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Creating Change Conference Comes to Detroit LGBTQ Activists Persist, Resist in Age of Trump



Michigan Supreme Court
Adopts Fully-Inclusive
Non-Discrimination
Policies

New Kansas Gov. Latest
to Sign Order Against
Anti-LGBT Discrimination

'Schitt's Creek' Creator
Dan Levy on How Far His
Queer Self Has Come



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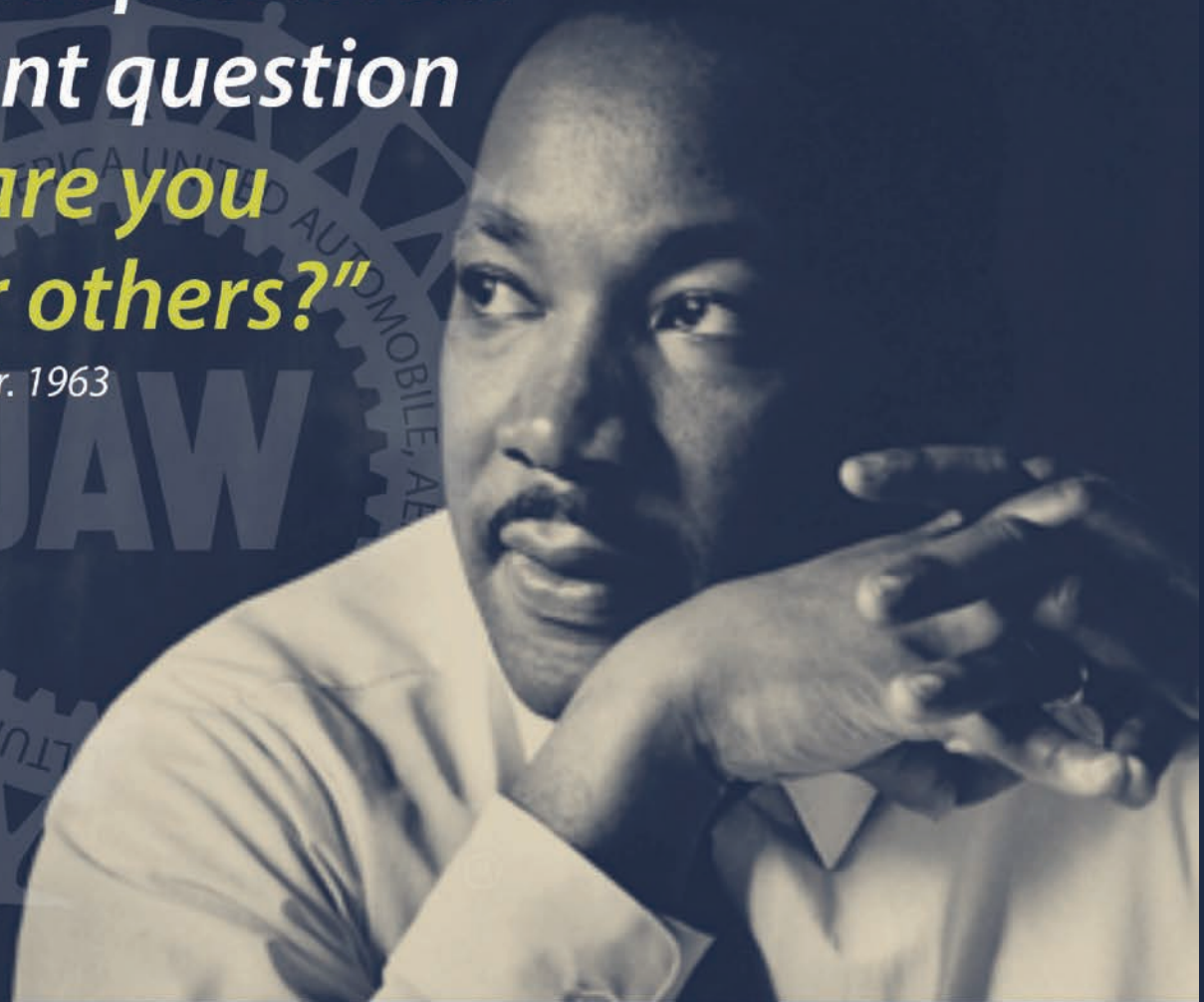
Curtis Lipscomb on Growing LGBT Detroit

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VOL. 2703 • JANUARY 17, 2019 •
ISSUE 1094

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

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Phone 734.293.7200

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Resist, Persist: Creating Change Returns to Detroit

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Back in the D

For the third time in its 31-year history, the National LGBTQ Task Force's annual Creating Change Conference will take place in the Motor City. And although its new director, Andy Garcia, doesn't hail from Michigan, it's still something of a homecoming.

"I'm just thrilled, said Garcia. "This is a dream job for me, to be really clear. I'm really excited that my first year as director is going to be in Detroit, because my very first Creating Change

ever was in 1995 in Detroit." The conference was also held here in 2008.

Garcia said to expect 3,500 participants at the conference, which is set to last from Jan. 23 to 27 at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center.

"This conference is big," said Garcia. "It is beautiful. It is everything that is wonderful about the LGBTQ community and our allies. It really showcases our brilliance, our resiliency and our commitment to make the world a better place by creating change. I also say it's bold, and it's visionary. It really is where the ideas that shape the movement and the future of

the movement and the focus of the movement are born, and where we strategize to bring the ideas to reality."

Given the current political climate, "creating change" is more important than ever for the LGBTQ community, said Garcia. And with that in mind, the conference is an opportunity for people to connect with each other, learn new concepts, new skills, new ways of being and an opportunity to learn how to resist, he said.

"An emphasis for this year, as we go into Stonewall 50 (the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots), we really want people to kind of pick up on this theme of persistence: We have always been here; we will always be here. And it's really important for us to recognize that we'll get through this time as well, that change is on the way," Garcia said.

Michigan Made

Without the coordinated efforts of its 100 host committee members, the conference would not have been possible. Garcia called it an amazing showing of local support, adding, "Detroit is just such a wonderful city to work with, because as you know, the folks are really passionate and committed, and it has such a rich history of activism and social change and organizing."

Garcia shared that in several respects, the conference will feature some local flavor. To begin with, attendees can expect to see familiar Detroit faces at the opening plenary on Thursday night. Moderated by BTL contributor Michelle Brown, the panel discussion will include Cynthia Thornton, Cecelia LaPointe and Dr. Abdul El-Sayed.

"We don't typically focus the plenary on the city that's hosting us," Garcia said. "So this year, we are. We really wanted to welcome people to the conference by hearing from activists that live there, to give folks a sense of the place they're in."

While film screenings are a regular feature of Creating Change, Garcia said he's particularly

will be a house ball on Friday night. Garcia said that while they've held balls in some other cities, "since Detroit has such a vibrant house ball community, we really wanted to make that a part of the conference as well."

Visitors can expect cash prizes and trophies, too. In addition, for the closing plenary and brunch on Sunday, Garcia said they are pleased to be able to feature local talent: hip-hop artist and activist Deirdre D.S. Sense Smith.

There are other ways that Creating Change aims to not only showcase this year's host city, but also give it a boost.

"We are really focusing on leaving Detroit better resourced than we found it," said Garcia. "That's really a commitment of ours. To help the community come together and build something like this is part of what we hope everyone will walk away with, to see how that can happen on a city-wide scale. Pulling off an event like this takes a lot. We really want folks to leave feeling like they understand what makes Detroit special."

To that end, said Garcia, they will be presenting awards to recognize local heroes. One of the awards, the Susan J. Hyde Award for Longevity in the Movement, will be presented to Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz, publishers of Between The Lines and Pride Source Media Group. The award is named for Sue Hyde, the director of Creating Change for its first 30 years. (Garcia laughed that he's received many "big shoes to fill" comments regarding his new post as director.)

Learn. Connect. Resist. Persist.

The more than 250 workshops and caucuses offered at this year's Creating Change reflect the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community. Whether one's interests lie in activism, community, democracy, justice, faith, healing or organizational development, Garcia says there is something for everyone. Wide-ranging workshop titles include Queering Reproductive Justice, Sex Positive Trans Sex, Digital Branding for the Modern Queer, POC Joy as Radical Resistance, Queerspawnto UNITE!, Hack the Law: The Advocate's Toolbox and Kink 101. BTL spoke with leaders of two workshops.

When metro Detroit-based Stand with Trans was asked to submit a proposal for a workshop at the conference, Roz Keith and Yma Johnson answered the call. Keith is founder, executive director and president of the organization, which is dedicated to supporting and empowering transgender youth, and Johnson is a board member. Both are moms of transgender sons, and will be presenting Creating Change One Family at a Time.

"We will give them some tools and some skills where they can maybe shift how they parent, whether they've just found out about their child's identity, or if they've been dealing with it but struggling a little bit, and we'll share

excited to show "America You Kill Me," a documentary about the life and activism of Jeffrey Montgomery. It was Montgomery who co-founded the Triangle Foundation, a landmark LGBTQ activism space, in 1991 after his boyfriend was killed outside a bar in Detroit.

Another event specific to Detroit's conference

Welcome to Detroit Opening Plenary

Thursday, Jan. 24

8 p.m.

Renaissance Ballroom

This panel explores what makes Detroit and its residents special.

Find out more online at creatingchange.org.



