+ identity through the creative re-imagining of coming out stories in this performance blending vogue, contemporary dance and storytelling. One event on October 12 at 8:00pm One event on October 13 at 9:00pm Planet Ant, 2320 Caniff St., Hamtramck. (313) 365-4255 [KristiFaulknerDance.com](http://KristiFaulknerDance.com).

**CHICAGO Returns to the Fisher Theatre!** October 16-21, 8 p.m. CHICAGO has everything that makes Broadway great: a universal tale of fame, fortune and all that jazz; one show-stopping song after another; and the most astonishing dancing you've ever seen. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. [broadwayindetroit.com/shows/chicago](http://broadwayindetroit.com/shows/chicago).

**THE STONE WITCH by Shem Bitterman Michigan Premiere** Oct. 19, 8 p.m. Peter Chandler, a starving artist with his own literary aspirations, is hired to help "The Great Man" finish his overdue book, an unlikely friendship ensues, secrets are revealed, and the lines of reality begin to blur. Theatre NOVA, 410 W Huron, Ann Arbor. 734-635-8450. [A2TheatreNOVA@gmail.com](mailto:A2TheatreNOVA@gmail.com). [artful.ly/theatre-nova/store/events](http://artful.ly/theatre-nova/store/events).

**A2CT Presents Arsenic and Old Lace** October 25-28, 7:30 p.m. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre is proud to present Arsenic and Old Lace by Joseph Kesselring, directed by Alex Duncan. Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538. [smdt.umich.edu](http://smdt.umich.edu). [a2ct.org](http://a2ct.org).

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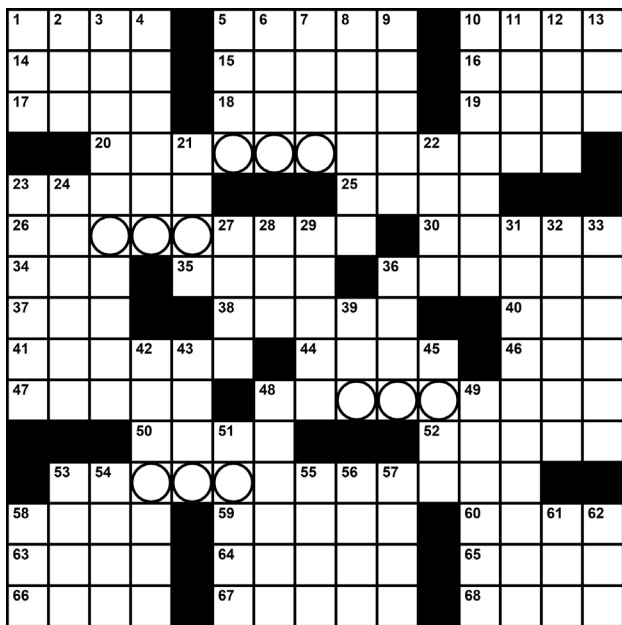
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## QPuzzle

### Searching for a Searcher


#### Across

- 1 Tuft of pubic hair, e.g.  
 5 Butler's burden on the stairway  
 10 Oakland's \_\_\_ Bears bookstore  
 14 Something to think about  
 15 Von Trapp title  
 16 Greek who stuck it in some Trojans  
 17 Dramatist Williams, for short?  
 18 Totally absurd  
 19 "Six Feet Under" character  
 20 California coastal city  
 23 Building featured in "Pee-Wee's Big Adventure"  
 25 Reposed  
 26 Holder for a gyro sandwich  
 30 K on Lesbos

- 34 Singer DiFranco  
 35 In view  
 36 Upshot  
 37 Corporate VIP  
 38 Toklas of expats  
 40 Inked decoration, for short  
 41 Recently deceased gay icon whose name appears in the circles  
 44 Marching band member  
 46 "Carousel"'s "You're a Queer \_\_\_"  
 47 Race site in Britten's land  
 48 Stores of information  
 50 Melville tale  
 52 Minimum amount  
 53 Heart rate reducers  
 58 Seamen  
 59 Aquarium buildup  
 60 Birth state of Langston Hughes  
 63 "Gypsy"'s "\_\_\_ Need Is the Girl"  
 64 Become wife and wife, e.g.  
 65 Drag queen Justin  
 66 Fox comedy with Jane Lynch  
 67 Fields of interest  
 68 Props for frat hazing

