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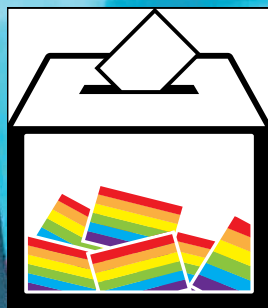
GET OUT AND VOTE

MICHIGAN'S LGBTQ NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

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ANNIVERSARY
Between THE Lines



Standing Up To Trump



**The LGBT Guide to
Election Night 2018**

What to watch for hour by hour

**'We Will Not Be Erased'
Detroit Rally Sends Clear Message**

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ELECTION 2018

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Michigan's 2018 Progressive Voter Guide

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Melissa McCarthy

Is the Lesbian You've Longed For

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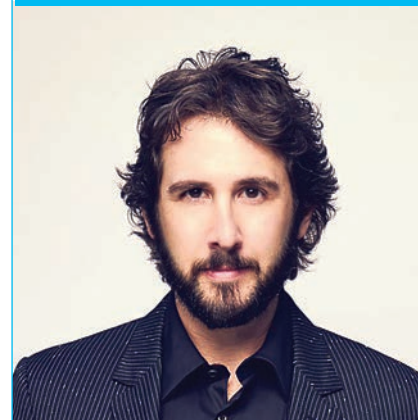
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LGBTQ Guide to Election Night 2018

NEWS ANALYSIS

BY LISA KEEN

For those still recovering from the shock that Republican Donald Trump won the Electoral College — and, thus, the White House — in 2016, the prospect of watching midterm election reruns on Tuesday night might not conjure a notion for champagne.

Specifically because there's a lot on the line on Tuesday like control of the U.S. House and Senate,

and a significant potential to increase the numbers of LGBTQ people in Congress.

Chances are, shortly after 8 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (5 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time), you'll know which party will lead the Senate for the next two years. That's because Democrats must keep their seats in Florida (Sen. Bill Nelson), Indiana (Sen. Joe Donnelly) and Missouri (Sen. Claire McCaskill) to have any chance of holding the majority. As of last week's polls, all three had only tiny, within-the-margin-of-error leads over their Republican challengers. Nate Silver's FiveThirtyEight.com gives Republicans an 82 percent chance of retaining power. At best for Democrats, RealClearPolitics.com sees the potential for a 50-50 seat tie.

The U.S. House looks a little more promising for Democrats. Fivethirtyeight.com says Democrats have a 84 percent chance of winning the House majority. A Cook Political Report statistic last week also gave Democrats a chance of winning the majority. But numerous media and polls in recent days suggest

President Trump's campaign to turn out his supporters has been cutting into Democratic leads.

In the end, it's about voter turnout and not polls. Polls are not always accurate, and the list of examples started long before Hillary Clinton. Polls around LGBTQ issues and candidates have been even more unreliable, but the latter has also been changing, too, as public opinion around LGBTQ people has steadily grown more accepting since 2000.

With all those caveats, there is considerable suspense for LGBTQ people in the coming election.

Polls show voters are likely to elect an openly gay man as governor for Colorado and that a lesbian has a good chance of becoming attorney general in Michigan. In Massachusetts, polls suggest voters are likely to reject the first statewide anti-LGBTQ ballot measure. And polling looks good for counting the number of openly LGBTQ members of Congress for the next session to climb from seven to 10.

The following is an hour-by-hour guide to the most important races to watch for the LGBTQ community (all times are EDT):

7 p.m.

Vermont: Christine Halquist is the Democratic candidate for governor and, if successful, will become the first transgender person to be elected governor of any state. FiveThirtyEight shows her double digits behind incumbent Republican Gov. Phil Scott.

Indiana: Incumbent Democrat Joe Donnelly needs to win to give Democrats any chance of taking the majority back. If he loses, Republicans will almost certainly control the Senate again. As of last week, he appeared to have a margin-of-error lead over his Republican challenger Mike Braun. While Donnelly has been a strong supporter of LGBT equality, Braun, as state legislator, voted for anti-LGBT measures.

7:30 p.m.

Ohio: Openly gay challenger Rick Neal is running for a U.S. House seat for the 15th Congressional District in the Columbus area. Polls suggested he was not likely to unseat the incumbent. The Columbus Dispatch endorsed the incumbent, after mentioning that Neal, a former Peace Corps volunteer, would likely be a "sympathetic voice for refugee resettlement" and had worked on marriage equality.

West Virginia: How well Democratic U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin does is important for Democrats, but it could also be seen as

a measure of how voters feel about his vote to confirm Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. In 2012, he won with 60.6 percent of the vote.

8 p.m.

Massachusetts: Ballot Question 3 represents the first time a state has been asked to vote on a law that currently prohibits discrimination based on gender identity. Polls predict voters will say "Yes," keep the law. But in addition to the tendency of respondents being reluctant to tell a pollster about any position they may hold that seems prejudiced, there has been some apparent confusion about the ballot measure itself. While the latest poll showed 74 percent in favor of keeping the law, about 25 percent of those people also said transgender people should be restricted to bathrooms based on their genitals at birth.

Massachusetts: Openly gay Attorney General Maura Healey is expected to cruise to re-election to that statewide office. She's been a popular, high-profile official, frequently leading lawsuits to challenge actions taken by the Trump administration. As a newcomer, in 2014, she won with 62 percent of the vote. The results Nov. 6 could be a good indicator of her prospects to run for governor in 2022.

Michigan: Democratic Attorney and Wayne County prosecutor Dana Nessel is hoping to win the attorney general seat for Michigan. The Detroit Free Press endorsed her, saying, "No one running for attorney general demonstrates a more sophisticated understanding of that office's potential and limitations." The Detroit News endorsed the Republican, saying, "The AG shouldn't use the office to press a personal

agenda or to delve into national political and social activism." That references Nessel's high-profile work on behalf of the LGBTQ community, including a lawsuit that challenged the state's ban on marriage for same-sex couples.

Florida: It's important that incumbent Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson retain his seat. He's in a tough race with incumbent Gov. Rick Scott for the position and this race's outcome is another that will likely determine the party balance of the U.S. Senate. Nelson earned a 94 out of 100 on his voting record from the Human Rights Campaign. Equality Florida says Scott's staff promised, after the Pulse nightclub shooting, to issue an executive order to protect LGBTQ state employees. He still hasn't.

Missouri: It's important for incumbent Democratic U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill to retain her seat if Democrats have any hope to grab the majority in the Senate. The polls are extremely tight. In the candidates' last debate, Oct. 25, a member of the audience asked what they would do to make sure LGBTQ people don't face discrimination. McCaskill said nobody should be discriminated against because of who they love and that she was "embarrassed that Missouri still has a law" that would enable an employer to fire someone for being gay. Republican Attorney General Josh Hawley said that "all folks" should have constitutional rights protected. Then he added that he believes "religious believers should have their rights to their free expression of worship." After Hawley finished, McCaskill asked him directly whether he'd be for changing Missouri law to protect LGBTQ employees. He didn't look at her or respond.

Tennessee: There's a U.S. Senate seat open

here due to the retirement of Republican Bob Corker and a tight race between Democratic former Gov. Phil Bredesen and Republican Rep. Marsha Blackburn. Blackburn has a margin of error lead in the polls. Tennessee is Trump territory and Blackburn is an unabashed Trump supporter. Blackburn's Human Rights Campaign Congressional voting record has been a consistent zero.

When the Tennessee newspaper asked both candidates whether businesses should be able to deny serving same-sex couples, Blackburn said, "People of faith should be free to practice their beliefs as guaranteed by our Constitution," adding, "They should never be punished for their beliefs" and that she would "work to ensure our religious beliefs are protected."

Bredesen said, "No, and I think most business owners feel the same. I agree with Justice Kennedy ... that, 'Disputes must be resolved with tolerance, without undue disrespect to sincere religious beliefs and without subjecting gay persons to indignities when they seek goods and services in an open market.'"

9 p.m.

Wisconsin: U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, a Democrat, initially looked to be in a tough race for re-election. Right-wing conservative donors poured thousands of dollars into the campaigns of her Republican opponents early on. They were hopeful, given Wisconsin's surprise vote for Trump in 2016. But Baldwin has always been popular in Wisconsin, and she quickly raised more than those trying to unseat her. As of last week, she had a 10-point lead over her Republican challenger. In 2012, she won the open seat with 50.3 percent of the vote, compared to Republican Gov. Tommy Thompson's 47 percent.

Colorado: U.S. Rep. Jared Polis is the Democratic candidate for governor and, if successful, could become the first openly LGBTQ person to be elected governor of any state. In the last two weeks, polls have shown Polis with a seven-to 11-point lead. Media in the state say Polis' being gay hasn't really been made an issue in the campaign, though the Republican Governors' Association recently aired an ad, saying, "Polis wants to turn Colorado into RadiCalifornia," a term which seems to echo "San Francisco Democrat."

Texas: Openly-lesbian Democratic gubernatorial candidate Lupe Valdez is fighting a 19-point deficit in her bid to oust Republican incumbent Greg Abbott. Given that Abbott's campaign has vastly outspent Valdez and that he is the Republican candidate in a strongly Republican state, the outcome was probably predictable since the start. But Valdez, the first openly-lesbian sheriff of a major city in the nation — Dallas — suffered some embarrassment when the Houston GLBT Caucus endorsed her primary opponent, and the state's largest police group endorsed Abbott.

Texas: Three openly-gay candidates are running for U.S. House seats: Gina Ortiz Jones (23rd Congressional District), Lorie Burch (3rd Congressional District), Eric Holguin (27th Congressional District). Polls last week showed all three trailing significantly. Jones probably has the best chance. She's gotten support from the national Democratic Party and, among registered voters, the latest poll showed her trailing by only four points, within the five-point margin of error — but among likely voters she's behind 15. Burch is 20 points behind her in district; Holguin is 27 points behind.

Texas: Democrats are hoping new comer Beto O'Rourke can unseat incumbent U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz. The latest polls showed Cruz hanging on with a narrow lead, but FiveThirtyEight.com reported data that showed O'Rourke could pull off a win. This would be a tremendous relief for the LGBT community. Cruz has a zero record of voting in the interests of the LGBT community and supported numerous anti-LGBT efforts.

Minnesota: This is Angie Craig's second bid for a U.S. House seat in Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District. Polls show her with a six-point lead. And on Oct. 25, the Minneapolis StarTribune endorsed her, saying, "Craig maintains a reasonableness and a respectful, intelligent, no-drama approach that could help turn the temperature down in a Congress beset by heated rhetoric and gamesmanship." She narrowly lost two years ago to current Rep. Jason Lewis, who's voting record on LGBTQ issues hasn't risen from zero.

Kansas: First-time candidate Sharice Davids, a Democrat, was polling nine points ahead of Republican incumbent Rep. Kevin Yoder last week. If elected, she'll be the first lesbian elected in Kansas and the first Native American. It was those distinctions that drew considerable media

attention to her race in Kansas' 3rd Congressional District after a local GOP official said Republicans on election day would send the "radical, socialist, kickboxing lesbian Indian ... backpacking to the reservation." In the ensuing uproar, he resigned. Yoder's Human Rights Campaign score is zero.

10 p.m.

Nevada: The U.S. Senate seat held by Republican incumbent Dean Heller appears vulnerable. Polls showed Democratic U.S. Rep. Jacky Rosen with a margin of error edge going into Election Day. In the House, Rosen has a 100 percent pro-LGBTQ score with the Human Rights Campaign. Heller's Human Rights Campaign score is zero.

Montana: Another critical U.S. Senate race is between Democratic incumbent Sen. Jon Tester and Republican challenger Matt Rosendale. Tester had a six-point lead going into election day. Tester's Human Rights Campaign score is 88.

11 p.m.

Arizona: U.S. Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, a moderate Democrat, has a chance to become the first openly-bisexual person to be elected to the U.S. Senate and the second openly-LGBTQ person to do so (Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin was the first). At one point, polls showed her with a strong lead, especially given that Arizona is a heavily-Republican state. But the latest polls show less than a one-point difference between her and pro-Trump rival Martha McSally. Importantly, on Oct. 23, the state's biggest newspaper, the Arizona Republic, endorsed Sinema — its first Democratic endorsement in almost two decades. Sinema's victory is critical to any chance Democrats have of winning a majority in the Senate.

Oregon: Openly-bisexual Gov. Kate Brown had anywhere from an eight-point lead to a virtual tie just prior to the election. Some polls now suggest it's a much tighter race. Brown was the first openly-LGBTQ person to be elected governor of any state, winning a 2016 special election after assuming office the year before upon resignation of the incumbent. Her challenger is a pro-same-sex marriage Republican, State Rep. Knute Buehler.

California 25th: Bisexual Democrat Katie Hill has waged a very strong campaign to unseat Republican Congressman Rep. Steve Knight, whose voting record on LGBTQ issues has earned him only a 43 from the Human Rights Campaign. At deadline, two polls showed Hill with a tiny lead, one showed Knight with a tiny lead. RealClearPolitics called it a toss-up.

North Dakota: Democratic U.S. Senate incumbent Heidi Heitkamp is in trouble. Republican challenger U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer is expected to unseat her. The Human Rights Campaign scores Heitkamp's record on LGBTQ issues at 82, Cramer at zero. But Cramer has a four-point lead on Heitkamp going into voting.

Michigan LGBTQ Races

There is a record number of openly LGBTQ candidates running for public office in Michigan next Tuesday. Between The Lines has strongly endorsed these openly LGBTQ candidates:

Dana Nessel, MI Attorney General (statewide)
Jeremy Moss, MI State Senate (Southern Oakland County)
Garnet Lewis, MI State Senate (Saugatuck area)
Jon Hoadley, MI State House (Kalamazoo)
Tim Sneller, MI State House (Genesee County)
Jake Cunningham, 6th Circuit Court Judge (Oakland County)
Carol Kuhnke, 22nd Circuit Court Judge (Washtenaw County)
Larry King, Isabella County Prosecutor
Tracy Hall, Kalamazoo County Commissioner
Beth Bashert, Mayor of Ypsilanti

Also, openly trans Char Davenport is running for lieutenant governor on the Green Party ticket.

Top of the Ticket

If Michigan is ever to have equal rights and protections for LGBTQ people we must elect progressive leaders who will fight for us. Between The Lines has strongly endorsed these pro-equality statewide candidates:

Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Senate
Gretchen Whitmer and Garlin Gilchrist, Governor & Lieutenant Governor
Dana Nessel, Attorney General
Jocelyn Benson, Secretary of State
Sam Bagenstos, Michigan Supreme Court
Megan Cavanaugh, Michigan Supreme Court
Judy Pritchett, MI State Board of Education
Tiffany Tilly, MI State Board of Education
Brianna Scott, Michigan State University Trustee
Kelly Tebay, Michigan State University Trustee
Dr. Anil Kumas, Wayne State University Governor
Bryan Barnhill, Wayne State University Governor
Paul Brown, University of Michigan Regent
Jordan Acker, University of Michigan Regent

Ballot Proposals

Between The Lines recommends YES votes on all three of the statewide ballot proposals:

Proposal 1 - Legalize recreational use of marijuana

Proposal 2 - Voters Not Politicians - eliminate partisan gerrymandering by creating an independent commission.

Proposal 3 - Promote The Vote - make registration and voting easier and more accessible in Michigan.

Nessel Holds Press Conference in Lieu of Debate with Leonard

Nessel Accuses Leonard of Being 'Afraid to Defend His Record, or Lack Thereof'

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Dana Nessel, the Democratic nominee for Michigan Attorney General, believes the voters of Michigan deserve to hear where she and her Republican opponent, state House Speaker Tom Leonard, stand on the serious issues facing the state. However, Leonard has refused the invitation to debate three times — with MIRS News, on “Off the Record” with Tim Skubick and on “Flashpoint” with Devin Scillian. In response, Nessel held a press conference on Wednesday, Oct. 24, in Madison Heights to speak about Leonard’s record, as well as her own.

“Tom, if you’re unwilling to defend your own record and your lack of legal experience and your record of pay-to-play politics and your attempts to gut their healthcare, then I will address your record for you,” she said.