Brown



Thornton



El-Sayed



LaPointe



Weeks

Moderator:

Michelle Brown, Public Speaker, Author, Activist, and Host of Collections by Michelle Brown - Blog Radio

Panelists:

Dr. Abdul El-Sayed, Physician, Epidemiologist, Public Health Expert, Progressive Activist, and 2018 Michigan Gubernatorial Candidate.

Cynthia Thornton, President of Pride at Work Michigan. Organized the first LGBTQ Caucus in a Michigan congressional district as well as the first LGBTQ Committee of the state's Democratic Party Black Caucus.

Cecelia LaPointe, Founder and Owner - Native Justice Coalition, Red Circle Consulting and Waub Ajijaak Press

Graphic Facilitator: Anthony Weeks. Since 1998, Anthony has worked as a public listener with leaders, product developers, and strategists to facilitate dialogue and ideation, think visually, and turn data into stories.

some real-life examples,” Keith said.

She added that they’ll discuss advocacy: advocating for one’s child, then broadening the message to create meaningful change in the community.

“Then we want to talk about how the support that they provide at home really makes a significant difference in mental health in families being a more cohesive unit in preventing isolation and bullying,” she said. “Simple behavior shifts by parents can make such a huge difference in their child’s entire existence.”

Johnson brings to the table her parenting experiencing, as well as a passion for social justice. She said that beyond the one-at-a-time approach, she’s excited for the opportunity to affect change on a systemic level.

“Part of what we’re bringing is, we’re adding to the momentum of a conversation that’s really evolving right now. There’s evidence that we’re in a cultural moment around transgender issues. It’s a watershed moment, the evolution of trans rights.”

Johnson never imagined herself the activist that she has become, and said she’d like to share with parents how her life has changed because of supporting her son.

“My life is better now than it was before my son came out,” she said.

Regarding the quickly-approaching conference, Johnson stated, “There’s an excitement that happens when like-minded people congregate from all over, to have these kinds of conversations and share knowledge. It really is exhilarating.”

Faith Williams, another workshop leader, echoed that sentiment.

“You do a lot of work in the lead-up to these types of workshop presentations,” said Williams, who is the senior manager for government relations for the National Council of Jewish Women, headquartered in Washington, D.C. “And you get there, and you are so energized because you are surrounded by people who are so knowledgeable and so passionate about these things that you work on in your office and it’s really wonderful.”

Williams, along with representatives from the Human Rights Campaign and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, will be presenting LGBTQ Folks & Religious Minorities: Natural Allies for Religious Freedom.

“Religious freedom has really ... kind of shifted from this field that protects religious minorities to this weapon that is used to attack — I would say primarily LGBTQ folks — but also religious minorities, single mothers, anyone with whom a person of any religion might disagree,” Williams said, describing the theme of the workshop.

She added that it’s an issue that’s worsened since the last presidential election, reflecting on the impact of a candidate who aligned himself with the extreme religious right along with the reaction of people whose narrow interpretation of religion rejects things like marriage equality. Workshop topics will include health care

“conscience” laws, rules surrounding adoption and fostering, and private school voucher programs. She said she hopes people leave the workshop with new ideas for partners and coalitions to work with on religious freedom issues.

The organization’s tagline, “Making Change since 1893,” suggests that Creating Change is a well-named conference for NCJW, which Williams described as of Jewish women, but for everyone.

“I think the one constant of NCJW is change,” she said. “We’re just getting more diverse as an organization, more diverse as a country and more diverse in terms of the policies we pursue as a part of our larger mission to advance the well-being of women and families and safeguard individual rights.”

Beyond workshops and speakers, conference participants can enjoy the art studio spaces, learn their HIV status and attend a variety of spiritual gatherings. They can drop in to the Healing Justice Practice Space to relax and recharge too. Recovery meetings are on the schedule, child care is available and separate hospitality suites are set up to welcome guests — including people with disabilities, elders, guests on the asexual/aromantic spectrum and others. Plus, there’s ample opportunity to make new friends at numerous receptions and two dances, plus the house ball.

“This conference is a really magical space,” Garcia said. “We create this place, within the conference hotel, that is really special to people. And our philosophy at the Task Force and Creating Change is this concept of radical welcome, where everybody who is in that hotel feels like they are exactly where they need to be. So we really want people returning to where they came from, returning to their home towns feeling re-energized and feeling less alone and feeling like they have the skills, the knowledge and the passion to create change in their communities.”

Find out more about the conference at creatingchange.org. Online registration closes Jan. 12, but participants may register onsite. Day passes are available.



The 124 page program book can be downloaded,

2019 Creating Change Conference Honors Detroit, National Activists for Social Justice Work

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Renowned for its ability to bring LGBTQ activists of all kinds together, the national Creating Change Conference is also known for recognizing those who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to make change in their own way. This year, the conference will be held from Jan. 23 through 27 at the Detroit Marriott in the Renaissance Center and will honor five chosen individuals and one organization for their work and dedication toward the LGBTQ movement. Each of whom will speak about their work as they receive their individual awards. This year's honoree schedule lasts throughout the conference. (See below.)

Peter Fiske is the west coast chairman of the Stonewall Veterans Association and was present during police raids at the historic gay bar. In addition, he has been a leatherman since 1964, was named Leather Daddy XXXI of San Francisco and has served with many organizations dedicated to aiding LGBTQ people. Despite all of his decades-long work, he said he was shocked when he heard the news.

"I got notified in November before it was made public and I was very shocked and surprised and very

honored," Fiske said. "It's especially poignant because I'm a lifelong activist and I'm a Stonewall veteran."

When asked if he ever imagined that he would be honored in such a way, he said, "Absolutely not."

"I never imagined that we would be able to serve in the military, that we would be able to get married, that in most states we would have protection from discrimination in employment and housing, and I'm thrilled," he said. "And I do hope the younger generation understands that there's still miles to go and we can't stop now. I'll refer to that in my speech; the voices from Stonewall and the people we lost, they cry out to me to say, 'keep going.' We have to fight for everything we get and we mustn't fight each other. We fight those who would take away our rights, those who are our enemies, who have made themselves our enemies."

Cornelius Wilson agrees. As a founder of SAGE, a lifelong HIV/AIDS activist and current member of the Southeast Michigan HIV/AIDS council, he said that he's thrilled to have received recognition, but that's not why he does the work he does.

"I do what I do because I'm part of the community that needs help. ... There was a point in time where there were folks not willing to serve folks like myself: gay, black, HIV-

positive — all of those things rolled into one person," Wilson said. "So, being recognized with the awards is great. It speaks to the fact that folks are kind of watching me. I didn't realize they were paying that much attention, but I do what I do because I figure the best way to open doors for others is to first open doors for myself."

One of the doors opened for Shane Shananaquet, who started his activism in his early teens, long before many people are brave enough to be public about their LGBTQ identity. Currently, he is a member of the Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health's youth advisory council and a youth ambassador for the Tyler Clementi Foundation. He said that he didn't realize that he was doing activism work when he started it.

"When I started advocating for others, I didn't even know what activism was. I just talked about what I liked. I had no idea I would receive awards or receive recognition for my work," Shananaquet said, adding that age is no indicator of one's abilities to make a difference. "Find nonprofits or school groups that are advocating and have fun with it. Speak your truth and you'll be heard."

In addition to receiving the award he'll be facilitating a workshop on

health disparities among youth that "he's quite excited about!"

Included among the awardees is Jonathan Jayes-Green, who beyond fighting for LGBTQ rights for people of color, has fought for those of undocumented immigrants as well. Green was not available for comment before the date of publication.

"[He] is one of the cofounders and the Director of the UndocuBlack Network, a multigenerational Network of black undocumented immigrants organizing their own communities and building power," said event organizers. "UBN focuses on deportation defense, advocacy, wellness and storytelling. Jonathan believes freedom and liberation is possible when we organize and center the voices and leadership of those directly impacted."

With Susan Horowitz and Jan Stevenson winning awards, *Between The Lines* is represented this year at Creating Change, too. Both publishers said that they were stunned when they heard the news they won The Susan J. Hyde Award for Longevity in the Movement award.

The couple met on the board of directors of The Task Force in 1994 and have long admired Sue Hyde for whom the award is named.

"I'm honored and humbled to

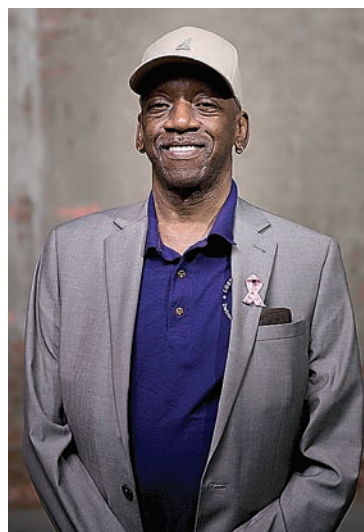
receive this award from The Task Force — an organization I have respected and supported for decades. It's the organization's relentless commitment to progressive change that inspires me and thousands of others. It's also meaningful to receive it with Susan, who I met while serving on the NGLTF board," Stevenson said.

"I am reminded always that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before and I am humbled to

See **Awards** continued on p. 8



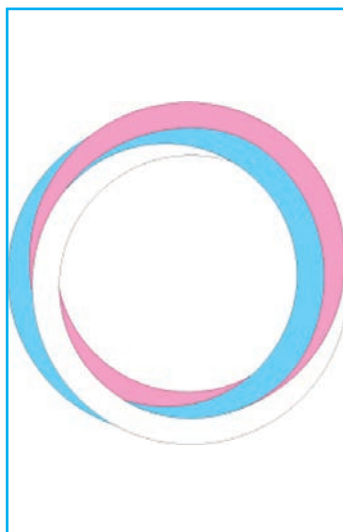
Sunday, Jan. 27 - 11:30 a.m. Brunch/Plenary Session. Shane Shananaquet - The Youth Leadership Award.