#### Down


- 1 Margaret Edson play  
 2 Chemical suffix  
 3 Hayley Kiyoko's feelings, for example  
 4 Colón locale  
 5 Memorial column  
 6 First name in Czech tennis  
 7 Gaza Stripper, e.g.  
 8 Dancer Reagan's father  
 9 "The end of \_\_\_"  
 10 "Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow," to Lorca  
 11 Showing a tiny opening  
 12 \_\_\_ Hari of espionage  
 13 Tin Woodsman's tool  
 21 Bigwigs, to Britten  
 22 Ten-speed, e.g.  
 23 Attack helicopter  
 24 Where to find the usual suspects  
 27 Admiral's position?  
 28 Slippery one  
 29 "West Side Story" girl  
 31 Fake it, on Broadway?  
 32 Parts of a woody erection  
 33 Bear witness  
 36 C&W's McEntire  
 39 Chatroom stat  
 42 Dustin Hoffman role in a dress  
 43 Stone of "Easy A"  
 45 Highly competent  
 48 Susan B. Anthony coin  
 49 It needs oxygen  
 51 Most recent competent president  
 53 Cinderella's coming-out party  
 54 Gardner of mystery  
 55 Fairy-tale monster  
 56 Italian honey  
 57 Peter Nero's 88  
 58 Running game  
 61 Feminizing suffix  
 62 Takes too much, for short




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## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

# Mission-Focused Grant from Motorola Solutions Foundation Enables NOGLSTP to Support Students through Scholarships

A recent grant of \$25,000 from the Motorola Solutions Foundation, the charitable arm of Motorola Solutions Inc., to the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals (NOGLSTP) is intended to aid four education scholarships. NOGLSTP educates and advocates LGBTQ people in STEM fields — science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

Through the grant, NOGLSTP will fund two undergraduate and two graduate student scholarships for deserving LGBTQ STEM students and continue its partnership with MentorNet, a division of the educational organization Great Minds in STEM, to provide a virtual mentoring program for LGBTQ STEM students. Motorola Solutions Foundation awards grants each year to organizations such as NOGLSTP that support and advance public safety programs and technology and engineering education initiatives.

“These scholarships are intended for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in STEM programs who are either lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or an active ally of the LGBT community,” said Rochelle Diamond, chair of the NOGLSTP Board of Directors. “The scholarships are designed to promote academic excellence and increased visibility of talented LGBT students in STEM careers.”

Funded at \$5,000 and \$2,500 each, the scholarships will be for the 2019 fall academic year. As the embodiment of pride in LGBTQ and STEM communities, all scholarship applicants will receive a complimentary student membership in NOGLSTP, and scholarship winners will attend NOGLSTP's biennial Out to Innovate two-day summit for LGBT students, faculty and professionals in STEM fields.

This year, grants from the Motorola Solutions Foundation will support programs helping more than 3 million students, teachers, first responders and community members around the globe. A specific focus is providing grants to programs that impact underrepresented populations, including females, minorities, people with disabilities, veterans and others.

“The Motorola Solutions Foundation is honored to and privileged to support the work of NOGLSTP,” said Matt Blakely, executive director of the Motorola Solutions Foundation. “We believe in organizations that are fostering innovation, building partnerships and driving change, and we're proud to be part of the positive impact they're making in communities.”

*For additional information on the Motorola Solutions Foundation grants program, visit [motorolasolutions.com/foundation](http://motorolasolutions.com/foundation). For more information on NOGLSTP visit [noglstp.org](http://noglstp.org).*

# MOCAD: Gala, Art Auction Honoring Julie Reyes Tabuman Oct. 12

BY BTL STAFF

Dinner, music, hand-crafted cocktails and an art auction will come together on Friday, Oct. 12, in honor of Julie Reyes Taubman at the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit. Taubman, who died earlier this year, was the co-founder of MOCAD and organized various art projects, fundraisers and the museum's first board.

“In addition to co-founding MOCAD in 2006, Julie's guidance, exceptional art collection, and friendship continue to serve and support Detroit's burgeoning arts community,” wrote event organizers. “Julie will be forever missed by the institution she spent years building and supporting. Please join us as we honor and celebrate her vision.”

For those who cannot attend the gala in person, starting on Friday, Sept. 28, at noon,

interested bidders can go online to [paddle8.com](http://paddle8.com) or download the Paddle8 iPhone app to start the process.

“This year's auction is curated by MOCAD's Executive Director Elysia Borowy-Reeder, and Susanne Feld Hilberry Senior Curator Larry Ossei-Mensah,” organizers said. “All proceeds from the Gala + Art Auction support MOCAD's work as a creative nucleus in Detroit.”

The proceeds will also go toward supporting its mission of “connecting artists from around the world to the local makers and innovators living and working in our great city.”

*The event will begin at 6 p.m. and last until midnight. Attendees are encouraged to follow the theme of “lust for life” in their attire. For ticketing, list of art sponsors, event schedule and FAQs go online to [gaybe.am/bp](http://gaybe.am/bp).*

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