Nessel, who has been “willing and eager” to debate Leonard head-to-head, did have an opportunity to debate him earlier this month at Macomb Community College, but the event was canceled.

Leonard reportedly blamed Nessel for the cancellation of the debate, to be staged by the Macomb County Bar Association, accusing her of backing out because independent candidate Chris Graveline was going to participate.

When asked about this during the press conference, Nessel said, “I think everybody would agree that there are only two viable candidates in this race. None of the third party candidates are polling high enough in any poll that I’ve seen that they really have any measure of viability. And, I’m a first-time candidate here, but the way that I’ve seen debates traditionally done, if you’re not polling at a certain level, you’re not considered viable and you’re just kind of taking up the oxygen in a debate where really we should be hearing from people who actually have a chance at being seated in that office.”

Other third-party candidates for attorney general include Libertarian Lisa Lane Gioia and U.S. Taxpayers candidate Gerald T. Van Sickle.

Leonard has narrowed Nessel’s lead from 13 percentage points in early September to 7 percentage points in early October, according to polls commissioned by The Detroit News and WDIV.

A poll ranging from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2 had the alternative candidates getting almost 6 percent support from likely Michigan voters, with Gioia getting the most, backing at 4.2 percent. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Nessel, who has been consistently ahead in the polls, explained why she believes it’s so



important that Leonard debate with her.

“I think a lot of times people don’t think of the position of attorney general being quite as important as I think it is,” she said. “For an election like this, whether I’m ahead, whether I’m behind, whatever the polling tells us, I think we’re the viable candidates that actually have an opportunity to be elected and the public ought to know, they ought to understand what our positions are and have a chance to hear us out.”

These are the issues Nessel brought up in her press conference. See the full video online at pridesource.com.

Health Care

As attorney general, Nessel said she will fight to protect coverage for pre-existing conditions like cancer and childhood asthma, “taking on” insurance companies.

“I’ll go after big drug companies that price-gouge Michigan families and flood our streets with opioids causing and profiting from a public health crisis,” she said.

Leonard, who voted against the bipartisan Medicaid expansion, opposes protecting pre-existing conditions. A report found on the Secretary of State’s website at gaybe.am/fw shows that in the last year, Leonard accepted over \$34,000 from nine insurance companies and drug companies.

Putting Criminals, Murderers and Rapists Behind Bars

Nessel said she will use her decade of experience as an attorney to protect Michigan families.

“I will make it a priority to ensure that those who stalk and prey on children will be brought

to justice,” she said. “Any amount or any kind of abuse against children will be unacceptable.”

She emphasized that compared to her hundreds of cases, Leonard doesn’t come close in experience.

“This is a guy that has tried 10 misdemeanor cases, and my understanding is that he second-chaired, meaning he assisted another attorney, in the trial of one felony case,” Nessel said.

Hate Crimes

Nessel’s work has centered around elevating and protecting the rights of marginalized and unrepresented communities. She spearheaded the *DeBoer v. Snyder* case, which joined *Obergefell v. Hodges* and legalized same-sex marriage nationwide. She is founder and president of the 2-year-old Fair Michigan Justice Project that investigates and prosecutes hate crimes and currently has a 100 percent conviction rate.

This first-of-its-kind task force has charged over two dozen offenses, most of them capital offenses.

“As I’ve proven through this task force, when legislation is backed by uncompromising legal action it can and it should play a vital role in reducing hate crimes and despite the fact, frankly, that we don’t have protections we need to have under the Ethnic Intimidation Act, this project has still found a way to be incredibly successful,” she said.

Corporate Polluters

As attorney general, Nessel said she will ensure corporate polluters are held accountable by “bringing litigation to protect our environment.”

“And I would bring suit to force those responsible to pay up to clean damage sites and provide remuneration to individuals that are affected by toxic chemicals,” Nessel said. “Just as attorneys general have in other states. I would do the same here.”

Bringing Justice to the Residents of Flint

Nessel reminded press conference attendees that Flint still does not have clean water and many cities around the state of Michigan are plagued by poor water infrastructure.

“And while it would not be within my purview as attorney general to mandate statewide lead pipe replacement, it still is my prerogative to undertake litigation to protect

the health and safety of all Michiganders.”

After calling Attorney General Bill Schuette’s handling of the Flint water crisis a “mockery” of the criminal justice system, Nessel pointed to a recent *Bridge Magazine* article in which Leonard was asked how he would tackle the Line 5 and Flint water crisis if he were to become the next attorney general.

He said, “In terms of Flint, the last thing I want to do as a former prosecutor is say what a current prosecutor should or shouldn’t be doing when there’s an ongoing and pending litigation. Clearly the independent prosecutor Todd Flood, the current attorney general, they likely have information in front of them that you and I are not privy to, that may not come out until later.”

Transparency in Government

Nessel also spoke about exploring initiatives that have worked well in other states like the New York Open Government website that helps promote transparency and good government by providing data on campaign contributions and expenditures, lobbyist disclosures, government contracts and registered charities.

“Michiganders would benefit from the removal of the veil of secrecy that we have in government in Michigan here today,” Nessel said.

Climate Change

Nessel emphasized her dedication to preserving Michigan’s environment.

“According to a recent United Nations report, if we don’t take extreme measures to curtail greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, that as early as 2040 we’re going to see significant and very damaging issues ranging from floods and hurricanes to extreme drought,” Nessel said.

“It matters in regards to the office of Michigan attorney general because I will have the opportunity to enforce laws that limit the amount of greenhouse gas emissions. I’m talking about taking actions to uphold a clean power plant, to uphold fuel economy standards. To me, climate change is scientific fact, and we need to start treating it that way.”

Nessel said these are just some of the issues that she feels are important.

“There are so many more and if we had an actual debate I think we’d be able to cover a litany of subjects.”

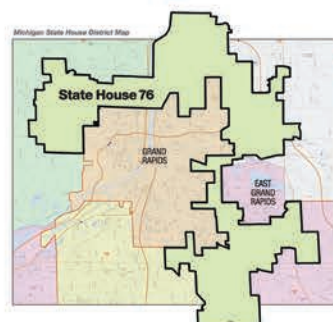
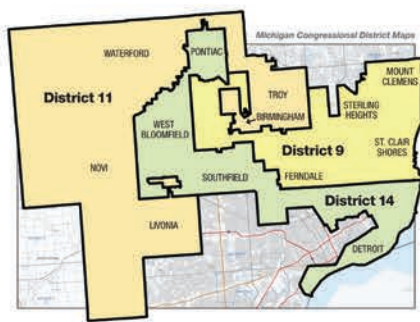
For more information or to watch the full press conference, visit pridesource.com

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Nov. 6 Opportunity to Amplify Voices of Trans, Gender Non-Conforming People

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

With the midterm elections coming up on Tuesday, Nov. 6, millions of LGBTQ people are preparing to cast their ballots for politicians who are prepared to fight for their rights. However, for some who identify as transgender and gender non-conforming, it's not as easy as showing up to the polls. For instance, members of those populations might be at risk of special scrutiny, harassment and discrimination at the polls in the form of misgendering and being called by their dead names. This reality can create a fear of voting beyond the already many barriers that trans and gender non-conforming voters currently face.

In the case of Emme Zanotti, who came out as trans in January 2014, this terrified her so much that she did not vote.

"I'm ashamed to say it," she said. "I don't know if it was that I didn't like that I hadn't been able to change my name yet, or that my ID wasn't updated yet or it was just that the polls are long, and standing in line while a bunch of strangers look at you is a very anxiety-inducing experience."

Whatever her reason was at the time, she's firm that she regrets staying home.

"I would give my right leg to have that vote back," Zanotti said.

Zanotti, treasurer and board member at Stand with Trans, a transgender rights activism organization, said she will not be passing up the opportunity to vote this year.

"I'm a lot stronger of a person than I was four years ago. I have a lot thicker skin," she said. "It's easy for me to forget how vulnerable I used to be. This is not to say anyone should put themselves in a spot that mentally puts them at risk, but if we can't cut through the anxiety and those fears, in a lot of circumstances, we've lost our only chance to share our voice."

Zanotti then went on to say that though it might not feel like it with recent political events, "any trans or non-binary person who is in the same spot I was, your voice matters."

"It's important to the world and other people in the community," she said. "Try to remember that. At the end of the day what you're really doing by voting is being heard."

As a trans woman of color who didn't always have her current name or the correct gender marker on her ID, Lilianna Reyes remembers feeling afraid when heading to the polls, too.

"But I had to make a hard choice to vote anyway," Reyes said. "There is an uncomfortability we experience as trans people period, but it doesn't remove you from your responsibility to make this world a better place."

Reyes, the interim executive director at Affirmations in Ferndale, suggests transgender voters with anxiety try to vote by absentee

ballot. The application is still available, but must be received by 2 p.m. on Nov. 3. However, if that's not a possibility, she stressed that, "Opting out all together makes you a part of the problem. You've gotta do what you gotta do to vote or things will never change."

Reyes went on to say that this election is especially vital for the transgender community, with the Trump administration's rolling back of student protections, its attempts to keep trans soldiers out of the military and the generally negative conditions for transgender inmates under the administration.

It has been reported that this year will become the deadliest on record for trans Americans and the level of violence may increase now that the Trump administration has proposed narrowing the definition of gender to "a biological, immutable condition determined by genitalia at birth," according to The New York Times. The publication obtained a leaked draft of a White House memo and reported it in October. Advocates say this is an attempt to erase "transgender" out of the language and law — and trans people out of existence.

"I think voting is always important, but understanding and voting for more than just national elections is what the trans community really needs to think about now," Reyes said. "To change the community we live in currently, we need to vote for the right people at the local level and make sure the people we're voting for understand our community. That means reaching out to them, talking with them, pushing them and holding them accountable to trans people."

Brayden A. Misiolek, executive director and co-founder of Transcend the Binary in Ferndale, echoed this sentiment.

"It is absolutely of utmost importance that our community comes out to vote on Nov. 6. Our community, like many other minority communities, is under attack — both literally and figuratively," Misiolek said. "There's a lot of work that needs to be done on multiple fronts to improve this, but our fate, and the future of our community and others like us, is in our hands right now. ... (We must) Vote for folks who have our well-being in mind, and after voting, hold those elected officials accountable for their campaign promises to our community, regardless of political affiliation."

Trans activist Michelle Fox-Phillips agreed the benefits outweigh the risks, but she urges election officials to be sensitive toward trans and gender non-conforming voters to avoid deadnaming or misgendering at all.

"It's very important. Their vote counts," she said. "We need to get people that are friendly to our community into office. We need a new governor, a new attorney general and a new secretary of state."

And for those poll workers issuing ballots

to registered voters, Reyes said, "Be an ally for anyone willing to vote. You may agree or disagree, but that shouldn't stop you from providing access to voting. If there is an obstacle, it is your job to help ease that obstacle."

When asked what she thinks would make things easier for trans and gender non-conforming people when visiting the polls, Zanotti said, "If you have a friend, go with a friend. If you have a friend that is trans or nonbinary, reach out and ask them to come vote with you."

Beyond the buddy system, Zanotti offered up some tips on how to be a good ally while standing in line waiting to vote.

"Don't stare. Take opportunities to comfort people. Be diligent and look out for one another," she said. "Strike up a friendly conversation with someone who looks anxious or give them a wink and show some solidarity."

National Center for Transgender Equality's Information for Poll Workers and Election Officials

If the voter you are talking to is transgender, meaning that their gender identity is different than the gender that was recorded on their birth certificate. Transgender people are sometimes unable to update their IDs to reflect their identity for a number of reasons. This is not illegal. As long as the relevant voter data (usually the name and address) matches one of the acceptable forms of ID, the voter has the right to vote. Please do not be distracted by gender presentation when you are evaluating a voter's identity and eligibility to vote.

Gender discrepancies on ID are not a valid reason to deny a regular ballot. Transgender voters may have ID that indicates a different gender than what they look like. They may not have had the opportunity to update their ID yet, or may not be able to do so in your state. This does not mean their ID is invalid or fraudulent for voting.

- Different clothing, makeup or hairstyle on an ID photo is not a valid reason to deny a regular ballot. Voters may look different today than on their photo ID for many reasons. The photo on an ID may show a different gender presentation. As long as you can identify the voter from their picture, the ID is valid for voting.

- A voter's transgender status and medical history is private. Although you may be curious or confused about a voter's appearance, asking personal questions is offensive, inappropriate, and not relevant to their right to vote.

- Transgender voters are not doing anything wrong or trying to deceive you — they are just

being themselves. Transgender people have the right to vote just like everyone else, and it is your responsibility to ensure they are able to do so without hassle. If confusion about this person's right to vote persists, please speak to an election supervisor or election judge in your area to resolve any remaining questions.

Michigan Voter ID Requirements

In order to vote in Michigan, every registered voter voting in person must show a valid form of photo ID or sign an affidavit attesting that they are not in possession of a photo ID (which voters may sign even if you have a photo ID, but did not bring it with you to the polls). The Voter's address does not need to be included on the photo ID.

The following types of photo ID are acceptable:

- Driver's license or state-issued ID card
- Federal issued photo identification
- U.S. passport
- Military ID with photo
- Student ID with photo - from a high school or accredited institution of higher education
- Tribal ID with photo

If voters do not have a valid form of photo ID, they may still cast a ballot by signing an affidavit confirming their identity (this identity must match what you are registered to vote under). The ballot will be counted with all other ballots on Election Day.

Resources for Support

National Election Protection Hotline
866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)

Transcend the Binary
Peer Advocate Jack Earls
248-533-0797
facebook.com/TRANSCENDtheBinary

Gender-Identity Network Alliance
Michelle Fox-Phillips at 248-514-2688
facebook.com/GenderNetworkAlliance/

Transgender Michigan
855-345-8464
transgendermichigan.org

Trans Sistas of Color Project
313-537-7000, ext 107
facebook.com/TSCOPD/

Transgender Life Support
facebook.com/groups/979328702096848/

Stand with Trans
248-579-8996
facebook.com/standwithtrans

What Could Be Ahead for First Openly Lesbian County Commissioner

Katie Scott Says if She Wins She'll Fight for Affordable Housing, Transparency and LGBTQ Workers

BY DREW HOWARD

Katie Scott is just one of the hundreds of openly-LGBTQ candidates across the nation who ran for public office for the first time this year, but not all of them can say they won every single precinct in the primary up against a 14-year incumbent opponent on their very first bid.

Scott's win this August marks the first time an openly-lesbian candidate is running for the Washtenaw Board of Commissioners. It just so happens that if she wins Nov. 6, Scott will be joining alongside the board's first openly-gay male member, Jason Morgan, when they are sworn in this January.

And while such a leap for diverse leadership is certainly cause for celebration, Scott says her and Morgan's feat has been too long in the making.

"In the times of Obama, I didn't think this would become such an issue again, but it is," Scott said. "We're seeing pushbacks for LGBTQ rights."

To play a role in the "rainbow wave" this election cycle was both surprising and exciting, Scott said. It's reported that more than 400 LGBTQ candidates ran for office this year, most of whom are Democrats.

But a brief glimpse at Scott's campaign website shows that her LGBTQ-status largely takes a backseat to other issues. Like a heterosexual candidate, Scott never felt the need to bring her sexuality to the forefront, or twist it into a campaign bullet point.

"I didn't highlight it," she says about her sexuality. "If people knew that was fine, and I was really proud to complete the questionnaire in Washtenaw for county candidates. I was really happy to let people know I'm out, but I want to represent my community as a whole - not just the LGBTQ community, but the whole community."

One of Scott's top priorities as a new board member is to increase government transparency. One way Scott proposes to do this would be to actively publicize agenda items coming before the board to the general public ahead of meetings.

"When there's a lack of transparency people become less engaged," she said. "If they know the issues ahead of time and know the avenues for change, they're more likely to get involved ... the community is better-served when more people get involved."

This lack of interaction between citizens and the Washtenaw Board of Commissioners came into clear focus on the campaign trail, Scott said, as evidenced by the No. 1 question she received from potential voters:



What do the Board of Commissioners do?