Thursday, Jan. 24 - 8 p.m. Plenary Session. Cornelius Wilson - SAGE Advocacy Award for Excellence in Leadership on Aging Issues



Friday, Jan. 25 - 1:30 p.m. State of the Movement Address/Plenary Session. Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz - The Susan J. Hyde Award for Longevity in the Movement



Friday, Jan. 25 - 1:30 p.m. State of the Movement Address/Plenary Session. International Pronouns Day - A 2019 Special Recognition by the Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals



Saturday, Jan. 26 - 1:30 p.m. Movement Moments: #MeToo/Plenary Session. Jonathan Jayes-Green - Haas, Jr. Award for Outstanding LGBTQ Leadership for Immigrant Rights



Sunday, Jan. 27 - 11:30 a.m. Brunch/Plenary Session. Peter Fiske - Leather Leadership Award

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Creating Change Co-Chair Highlights

Every year, the Creating Change LGBTQ conference selects a different city in which to hold its conference. As it moves from city to city, officials select a group of local co-chairs native to the area where the national LGBTQ conference is being held. Because this year's event is in Detroit, BTL reached out to each of the four local leaders in a multi-part Q&A project that can be found in full online at pridesource.com. Below are snippets of those interviews in which BTL got their thoughts on Creating Change 2019 and why they were motivated to take up their positions.

Cara Mitrano - Founder of Wayne State University LGBT Advisory Board

"I have connections to many LGBTQ-specific and supportive organizations in the Detroit metro area. For example, while Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan is not LGBTQ-specific, it has a mission of including and centering LGBT needs in its activism and advocacy. Additionally, as a student at Wayne State University, I wanted to invite students and other representatives of the university to participate in this work. As a young person myself (21 years old), I hope to be a role model for other young people looking for ways to be involved in LGBT activism and advocacy."

Bridie Johnson - State-licensed social worker and is currently employed as the clinical supervisor of the Behavioral Health Department of American Indian Health and Family Services.



Davis Nelson Jr. - Linkage to Care Specialist for Unified - HIV Health and Beyond.

"Creating Change is an opportunity for LGBT people and allies across the country and around the world to convene and build community. Not only do they create the unique short-term community during the five days of the conference, but they can use what they learn in the workshops to strengthen and improve their own communities back home. ... So, once I got the phone call from Sue, the former organizer, we talked and she explained everything that comes with being a co-chair and I was even more excited."

Lilianna Reyes - Former interim executive director of Affirmations and is currently serving as Ruth Ellis Center's Second Stories director.

"I knew a trans women of color needed to be. I didn't think it would be me, but when I was asked I couldn't turn it down. When they chatted with me I was weary because of my schedule, but my dynamic fused with the other co-chairs worked perfectly."

Find longer interviews online at pridesource.com

► Awards

Continued from p. 6

still be able to contribute in any way possible toward true liberation. The work is never done - especially now with a criminal in the White House, so be kind and loving as we go forward - it gives us all staying power," Horowitz said.

The final award will go to International Pronouns Day, an organization, founded by Shige Sakurai (they/them) and co-chaired by Genny Beemyn (they/them), dedicated to making it commonplace for everyone to respect, share and ask personal pronouns.

"Providing a platform for grassroots

transformation by encouraging conversations about pronouns, names and respect as an entry point into broader work on trans issues, intersecting oppressions and violence, International Pronouns day promotes best practices and policies that support inclusive communities," organizers said. "The inaugural event took place on Oct. 17, 2018, and had registrants from over 25 countries, representing every continent except Antarctica, and was endorsed by over 400 organizations, including over 150 college groups."

To find a full schedule of events and more information about the conference visit creatingchange.org.



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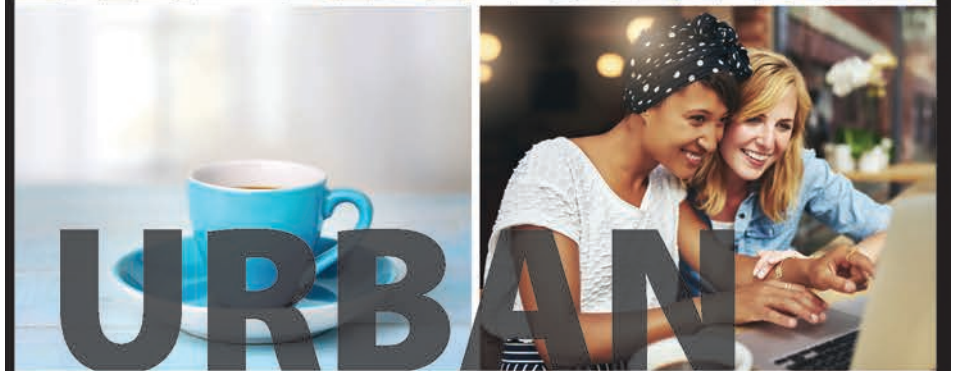
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Triple Trailblazer: LGBT Detroit Makes History for a Third Time

LGBT Detroit Expands Space, Neighborhood Development, Recovery Programs in 2019

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

From the outside, LGBT Detroit might look like many similar nonprofit organizations, but if one digs a little deeper they'll find that its been making history both in the city's LGBTQ and African-American communities since it was founded over 20 years ago. It

got its roots in 1994 as the Kick Publishing Company, achieving the title of the third black American LGBT media company created in the U.S. A year later, it kicked off its Hotter Than July celebration, making it the world's second oldest black pride. Now in 2019, LGBT Detroit is making history for a third time with its recently acquired expansion; after purchasing the building next door to its current Greenfield Road location, it's become the "largest property of a black-owned LGBT center in North America," said Curtis Lipscomb, LGBT Detroit's executive director.

"So, we are now a campus," Lipscomb said. "We're looking at a combined 6,000 square foot unit of space where expanded programming occurs [next door] while admin stays here, because we were doing all three types of work — admin, event, programming — here, in our older space."

As it currently stands, the organization plans on debuting its addition to its existing #SafeBraveSpace in spring of this year. But that's only part of what the nonprofit organization has to offer in 2019. In advance of the upcoming National LGBTQ Task Force-sponsored Creating Change conference scheduled to come to Detroit for a third time in January, Between The Lines has decided to highlight a Michigan organization that encapsulates the values of the LGBTQ social justice movement. In this issue, BTL will take a look at LGBT Detroit's mark on Southeast Michigan's LGBTQ history, previous and existing involvement with Creating Change and its programmatic goals for the coming year.

The Impact of Creating Change

If one ventures into LGBT Detroit, they'll

find services that cover everything from HIV prevention and peer-to-peer discussion groups, to youth leadership development courses and substance abuse recovery programs — diverse programming to serve diverse needs. And according to Lipscomb, at least partially, the Creating Change conference is responsible for the breadth of services offered at the center.

"I go every year. Creating Change is one of the two mandatory national events that this company invests in. It is Creating Change and Out on the Hill (Black LGBTQ/SGL Leadership Summit) which is in September [hosted by] the National Black Justice Coalition," Lipscomb said. "I find funds to send my team for either youth development at OOTH or some kind of education development at Creating Change. So what we normally do is get the program book, skim through it, try to figure out in which department who is going where, assign staff to those places and then come back, report internally what we discovered, and then, through our blog, tell the community what happened, where we were, what we got out of it and how we're going to implement that work here. We do this every year."

When asked why Creating Change is one of the two conferences chosen for his staff's development, Lipscomb said its strength lies in its diversity and that comes from its annual change of location.

"It isn't a static project where it's always in Washington D.C., so you already are introducing something quite unique to people when you're bringing it to their neighborhood: Kansas City, Detroit, Chicago, Nashville — wherever the host community is, a young or new activist can find easier access to this potential source of education and information," he said.

Movement of physical location and programming aside, Lipscomb said that every year he gets excited about the conference's offered Racial Justice Institute — a mainstay 31 years in the making.

"I think every single person needs to attend that. But as I skimmed through the program book, I saw some familiar local names here which I was excited about," he said. "Of course, I'm excited about what I'm going to offer, too. I have my friends with Detroit Sound Conservancy and Dr. Tim Retzliff as my reference in telling our story, and I'm always excited about cultural identity workshops and, of course, fundraising workshops are something I always attend."

Development in the New Year

Lipscomb has been heavily involved with LGBT Detroit and its preceding organizations

for years. When asked if he could have imagined the jump from a formerly single-office nonprofit organization to a multi-building campus, he said that he always envisioned the organization growing.

"To be honest with you, I did imagine it," Lipscomb said. "It was in 2004 when we unveiled this idea of a welcome center. It was unveiled on the east side, one block east of Grosse Pointe and it was an illustration, it was really this silly kind of illustration looking back, but it was us offering this space where we gathered to plan and strategize. Did I imagine it a campus, [not really] but when we acquired the [current address] a vision kind of popped into my head and when we saw that the opportunity existed next door it was like, 'Let's go for it!'"

Coupled with its expansion, LGBT Detroit is gearing up for two other primary goals in 2019: recovery and neighborhood development. Lipscomb said that he seeks to use this year to make a greater impact among those in Detroit's LGBTQ community who have fallen into a cycle of substance abuse. He said that the first step to achieving that goal is to form a partnership with Pure Recovery, a private rehab clinic located in the city.

"We have a relationship with pure recovery which is informal, but I met with the executive director to ask can we really buy into a formal relationship," Lipscomb said. "Pure Recovery has the only LGBT recovery house in Detroit on the east side and we wanted to see that if you are trans or LGB, that you have this space to go to seek recovery and this is an allied institution."

After chatting with some residents in the Pure Recovery program, Lipscomb said he's eager to expand LGBT Detroit's current work combating tobacco addiction to different substances.

"I met some of the residents, and it's a whole issue that I am personally impacted by because as a person who has lived through the crack epidemic, I have seen what addiction has done," he said.

Regarding neighborhood development, Lipscomb said that 2019 will mark not only LGBT Detroit's physical expansion into a new space, but additionally as an intangible asset via community service programs to those in the Murray Hill neighborhood — where the organization is located.

"So, the expansion allows us to look at Murray Hill, the neighborhood we live in, to say, 'Hi, we're here, we're an asset to you, what can we do?' That's what we want to do to make the case of the development of the back area, so that the neighbors can use this space to convene around issues of safety and economics and health and well-being," Lipscomb said.



LGBT Detroit is located at 20025

Greenfield Road in Detroit. Find out more information about the organization online at lgbtdetroit.org.

The organization's Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb will be presenting a workshop on preserving the memory of Detroit's gay spaces at LGBT Detroit on Saturday, Jan. 26 at the Mackinaw West room on the 5th floor of the Marriott in Detroit's Renaissance Center. Find out more at creatingchange.org.

Maintaining Progress

As LGBT Detroit goes through a transitional period of expansion and development, it's still not free of challenges that will slow down its forward progress. When asked what some of the organization's hurdles are this year, Lipscomb cited stigma about HIV as one of the biggest.

Lipscomb said that when he posed this same question to LGBT Detroit's Brother 2 Brother peer group — dedicated to keeping HIV-negative men at a negative status — stigma was the most widely stated answer.

"They [also] talked about miseducation about HIV infection, substance abuse, lack of secondary assistance in HIV programming, there's still an issue of access to preventative services. Some even asked what the preventative services are because that's what Brother 2 Brother is, a preventative service," he said. "They talked about HIV fatigue, people don't want to hear about HIV, they're over it."

Lipscomb added, too, that that stigma frequently bleeds over into peoples' perceptions of the LGBTQ community.

"People say to me, particularly non-LGBT people, 'Well, Curtis, don't you think that things have improved?' It sounds like a 1960s statement with black folks. 'Don't you think you're doing better than before?' I say to them, 'Can you hold your partner's hand in your church?' I live in Detroit, Michigan, can you really do that?" Lipscomb said. "Can you go to Walmart and say, 'Hey baby, how are you?' Without getting a stare? If you are a trans person do you really feel comfortable in some places? Now, in 2019, I would argue not."



Curtis Lipscomb, LGBT Detroit's executive director. BTL photo: Andrew Potter

Lipscomb said that once real equality is achieved and felt, that's when he'll be able to truly look back on his improvement. He said that in many ways, he feels media provides an inaccurate look at the true measure of progress in the lives of LGBTQ people across the U.S.

"I think TV has bamboozled us," he said. "The 'Will and Grace' TV show, the 'Ellen' talk show."

And perhaps the largest consequence of that Hollywood trickery, he said, is the lack of consistently spread information about LGBTQ organizations and their services from older

generations to new ones that becomes day-to-day, "casual" knowledge.

"There is no casual information about preventative information, no casual information about where you can get PrEP there's no casual information about where someone's questioning identity can go," Lipscomb said, adding that the internet provides great resources but lacks the same impact as one-on-one information as provided by community centers like LGBT Detroit.

"Because the internet is this huge kind of space, how can I know where what I'm getting is authentic? How do I know if it's accurate? How do I know if this information applies to me? This is why I think spaces with institutional memory are important, because if I say an institution it will conjure up some kind of importance to say, 'You know what? I can go there and get what I need,'" Lipscomb said. "I'm in strong belief of that. I'm down for change — change is good. ... The old guard had it differently than we had and the young guard has it differently than we had, but what I see now is a loss of how people get information and where they can go to get treatment and education and some kind of esteem."

LGBT Detroit's expansion and 2019 neighborhood development program are just some of the ways in which Lipscomb hopes to tackle that issue in his local area. Mainly, he said LGBT Detroit will continue its existing programming and use resources like Creating Change to refine them to be used in order to provide a helpful, beneficial, #SafeBraveSpace.

"I think people come to us for a number of reasons. If you're a young adult, you're coming here for some kind of organizational

development. And we have people, who I believe are highly culturally competent, who understand that people need space like this so people can feel free to express themselves without worrying if they are communicating effectively or properly," he said. "We know how it is when an 'other' comes into a room. I've been an 'other' in a room and I know what that's like."

And though Lipscomb said he can't provide a full measure of improvement since the organization was founded, he said it's always fulfilling when it meets benchmarked efforts through attaining funding for programming and community outreach. Perhaps the biggest measure of success, he said, is the aid that LGBT Detroit received via community supporters — something which he said he is confident the organization will maintain.

"We serve at the pleasure of the movement. We exist because someone believes we have something to offer," Lipscomb said. "We have made progress because when we were beginning the development of LGBT Detroit and not even understanding the glossary of community building or fundraising and were really green, it took our friends to see our vulnerability and to say we're going to grab your hand and take you along. Because, for black and brown people, it's very unusual work and that's why the work is very vulnerable; it's very hard to be gay and for many it's a death sentence. There was progress because there was this intent to see the value of diversity and to stand behind issues so that we all win."

Learn more online @ lgbtdetroit.org

LGBT Detroit Unveils Counselor, Community Advocate for LGBTQ Trauma Survivors

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Having existed for more than 20 years as a safe space for all members of the LGBTQ community, LGBT Detroit's mission has been to increase awareness about LGBTQ culture through "education, cohesion and advocacy." Now, the organization has expanded its advocacy efforts through its new counselor and community advocate position. Introduced last year, the aim of the role is to provide help and solutions to LGBTQ survivors of violence. Kole Wyckhuys, longtime activist and prevention education specialist with a decade of experience in the field, said he is delighted to take on this role and eager to help it become a widely known resource in the Metro area.

"It's relatively new for me, and it's been only a year for LGBT Detroit so it's new for them as well," he said. "I've been reaching out to various news sources and local agencies not to reintroduce myself, but introduce myself in this capacity and talk with people and build

connections and collaborations."

As part of that introduction, Wyckhuys outlined the three primary services he will provide surrounding violence prevention in his new role as counselor and community advocate: one-on-one counseling, peer-to-peer support groups, and education and trainings for service providers.

He went on to say that there exists "primary, secondary and tertiary violence prevention" but he will be focused only on the secondary and tertiary aspects.

"Primary is stopping something from happening before it begins, secondary and tertiary are after the fact, identifying signs and symptoms," he said. "I'm talking prevention and response to partner abuse, sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape and human trafficking. It's essentially hate-related violence, but it can be violence also directed at someone because of their gender, gender identity or their sexual orientation."

Wyckhuys added that his role is especially important to this organization because

"LGBT folks are at a disproportionate risk for domestic violence, sexual assault, rape and other hate-related crimes."

"LGBTQ+ folks who are African-American are statistically more likely to experience physical partner abuse than those who do not identify in that way," he said.

Wyckhuys said that in addition to LGBTQ people of color, women are also a heavily targeted group, too.

"Approximately 44 percent of lesbian women and 61 percent of bisexual women have experienced partner abuse as opposed to heterosexual women."

Starting the Process

For those individuals who find themselves a victim of violence that falls into one of Wyckhuys' outlined categories and reach out for help at LGBT Detroit, it's likely that some of their first steps will be to meet with him in a one-on-one counseling session.

"Our one-on-one sessions are 50 minutes

in length. We'll sit down, we'll talk about what they're going through and what they need, and then we'll goal set," he said. "After the goal setting and action planning, we'll set up a follow-up session to see where they are in their goals."

From there, appropriate steps will be taken to help the victim maintain a positive trajectory and they will be given help in navigating the services available to them. However, Wyckhuys emphasized that the counseling sessions are not designed to be "therapeutic in nature."

"It's more crisis-oriented and goal-setting, action planning," Wyckhuys said. "It's individually based and it's client-centered."

So, sometimes one-on-one sessions might not only be with individual victims of violence, but with entire agencies looking to improve their systems.

"A lot of times that is working with other

See **LGBT Detroit**, continued on p. 12

mental health agencies or support groups, domestic and sexual violence agencies or, I may be out training a service provider in understanding LGBTQ identities and our needs," he said. "It's different day-to-day."

Regarding peer-to-peer sessions, Wyckhuys said there's still a bit of work to do before they're regular fixtures at LGBT Detroit, but he has a specific idea for one in mind.

"Peer-to-peer support groups will happen in the future. That's not up and running right now but it will be. We're hoping to do a series on healthy relationships for the LGBTQ community," he said. "We can talk all day long about abusive or unhealthy relationships, but what do healthy constructive relationships look like?"

To start that group, Wyckhuys' goal is to implement a curriculum by The Northwest Network for Bi, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse that was created "specifically by LGBT survivors of partner abuse who felt that they learned everything they could possibly

"I'm familiar with the toll that it takes on the individual's mind, body, soul, spirit, and I'm also very familiar with how difficult it is to access [available] resources but also the courage [it takes] to access those resources," he said. "It's difficult to navigate a system that doesn't understand, recognize or even consider one's identity or sexual orientation as legitimate or real."