"The Board of Commissioners is the conduit between state and local government," Scott said. "When I was looking at different places in government, the board seemed like a good fit because so much of what the county does is behind the scenes to make daily life go on. It's just like what I do as a nurse."

Also at the top of Scott's list of priorities is improving community mental health. Scott is currently a professional registered nurse at the University of Michigan Health System where she works in the Intensive Care Unit, and since 2016 has served as a board member on the Michigan Nurses Association.

The pivot into politics feels more like an extension of her duties in nursing field, she said, as her career and board member status holds her accountable for advocating on behalf of both patients and her fellow nurses.

Scott plans to use her medical background on the board to combat the opioid epidemic affecting "all corners of Washtenaw county." To do so, Scott argues the county government needs to stay updated on the latest research in addiction behavior while leveraging resources to support ongoing care for patients.

"Paying workers in this field a livable wage is part of the solution," her website reads. "We have to make it financially viable for those who work with the most vulnerable in our society to continue this important work and forge the bonds necessary with their patients to facilitate functional and recovered living."

Scott is equally passionate about opening up a dialogue on affordable housing in Washtenaw County. In particular, she's concerned with the growing disparity in home prices between the east and west side. Having lived in Ann Arbor for the entirety of her professional career, Scott has seen firsthand the effects of rising home prices on the area workforce. "Ann Arbor is pretty affluent, and it's growing more and more," Scott said. "This is reflected in home prices."

"I bought a house 10 years ago and back then Ann Arbor was on the edge of affordable," she said. "I recently appraised my house to refinance ... I was amazed (at) the value. It's fabulous, but on the other hand I thought, 'This is horrible.' This pushes people out of Ann Arbor."

In the House Affordability and Economic Equity Analysis for Washtenaw County that was completed 2015, the author writes that Ann Arbor "will become more costly, and less affordable," a side effect that will especially impact non-student renters and aspiring buyers. Creating a barrier to entry will work against the area's commitment to diversity and difference, Scott said, a value that's made Ann Arbor the community it is today.

The Victory Fund, a national organization dedicated to electing LGBT candidates, recently gave Scott their candidate stamp of approval. She describes the endorsement as "empowering," and a reflection of what she'll do for her community once sworn into office.

"It helps because my primary motivation for running was around issues such as affordable housing, labor and good government - not necessarily on an LGBTQ platform," Scott said. "In fact, the other openly gay commissioner

"When there's a lack of transparency people become less engaged," she said. "If they know the issues ahead of time and know the avenues for change, they're more likely to get involved ... the community is better-served when more people get involved."

- Katie Scott

didn't even know I was gay! But I know these issues are issues that impact our community and I will be proud to be the first openly lesbian serving on the Washtenaw County Commission. I can't wait to work for everyone in our community and the endorsement from the Victory Fund is gratifying."

Despite Ann Arbor's reputation for progressive politics, Scott said there are still pro-LGBTQ policies to be fought for. First and foremost, Scott wants to work toward developing new and inclusive language protecting LGBTQ county workers.

"Labor unions have always worked to create equity among men and women," she said. "Now we're seeing language being formalized - I want to see county contracts have that same language."

"There's no language about protecting trans employees, language that says you will use the pronoun someone wants or the name someone chooses," Scott said. "To have that protection is something I'm working for."

And, if nothing else, Scott can say she's helped forge a path for aspiring LGBTQ people in politics.

"We're seeing pushbacks for LGBTQ rights," she said. "To stand up and say, 'I'm proud, it's made me who I am,' it helps the community. I think about the kids who see that, how it changes the framework. ... I didn't see openly gay candidates and politicians as a kid. The more you see that, it normalizes it and makes it feel less othered."

Connect with Katie Scott on Facebook [facebook.com/voteKatieScott/](https://www.facebook.com/voteKatieScott/) or follow her on Twitter @greenkate.

What is BIKTARVY®?

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about BIKTARVY?

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects:

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking BIKTARVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take BIKTARVY?

Do not take BIKTARVY if you take:

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

What are the other possible side effects of BIKTARVY?

Serious side effects of BIKTARVY may also include:

- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death.

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.

- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.

The most common side effects of BIKTARVY in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%). Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking BIKTARVY?

- ▶ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ▶ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements. BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all of your other medicines.
- ▶ **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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

Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.



Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the following page.

Get HIV support by
downloading a free app
at MyDailyCharge.com



KEEP PUSHING.

Because HIV doesn't change who you are.

BIKTARVY is a **1-pill, once-a-day complete HIV-1 treatment** for adults who are either new to treatment or whose healthcare provider determines they can replace their current HIV-1 medicines with BIKTARVY.

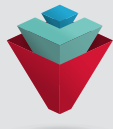
BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

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tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets

(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- dofetilide
- rifampin
- any other medicines to treat HIV-1

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider all your medical conditions, including if you:

- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY[®] and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.



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On Nov. 6 Ballot Firsts Abound

Many Reasons to Vote



BY MARK LACHEY

What to say to get you to vote that isn't already in a meme? That's my task and conundrum. So let's start with this: LGBTQ Michiganders, when sufficiently motivated, vote and do so in large

numbers. For example, 2014 post-election modeling done by the national Stonewall Democrats determined that 14 percent of all Democratic voters in Michigan were LGBTQ. Assuming that we're 3 to 5 percent of our state's overall population, that outsized voting percentage is hugely significant.

But why did this happen? My best guess is because we had candidates who were going to take immediate action on an issue that we cared about, namely marriage equality. In 2018 we have plenty of other motivating factors.

Let's start with re-electing our senior Sen. Debbie Stabenow, who's a co-sponsor of the federal Equality Act. If passed, LGBTQ Americans would have non-discrimination protections in employment, housing, financial dealings, medical treatment and public accommodations. Or, in other words, amending Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act would become moot. The same holds true for electing (or re-electing) any of our Democrats running for Congress. All have agreed to support and co-sponsor the Equality Act in the U.S. House. And Democrats, taking the majority in either or both, would push that legislation to the front.

Similarly, Gretchen Whitmer is a longstanding and outspoken champion for LGBTQ rights and her election as our next governor would make amending Michigan Civil Rights Law its best chance yet. And as with adding Democratic members of congress, electing Democratic majorities in Michigan's state house and senate would put our legislative allies in charge of the very committees that would hear and vote on such legislation in 2019.

For instance if State Rep. Christine Greig, a huge ally, is poised to become the next Speaker of the House if Democrats take the majority with State Sen. Jim Ananich, a proven ally, to become the majority leader. And that puts Jeremy Moss — who, if elected, will be the first openly gay member of that chamber in Michigan history — along with our own State House Reps. Jon Hoadley and Tim Sneller in positions of majority leadership. And not forgetting the candidacy of Garnet Lewis for

state senate, who, if successful, would become the first gay women legislator in our state's history, plus another LGBT member of the state senate. A whole lot of important "firsts."

Beyond that, electing Dana Nessel would be another previously unprecedented election ... the first LGBT statewide office holder. As Gretchen Whitmer says on the campaign trail, having an attorney general that has her back — and ours — rather than stabbing her in the back is invaluable. Dana's election would be immensely important in supporting current LGBTQ protections and sustaining future legislative gains.

There are a myriad of other LGBTQ candidates running for offices in Michigan varying from circuit court judge — like Jake Cunningham in Oakland County — to county prosecutor in Isabella County (another statewide historical first if Larry King is successful) to a bunch of county commissioners and city council members across our state. Once elected, each of these are the invaluable "seat at the table" promoting and protecting our rights as LGBTQ Michiganders.

Finally for now, I'd be remiss if I failed to mention our Party's candidates for Michigan Supreme Court, Sam Bagenstos and Megan Cavanagh. They won't be listed on your ballot as Democrats but they're both solidly pro-equality. If elected, they would join fellow Democrats Bridget McCormack and Richard Berstein as a solid pro-LGBTQ majority. Having our state supreme court favorable to our community's issues is the invaluable third leg of the stool in sustaining whatever pro-equality legislation might be passed against the certain legal challenges to be brought by those who have actively worked against our rights for the past decades.

In sum, your single vote matters regardless of where you live in Michigan from a solidly blue city in Southeast Michigan to the deepest red county up north or out west. None are wasted; each is equally counted. Take a minute to find out how and where to vote: webapps.sos.state.mi.us/MVIC including obtaining an absentee ballot to avoid the lines on election day. Then find out who to vote for with this year's super-easy-to-use progressive voter guide found at MiVoterGuide.com.

There ... zero excuses not to vote and now the reasons why you must. Together we can and will move Michigan from a low-equality state to a place we can all be proud and happy to call home. It all starts on Nov. 6.

Mark LaChey is an attorney and Chair of the LGBTQ&A Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party. He also serves as a Vice-Chair of the Michigan Democratic Party and on the Board of The Victory Fund. Find the LGBTQ&A Caucus on Facebook.

Move Michigan Forward • Vote Nov. 6

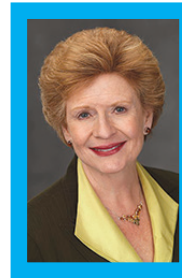
BTL Strongly Endorses These Statewide Candidates



Gretchen Whitmer
Governor



Garlin Gilchrist
Lt. Governor



Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senate



Dana Nessel
Attorney General



Jocelyn Benson
Secretary of State

State Board of Education
Judy Pritchett
Tiffany Tilley

WSU Governors
Dr. Anil Kumar
Bryan Barnhill

MSU Trustees
Brianna Scott
Kelly Tebay

UofM Regents
Paul Brown
Jordan Acker

Vote YES Proposal 1
MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Vote YES Proposal 2
VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS

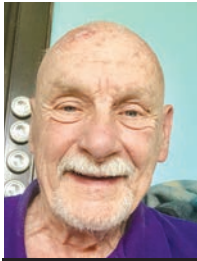
Vote YES Proposal 3
PROMOTE THE VOTE

Remember - Flip the Ballot Over
NONPARTISAN SECTION JUDICIAL

Michigan Supreme Court
Sam Bagenstos
Megan Cavanagh

www.MiVoterGuide.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR YOUR PERSONALIZED BALLOT!
JUST ENTER YOUR ZIP CODE AND FIND OUT WHO SUPPORTS EQUALITY,
WOMEN'S RIGHTS, LABOR, THE ENVIRONMENT



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

JFK: Troubling Days Gone By

Back in the mid-'80s a group of gay friends gathered monthly for dinner and sharing at Detroit's historic venue, the Scarab Club. We called ourselves "The Friends of Dorothy Kilgallen."

Our campy title was a play on the old closet question, "Are you a friend of Dorothy?" Meaning, Are you gay? A friend of Oz's Dorothy. The title also referenced once-famous Miss Kilgallen, syndicated journalist, panelist for TV's 1960s popular "What's My Line?" guessing game show.

Two years after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963, Miss Kilgallen announced that she was going to "blow the lid" off who was really behind his murder with details divulged to her. On Nov. 8, 1965, she was found dead from a supposed prescription drug overdose. Her death was curious to say the least.

An expose, "Hit List: An In-Depth Investigation Into the Mysterious Deaths of Witnesses to the JFK Assassination," by Richard Belzer and David Wayne, offers startling documentation about Kilgallen's mysterious death. And! the sudden, untimely deaths of 40 others who "knew a little too much" for their own good — and America's as well.

"Hit List" is one of many books published on the 50th anniversary of JFK's 1963 assassination. Two others in my collection are "Who Really Killed Kennedy?" and "They Killed Our President," the latter by former Minnesota governor Jesse Ventura.

A consensus is that Lee Harvey Oswald — who claimed he was a "patsy" and was himself killed by Dallas nightclub owner and underworld associate Jack Ruby — was not the lone JFK assassin, if his assassin at all. Implicated by these conspiracy authors are the CIA, anti-Castro Cuban exiles, the drug-dealing mafia cartel, the military-industrial complex, supporters of the Vietnam War and, according to some, Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and FBI head J. Edgar Hoover.

Among those who were "off'd" for their knowledge and/or participation was gay cargo pilot David Ferrie. Other gays suspected but never proven by New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, who believed there was a JFK murder conspiracy, include Clay Shaw and Guy Bannister. They also happened to be friends of Oswald.

I was 27 when Kennedy was assassinated and working at Wayne University. As media news coverage spread, it was as though someone had taken a collective stun gun to America's pride, traditions and self-esteem. The shock, repeated with each news clip, each grim telecast, was numbing, disabling, unbelievable. We were participants in an unending nightmare, with commentary by CBS Evening News TV anchor Walter Cronkite.

America's beloved, charismatic and youthful leader was no more.

"Ask not what your country can do for you," he said in one of his many inspiring speeches. "Rather, ask what you can do for your country."

Item for sharing: in 1965 I was sitting at the Woodward Bar

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



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Viewpoint



The Transgender Community Will Not Be Erased

BY JAY KAPLAN

It's been a challenging week this week for members of the transgender community, their allies and supporters. Over the weekend, the New York Times revealed that officials within the Trump Administration are pushing for a narrow definition of sex in enforcing federal civil rights laws. By defining sex as "either male or female, immutable and determined by a person's genitals at the time of birth," governmental departments could refuse to recognize and address incidents of discrimination against transgender people in employment, education, housing and access to health care.

This latest proposed move is part of a concerted effort by this administration to promote discrimination against transgender people. From removing educational rules that permit trans students to use bathrooms in accordance with their gender identity to a transgender military ban (which is currently being enjoined by four different federal courts), the Trump

administration is doing its best to try to deny trans people basic rights and equal treatment under the law.

Protection under civil rights laws prohibiting sex discrimination is significant here because only 21 states — not including Michigan — specifically prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity. Federal civil rights laws bar sex discrimination by employers, schools, landlords and health care providers under laws such as Title VII, Title IX and the Affordable Care Act. Federal Courts have consistently held that federal civil rights on sex discrimination protects transgender people. Earlier this year, the federal 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, that covers Michigan, held in the American Civil Liberties Union's case involving Aimee Stephens. Stephens is a transgender woman who was fired from her job at a

See **Viewpoint**, continued on next page

From removing educational rules that permit trans students to use bathrooms in accordance with their gender identity to a transgender military ban (which is currently being enjoined by four different federal courts), the Trump administration is doing its best to try to deny trans people basic rights and equal treatment under the law.

► Viewpoint

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funeral home because of her gender identity, and the court ruled that what happened to her was both wrong and constituted sex discrimination.

(Note: The funeral home is requesting that the U.S. Supreme Court reverse this decision, and the Trump Administration's Department of Justice has filed a brief in support of the funeral home, arguing that transgender people are not protected under federal civil rights laws.)

The idea that bans on sex discrimination cover transgender people is not new and it's not something that the Obama Administration made up. State courts have ruled that way since the 1970s and federal courts have done so since the 1990s. In addition, a wide range of federal agencies have issued rules or regulations protecting trans people through bans on sex discrimination. Those agencies include the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor.

The Trump Administration Memo is proposing to take away these existing protections and to make anti-trans discrimination legal in every context that

they can find. But the Trump Administration cannot rewrite federal civil rights laws. They cannot do away with decades of legal precedent in support of fair treatment for transgender people. More and more courts are holding that policies targeting transgender people have no place in this country. Make no mistake, the ACLU and other organizations supportive of LGBTQ rights will fight any attempts by the Trump administration to move forward with these hateful and hurtful policies.

In the meantime, one of the most important things that we can do is to vote this Nov. 6. Elections have consequences and it's clear that the Trump administration policies against transgender people are a direct consequence of the 2016 presidential election. We have an opportunity to make voices heard and to send a message to our elected officials that transgender people will not be used as political pawns nor denied full equality under the law. The midterm elections offer a stark contrast in leadership as to how transgender people will be treated by our government. We have a choice and transgender people will not be erased!

Jay Kaplan is a staff attorney with the ACLU of Michigan since 2001. He can be reached at jkaplan@aclumich.org

► Parting Glances

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next to an army sergeant on leave. He spent the night with me. When Larry got out of service, he moved in. Turns out, Larry was an Honor Guard in the Kennedy funeral at Arlington Cemetery. He witnessed the lighting of the eternal flame. Fired his rifle in farewell salute.