- Kole Wyckhuys



learn about abuse and violent relationships." "They have a multi-session healthy relationships course that I'm hoping to be able to implement through this office for the LGBTQ community to come together and have conversations," he said. "My hope is to train hospitals, institutions, organizations and law enforcement in understanding LGBTQ identities in what that is and means and how that relates to domestic and sexual violence."

Eventually, Wyckhuys' final goal is to become a regular resource for service providers like law enforcement and health care organizations to

be able to spread understanding about LGBTQ-specific violence prevention.

"Eventually, I'm going to do strategic outreach [to those] organizations," he said. "As well as domestic and sexual violence agencies to train them in understanding LGBT identities and identifying signs and symptoms and how to respond. That's my background, and my passion is prevention education and trainings."

A Personal Stake

When asked how he got involved in this field of work, Wyckhuys described how his degrees and time in the military coalesced into an interest that would become a calling.

"I have two majors. I graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology with a minor in anthropology. After which I actually joined the military as a mental health specialist and as a combat medic," he said.

After returning from the military, Wyckhuys spent some time as a personal trainer and certified massage therapist but said that he soon realized his only "real fulfillment was going to come in the form of service work."

"So I started to volunteer at a local domestic and sexual violence agency with a group of men that was supposed to engage other men in ending violence against women and men," he said. "That volunteer experience became a fulltime job and I eventually became the prevention education director for that domestic and sexual violence agency."

Fast forward to today, and Wyckhuys has accrued years of experience in violence prevention work. However, his work goes deeper than simply being something in which he takes an interest; a member of the LGBTQ community, too, Wyckhuys has dealt with his own trauma and knows full well the perspective of someone in the LGBTQ community.

"I'm familiar with the toll that it takes on the individual's mind, body, soul, spirit, and I'm also very familiar with how difficult it is to access [available] resources but also the courage [it takes] to access those resources," he said. "It's difficult to navigate a system that doesn't

understand, recognize or even consider one's identity or sexual orientation as legitimate or real."

Wyckhuys said that something that might be seemingly insignificant to an untrained service provider, such as using the correct pronouns, could be adding to the damage sustained by a violence survivor.

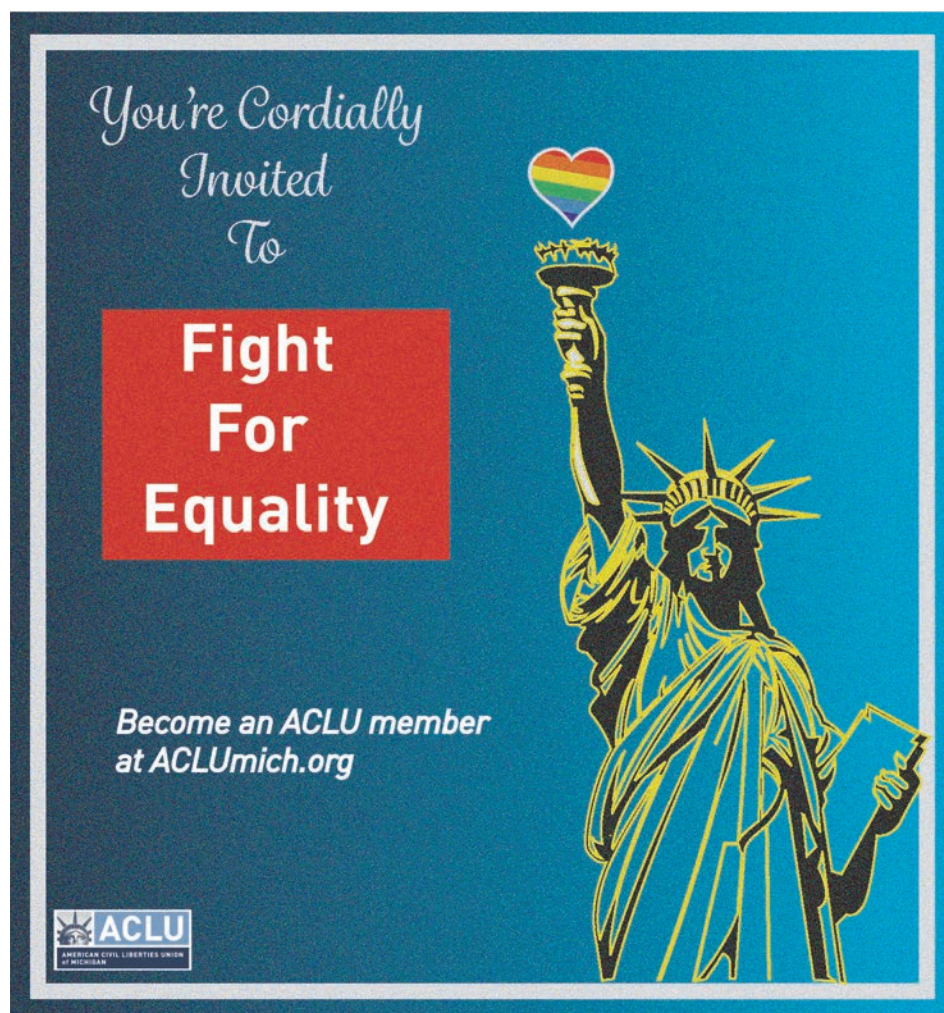
"I've had transgender friends who are very close to me tell me that when they try to navigate this particular system they've had people call them 'it' instead of their identified pronouns," Wyckhuys said. "That in itself is a huge barrier in accessing services."

And as unpleasant as situations like that are, he said they reaffirm the necessity of his position.

"There are so many barriers, and in this office we are able to have folks sit down and be able to disclose their various identities, share with us what they're going through and then brainstorm with them solutions and help them to navigate the process," he said.

He noted that there are many who are already providing similar services in the state, but said he is confident that his new role can be one of collaboration.

"There are agencies in the state who are working to center marginalized communities. ... The Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual violence has worked for a long time to center marginalized communities and offer resources, Equality Michigan has an office specifically for LGBTQ survivors of violence, but there's enough work for all of us and there is a specific need in this area of Detroit," Wyckhuys said. "Specifically, on the northwest side we are strategically situated and positioned so that survivors can access bus lines that are right to us and access resources that are specifically for them. This office is for LGBTQ+ survivors of violence. So, there's definitely a need for that and this is a unique position in that way."





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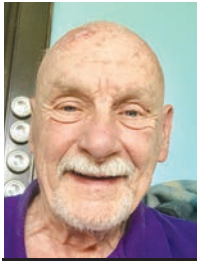
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Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Memories of a Near-Forgotten Past Pt. 4

For five dynamic years — 1940 to 1945 — Detroit was America's Arsenal of Democracy, a vital source of war materials and weapons. First for England's defense. Later, for our own.

Automotive factories focused on round-the-clock, nonstop production of bombers, tanks, jeeps, planes. Plumb and popular vocalist Kate Smith kept patriotically singing "God Bless America!"

Soldiers, sailors, marines, WACs — Women's Army Corps — passed through Detroit before shipping out overseas. Many had been inducted and processed in Quonset huts on Wayne University's campus. (I took my first English 101 course in 1960 in one of them.)

A result of wartime migration to a big city like Detroit (population 1.3 million) was the unexpected popularity of gay bars. Detroit had four downtown near Old City Hall. (And the First Police Precinct Jail!)

Many small town inductees, stopping off briefly in the Arsenal of Democracy, found to their naive surprise — and secretly, happy relief — that they weren't the only ones who were "hush, hush" gay! For them it was a golden opportunity. Who knows? We might not be alive tomorrow.

A result of wartime migration to a big city like Detroit (population 1.3 million) was the unexpected popularity of gay bars. Detroit had four downtown near Old City Hall. (And the First Police Precinct Jail!)

Older gays were quite willing to play host, provide weekend housing, food, drinks, conversation, hugs and — at a time when good gals just didn't give head — provide friendly lip service to straight servicemen.

As the Allies began to beat the Axis, a mood of cautious celebration took hold in Detroit's gay bar clubs. Downtown side streets Farmer and Bates, home to Rio Grand, Silver Dollar and LaRosa's bars, became less secretive. More carefree obvious. (Nearby Palais bar was dyke heaven.)

When Halloween 1944 swished around, the Grand Night of Enchantment became an opportunity for celebration. Following the end of Prohibition in 1933, getting in drag was accomplished without too much hoopla for once a year.

During the war years, Detroit's non-military gays — those 40 or older, or those classified 4F with "homosexual tendencies" — along with straights who had flat feet (not necessarily because of high heels) kept the home fires burning and factories going 24/7.

These service rejects — no relation to recent biblical "left behinders" — were in a party mood. The war in Europe was winding down. Finally! So, why not celebrate?

What better time than the only day when cross dressing is permitted without penalty, threat of incarceration, or, if your makeup's thick enough, likelihood of recognition.

The first Halloween display of queens numbered 25 or 30.

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



BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

Viewpoint

Riding Our Queer Wave to Create Change

It's January 2019 and we haven't had our gay march yet!

In 2017 we joined the women. We shared our outrage and fears from the results of the 2016 election of No. 45.

It was the first women's march and that was OK. We were all traumatized. We all shook our heads in collective disbelief as this era of injustice, fearmongering, hatred and regressive politics began.

Just as the rhetoric of the campaign warned us that a Trump presidency would pose as great a threat to our community as it did to every woman taking it to the streets that January.

Many of us felt the double threat not only as women but because we carried the LGBTQ card as lesbians and trans women. We knew there was no shortage of hatred in that toxic orange fog — women, immigrants, LGBTQ, the poor — we all were feeling the clear and present

danger of the incoming administration.

Again in 2018, under the umbrella of the Women's March, we rallied to take our power to the polls. We were again included on the stage, recognized in the remarks and marched shoulder to shoulder with our sisters.

We celebrated the wins of our LGBTQ candidates from the 2017 elections including Danica Roem in Virginia and Andrea Jenkins in Minnesota along with the other 20-plus women elected across the country. Our anger had purpose and in solidarity we vowed to take our power to the polls for the midterm elections

And we did! In 2018 record numbers registered to vote. Women, people of color LGBTQ candidates ran for office. We did what we promised showing up at the polls, "grabbing them by the midterms," flipping the House of Representatives from red to blue.

A record 117 women were elected

across the country in various positions and with at least 153 of the 225 LGBTQ and Ally candidates, endorsed by the Victory Fund, also winning office.

This January, 2019, women will gather in cities across the country to celebrate the #WomensWave.

Unlike in past years, when attendees included waves of "pink pussy" hats which some found offensive to transgender women, gender nonbinary people and to women of color, it's been suggested that marchers wear blue perhaps because many called for a #BlueWave as well as a #WomensWave last November.

And like in past years, many of us will again join in and march shoulder to shoulder with our sisters to send a message to the grand old party of patriarchy still controlling the White

See **Viewpoint**, continued on next page

► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 10

House and Senate that more change is coming. But this year, maybe members of the LGBTQ community should step out from under the umbrella and celebrate our Queer wave!

We need to celebrate our victories and strategize how to not only build upon the momentum of the 2018 midterms but work towards future victories to protect our rights while gaining greater equality and justice in 2020 and beyond at local, state and national levels.

I am a Democrat, a woman, a person of color and African-American; like many in the LGBTQ community, I have been let down on all fronts when I've stepped out in my rainbow cape in all my queer glory.

Don't get me wrong I am excited that we had blue/women's Wave in November, but let's be real how often have we been left out in the rain for political expediency by our political "friends." This big umbrella can have leaks.

Our transgender community is still under attack, dying and being disrespected even in death. The current administration has tried repeatedly to enact policies harmful to LGBTQ individuals and families. And the antagonistic, homophobic and transphobic climate created by these policies and rhetoric has seeped into other levels of government and discourse across the country.

Despite higher visibility in the media and politics, our seat at the table has not resulted in a permanent change of what's being served.

Do you feel safer, more optimistic about our path to justice and inclusion than you did before November 2016? For many, especially our LGBTQ elders, youth and in many communities, the answer is often a resounding no!!

But now is not the time to be afraid, loose our resolve or go back in the closet. In 2019 it's time we have our own march and it is

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 14

Those in other costumes, about 50. Some wore rhinestone tiaras and sequin embroidered titles across their ample, canary-seed-filled boobies.

Miss Victory Garden. Red Cross Rita's Revenge. Rosey Rivet Me. Miss Harry James's Trumpet (pin-up Betty Grable's band leader husband). It was great fun. War-relieved and weary cops looked the other way.

Each year after World War II's end, Halloween was planned to outdo the last. Gatherings grew large. More flamboyant. Sometime in the early '50s, streets were cordoned off. Hundreds came to see and applaud. "Ooo!" and "Ahh!" at the queens who arrived in convertibles and on roller

And like in past years, many of us will again join in and march shoulder to shoulder with our sisters to send a message to the grand old party of patriarchy still controlling the White House and Senate that more change is coming. But this year, maybe members of the LGBTQ community should step out from under the umbrella and celebrate our Queer wave!

happening in Detroit at Creating Change.

Creating Change was started in 1988 one year after the national march for gay and lesbian rights. 32 years after that march the message to the LGBTQ community remains the same beyond marching "go home and get to work."

And that's exactly what will be happening from Jan. 23 to 27, when over 3,000 LGBTQ activist come home to what has been affectionately called our "annual gay family reunion" to meet, greet, educate, strategize and celebrate the state of our community.

So, let's put on our rainbow capes, bandanas or other gay apparel and march into Creating Change this January with such resolve, so much determination, with all our queerness that the world sees we're not going any place.

Let's march into Creating Change then go home and get to work not on a wave, but on a freaking rainbow tsunami!

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

skates. Everybody behaved.

In 1969, the year of the Stonewall Riots, things got out of hand. Rednecks threw rocks. Tossed bottles. Shouted, "FAGS!" Ripped gowns. The party was over. Insulted — and very, very smart — gays moved northward to seemingly safer Diplomat and Woodward bars.

Once home to the Motor City's first Gay Pride Halloween "Parades," Farmer and Bates Streets are now bare-assed naked. Silent. Haunted. Empty. Forgotten. RIP. (Rest In Pride.)

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

Creep Of The Week

Steve King

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

I shall begin this week's column with a limerick:

*There once was a Republican named Steve
who was racist like you wouldn't believe
but the media ignored him
because white supremacy bores them
and focused on Rashida Tlaib.*

If you've been paying attention to the news then you know that both Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) and Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Michigan) have gotten attention for things they said out loud into microphones.

Except one of these representatives got way more attention initially.

That would be Rashida Tlaib, the first Muslim woman ever elected to Congress, when she remarked about Donald Trump that we should "impeach the motherfucker."

Cue the pearl clutching. Every possible news outlet ran with the story of the Muslim woman saying a bad word about a president who has shown nothing but contempt for people like her. My goodness, you would have thought that Tlaib had advocated grabbing women "by the pussy" or something.

Meanwhile, Steve King, one of the most open and unapologetic racists in Congress, while speaking to the New York Times, reminisced about a bygone era and at first there was barely a peep by the media.

"White nationalist, white supremacist, Western civilization—how did that language become offensive?" King asked. "Why did I sit in classes teaching me about the merits of our history and our civilization?"

Perhaps he went to a whites only school, but King clearly has forgotten or never bothered to learn about our country's truly heinous history of slavery and racism.

In a statement King claims that he was referring only to the term "Western civilization," not lumping the three terms together as the Times indicated.

However, that's hard to believe because King has a long history as being super duper racist and not at all shy about it.

For example, he once Tweeted: "Culture and demographics are our destiny. We can't restore our civilization with somebody else's babies."

And while he doesn't SAY that by civilization he means "whites" and "somebody else's babies" he means Muslims, he is responding to a (since deleted) Tweet praising Geert Wilders, a Dutch politician who is known for his far-right anti-Muslim dickishness.

Add that to the fact that King has been an anti-Obama birther since day one, even going

Meanwhile, Steve King, one of the most open and unapologetic racists in Congress, while speaking to the New York Times, reminisced about a bygone era and at first there was

so far as to say in 2008, "If [Obama] is elected president then the radical Islamists ... will be dancing in the streets in greater numbers than they did on Sept. 11 because they will declare victory in this war on terror."

King has also declared that only white people have contributed to civilization, unlike what he called "sub-groups."

Unsurprisingly, King not only hates non-white people, he also hates LGBTQ people. Weird how often those things go together, isn't it? Marriage equality? He's against it. Transgender service members? He's a no on that, too.

Right before the midterm elections King said he was looking forward to a solidly conservative U.S. Supreme Court, going so far as to say he hoped that Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor would "elope to Cuba. Though neither woman has publicly identified as a lesbian, that's just the worst thing King could think to call them. Not sure what the Cuba angle is. Sotomayor's parents were Puerto Rican which is probably close enough for Steve.

While the furor over Tlaib's MF-bomb seems to be waning, King is, thankfully, starting to get into all kinds of trouble. The GOP actually kicked him off of his committees, which is a BFD.

According to Slate, "The House GOP removed King from the powerful Judiciary Committee, which oversees immigration and voting rights, and the Agriculture Committee, a plum assignment for a congressman representing rural Iowa. King was also stripped of his seat on the Small Business Committee."

A man like King has no business overseeing matters related in any way to immigration and voting, so that's good news. It's just sad that it took the GOP so long to disavow King's bigotry.

Of course, the only problem the GOP has with King is that he says the quiet part out loud. The GOP's long history of policies that hurt minorities is an open book, plus they embrace Trump wholeheartedly.

Oh, and by the way, Trump has previously said that King is "a special guy, a smart person, with really the right views on almost everything."

Iowa, DTMFA.

Viewpoint LGBT Refugees More Vulnerable in Trump's America

BY JUNIOR NSAMIA MAYEMA

Since Donald Trump became president, I have never seen so much hate being meted out against immigrants, let alone LGBT refugees and asylum seekers like me.

I am from the Democratic Republic of Congo and fled my homeland to escape homophobia. I made my way to South Africa, but experienced additional mistreatment because of my race and gender identity. This mistreatment included a police officer who broke my wrist. I came to the U.S. on Nov. 20, 2014. I was working on fighting housing and employment discrimination. Some of the people who I met were very friendly

and welcoming.

After Trump's election in 2016, internalized hatred of LGBT immigrants and refugees became a reality. I lost my job simply because I am a gay immigrant. I could see the different treatment of LGBT Americans, I have been forced out of housing, harassed at school, treated like a social outcast everywhere I go. I filed a discrimination case pending with California's Department of Fair Employment and Housing on the basis of immigration status that was ultimately dismissed because I believe the very people who were discriminating against me contacted the DFEH and probably told them that I am a black tranny immigrant who has no rights in Trump's America. I have been a target of police surveillance for months. It has been a living hell in a safe haven.