The flame still burns. Sadly, it also burned through the Bobby Kennedy assassination

and that of Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1968, five years after Nov. 22, 1963. Lest we forget in these times of Trump and Pence.

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.

► Correction

In the Oct. 11 issue of Between The Lines a photo ran of Michigan State Rep. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) with U.S. Senator Kirstin Gillibrand (D-NY), Michigan gubernatorial candidate Gretchen Whitmer and others.

Although we believed the photo was taken by one of the pictured politician's staffers, it actually was taken for and first appeared on Out Post Magazine's Facebook page.

Creep Of The Week

Donald Trump

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

There is a group of about 4,000 people walking from Honduras toward the U.S. Donald Trump and the Republicans would like you to believe this is an invading army. It isn't. It's by and large unarmed people fleeing violence and poverty. These are asylum seekers, not invaders. But, of course, to Republicans there is no difference.

It's now being reported that Trump intends to send over 5,000 troops to the Mexican border. Not to provide humanitarian aid, mind you. The troops are much more likely to kill these asylum seekers than to help them.

"We do not have any intention right now to shoot at people," Trump's Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said about the troops. "But I also take my officer and agents, their own personal safety, extraordinarily seriously. They do have the ability of course to defend themselves."

You don't even have to read between the lines to translate this: "We reserve the right to shoot at people because we can and no matter what happens it will be totally justified."

This show of force against vulnerable people is how the Trump administration rolls, of course.

I often hear people remark that they can't believe Trump's approval level is so high (and for most people anything above zero is too high). They can't understand why anyone would have voted for Trump in the first place, and they certainly can't understand how he still has so many fervent supporters. The New York Times has spent a billion or so words on trying to figure out the enigmatic Trump supporter. But, really, it's not complicated. Trump promised his supporters that he would make their lives better and that he would hurt the people they didn't like.

He has, of course, not made their lives better, but that's the thing: they never expected him to. Trump fanatics don't believe that government CAN make someone's life better. Republicans have been spreading the idea for decades that government is bad and has no role in bettering our lives or societies. Bettering one's life happens through personal responsibility, not working toward a collective good.

What Trump has done, and has done really well, is hurt people. Specifically some of the most vulnerable populations of Americans: transgender people, blacks, Mexicans, "Middle Easterners" (a term Trump used to warn of the dangerous people

In Trump's attempt to shore up his racist base so that they'd get out and vote for Republicans, he spurred one of his followers to enact real-life violence that had deadly consequences.

he said are in the asylum-seeking caravan), the Chinese, Jews, Muslims. The list goes on and on, but the commonality is that these are people that Trump's base doesn't like. So they are more than happy to see government being used as a weapon since it is apparently not capable of anything else.

Meanwhile yet another white man radicalized right here in the U.S. opened fire at a synagogue in Pittsburgh killing 11. And why did he do it? Because he believed what Trump said: that the caravan was full of dangerous people and was funded by outside groups including George Soros, a man who has lots of money and gives it to progressive causes and candidates and who is, wouldn't you know it, Jewish.

The shooter's posts on social media indicated an obsession with the caravan by a man who was wildly anti-Semitic. Right before the mass murder he was railing on social media against the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, a group he believed to be helping the caravan.

"HIAS likes to bring invaders in that kill our people," Bowers posted. "I can't sit by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics, I'm going in."

And that's exactly what he did, armed and ready to kill.

Adam Serwer put it best in *The Atlantic*: "The apparent spark for the worst anti-Semitic massacre in American history was a racist hoax inflamed by a U.S. president seeking to help his party win a midterm election."

In other words, in Trump's attempt to shore up his racist base so that they'd get out and vote for Republicans, he spurred one of his followers to enact real-life violence that had deadly consequences.

There are many things we can do to combat hatred and violence, but one of the easiest is to vote for people who reject it. Make a plan to vote on Nov. 6 and in every election for the rest of your life.

Standing Up To Trump

'We Will Not Be Erased' Detroit Rally Sends Clear Message

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The rally was called We Will Not Be Erased and the message was clear: no matter what he tries to do, Donald Trump cannot redefine the transgender community out of existence. The rally, which drew a crowd of about 120 to the Ruth Ellis Center parking lot Friday, was organized after The New York Times reported on a leaked memo from the Trump administration that revealed its desire to define gender as a "biological, immutable condition determined by genitalia at birth."

This plan to narrowly define gender is the latest effort by the administration to diminish protections for the trans community. Previously, Trump attempted to bar transgender people from serving in the military – the issue is now in federal court – and challenged portions of the nation's health care law that protects trans individuals.

"To feel that you're being erased and dismantled, bit by bit, piece by piece, dignity by dignity is really something hard to swallow," said Jey'nce Poindexter Mizrahi, a co-organizer of the rally and the transgender advocate for Equality Michigan and a founding mother of the Trans Sistās of Color Project. "And it's a reality that some of us face more than others on a day-to-day basis. In this country, as we all know, of course, there is hatred and discrimination against the LGBT

community as a whole. But trans women of color are even more on the end of the totem pole. We are slaughtered. We are killed. We are dismembered. And no one is called into action."

The rally's other co-organizer, Michelle Fox-Phillips, executive director of the Gender Identity Network Alliance, shared a similar message.

"We will not be erased," she said. "We are just like any other human beings on this earth. We will not let No. 45, we will not let [Vice President Mike] Pence, we will not let the [Department of Health and Human Services] erase this community. We are marginalized, as Jey'nce said, people of color, who I have advocated for for the past 20 years, are the most marginalized," Fox-Phillips said. "They face more obstacles than I did. A lot more. And bless them. Bless them all."

Jojess Fournier from the Metro Detroit Political Action Network said the news of the memo made her think of pre-World War II Germany.

"The actions of the Trump administration hark back to 1933 in Berlin when fascist thugs in plain clothes took to the streets and burned down the Institute for Sexual Research," Fournier said. "We know what this kind of thing does to our community. We know it correlates to violence against our community."

Protest organizers said that President Barack Obama understood



this. And following years of favorable court decisions for LGBTQ support under his administration, federal agencies, more often than not, supported the trans and gender non-conforming communities.

"Please be assured that despite the efforts of the Trump administration to deny the protections under federal civil rights laws that prohibit sex discrimination, the administration can't re-write federal civil rights laws and they can't undo what many federal courts have been doing for more than 20 years," said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project. "We have a strong very consistent body of federal law that has held that when you discriminate against transgender people you are doing it on the basis of sex."

Giving the crowd a bit of a history lesson, Equality Michigan Executive Director Stephanie White said the LGBT community owed the trans community a debt of gratitude and said that it's time they paid up.

"This LGBT movement was built with trans people, particularly trans women of color, who refused to back down," White said. "A good friend of mine likes to say we have come a long way in the movement for LGBT



(Upper left) Nicole Denson addresses rally attendees. Staff attorney for the ACLU Jay Kaplan (right) watches. (Bottom center) Equality Michigan Executive Director Stephanie White attends the rally Friday. BTL photos: Kate Gowman

rights. But we have come too far to not go any further. We are not going back. This community will not be erased regardless of anything Trump tries to write on a piece of paper."

Karen Wierman came out to the rally to support her son, who is trans.

"He lives out of state, but I try to do whatever I can to show my support for my other sons and daughters that are trans," she said. "I try to let them know there is a mama bear out there looking out for them and fighting for them."

Noel Larkin, another rally attendee, said he came because he needed the community support.

"Being a person who identifies as trans, I'm concerned, and it's

been a rough week," he said. "I felt like I wanted to be around other community members to kind of feel supported."

Santiago Marino came out for similar reasons, too.

"I identify as a trans man, also queer, and I feel it's important to just come together as a group," Marino said. "It's not often that we have chances for our community to build together and grow together."

"They're not going to stop us," Marino continued. "We're already here. And that's the only thing I can keep saying, I'm still here. Obviously, it triggers some fear and anxiety, but it just encourages me to want to fight harder."

Aimee Stephens to Be Honored at ACLU Annual Dinner

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Although her legal battle began in 2013, Aimee Stephens is still fighting for the right not to be fired simply for being transgender. A former employee of R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home, she announced to her team members that she would be transitioning from male to female and lost her job as a result. Now, even though the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that the funeral home's actions are a form of sex discrimination, Stephens stands at the brink of a review by the Supreme Court of the United States — potentially reversing the ruling in her favor. Despite this reality, the ACLU has chosen to recognize Stephens for her landmark case at their Nov. 9 Annual Dinner, among four other honorees.

“We wanted to honor Aimee for her courage and her bravery coming forward with her case,” said Jay Kaplan, ACLU Staff Attorney. “Not only to redress the harm that was done to her but to also (demonstrate) her willingness and her commitment to try and make things better for other people in the transgender community.”

Stephens said that despite the years-long struggle and her recently-developed health issues, she doesn't regret coming out when she did.

“There's a certain amount of happiness that I feel each day that I can be me and know that I actually am me,” Stephens said. “Early on in years gone by I've wondered, ‘Who am I really? Will I ever get the chance to find out?’ And I've gotten that chance to find out. I'm happy with what I've found out and I just want to be me.”

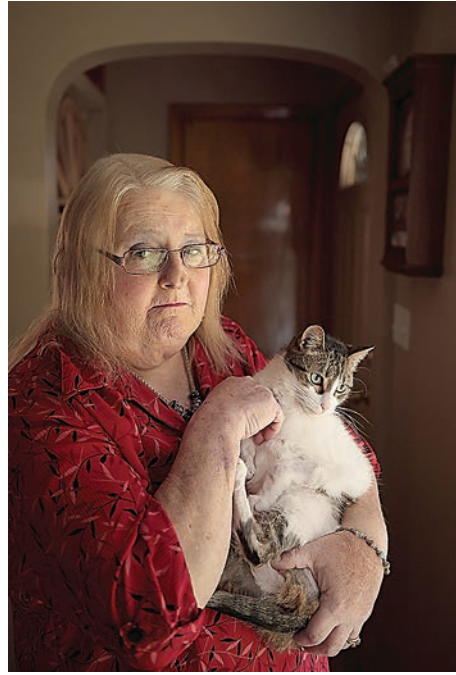
And she's happy to continue the battle to let other be themselves, too. Stephens stated that even though she couldn't have predicted the length of time it would take to fight for her cause, it's something she's ready to fight for “till it's done.” But despite her fervor, she said she was surprised to learn that the ACLU was honoring her for her dedication to this case.

“Jay was the one who told me and it's pretty exciting,” she said. “It'll be interesting to see everybody that's been working hard and let us all get a chance to lay eyes on one another and become closer than we have.”

Still, even with a well-deserved celebration of Stephens' efforts, she said she's aware of the high stakes of this case, particularly at the hands of an administration that has declared its dedication to removing rights for the transgender community. Kaplan agreed, too.

“We have a long way to go, particularly with this administration that seems that (at) every opportunity is trying to take away rights, take away the hard-won gains made by the transgender community,” Kaplan said.

Kaplan added also that with the appointment



Aimee Stephens Photo: Charles William Kelly

of Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, if the case does make it to review he might be another hurdle in Stephens' way.

“We don't have much on the record of Kavanaugh as a judge concerning LGBT rights, except that we know that he worked in the Bush administration which opposed marriage equality and there was a time where a constitutional marriage amendment was introduced by the Republican majority Congress (and rejected),” Kaplan said. “But I think what the Trump administration is trying to do is they're trying to change the definition of a person's sex and gender as a way to basically erase transgender people from that realm so that they do not have the protection of federal civil rights law. It's a cynical political ploy but, more importantly, it's hateful and despicable.”

For now, however, Stephens said that she's done “all that she can do.” When asked how she remains strong despite the odds, she cited a piece of advice that has kept her going for years.

“Hold your head high, be proud of who you are and don't let anybody tell you any different. That's what I've tried to do,” Stephens said. “The idea that you can be treated this way is just inhuman. We're people, too, and if you're a human being, a part of the human race, then everybody in that same human race deserves the same unalienable rights and everybody doesn't have them. And until we fight to secure those, it's never going to be wonderful. We just have to keep going.”

The annual ACLU dinner will be held on Friday, Nov. 9, at the Henry Ford Museum beginning at 6:30 p.m. For more information visit dinner@aclumich.org or call 920-395-8866.



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Rabbi Herschel Finman listens as Ferndale Police Chief Vincent Palazzo makes remarks. State Rep. Jeremy Moss also spoke at the gathering. Photo: Oal; and 115, Crystal Proxmire.

Light in the Darkness: Jewish Ferndale Ceremony Honors Shooting Victims

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

FERNDALE – A crowd of mourners gathered on the front lawn of Jewish Ferndale for a ceremony Sunday afternoon. Rabbi Herschel Finman addressed the group.

“In the face of adversity, we look for an opportunity to transform darkness into light,” Finman said. The ceremony was to honor the lives of 11 people who were murdered Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Tree of Life Congregation Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by a gunman who screamed that “all Jews must die,” before riddling the pews with bullets during sabbath.

Those 11 names were read by Federal Judge Mark Goldsmith, “Daniel Stein, Joyce Feinberg, Richard Gottfried, Rose Mallinger, Jerry Rabinowitz, brothers Cecil Rosenthal and David Rosenthal, husband and wife Bernice Simon and Sylvan Simon, Melvin Wax and Irving Younger.”

The names were met with bowed heads and tears.

“We will do charity in remembrance of their souls,” Goldsmith said.

State Reps. Robert Wittenberg and Jeremy Moss both spoke at the memorial, as well as County Commissioner Helaine Zack, Ferndale City Councilperson Melanie Piana and Ferndale Police Chief Vincent Palazzo.

Wittenberg and Moss are the only two Jewish elected officials in the State House.

“I am 32 years old. I’ve seen more blatant anti-semitism in the last two years than in the 30 before in my life,” Moss said. “We have a lot to do to honor these victims from yesterday’s hateful, vicious attack. We need to combat this rhetoric, not just against Jews but against anybody who is attacked.”

Finman said that the news is full of darkness, but that Jewish faith calls upon people to combat darkness with light.

“What can we do now? What should we be doing?” He asked the crowd.

He stressed for the members of the crowd to think about what each individual could do to add more light to the world.

“What act can you do, in your place in the world, to add light?” he asked.

Learn more about Jewish Ferndale at jewishferndale.com.

Doctor who Treated HIV/AIDS Patients among Synagogue Massacre Victims

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

One of the victims of the Tree of Life Synagogue massacre in Pittsburgh was a well-respected doctor who was known for his compassionate treatment of his patients with HIV/AIDS.

NBC News and other media outlets reported Jerry Rabinowitz, 66, began to treat people with HIV/AIDS in the early days of the epidemic. Michael Kerr of ACT UP New York on his Facebook page wrote Rabinowitz was his doctor until he moved from Pittsburgh to New York City in 2004.

“In the old days for HIV patients in Pittsburgh he was to one to go to,” wrote Kerr. “Basically, before there was effective treatment for fighting HIV itself, he was known in the community for keeping us alive the longest. He often held our hands (without rubber gloves) and always always hugged us as we left his office.”

Kerr wrote he and Rabinowitz “made a deal about my T cells in that I didn’t want to know the numbers visit to visit because I knew I would fret with every little fluctuation and I also knew that AZT was not working for my friends.”

“The deal was that he would just let me know at some point when the T cell numbers meant I needed to start on medications,” said Kerr. “The numbers were his job and my job was to finish my master’s thesis and get a job with insurance and try to not go crazy.”

Kerr on his Facebook page wrote Rabinowitz in the fall of 1995 “gently told me” that “it was time to begin taking medications.” Kerr said he still takes one of the medications Rabinowitz recommended to him.

“You saved my life,” wrote Kerr.

Kerr has not responded to the Washington Blade’s request for comment, but he described Rabinowitz on his Facebook page as “one of my heroes just like the early ACT UP warriors — some

of which I now call friend (sic).” José M. Zuniga, president of the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care, which is based in D.C., told the Blade on Monday that Rabinowitz treated people with HIV/AIDS through his family practice in Pittsburgh.