Most of my harassers happen to be mostly gay men or transgender women. I think it is because my gender transcends the male and female gender binary. Homonationalism — the abandonment of intersectional activism that leaves the door open to racism, xenophobia, capitalism and the promotion of one's own interests — is real and I see it every day. The last time that I went to socialize in a gay-friendly environment I was verbally attacked at a bar in the Castro simply because I was talking to a handsome gay American man. I tried to defend myself and then those gay men threatened to call the police on me and then took me by the throat and escorted me outside. I was walking past the same area the next day and I saw them laughing at me and saying that I am not allowed to socialize in that area again.

The reason why I am writing this is because we as LGBT people shouldn't be fighting against each other or hating each other because that is what our homophobic enemies want from us. They want to divide us in order to conquer us.

In my experience, most LGBT Americans who I have met treated me like an outsider, an outcast, an enemy, an alien who must go back to where I came from. I don't know where this intense hatred is coming from. We say we support human rights and equality, and those rights are not only American. They are universal and of course LGBT people are universal. Some are tolerated in their countries but some are persecuted. This is why we are seeking asylum because simply living openly in our countries means death and the communities of our countries in Canada, America or Western Europe come with their homophobia attached to them, so there is no place for us among them.

Let's stop bringing each other down and let's focus on the real enemies. We cannot claim to be human rights advocates while being racists at the same time. We need to change our inside before changing the outside, engage in transformational activism as they call it. Let's be the change we want to see in the world like Obama said. We are brothers and sisters of the same international community, which is the LGBT community. We just happen to be born in other countries with inherited homophobia.

This is why we are seeking security and safety in order to pursue our fundamental human rights to life, freedom and the pursuit of happiness. I hope our LGBT American brothers and sisters can allow us to have that second chance since our countries of origin continue to fail us.

Junior Nsamia Myaema is a California-based Blade contributor. This article originally appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National LGBT Media Association.



Michigan Supreme Court Adopts Fully-Inclusive Non-Discrimination Policies

BY BTL STAFF

On Friday, Jan. 11, under the leadership of newly-elected Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack, the Michigan Supreme Court, Michigan Court of Appeals, and Supreme Court Administrative Office amended their employment policies to adopt fully-inclusive non-discrimination policies for all Court employees.

"This was an appropriate time to make clear the importance of inclusion for our employees," said John Nevin, communications director for the Court.

The Court's action follows Gov. Whitmer's signed on Monday, Jan. 7 to "promote public confidence in the fairness and integrity of state government" by ensuring all Michigan residents receive fair treatment in "employment, state contracting, and when accessing services from state government."

"The action is another welcome step in making Michigan a safe, fair and

equal state for everyone, said Erin Knott, interim executive director for Equality Michigan, the only statewide advocacy organization representing Michigan's LGBT community.

The updated Equal Employment Opportunity policy reads:

"The Court will provide equal employment opportunities for all persons regardless of race, religion, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, height, weight, marital status, national origin, age, or disability. This policy is promulgated consistent with state and federal law, as interpreted either by courts of competent jurisdiction, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission, or both. See ELCRA, MCL 37.2102(1); PWDCRA, MCL 37.1202. The Court firmly supports equal opportunity and is committed to reviewing all aspects of employment, including recruitment, selection, retention, and promotion, to identify and eliminate barriers to providing all persons equal employment

opportunities. Employees shall be treated in a nondiscriminatory manner, consistent with applicable state and federal laws, rules, regulations, and policies."

This leaves employees of the legislature as the only state employees in Michigan lacking explicit protection from employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

"There is simply no reason not to adopt non-discrimination policies protecting LGBT employees the same way as their coworkers," Knott said. "Both chambers had the opportunity to act last week when they adopted rules, but failed to do so. However, it's not too late as both the House and Senate can amend their rules demonstrating to their employees that they believe in equality and fairness. Then they should, at long last, expand the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to make it fully inclusive for all Michiganders."



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New Kansas Gov. Latest to Sign Order Against Anti-LGBT Discrimination

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

On her first day of office, Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly on Tuesday became the latest new governor to sign an executive order barring anti-LGBT discrimination.

Kelly signed the directive, Executive Order No. 19-02, shortly after being sworn into office in Topeka. The order bars discrimination in state employment, services and contracts based on numerous characteristics, including sexual orientation and gender identity.

The order provides LGBT people in Kansas the only statewide protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Kansas is among 31 states without an explicit law on the books barring anti-LGBT discrimination.

Kelly's order against anti-LGBT discrimination was expected. After her victory over Republican gubernatorial candidate Kris Kobach, she signaled during her transition period she'd issue the directive. Additionally, Kelly said she'd look for ways to thwart a new Kansas "religious freedom" adoption law, which allows adoption agencies to deny child placement into LGBT homes for religious reasons.

The order is the sixth in a string of directives from governors – both Democrat and Republican – prohibiting anti-LGBT discrimination.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, both Democrats signed similar orders shortly after taking office, as did Republican Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine. (Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, however, excluded LGBT people from his non-discrimination order.)



Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly signed an executive order against LGBT discrimination. Photo courtesy of the Kelly Campaign.

Meanwhile, two other Republicans, former Ohio Gov. John Kasich and former Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, signed executive orders against anti-LGBT discrimination in December during their remaining weeks in office.

The order restores and expands an executive order signed in 2007 by former Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, another Democrat. That order prohibited anti-LGBT discrimination in state employment, but said nothing about services and contracts.

Eight years later, former Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback in 2015 issued another order rescinding the Sebelius directive, making the

case those protections couldn't be "unilaterally" afforded without the consent of the state legislature. (LGBT rights supporters would later cite this action as reason to oppose Brownback for confirmation under the Trump administration as U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom.)

Kelly's order not only reverses Brownback and restores Sebelius' prohibition on anti-LGBT discrimination in Kansas government employment, but it expands the earlier protections to state government services and contracts.

Sebelius, who went on to become secretary of

health and human services during the Obama administration, was among those commending Kelly for the order.

"Gov. Kelly's order is the right thing to do for Kansas, and a step toward ensuring our state is well-positioned to attract and maintain businesses that strengthen our economy, our communities, and our families," Sebelius said. "Kansas support treating all people fairly and equally because it's the right thing to do. We also know that common sense and inclusive policies are critical to maintaining our state's economic competitiveness."

Masen Davis, CEO of Freedom for All Americans, said in a statement the executive order "brings immediate relief to LGBTQ Kansans who work with the state government and actually had non-discrimination protections taken away from them in recent years."

"We thank Gov. Kelly for taking this important step toward making Kansas a fair and equitable place for LGBTQ people to live and work, and a more competitive state for businesses looking to recruit and retain talent," Davis said. "Today's victory in Kansas is a big step forward – but the state's history is a reminder as to why passing legislation is so critical to enacting lasting nondiscrimination protections. The best way to ensure future governors won't undo this progress is to pass a comprehensive nondiscrimination bill that covers all LGBTQ Kansans."

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

New Florida Governor Excludes LGBT People From Non-Discrimination Order

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Newly sworn-in after his victory over Andrew Gillum in the Florida gubernatorial race, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed on Wednesday an executive order ensuring non-discrimination in state employment and state contracting — but the directive notably excludes LGBT people.

The order DeSantis signed, Executive Order No. 19-10, is titled "Reaffirming Commitment to Diversity in Government." Although the directive prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, marital status and disability, it says nothing about sexual orientation or gender identity.

Joe Saunders, senior political director for Equality Florida, slammed DeSantis in a statement for the exclusion.

"Equality Florida is deeply disappointed to see that LGBTQ employees and contractors have been left out of the governor's executive order," Saunders said.

The omission recalls the failure of former Florida Gov. Rick Scott to issue an executive order against anti-LGBT discrimination. After the Pulse nightclub shooting that left 49 dead and 53 wounded, Equality Florida issued the call for Scott to take that action. (Scott is now serving as a U.S. senator representing Florida.)

DeSantis' order stands in contrast to recent actions from other governors. Newly seated Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, both Democrats, signed LGBT-inclusive non-discrimination orders this week as among their first acts in office.

At the end of last year before leaving office, Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, both Republicans, took similar action against anti-LGBT discrimination in state employment.

Criticizing the new Florida governor, Saunders drew on the contrast between DeSantis and other governors and compared the LGBT exclusion to Scott's.

"It's hard to believe that Gov. DeSantis and his staff are not aware of the LGBTQ community's call for these protections following the Pulse tragedy and therefore it is hard to interpret this as anything less than a purposeful omission," Saunders said. "As governors across the country establish these critical protections for LGBTQ families, this order draws a stark contrast. We look forward to a dialogue with Gov. DeSantis about why LGBTQ employees have been omitted from this critical policy and how he plans to make sure that all Floridians, regardless of who they are or who they love, can be protected from discrimination."

DeSantis' office didn't respond Wednesday to the Washington Blade's request to comment on why LGBT people were excluded from the order.

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



Gov. Ron DeSantis (R-Fla.) excluded LGBT people from his non-discrimination executive order. Photo by Gage Skidmore via Wikimedia Commons.



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Fantasy Come True

'Schitt's Creek' Creator Dan Levy on How Far His Queer Self Has Come and (Obviously) Mariah

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Oh, sure, Dan Levy gets excited. Really, he does! The sparkle may not be written on his face – cherubic, distinguished, writerly; one with features much like his actor-dad, Eugene Levy – but inside you can bet he's screaming. It's a Canadian thing.