“It is tragic to lose any life to senseless violence, but sad for the medical profession to lose one of its own — Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz — who was dedicated to a humanist approach to medicine,” said Zuniga. “We must be guided by our common humanity in these troubled times, and honor Dr. Rabinowitz’s life and legacy by

and did so with compassion, love and empathy. His contributions to battling the AIDS epidemic will forever be remembered. His senseless and tragic death has touched us all and he will be missed.”

Other HIV/AIDS service organizations with whom the Blade spoke on Monday also mourned Rabinowitz’s death.

“Our network of medical care providers is mourning the loss of a respected member of the HIV care provider community, Dr. Rabinowitz,” said Bruce Packett, deputy executive director of the D.C.-based American Academy of HIV Medicine. “We offer our sincerest condolences to the friends, family and community of this hero, and to all those other victims of this senseless act of hatred and violence.”

Jewish LA mayor: ‘This is my country’

A gunman killed Rabinowitz and 10 others on Saturday when he opened fire inside the Tree of Life Synagogue. The massacre is the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in U.S. history.

Federal authorities have charged the gunman with hate crimes, weapons and other charges. The gunman made his first court appearance on Monday.

The massacre has prompted an outpouring of grief across the country and around the world.

The lights of Paris’ Eiffel Tower were turned off on Sunday to honor the victims. The American and Israeli flags were projected onto the side of Tel Aviv City Hall after the massacre.

“As a Jew, like everybody that is here, I belong here,” said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti on Sunday as he choked back tears during a vigil for the victims that took place in his city’s Westwood neighborhood. “This is my country. This is our city, and we all belong here.”



Jerry Rabinowitz, a Pittsburgh doctor who was known for his compassionate treatment of his patients with HIV/AIDS, was among the 11 people who were killed inside the Tree of Life Synagogue on Oct. 27, 2018

advocating respect for the dignity of every human life, irrespective of religious belief or any other factor that expresses our diversity.”

AIDS Free Pittsburgh, a program that operates under the Pittsburgh-based Jewish Healthcare Foundation, in a statement to the Blade echoed Zuniga.

“He was a friend of the foundation and his impact on HIV/AIDS care in our region will not be forgotten,” said AIDS Free Pittsburgh. “He was one of the first doctors to serve the AIDS community in Pittsburgh,

Jair Bolsonaro Elected Brazil's Next President

BY FELIPE ALFACE

SÃO PAULO — Jair Bolsonaro will become Brazil's next president after he won the second round of the country's presidential election on Sunday.

Bolsonaro defeated former São Paulo Mayor Fernando Haddad of former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's Workers' Party by a 55.1-44.9 percent margin. Bolsonaro will take office on Jan. 1.

Observers have noted Bolsonaro won the polarized presidential election, in part, because Brazilians have grown weary of corruption associated with the leftist governments of Lula and former President Dilma Rousseff that governed the country for 13 years. Public opinion polls indicated Brazilians were willing to support anyone who was not a member of the Peoples' Party, including a presidential candidate without a clear government platform, who appeared unprepared for interviews and refused to participate in debates against Haddad.



Brazilian President-elect Jair Bolsonaro has sparked fear among many LGBT Brazilians. (Photo by Agência Brasil Fotografias; courtesy Wikimedia Commons)

minority groups that campaigned against Bolsonaro.

Witnesses say a group of people who stabbed a transsexual woman to death in downtown São Paulo on Oct. 16 yelled, "It is just the beginning. Gay people won't have it easy when Bolsonaro is president." The president-elect has previously used this phrase during interviews and it has been evoked in other attacks that took place across the country.

Activists fear Bolsonaro will rescind rights

So what is in store for LGBT people for the next four or more years if Bolsonaro himself is re-elected or if one of his allies becomes president?

Bolsonaro's critics say the answer is simple: Fear and returning to LGBT ghettos. Another bigger concern is the impact a Bolsonaro administration will have on the rights of LGBT Brazilians.

The Brazilian Senate recently released for public comment a proposed amendment to the country's nondiscrimination that would criminalize homophobia and impose the same punishment as those who are convicted of crimes against women, people of color, seniors and people with disabilities. Less than 10,000 people opposed the proposal, compared to 400,000 people who said they support it.

The Senate has yet to vote on the amendment, and a date has not been set. Activists are concerned Bolsonaro would veto the proposal if it were approved in 2019.

Bolsonaro criticized for homophobic, misogynist rhetoric

Aside from appearing unprepared and having passed only two bills during his 27 years as a congressman for Rio de Janeiro, Bolsonaro throughout his career has also been known for his homophobic and misogynistic behavior.

The thing that may spark the most concern among Brazil's LGBT community is his commitment to Catholic groups that he would defend the "true sense of marriage" between a man and a woman. This position signals he would support the repeal of marriage equality that became a reality across the country in 2013.

Bolsonaro has also targeted people of color, Brazil's indigenous community and women, in addition to the LGBT community. Attacks involving his supporters against these minority groups have increased since he launched his campaign.

One such case happened in Santo André, a city just outside São Paulo, where a 19-year-old man was threatened with a gun by a man he met on Grindr. Another case involved a 19-year-old woman who was beaten and had a swastika carved into her skin with a knife by three men because she was wearing a T-shirt with the saying "ele não" or "not him," a phrase used by

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UM University Health Center Introduces New Trans Care Team

Center Creates Safe, Inclusive Space for Trans, Non-Binary Patients

Body & Fitness

BY DREW HOWARD

After 15 years of serving transgender and non-binary patients, staff at the University Health Center in the University of Michigan understood there was still a big gap in the community's healthcare: hormone initiation.

This new UHS service is just one component of the team's nearly year-and-a-half effort to create a more inclusive, affirming and safe space for trans and non-binary patients seeking health care. The result is the UHS Trans Care team, a group of nine specialists trained specifically around the needs of the community.

While UHS has provided hormone treatment services for years, the opportunity for patients to initiate hormone treatment at the center has been unavailable until now. Diana Parrish, a social worker and member of the UHS Trans Care team, said this missing element was one of the inspirations behind developing the team.

"A little under two years ago, myself and a staff member at the counseling center started talking more intentionally about students coming to us with the inability to access health care specific to gender-affirming care, and a big gap was initiation of hormone therapy," Parrish said.

"A lot of students were struggling to find where they could be initiated," she continued. "At Michigan Medicine they have offered these services for years. They're wonderful providers. But unlike UHS, those aren't included in tuition. They'd need to use insurance, and oftentimes needed transportation."

UHS staff met over the next 18 months in a variety of training programs before rolling out services under the new Trans Care Team. In addition to hormone initiation, patients can visit the center for sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment; pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, and post-exposure prophylaxis, or PEP; pelvic exams; cervical cancer screening and pregnancy prevention, among other things.

As a part of the training, staff met with trans and non-binary individuals through focus groups and other avenues to further shape policies. The importance of privacy and confidentiality, as well as a lack of trust due to past negative experiences, were two major themes found in the feedback, Parrish said.

Susan Ernst, a physician in the UHS Women's Health Clinic, said some trans and non-binary



Bottom row L to R: Rachele Wilcox, Diana Parrish, Monique Steel. Middle row L to R: Agnes Bialikiewicz, DeLynn Howe, Tatyana Guifarro, Beth Cardinale. Top row L to R: Mike Corrigan, Aimee Maslach. Not pictured: Susan Ernst

patients also reported negative experiences before even meeting with their physician. The stories prompted UHS to involve every staff member in the building – not just physicians – in the cultural sensitivity training sessions.

"One of the students said that some of the barriers come up when they walk into the health care facility," Ernst said. "The staff use their birth name, and that's a negative tone for our vision. The students wanted people to be aware of how they approach patients."

But dwelling on mistakes can be harmful, too. "One of the other points students have made is that if you use the wrong pronoun, just say 'I'm sorry' and move on," Ernst added. "Don't dwell on it, it just makes it more uncomfortable."

As a social worker with the Trans Care Team, Parrish helps patients navigate the healthcare system and issues around health insurance benefits. She has the authority to assist with name and gender markers within UHS, campus and on identity documents, and can also help patients looking to get a letter of support for hormone therapy and/or surgery.

The Trans Care Team isn't done learning, Parrish said, as she believes in the importance

of operating from a place of "cultural humility," which "calls us to be patient-centered, non-judgmental and always learning."

"Even before the formal work on Trans Care services at UHS began, I had to slowly come to the realization that I will never know or understand the complexity and diversity of experiences that trans and non-binary folks move through the world with," Parrish said.

Ernst agrees that there's still much to learn. In dealing with trans and non-binary patients, she believes its best to treat them like they're the experts on their own body.

Ernst recalls grappling with the decision of whether or not to prescribe the hormone progesterone to a male-to-female transgender patient. After consulting with an expert at Michigan Medicine, she learned that it wasn't her place to choose for the patient.

"I had a patient who was male-to-female transgender, and she wanted me to prescribe progesterone," Ernst said. "I had a hard time with that, because physiologically there was no need."

"I remember Dr. John Randolph from Michigan Medicine saying that if you have

the conversation with her and she understands the risk, if she still wants that because in her mind she thinks it's the right thing, then he's willing to prescribe progesterone."

Ernst said she is already seeing the impact of the new Trans Care Team. In the last month she recalls meeting with a couple of patients for post-op visits following bottom surgery, as well as another transgender patient who may need surgery.

"That's three times as many as I saw in the last year," she said. "I think we'll see an increase."

Rachele Wilcox, a primary care provider on the Trans Care Team, said the new team has "absolutely" made an impact from her point of view.

"From my own patient population I've had two patients who plan to initiate hormone therapy sometime soon," Wilcox said.

Trans and non-binary individuals looking to learn more about the Trans Care Team are encouraged to visit uhs.umich.edu/transcare. Here, patients can find information on each member of the team as well as information regarding frequently asked questions.

A Gluten-Free Guide to Detroit Dining

Viewpoint BY JEM ZERO

Metro Detroit has a wide and wonderful selection of food opportunities — unless you have allergies and diet restrictions, in which case you might be out of luck.

I was diagnosed with a gluten intolerance in July of 2017. It was one of the worst and most confusing bits of news my whole life — gluten intolerance? I didn't even believe in non-celiac gluten allergies! I didn't want to stop eating cake. What about garlic bread? Oh no.

Eventually, I did accept that I had to stop eating gluten, and began the haunting process of completely restructuring my diet. When cooking at home things are OK. I make a lot of fish, rice, eggs and mushrooms. When eating out, though, my gluten allergy makes things difficult — especially since I stopped being able to stomach meat roughly four years ago.

In Detroit proper I once walked into a pho shop only to panic, when I realized that not only were there no vegetarian options, but the noodles probably weren't gluten-free. My girlfriend informed me that rushing out in a hurry with the shoddy excuse of a “business meeting” drew more attention than just quietly apologizing and leaving, but I was too embarrassed to admit that I couldn't eat any of the food.

However, I've had more luck with Thai restaurants, particularly Lue Thai Cafe in Dearborn which I don't have to gamble on because they have gluten allergy considerations on the menu. Japanese and Korean places —

such as Inyo in Ferndale, Wasabi in Detroit and Sammi in Troy — also had at least one or two dishes without gluten, meat or vegetables to which I'm not allergic. I've found that many sushi places, too, are willing to take out something that is tempura-fried, even if it gets some odd looks.

The Ferndale and Royal Oak general area remains one of the best places for me to find food, which can be difficult because many restaurants there aren't price-friendly. When I can afford to eat in that area, though, I've visited Le Crepe, Inn Season Cafe, Ale Mary's Beer Hall and GreenSpace Café. Though not always perfect, I can carve out a meal at each of these locations and leave without feeling discouraged.

Traditionally “homey” venues are generally difficult. I might be able to get a lemonade but I don't drink caffeine, and very few bakeries, coffee houses and cafés have a single gluten-free product. But I was delighted when I walked into Common Grace Coffee in Dearborn and found that they have a few accessible options — cookies, macarons and soup.

A big problem with finding gluten-free food is that most of the time it has to say gluten-free on packaging, because people tend to put flour in everything. Imagine my horror when I first realized I couldn't eat enchiladas anymore because they use flour to thicken the sauce. After I'd resigned myself to never eating Mexican food again unless I made it myself, Tijuana's Authentic Mexican Kitchen was my saving grace. The staff actually took a

See **Gluten-free**, continued on p. 25

Gluten-Free Grains



Rice



Quinoa



Amaranth



Sesame



Chia



Sorghum



Oatmeal*



Millet



Buckwheat



Flaxseeds



Corn



Soybean



Kidney Bean



Lentils



Pea



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Oats are naturally gluten-free, but many packaged oat foods labeled “gluten free” in fact contain gluten because of farming, transportation and storage factors

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From Injury to Industry Body & Fitness

Brandon La Forest's Brain Injury Kickstarted Activism

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Oct. 5, 2010 started off just like any other day for Brandon La Forest. He woke up a little early, had a meeting at the office and was on his way to an appointment in Lansing. But just outside the city, while La Forest stopped to avoid an accident that had just happened in front of him, his life changed forever.

"A car came from behind me hitting me at 80 miles per hour," La Forest said. "My car then got pushed into the next lane, where another car hit me at 70 mile per hour and then I was hit a third time from behind again."

La Forest speaks about the day casually but he's only relaying what he's been told. He cannot recall the day at all.

"It is just a date to me with no memories," he said. "But it is a date that would forever change the rest of my life."

La Forest said that original reports said he died at the scene.

"A nurse that was in a nearby car helped to revive me originally," La Forest said. "I was then revived three more times in the ambulance by the paramedics."

Upon arriving at Sparrow Hospital, La Forest underwent emergency brain surgery. When his mother got to the hospital and doctors were finally able to talk to her, the prognosis was grim.

La Forest was placed on a ventilator and a feeding tube was inserted. He had a broken back and neck, a damaged spleen which doctors removed, a collapsed lung and shattered ribs. He fell into a coma where he remained for over a month. La Forest wasn't expected to live through the night initially, and doctors predicted that if he ever did come out of his coma, he would be "a complete vegetable."

But vegetables don't talk and La Forest tells this part of his story very well.

"In the end, I beat the odds," he said. "I regained consciousness and later upgraded to a brain injury recovery center called Special Tree in Romulus. I lived there for almost seven months and I relearned the basics of life from dressing and bathing to walking and talking."

After he left Special Tree, he continued for years as an outpatient through their facility in Troy.

Therapies he received included massage therapy, physical therapy, acupuncture, vocational therapy, recreational therapy, spinal manipulation and more.

"On top of all those therapy



Brandon La Forest

appointments I had to go to several doctors' appointments weekly," La Forest said. "It's pretty bad when the most contacts you have in your phone are doctors that you see. To date, I have 57 doctors in my phone that I have seen or currently see."

Slowly, though, La Forest began rebuild his life. He credits much of his recovery to his connection with God.

"I always believed in God before I had my accident and had some relationship with him, but nowhere to what I have with him now," La Forest said. "I truly believe he kept me here for a reason and that reason was to help make me a vehicle to show the dangers of texting while driving, to be a motivational speaker to others going through tough places in life with medical conditions. And to educate other on what brain injuries are."

To that end, La Forest created Heads Up, Phones Down, a campaign to end texting while driving.

"Me and my family created it and started going around to high schools, colleges and churches to give my presentations. When I am there I sell T-shirts and wristbands at the end and only allow people to purchase them if they agree to sign my pledge and not text and drive," he said.

Listening to La Forest speak about his struggles, what stands out is his commitment to both short-term and long-

term goals that he said will help him in his recovery. He said that anyone who has experienced similar circumstances or medical struggles should set a variety of recovery objectives.

"That is one thing I always tell people in my speeches," La Forest said. "You should have numerous goals, some short-term and some long-term, so you don't get discouraged if you don't hit a goal right away. ... I had to come to grips with the fact that I can't do things like I used to do. I can still achieve the same goal, but it just may take me a longer time to do it or I may have to do it a different way than I did before."

That philosophy is what allows him to keep moving forward. When asked what his current goals are, La Forest is both straightforward and driven: continue therapy, get back to work to help people just like him and find love.

"My future is to continue with therapy and doctors, to go back to work at my insurance agency, continue speeches, continue helping people out on my website, continue to work with the Brain Injury Association, continue the fight to keep no fault insurance, find a partner, have children, drive again on my own, live again on my own and enjoy life," he said.

For more about Brandon La Forest, visit headsphonesdown.com.



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cycling experience continues to edge out the competition with its ability to stream daily live classes from its NYC studio with 24-hour access. \$2,474 for the Works Package; onepeloton.com

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6. Hock Design DISKUS Dumbbells

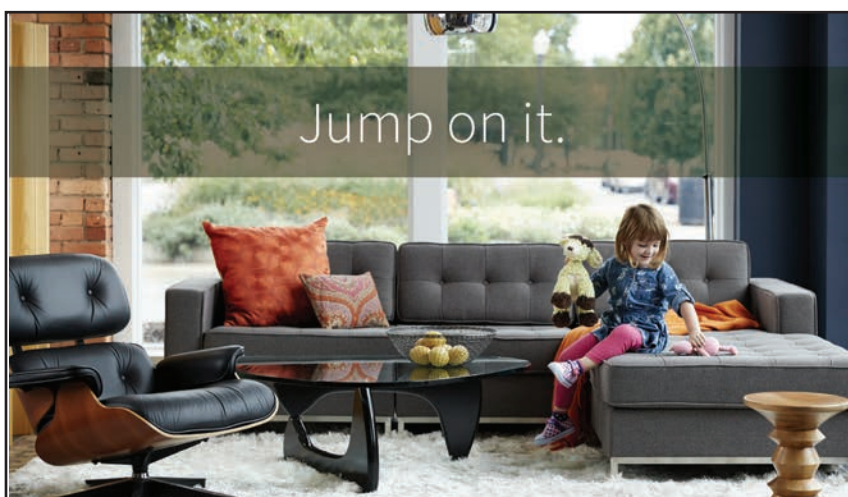
Your local gym equipment will look like clearance surplus after you pick up Hock Design's set of 10 20kg DISKUS Dumbbells (with rack), constructed of turned, polished and oiled walnut flanked by grade 303 non-reactive stainless steel end caps. Are they worth the head-shakingly hefty price tag? Only if you've got serious money to burn and something ultra-narcissistic to prove. \$14,700, shophock.com

weights in Tonal; there are no metal plates anywhere on the sleek, wall-mounted system that's about the size of a large flat-screen TV. It also replaces an entire gym's worth of equipment for a smooth, precise workout that will help you lose weight and increase your athletic performance through on-demand personalized coaching with a monthly subscription. \$2,995, tonal.com

7. Tonal

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Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He spends his time writing from the beach with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyrox.




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► Gluten Free

Continued from p. 21

class sponsored by the state to help train them in food safety.

A common problem I encounter is that often the gluten-free options are all meat-based. I'm always infuriated when I find that I can get grilled steak or chicken, but all the seafood options are breaded. Let's not linger on the pasta issue, either. Pasta dishes are a vegetarian lifesaver, but many restaurants don't carry a single gluten-free pasta option, even though it's one of the easiest options to provide.

One particularly heinous Sunday saw me walking along Michigan Avenue in Dearborn, teary-eyed and distressed because I was hungry, too tired to cook and my usuals were all closed. The restaurants left open had nary a single gluten-free option. At last, my girlfriend pointed to a door next to us and suggested checking in there.

Famous Hamburger? I was skeptical. Even if they did have a gluten-free bun, the chances of a patty I could eat were slim. There are a few burger places I won't name that insisted their vegetarian patties were gluten-free, only for me to find out that they were so, so wrong. However, I was glad she convinced me to go inside. The servers were pleasantly accommodating and their black bean burger was good enough that my girlfriend often orders one instead of a beef patty.

Coming back to Detroit itself, I've had on-again, off-again luck. There was one salad place that didn't have a single vegetarian salad, which was pretty jarring. I like going to The Hudson Café when I fancy breakfast, but their gluten-free section consists of french toast and pancakes. I can get an omelet, but that's about it. Better than some, but I'd love more creative options than primarily sweets. However, this still puts it in better standing than most coney and breakfast places around the Metro area. Omelets are basically all I can eat. Oatmeal, granola and waffles are nearly always glutenized.

If I crave pizza, there are a lot of places in Metro Detroit where I can find a gluten-free crust, though quality ranges significantly as does care about cross-contamination. Buddy's Pizza is a favourite of mine, but certain locations are better than others — Dearborn has never let me down, just FYI.

Overall, Metro Detroit is OK, but stands to improve. But just a few small changes can go a long way, and I promise: people who have gluten allergies will find your location and they will frequent it if you care enough about our business to reach out to us.

Just food for thought!

Jem Zero is a disabled queer content creator. Ze is currently pursuing an accounting certificate to compliment zir career as a writer, photographer, and artist. Connect with zir at jemzero.com, at facebook.com/jemzero.art, or jemzero.art@gmail.com.

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6 LGBTQ-Friendly Wedding Planning Apps to Try

BY BTL STAFF

Planning a wedding can be difficult and it's a cause of significant stress for many couples, and perhaps even more so for same-sex partnerships because of the potential for discrimination. However, the following apps can help LGBTQ couples get through their wedding planning process successfully, reports equallywed.com. These apps provide gender-specific advice and inspiration for ceremonies and receptions, and help users easily determine if a vendor is equality-minded and willing to help plan their big day

The Ultimate Wedding Planner

Created by the editors of The Knot, a wedding magazine and website, The Knot Wedding Planner app is a tool for couples planning on-the-go. Whether users want to check off to-do's on the wedding checklist; keep the wedding budget in check; track conversations with a chosen wedding venue and wedding vendors; or make a quick update to their wedding website, the app has capabilities for each of those options. There are also quick notifications, an all-in-one registry and photo-sharing capabilities for use by everyone on the wedding guest list.

14 Stories

14 Stories is a wedding planning app specifically for LGBTQ couples. The app includes planning advice, a detailed vendor search and connection to the 14 Stories Facebook and Pinterest links for inspiration and helpful preparation tips.

WeddingHappy

The WeddingHappy app focuses on shareable and extensive to-do lists and offers some accepting vendors in the search function. Within the app, users can count down to the date of their wedding, create customized checklists and track its budget. There isn't any



gendered language when the app asks about the couple, but it does ask whether each person is planning to wear a dress or a suit.

Wunderlist

Wunderlist isn't wedding-specific but it's used by millions of people around the world to capture their ideas, notable things to do and places to see. Whether users are sharing a grocery list with a loved one, working on a project or planning one of the happiest days of their lives, Wunderlist makes it easy to share lists and collaborate with others. Wunderlist instantly syncs between a user's phone, tablet and computer, making lists accessible almost anywhere.

WeddingWire

Users can count down to the big day with WeddingWire's down-to-the-second wedding countdown feature. The free app can help set up a wedding checklist helps users stay organized by helping in booking wedding venues to the final wedding dress fitting. Additionally, the customizable wedding checklist can help users stay on top of every task, even making it possible to set the wedding budget and managing it directly via phone. Users are also able to use a



wedding directory of over 250,000 vendors to find top-rated wedding professionals.

Mint

It's not a wedding app specifically, but LGBTQ couples planning a wedding should know how to manage their finances and Mint is a free money managing and financial tracker app. From the makers of TurboTax, this app brings together bank accounts, credit cards, bills and investments so users know where they stand. They can see on a macro scale what they're spending, where they might save money and track of their bills in advance. Users can also keep track of their credit score without putting in their credit card information.

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Melissa McCarthy

Is the Lesbian You've Longed For

Actress Talks LGBTQ Inspiration & Bringing Queer Biographer Lee Israel to Life

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Melissa McCarthy knows her way around a woman who doesn't care what other people think. This is the foundation on which her bawdy and vanity-free slapstick characters are created. Anti-feminine hornball Megan in "Bridesmaids" dialed up dude-level crass and free-wheeling sexuality (and earned her an Oscar nomination). Officer Mullins in "The Heat" was a gun-toting ballbuster who shamelessly and daringly – because she's female, and this is Hollywood – went unpolished, hair undone, mouth a free-flapping trap.

If you've ever gotten a lesbian read on McCarthy's subversive heroines, you're not misreading, exactly. They're not explicitly lesbian. But the 48-year-old actress and bona fide action star, thanks to the "Ghostbusters" reboot and "Spy," tells me the characteristics

of *being* lesbian – the not caring, the disregard for convention, sensible shoes – are absolutely at play.

There's nothing vague about Lee Israel's sexuality in McCarthy's latest film, the poignant Oscar-worthy dramedy "Can You Ever Forgive Me?," but it's the least interesting thing about Israel. So, even if you didn't know her as the real-life literary scammer (and, yes, lesbian) she was, forging and selling letters by famous writers like Noël Coward and Dorothy Parker out of desperation to survive and work and care for her cat, McCarthy will make you care deeply about this woman who, in true McCarthy fashion, has few cares herself.

Recently, McCarthy phoned to talk about steeping her onscreen personas in lesbian qualities "out of admiration," her appreciation for queer films wherein a character's sexuality is not the whole story and why her drag alias is "Miss Y."

What took you so long to play a lesbian character that went beyond being just suggestively lesbian?

(Laughs) It hadn't been presented to me. I just fell in love with Lee. I was not even a quarter of the way through the script and I thought, My god, she's so unapologetic about who she is and how her demeanor is. I tend to always fall in love with women who simply don't care what other people think of them. Sometimes to their detriment. I don't think it made her life easier that she was so prickly with so many people, to say the least. But I think in a world where so many people look outward to see, "How do you think I am?" as opposed to, "I know who I am, I know how I am, and I'm fine with it," there was something in Lee's voice that really appealed to me. I thought a little bit more of Lee in all of us would not be a bad thing.

Was there something special that stood out to you about the film's treatment of her sexuality?

Yeah, I liked that it wasn't treated as if her sexuality was something new – a new sweater she got, or something she was trying on. I would say 80 percent of my friends are gay and it's not something that is an integral part of who they are – it's not an accessory or a phase – and I thought it was just simply sunk into who she was as a woman and I related to that. That seemed real to me, and it's about time that's the type of character you see: where it's part of the whole person, and it doesn't always lead with it.

Eighty percent is very precise. Has it always been 80 percent?

(Laughs) Probably! I mean, still to this day, I don't know why. Who knows how and why and who you pick as your friends, but it's

usually me and all my lovely, dear gay friends that I've had forever.

In the film, Richard E. Grant portrays Jack Hock, a charming gay boozier who becomes Lee's drinking buddy and partner in crime. Do you have a gay friend as close to you as Lee Israel was to Jack?

I have about five of them. They were all my bridesmen. I had my sister – and then I had five bridesmen.

Did you make some new gay friends while shooting at New York City's oldest gay bar Julius?

I didn't meet anyone new in there, but I found it fascinating that that's where Lee hung out. I thought that was very telling of her not wanting to be seen, but to still be with people who wouldn't judge her, especially in the early '90s. But no, no new friends! Richard's my new friend!

Richard as Jack is everyone's new gay friend.

Isn't he? I think it took me three seconds to literally fall in love with him. I was just like, "Oh my god, where have you been all my life?" I think how he played Jack and how bigger-than-life he was, and then how vulnerable and how he could break your heart – I just can't imagine anyone else on the planet playing Jack. I thought Richard was perfect.

How did Lee's friendship with Jack – two gay people living during the AIDS crisis – speak to you?

I thought what really tethered the whole story were these two characters. These people are so lonely, so isolated, desperate in different ways but similar in others. Who hasn't had that feeling? Who hasn't felt completely alone or undervalued? And to put that in this time period, I mean, that's part of why I'm so fascinated. When I found out she hung out at Julius, especially in the early '90s, I thought she wouldn't meet anyone there. Then I thought, "Of course!" And she knew that. So she would go to just be isolated and I thought, "Oh, Lee." I just sometimes rooted for her. I know it's crazy, but the scene with Dolly Wells, who plays Anna so brilliantly... and I know how this movie ends. I've seen it, I did it. And yet every time right before Lee makes that turn outside the restaurant, I can't help but go, "Oh, please, let it work out." She's so close to having a lovely thing, and then Lee kind of could not get out of her own way.

The LGBTQ community has seemingly found lesbian subtext in some of your characters. Did you recognize the lesbian sensibility when you shot "The Heat" with Sandra Bullock as much as gay critics did?

It wasn't intentionally driven by that, but it was driven by a sense of, I don't have to be anyone else than I am. I've had and still have so many great lesbian friends. I remember early on just being like, "Boy, they're just not putting on these airs and stereotypes of what it means to be a woman, and they certainly seem

“It's usually me and all my lovely, dear gay friends that I've had forever.”

comfortable and at ease with it,” and there was a real weighted feeling to that. I remember being like, “Yeah, why am I in a heel? What am I doing?” Like, “This seems dumb. She's not in one and between the two of us that's the smarter move.” I just remember thinking someone who stops doing certain social cues that have been assigned and simply does what they want is very appealing to me. I find it very strong and respect it quite a bit.

So many of the women I play when I do play these characters – because I love them, I love them because they're too aggressive, too whatever it is – but I love that they're really in their shoes and some of those great women I've known over the years always carry into them because I think, “Don't mess with her because she knows exactly who she is and she's standing solid.” I love the fact that they've crept in. You know, it's out of admiration.

These characters you play are a real subversion of conventional gender norms.

Yeah, that “who's to say what” – I do love playing with that. It's like, you don't know anyone's story. You can't go off a look or a feeling; you don't know until you know. And maybe it'll never be any of your business.

The lesbian chemistry between Sandra Oh and Kathy Bates in your film “Tammy” – you called it “magical.” If you were to play another lesbian role after Lee, who would you want your love interest to be?

That's a tough question! That's like, “What's your favorite album?” I don't know! Oh, god. Glenn Close, I don't know. There are so many women that I love, that I find magical, I couldn't possibly answer that. It would be endless.

As a kid who grew up on a farm in Plainfield, Illinois, where I imagine there weren't a lot of out and loud farmers...

(Laughs) Not many that I knew of!

What was your experience the first time you stepped into a gay bar, then?

I thought, “Where has this been all my life?” That's the honest to god truth. There was a feeling of anything goes, you're OK, no one's gonna find you odd. What you're wearing, who cares! What you're doing, dancing all night! There just was a celebration innately built in. It's like, I didn't go there to be somber, I went because I was like, there's such a feeling of unity and I never felt... I just... I really did, I had such a strong reaction to it. It's like, I think, certainly, from many of my friends I

See **Melissa**, continued on p. 31

Detroit Repertory Theatre 62nd Season Black Tie Celebration 6:30 P.M. Saturday November 17, 2018

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Media City Film Festival at DIA Nov. 7

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Partner film with the Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin, feminist icons Carolee Schneemann and Valie Export, and what results is the Nov. 7 opening night of the Media City Film Festival. Founded in 1994, the critically acclaimed event is unique not only in its pull for internationally lauded filmmakers from more than 20 nations, but in that it happens across two national borders. After its first night at the Detroit Institute of Arts, a hop, skip and a jump across the bridge takes the festival to Windsor, Ontario, where the rest of the four-day event will finish its run. Liane Cunje is its Assistant Director. She said that the event's diversity anything but accidental, it's come from years of organizers curating content in an intentionally inclusive space.

"This festival, it has something special that keeps people coming back every year and has grown its international reputation for artists because they get to share with a very open community," Cunje said. "It's a very welcoming environment. ... And we have these wonderful Q&As after, and, because it's such an intimate festival, you can go and (discuss the work with the artists) after."

The Nov. 7 event in Detroit will kick off with a performance by Motown Records veteran



Carolyn Crawford, accompanied by Rick Jones. Schneemann will also speak accompanying the films to be shown, as a part of the University of Michigan's Penny Stamps Speaker Series.

"The films are all short format and they're put together in a collection of six films shown together in a program. They usually run about 70 to 75 minutes," Cunje said. "The first night in Detroit we're showing six films between



Carolee and Valie."

Though not explicitly LGBTQ, Cunje said that the themes of feminism and bold expressions of female sexuality explored in the featured films during the Detroit debut hold parallels to the LGBTQ experience.

"I think, especially for Carolee, it's been an especially tough road. When she first started creating her art, she wasn't accepted



in the feminist community and by a lot of her contemporaries because they thought her to be too provocative, or (that she) played into male ideals," Cunje said. "It's taken her a lot of time to be recognized as quite a strong feminist voice fighting for these open ideas of sexuality and female sexuality and about her

See **Fim Fest**, continued on p. 32

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Melissa McCarthy and Richard E. Grant in "Can You Ever Forgive Me?" Photo: 20th Century Fox

► Melissa

Continued from p. 29

was with as they came out and struggled with their families or had delightfully surprising responses from their family, to have a place to go where they were just fully accepted, a lot of joy went with that. So I kind of sat in the backdrop of that and enjoyed it.

The feeling must've been so strong that "Miss Y" was born. How did you get your drag name?

(Laughs) I do kind of consider it my drag name. I was given it by a lesbian in southern Illinois. When I went to college, I went by Melissa, but up until college I had always been called "Missy." And someone who knew me before said, "Missy," in front of this woman and she went, "Uh! My friend 'Missy'? Completely unacceptable! I'll call you 'Miss Y.'" I don't know why she was really offended by Missy, but bizarrely it stuck and everyone called me Miss Y. When I ended up in New York, it had become somewhat of an alter ego – and in my wig and silver lamé trench coat dress, Miss Y was born.

Which drag look was physically easier to transform into: Miss Y or Divine, who you impersonated for an Entertainment Weekly cover shoot – or Sean Spicer?

Sadly, Sean Spicer was quicker. I was like, "This will take hours," and they're like, "Not really. It'll take about 17 minutes," and I was like, "Oh, come on!" I would've loved for them to have been like, "Oh, it's really difficult to make her that masculine." Instead, nope. Really easy. I had no problem doing it!

What do your daughters think of Miss Y?

(Laughs) They don't really know her – thank god they were not at the Palladium (a NYC gay bar) in '92 with me!

Wait, what happened at the Palladium in '92?

Oh, so many things. So many things that I'll never put on a recorder. Susanne Bartsch

parties and debauchery; the ball pit, the slide. I could go on but I won't. (Laughs)

You know, one day they're gonna ask about what happened with Miss Y in '92 at that bar.

You know, something I hope my girls feel is a freedom. I always say I find them delightfully weird, which I have always rooted for. We play a strange game that is not really meant to offend any banker, we just mean this as a generalization, which is terrible – but we play a weird game where we're a very serious family and Ben (Falcone, Melissa's husband) will come out and say, "Hello, children, how was education?" And they answer very properly and we can only do it for about a minute and a half. It's really weird and then we all feel uncomfortable and a weird dance party starts. So I love that they fully embrace that they can be as strange and goofy as they want to be. I think that's a feather in my cap, that they're not afraid to be exactly who they are.

Do pieces of Miss Y exist in any of the characters you play?

I think there's always a bit of her. Not surprisingly, the beginning of me being a character actress – I didn't even do stand-up for that long. I couldn't possibly do it as myself. It didn't make any sense to me. But I could go on as her and tell amazing stories about myself and talk about being so young and wealthy and tall and all these things that I was not. And I could kind of channel it through someone and do that without any reservations or embarrassment. I think I've taken that into so many of these flawed, challenging women that I play. As long as I can channel through someone else, I feel quite a bit braver.

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



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► Film Festival

Continued from p. 30

body. We're so glad for her to be here in person and to be shown with Valie Export who is also incredibly provocative woman who just wasn't afraid. I think that would be something that the LGBTQ community could really relate to. It's about coming to a place where you're not afraid of who you are and what you believe in and sharing that with the world."

However, the festival certainly does have LGBTQ-specific content. For instance, on Saturday, Nov. 10, at 6 p.m. at The Capitol Theatre, Laura Huertas Millan's "Jeny303" film will play, featuring a transgender character named Jeny. Cunje described it as "funny, incredibly honest and fascinating."

"Accompanied by the voice-over of Jeny – a young transsexual filmed during her rehab – the camera wanders around building 303, Bogota's architectural icon. A chance encounter: a few years back, when the filmmaker's father asked her to film the architecture faculty where he had taught, an accident with her 16 mm film resulted in a superimposition of the portrait of Jeny," said a website testimony by Charlotte Garson on Millan's work. "The film is a testimony where the discreet affirmation of revolt can be heard: 'neither torturer, nor victim.' Jeny (who refers to himself in the masculine gender) recounts

his delinquency as being the just return for the social violence committed against him. ..."

There's also content from LGBTQ creators, too. Michael Robinson is a New York-based filmmaker who is openly gay. His film "Onward Lossless Follows" is a collaged film that attempts to recreate the American psyche post the 2016 presidential election.

"Trump 'winning' the election felt like getting dumped by the person you assumed you were about to marry by finding out that he or she never existed in the first place," Robinson said of the film in a Revolver article. "It was – and still is – a collective sadness and trauma unlike anything I have ever experienced."

That film will be shown on Saturday Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at The Capitol Theatre in Windsor.

Cunje added that regardless of the day that festival-goers attend, there will be ample opportunity for the discussion of the films shown.

"It has grown to be such a warm and welcoming and loving community of people who are here to experience their artwork and share their lives with each other," she said. "It's a very special place and festival."

he festival is pay-what-you-like with a suggested donation of \$5. Full passes can be reserved online for \$25 at mediacityfilmfestival.com. Go online to find out more information about films, their creators and showtimes.

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Wharton Center Presents Nontombi Naomi Tutu Nov. 5

Nontombi Naomi Tutu's life has been spent as a South African activist for human rights, as well as a consultant and educator against oppression. She is the daughter of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nomalizo Leah Tutu. She will be presenting her story at Michigan State University's Wharton Center for Performing Arts on Monday, Nov. 5.



"The challenges of growing up black and female in apartheid South Africa have been the foundation of Nontombi Naomi Tutu's life as an activist, consultant and educator. Her experiences taught her that the human family loses when we accept situations of oppression: teaching hate and division injures us all," wrote event organizers. "She has followed her own path to build a better world, channeling

opportunities she has been given to raise her voice as a champion for the dignity of all. She blends this passion with humor, joy and personal stories. Tutu is presented in conjunction with MSU's Year of Global Africa."

Potter Park Zoo Wonderland of Lights Nov. 22 to Dec. 30

It's known by many in Lansing that Potter Park Zoo annually decorates its zoo grounds with a collection of holiday lights. Recurring every week starting Nov. 22 through Dec. 30, every Thursday through Sunday, visitors can walk through the festively-adorned exhibits and walkways. The lights are turned on starting at 5 p.m. and last through 8 p.m.



"Potter Park Zoo is transformed into a magical winter wonderland with thousands of holiday lights and extraordinary visual displays," said event organizers. "Kids activities, entertainment and your festive animal friends make this a fun event for the whole family. Lights are on Thu.-Sun. nights only. Closed Christmas Day."

For more information on the weekly event and

goings-on at the zoo, visit potterparkzoo.org or call 517-483-4222.

Salus Center UCC Worship Nov. 6

The United Church of Christ and the Lansing-based Salus Center have joined together to provide an LGBTQ-friendly, multi-faith worship event every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

"If you've never participated before, this is a weekly multi-faith worship experience where people of every identity are welcome to share in our collective efforts to extract the sacred from the ordinary," wrote Salus Center organizers. "You don't have to be Christian or religious to participate! Seriously. Especially considering

how religion doesn't always deal kindly with LGBTQ people, we're more invested in helping each person find and/or create meaningful ways of tending to their spiritual health, individually and collectively. Join us anytime!"

The Salus Center is located at 408 S. Washington Square in Lansing. More information about these recurring events can be found on the group's Facebook page here: gaybe.am/X9 or by visiting saluscenter.org.

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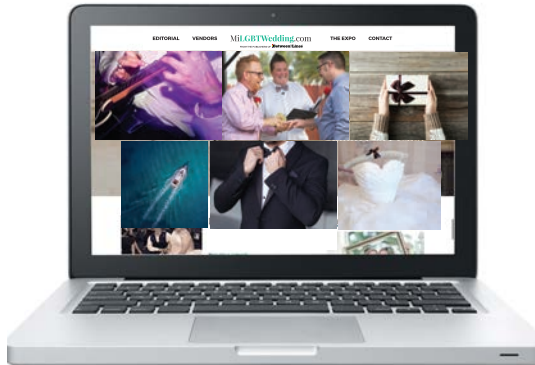


Josh Groban with Idina Menzel at Little Caesars Arena

On Wednesday, Nov. 7, at 8 p.m., Grammy Award nominated singer Josh Groban will be joined by Tony Award-winner Idina Menzel. The dual performance by both vocal powerhouses will be a part of Groban's "Josh Groban: Bridges Tour." More information about tickets can be found online at ticketmaster.com.

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OUTINGS

Friday, November 2

Transgender Michigan Birthday Bash and Halloween Party 6:00 pm This dual celebration is for both Transgender Michigan's 20th Anniversary and celebrating the birthday of Transgender Michigan Co-Founder Rachel Crandall-Crocker. transgendermichigan.org/events. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105.

Bible 101: A Bible Study Facilitated by Deacon Hattie Alexander-Key November 2, 12:00 pm Come explore the basics of the Bible and take some of the mystery out of what lies between the covers of this book. Clawson Conference Room. MCC-Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. mccdetroit.org.

Saturday, November 3

LGBT Community Chat 11 am Saturday LGBT Chat is an on going social discussion group meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. Coming out, dating and much more. Java Hut Ferndale Michigan, 165 W. 9 mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

MCC Detroit – Deck the Halls Tree Trimming Workshop November 3, 1 pm Join us for a festive workshop with our own Steve Stimson where we'll learn tips and tricks for trimming the tree and decking the halls. MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. mccdetroit.org.

Sunday, November 4

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals

4:00 pm Free. For Parent Support Group information, contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St., Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. standwithtrans.org.

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 pm Free. For parents of transgender kids. Contact facilitator Socorro Sevilla, MSW: socorro@hilltopcounseling.org. Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. standwithtrans.org. hilltopcounseling.org.

Tuesday, November 6

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Lake Orion / Oakland County 7:00 pm Free. For parents of transgender kids. Parent Support Group Facilitated by Lisa Goyette, ally, activist. St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512

Justyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0003. stmarysinthehills.org.

Thursday, November 8

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce Merge & Mixer 6:30 pm Michigan Employee Resource Groups for Equality (MERGE) Monthly Networking Event. RSVP is Required. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646 info@detroitlgbtchamber.com. ferndalesoho.com. detroitlgbtchamber.com.

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County 7:00 pm Free. Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620. oaklandumc.org. standwithtrans.org.

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting 7:00 pm Professional & personal communication skills development. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. lawrencemoeb@gmail.com. speakout.toastmastersclubs.org.

Laura Love in Concert 7:00 pm A former member of Venus Envy, check out her new releases! Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023 office@uuf Flint.org. uuf Flint.org.

MUSIC & MORE

Half Truths – A Book Discussion Facilitated by Michael Hart November 1, 7:00 pm Join us for a rich discussion of Rev. Adam Hamilton's examination of simple phrases that capture some element of Biblical Truth, yet miss the point in important ways. MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. mccdetroit.org.

Editor's Pick

Violent Femmes with Your Smith at Majestic Theatre Nov. 3

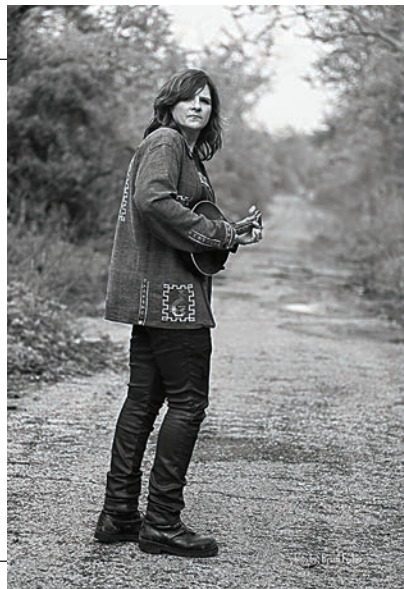
On Saturday, Nov. 3, punk fans can line up to see the Violent Femmes perform alongside Your Smith at the Majestic Theatre. Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the group has released nine records in its almost 40-year career, making hits like "Blister in the Sun," "Kiss Off" and more. More information can be found online at majesticdetroit.com.



Editor's Pick

Amy Ray and Her Band at The Ark Nov. 14

One-half of the famous lesbian duo that is the Indigo Girls, Amy Ray is a Grammy Award-winning musician who also has side touring projects like Amy Ray and Her Band. The group will be performing at Ann Arbor's The Ark on Nov. 14 with tickets starting at \$25. More information can be found online at theark.org or by calling 734-761-1818.



Cirque de la Symphonie November 2, 10:45 am Back by popular demand, it's "Cirque de la Symphonie!" Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111 dso.org.

Bowling with MCC Detroit November 4, 1:30 pm Come join us in a fun afternoon of bowling, food and fun with friends. Price includes 2 games of bowling, shoe rental, pizza and soda pop. Luxury Lanes & Lounge, 600 E. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-544-0530. luxurylanes16.com. mccdetroit.org.

Steve Martin and Martin Short at Cobb Great Hall November 4, 7:00 pm It's all fun and games till the banjos come out." —Martin Short. Great Cobb Hall, 750 East West Shaw Lane, East Lansing. wharton@msu.edu. whartoncenter.com.

Laura Love in Concert November 8, 7:00 A former member of Venus Envy, check out her new releases! Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023. office@uufint.org.

Emanuel Ax Plays Beethoven November 9, 10:30 am Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. dso.org.

Emanuel Ax Plays Beethoven November 9, 10:45 am Norman is one of today's most brilliant — and popular — composers. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. dso.org.

Ann Arbor's Storytellers Guild Presents 'Storyfest!' November 9, 7:30 pm Premier storytelling event for adults 14 and older. Features "Moth" winners, door prizes, snacks and free parking. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. 734-662-4419 annarborstorytelling.org.

Well-Intentioned White People by Rachel Lynett November 9, 8:00 pm Explores how "good intentions" can sometimes be just as problematic. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley St., Detroit. 313-967-0599. info@matrixtheatre.org.

MCC Detroit — Budget Forum November 11, 11:00 am Join us in the Fellowship Hall immediately after worship to review and discuss the projected 2019 fiscal year budget. MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. mccdetroit.org.

Storyfest Family Fun Concert November 11, 2:00 pm Storytelling for children ages 4 & up by the Ann Arbor Storyteller's Guild. Pittsfield Branch, Ann Arbor Library, 2359 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor. 734-327-4200 annarborstorytelling.org.

Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4 November 16, 10:45 am Tchaikovsky poured his soul into symphonies that would express his anguish and passions as no music had

ever dared to. John Storgårds conducts Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, and Pekka Kuusisto plays Daniel Bjarnarsson's new Violin Concerto. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 313-576-5111 dso.org dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4895&prod=4894

MCC Detroit — Fellowship Friday November 16, 6:30 pm Come join our gathering of music lovers who share in song, prayer and a meal. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725 dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series

DSO Presents The Vienna Boys Choir! November 25, 7:00 pm The illustrious group of child musicians has been delighting music lovers across the globe for six centuries with their purity of tone, distinctive charm and popular repertoire. Christmas in Vienna showcases these gifted musicians with Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 313-576-5111 dso.org dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=5534&prod=5533

An Introduction To Cultivating Mindfulness to Support Recovery November 27, 7:30 pm Mindfulness educator and researcher Dr. Elizabeth A.R. Robinson, MPH, MSW, Ph.D will define mindfulness, research supporting mindfulness' benefit, and how mindfulness supports recovery from substance addiction. Free, open to all. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725 dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series

MCC Detroit — GenderSpark Monthly Program November 28, 7:00 pm Founded by a group of trans-identified folks and their loved ones. MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main Street, Clawson. 248-399-7741 mccdetroit.org/ mccdetroit.org

Bugs Bunny at the Symphony II November 30, 10:45 am WARNER BROS. PRESENTS: Bugs Bunny at the Symphony II celebrates the world's most beloved Looney Tunes and their legendary stars projected on the big screen with original scores played LIVE by the DSO. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. 313-576-5111 dso.org dso.org/ShowEventsView.aspx?id=4824&prod=4819

ART 'N' AROUND

Michigan Depression Glass Society Show and Sale November 3, 10:00 am 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. Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor. 734-761-2796 salinemarket@gmail.com foodgatherers.org salineantiquesmarket.com/

MCC Detroit — Open Art Studio at The Art Experience, Inc. November 24, 12:30 pm Join others as they go to the Art Experience on Woodward Avenue in Pontiac to spend some time to explore your creative side! The studio is open with people to assist as needed. The Art Experience, 175 S. Saginaw, Pontiac. 248 706 3304 theartexperience.org/ mccdetroit.org

THEATER

THE STONE WITCH by Shem Bitterman Michigan Premiere October 28, 2:00 pm 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 artful.ly/theatre-nova/store/events

A2CT Presents Arsenic and Old Lace October 28, 2:00 pm 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/about/facilities/north_campus/walgreen/arthurmiller/a2ct.org/shows/arsenic-and-old-lace

Theatre and Dance at Wayne Presents 'As You Like It' November 1, 7:00 pm One of Shakespeare's most hilariously subversive comedies, As You Like It is set in present day in the Appalachians, and this reimagining is directed by Lavinia Hart. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Avenue, Detroit. 313-577-2972 theatreanddanceatwayne.com/

Well-Intentioned White People by Rachel Lynett November 9, 8:00 pm Well-Intentioned White People explores how some people deal with discrimination not necessarily directed at them and how their "good intentions" can sometimes be just as problematic. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley St., Detroit. 313-967-0599 info@matrixtheatre.org matrixtheatre.org <https://matrixtheatre.org/mainstage-season>

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Screen Queen BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Doc Portrays Mr. Rogers' Quiet Gay Activism

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

For over 30 years, national treasure Fred Rogers welcomed kids who felt different to his "neighborhood." Maybe you were there, enchanted by the trolley and talking puppets. Maybe you, like me, felt like you didn't fit in with the other kids, and maybe, again like me, Mr. Rogers made you feel more at home in this big, scary world – for

30 minutes every day during his longtime PBS children's show "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," anyway. Uncertain, divisive times like ours call for another soul-soothing balm, and documentarian Morgan Neville, who rightfully won an Oscar for "20 Feet From Stardom," delivers just that with his Rogers-centered doc "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" Perhaps most surprising to those watching his show as a child: Rogers was a quiet gay and civil rights activist, demonstrated by the casting of gay, black actor François Clemmons, who portrayed Officer Clemmons. In the doc, Clemmons extols Rogers' no-barriers-for-love inclusiveness and compassion for everyone, recalling his special bond with Rogers, whom he considered a father figure. Beyond interviews with "Neighborhood" cast members and Rogers' kin, as well as archival conversations with Rogers himself, vintage footage dating back to the show's 1968 premiere is featured, including an early episode with Rogers as his alter-ego cat puppet, Daniel Striped Tiger, expressing through song feelings of inferiority. It'll wring your eyes dry, but save some tears for the rest of this moving trip down memory lane, a tightly constructed tribute to Rogers' philosophies on love and kindness for a world still trying to grasp both.

Love, Simon

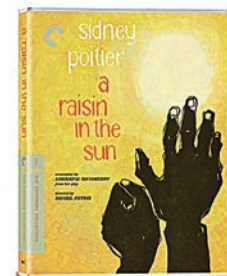
You can think "Love, Simon" isn't enough because it isn't. Not yet, anyway. Gay culture has long revelled in queer art-films with niche-queer narratives, where societal pressures befell closeted cowboys in "Brokeback Mountain," and where homosexuality

and blackness intersected in "Moonlight." Comparatively, "Love, Simon" is one serviceable but slighter-in-scope pop bop. But if you saw it in a theater with crying teens and their crying moms, like I did, then you know the movie's banality alone – finally, gay people get their John Hughes film – is groundbreaking. Directed by Greg Berlanti from a script based on 2016's young-adult bestseller "Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda," I didn't expect "Love, Simon" to deliver high-brow gay cinema – not if its first order of business was to let queerness live in many of the same rom-com conventions as any Sandra Bullock or Jennifer Garner lovefest. And on that same massive level, in wide release on the big screen, where gay teen Simon miserably navigates out-gay life at high school as he searches for "Blue," an unidentified, closeted schoolmate he's confided in through an emotionally invested email exchange. The proceedings are richly gay and heartwarming and nostalgic: a Whitney Houston musical number, a shamelessly '80s-by-way-of-John-Hughes sensibility and an affirming tearjerker of a mom speech from Garner herself. I cried lots, and its cathartic sweetness – being the great love story it promised to be – charmed me and the Simon I once was. A deleted scene featuring actor-slash-dreamboat Colton Haynes is among the Blu-ray's special features, which also includes more deleted scenes, a Berlanti commentary and a book-to-screen featurette.

Also Out

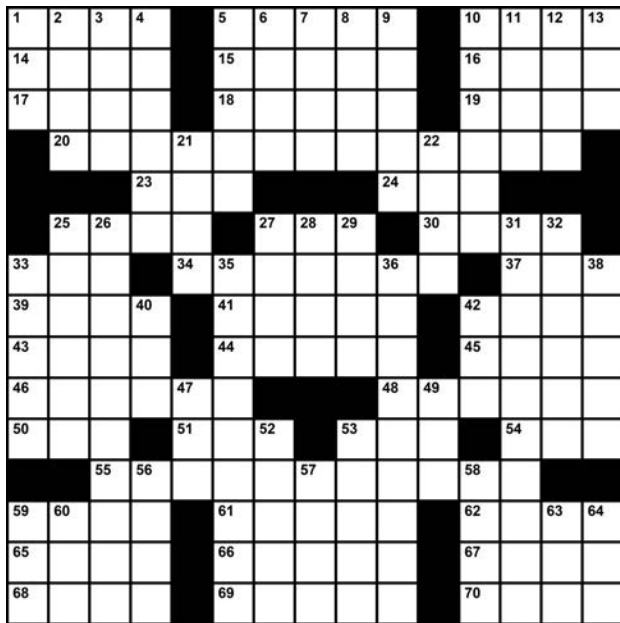
A Raisin in the Sun

Even after Lorraine Hansberry adapted her 1959 play "A Raisin in the Sun" – the first play by a black woman to be performed on Broadway – for the silver screen, the 1961 film, directed by Daniel Petrie, preserved the theatrical simplicity of the source material. The story's familial and racial tensions also remained fraught with complications: A money-strapped black family, the Youngers, living in close quarters in the Chicago slums in the 1950s contend with how to best spend a \$10,000 life-insurance check – their chance at a fresh start. That fresh start looks different for single mother and grandmother Lena Younger (Claudia McNeil), her daughter Beneatha (Diana Sands), her son Walter (Sidney Poitier), plus his wife Ruth (Ruby Dee) and their son



See Screen Queen, next page

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- 33 "Reduce Speed", on a sign
 34 Oral secretion
 37 Cheerleader's shout
 39 "Summer and Smoke" heroine
 41 Muse for Millay
 42 Sally on "Brothers & Sisters"
 43 Story teller
 44 Place where you go straight
 45 Like a 90-pound weakling
 46 "Rainbows Reign!" and more
 48 Elton John collaborator Taupin
 50 From ___ Z
 51 "Ay, there's the ___" ("Hamlet")
 53 Neighbor of Leb.
 54 Divided terr.
 55 She plays Callie Torres on "Grey's Anatomy"
 59 Pleasure orally
 61 See 18-Across
 62 Young women who have balls
 65 Julia of "Kiss of the Spider Woman"
 66 Turn inside out
 67 Phantom of the Opera name
 68 Cleo told them "Bite me!"
 69 Uncool crowd
 70 Sticking in your proboscis
- 8 Lesbos, for one
 9 Pillow covers
 10 Landau's "Ed Wood" role
 11 Poet Khayy-m
 12 Early role for "A Beautiful Mind" director
 13 Co. with a butterfly logo
 21 Date for Nero
 22 River in the land of Colette
 25 Director Stephen
 26 Words on many Warhol canvases
 27 Put in a position?
 28 Place for Young men?
 29 Jazz singer James
 31 Memorial with Mychal Judge's name
 32 Realm of C.S. Lewis
 33 With 38-Down, she played the title role in "Frida"
 35 Won over
 36 ACT UP members, e.g.
 38 See 33-Down
 40 What Michelangelo put out
 42 PBS relative
 47 Bruin Bobby
 49 Pull a boner
 52 Cry at La Scala
 53 Trump look, when mocking sexual assault victims
 56 Leather pokers
 57 State with certainty
 58 Genie portrayer Barbara
 59 Two cups of suntan spoiler
 60 Article written by Frida
 63 The four characters in this puzzle's theme
 64 Where to see two bears at night

Going Either Way QPuzzle

Across

- 1 Lickety-split
 5 Places where the salami isn't hidden
 10 Fruit of the ___
 14 Magazine magnate Henry
 15 Like Emma Donoghue
 16 Dave Pallone and others
 17 Up to snuff
 18 With 61-Across, she plays Annalise

Keating on "How to Get Away With Murder"

- 19 Pick up
 20 She played Jules in "The Kids Are All Right"
 23 Albee for short, et al.
 24 Ariana Grande to Frankie
 25 To be, in Toulon
 27 The color purple, for example
 30 Use your hands instead of your mouth

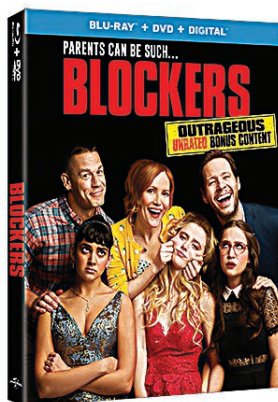
Down

- 1 Home state of J. Nabors
 2 Part of a sentence (abbr.)
 3 Sometime defender of gay rights
 4 Someone who strips?
 5 Madonna and Mariah
 6 St. Patrick's land
 7 Nala or Simba

► Screen Queen

Continued from p. 36

Travis (Stephen Perry). Tremendous performances – particularly Poitier and McNeil as the family's willful rock, which she inhabits with true grit and grace – are the touchstones of Hansberry's moving portrait of a black family hoping to rise above the economic and cultural forces against them, and the firsthand destruction it causes when they can't. But joy – find it, the film suggests, even if the world won't let you have it. Criterion Collection's Blu-ray restoration of the classic gleans an array of well-rounded supplemental material, including interview features with Hansberry and Petrie.



Blockers

Here's what the "Blockers" trailer tells you: three teenagers are on a mission to get laid on prom night and their parents are freaking out. What it doesn't tell you is that one of those, Sam (Gideon Adlon), is a closeted lesbian. Cue the supportive dad, Miles (Ike Barinholtz), who suspects his daughter will be the only boy-averse girl of that girlfriend group, while the other parents, Lisa (Leslie Mann) and Mitchell (John Cena), have a parental meltdown and embark on a

mad chase to cockblock their kids. Desperate to shut down their impending sexcapades after decoding a series of suggestive emojis, which is funny because watching parents try to figure out

modern-day technology will forever be funny, Lisa, Miles and Mitchell go to raunchy extremes to save their children's virginity. I laughed plenty at the ridiculous gags (one involving Gina Gershon playing naked Marco Polo with her husband), but what threw me was the film's sweet, emotional throughline, set in motion in the beginning when Mann, perfect in scenes where heart and humor collide, desperately tries

to pretend to be OK with her college-bound daughter leaving the nest. Something else to celebrate besides Mann: sex comedies with high schoolers where one just so happens to be a lesbian. Yes and thank you, Hollywood.

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

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Saturday, November 3rd, 1-4pm, Fellowship Hall

Deck the Halls Tree Trimming Workshop

Join us for a festive workshop with our own Steve Stimson where we'll learn tips & tricks for trimming the tree & decking the halls! Participants should bring a small tree or mantle swag to decorate and any decorations you may want to use. The demo tree and mantle swag decorated by Steve will be raffled off at the end of the workshop, so bring your cash!

Cost: \$10 Event Host: Steve Stimson

Saturday, November 10th, 10am-4pm Transgender & Thriving with Rev. Dr. Justin Tanis

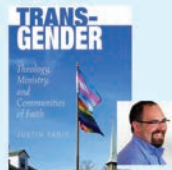
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Each participant will receive a copy of Rev. Dr. Tanis's book, *Transgender*. This event is co-sponsored by Affirmations and the Center for Lesbian & Gay Studies in Religion & Ministry.



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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

SAGE Table Comes to Detroit

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Its aim is to promote intergenerational conversation over a nice meal. For the second year in a row, SAGE Table, sponsored by SAGE — an organization that provides advocacy and services for LGBTQ older adults — will bring together the old, the young and those inbetween as part of a nationwide initiative. Last year, there were 232 SAGE Tables across 40 states involving more than 3,000 participants.

“At SAGE, our goal is to draw our community closer together, to alleviate the loneliness common to many LGBT older people and to discuss and take action with issues of relevance to all of our lives,” reads the official website for the event. “SAGE Table is a space to begin and continue the conversation and to listen to others with backgrounds and experiences different than our own.”

A Table can be big or small and serve breakfast, lunch or dinner. This year's Metro Detroit's SAGE Table will take place at the Michigan State University Detroit Center on Thursday, Nov. 8.

“This year we will keep it simple, with dinner, dessert and casual dialogue between generations divided by age: 21 to 35, 36 to 49, 50 to 65 and over 65,” said Judy Lewis, co-organizer of the event. “Registration is free and open to all LGBT folks, but seating is limited to 60 participants, so an early RSVP is strongly recommended.”

Each separate table will have its own host who will moderate conversation with the help of conversation guides provided by SAGE.

SAGE Table is billed as a “friend-raiser not a fund-raiser” so there is no cost. It is hoped, however, that attendees will follow up the event by planning to meet again with someone from a different generation whom they met at the event.

“At present, there is little that brings the generations together,” Lewis said. “When I provide a cultural competency training at various older adult facilities, the younger staff are often unaware of the history and difficulties faced by older LGBT residents. And older adults have little idea of the real challenges facing today's younger generation. At SAGE Metro Detroit, it is our hope is that SAGE Table will be one event of many that will bring people together to talk about these unique generations of challenge and change.”

The purpose of SAGE Table, said Lewis, is to raise awareness and build connections.

“As the national SAGE website (www.SAGEusa.org) states so beautifully, “Through SAGE Table, we can reach out—person by person, community by community—to connect with one another,” she said. “Together, we can build our own, real-life social network to support our LGBT elders.”

SAGE Table, the national website says, “is a movement, not a moment. With that in mind, it's been designed to inspire us all to grow, to think more inclusively, and to act more compassionately throughout our daily lives.”

For more information or to RSVP for the SAGE Table, visit www.SAGEusa.org/SAGETable.

New Support Network Helps Peers in LGBT Community

BY JASON MICHAEL

The Michigan LGBT Peer Support Network is a new group aimed at helping people in the LGBT community start support groups and build alliances.

“I didn't create the Network to compete with other organizations, but to give LGBT people more options,” said Jeffrey Olivier, the group's founder. “I want to form groups that are not available to the community. In the near future, we have plans for a new men's group, lesbian group, newly single group and friends and family group just to name a few groups that are needed (that) we do not have. We'd also like to create a social meet up group where LGBT people can meet up and go out to dinner.”

Currently the Network has two groups up and running, a weekly community chat that meets at the Java Hut in Ferndale on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and an LGBT and allies game night that takes place Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m., also at Java Hut.

In addition to the groups, Olivier has also created an online helpline of sorts.

“If you join the Michigan LGBT Peer Support Network Facebook page it acts as a helpline,” Olivier said. “If you send a message seven days a week you can find resources in our community. I will answer every message.”

For more information on the Michigan LGBT Peer Support Network, visit the group's Facebook page at gaybe.am/1B.

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