Our conversation takes place on a day in mid December, the day after Pop TV's "Schitt's Creek," his farcical and heartfelt sitcom about a family stripped of their riches that is lovingly created as a gift to this godforsaken world with his father, has picked up a Critics' Choice nod for Best Comedy Series and Levy is screaming. Really!

"We have a limit to how excited we can be about ourselves," he says, snickering. He continues, Canadian-modesty fully intact: "But it's a thrill."

The thrill humbly extended to a tweet written by the out 35-year-old conveying gratitude for the show's recent wins when GALECA: The Society of LGBTQ Entertainment Critics awarded "Schitt's Creek" with two honors, TV Comedy of the Year and Unsung TV Show of the Year, during their annual Dorian Awards. (Full, proud disclosure: I'm a member, and I voted for "Schitt's Creek" in both categories.)

Get Levy talking about Mariah Carey – the diva inspiration for one of season 4's sweetest and gayest lines, pertaining to his onscreen boyfriend, Patrick (Noah Reid) – and he won't stop screaming. We spoke about the Elusive Chanteuse's prominent place on "Schitt's Creek" and about what's in store for his lovably dramatic character, David Rose, mom Moira (Catherine O'Hara), dad Johnny (Eugene Levy) and sister Alexis (Annie Murphy) in season 5. Plus, this season's coming out story that Levy says was an emotional shoot and "my proudest episode."

I was feeling such disappointment when the Golden Globes and the Emmys didn't acknowledge "Schitt's Creek" yet again this year. So, this Critics' Choice nod must feel like, "Finally, awards committees are catching up to the rest of the world."

Slowly but surely we're cracking into that illustrious group of shows that get nominated for things and it's a wonderful feeling. We're a very small show, and I think for very small shows that don't necessarily have huge resources to promote themselves for award consideration, a nomination from the critics at this point is fantastic. It means it's been word-of-mouth, and I think the fact that we are also streaming on Netflix has cracked us open to an entirely new and different audience as well.

And listen, our team, first and foremost, just wants to tell really interesting stories and wants to have fun when we go to work every day, and that has always been the goal for me as someone who's running the show. The minute you start to look outside and think, "Oh, we're being recognized for this; people are putting us on lists," it's wonderful but it can really change the experience of making your show. Suddenly you're more concerned about, "Are things living up to the standards that the media have kindly set for us?" And that can be really intimidating.

So I try not to pay attention as much as I possibly can; especially when we're making our show, I try to disengage from all of that so we can really focus on what's ultimately going to serve our characters. But I'm not gonna lie: It's been a joy over the past couple of years to see our show up there in the ranks of other shows that I have long admired myself. So I'm just ultimately bursting with pride for our team.

How are the Roses coping with each other during season 5?

Season 4 was a really emotional chapter in this family's trajectory and we were able to really peel back some layers and show a lot of growth. Season 5 is really about having fun. The guards are down a little bit, which means we can have more fun with our characters, we can put them in stranger situations.

We tried our best to pair characters this season with characters that have never been paired before and really take stories outside of the box and expand our world a little bit, so this season was always intended to be the shiniest and brightest and boldest we've ever done. But I'm just really excited because there's so much in store in season 5. It's bursting with life and joy and I can't wait for, particularly, a few episodes.

David does a lot of things this season that, for me, as a gay kid growing up, were horrifying: tree-climbing, baseball. What was your favorite David adventure to shoot this season?

The fun thing about David is he's someone who has put on such a front for so long that he has really, over the course of his two years in this town, allowed himself to just get in better touch with himself and expose himself to vulnerability in ways that he never would have. So something like the first episode of season 5 (laughs) – constantly feeling the need to prove his relationship and how far he's willing to go for it – was really fun. I mean, the day was grueling and I was stuck up there (in the trees) for, I think, seven hours...

So by the end of the shoot, your face was David's. You weren't even acting anymore.

(Laughs) The character and me as a person really came together in those moments. But yeah, I would say the excitement of our first episode back is really an indicator of what's to come.

I can't believe these characters are just now trying on Moira's wigs. How did that not already happen?

The idea was, for us, that she needed to be on a totally different continent in order for David and Alexis to even dare touch that wall, because of all the things, all the buttons you can press with Moira, those wigs are everything (laughs). So we thought it could be a really fun, considering no one's ever tried them on. And we never ever really touched it, but that was really out of respect for Moira, who was holding court in her home. Now that she's away we can all sort of have some fun with it, and getting to select which wig we got was a really fun process too. I tried on that little blunt, blonde wig that I wear in the episode and thought, "Well, this could be good for my real life!"

I am loving the looks this season, and also, I am a full supporter of that whole nightgown hoodie you wear in the first episode. What's the story behind that giant thing?

Oh, yeah. That I believe is (designer) Rick Owens and it is a contraption. It's a full... almost

like a cult robe. Or something (laughs). It's very cult-y, yeah. And it wasn't very breathable, if I'm being honest. I loved the clothes, but we shoot in the summertime and that was an intense garment to wear in the dead of summer.

The Christmas episode, which aired in December, was actually shot in the summer, and then a special effects team gave the episode its wintery effects. Have you considered setting more of "Schitt's Creek" in the winter? I bet the season alone would give you a lot of comedy to mine.

Yeah – no. I'm from the East Coast, a Torontonion through and through. I don't ever want to shoot in the wintertime. That's me being selfish. I don't ever want to be outside in the wintertime.

No, no. You shoot in the summer and you have that special effects team winterize it.

You might need to take a look at our budget. (Laughs) Those special effects were hard-earned.

I do hope that you're already thinking about doing another "Schitt's Creek" Christmas special.

(Laughs) That's a time and resource question, but you know, I think when it comes to a holiday episode, we were so careful about when we did it. I always knew that if I was given the opportunity I would love to do one, but I also felt, for the sake of our show, for people to really care, you need a couple seasons for your audience to understand the characters and what they want and what they need before you put a holiday spin on the show. So after four seasons, we felt like it was time. We earned it in a way.

Sandra Bullock's "Speed 2: Cruise Control" is a movie I haven't heard referenced in a while – until this season. Did you write that line for Moira? It's so perfect for her.

I can't remember who wrote that. I don't want to take credit in case it was someone in our room. The whole scene was a joint effort between myself and our amazing writers, and some of the rarest, most absurd references come out of this wonderful group of people who are total freaks and I love them all very much. So, it was a joint effort. Some of them are actually Catherine's; that one, I think, was one of our writers.

If ever there's a "Glitter" reference, I'll know that's you.

All the Mariah stuff is me.

Will there be more Mariah stuff? And also, how much Mariah is played on set?

A lot of Mariah is played just in my *life*, which seeps into my professional life. She tweeted about the show last year after the Mariah Carey reference in our season 4 finale.

You recently celebrated that tweet's anniversary on your IG.

I'll be celebrating that anniversary for years to come. I lost it. There's been some amazing

See **Dan Levy**, continued on p. 22

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► Dan Levy

Continued from p. 21

people who've said some wonderful things about the show, but the Mariah Carey tweet, to me, was like, I don't even know how to process that. I think back to being a teenager, putting up Mariah Carey posters on my bedroom walls. It was a full-circle moment.

The last time we chatted you told me that one episode in particular this season made you cry. Why is it so meaningful to you?

It's a layered thing. I find it sometimes quite emotional to be in the position that I am in, to be able to tell queer stories and show them on a mass scale, to write moments and stories, and in this particular case a love story, that seems to really affect people. It's hard not to think back to a time in your life where you didn't have that kind of freedom. For me, I think back to high school when I was still in the closet and wondering if I would ever be able to live out in the open. To now be in the position that I am, getting to write what I find to be a really lovely queer romance that millions of people get to watch, it's quite profound.

And how about the episode's impact on you?

It's a particular moment that I had to write that is something that most queer people go through and articulating that, dramatizing that, is just a very meaningful episode for me and for a



Emily Hampshire, as Stevie, and Dan Levy, as David, in "Schitt's Creek." Photo: Pop TV

character in our show. It's a coming out episode. So getting to write that and trying to find a way around that kind of story that's been told several times in film and television and literature, finding a dynamic way into that story and out of that story, was probably the greatest joy and challenge I've had as a writer for TV. And now that we've cut and polished the episode it's my proudest episode we've done as a show.

Given that you understand the weight of this show on your audience, I'm guessing David and Patrick

will never break up.

(Laughs) Um, I don't ever want them to, but you never know what happens. All I know is that we do understand what our fans are enjoying and we certainly wouldn't want to do anything to jeopardize their loyalty.

It's the first successful relationship I've had in a while and it's not even mine.

Funnily enough, me too.

For the "Schitt's Creek: Up Close & Personal" tour, you and some cast members are touring various U.S. cities. How did the idea for the tour start and are there any Tina Turner musical numbers?

(Laughs) The idea for the tour started mainly because I think so much of the success of our show is based on the enthusiasm and the word-of-mouth that has come from our fans. And the feedback that I've received from our fans has been so much more than, "We love your show"; it's long letters about how this show has provided sort of a safe space, a happy space, a joyful space in dark times. We seem to have a relationship with the people who watch our show and love our show that is slightly deeper than I think the relationship that a lot of people have with the shows that they watch on TV.

Shooting the show in Canada, we don't ever really have access to a lot of our fans. We shoot for three months out of the year and the rest of the time is me editing or writing the show, and a lot of the response and feedback we got from fans was a desire to interact with the cast, and so we started developing this idea. It's a Q-and-A, it's very casual. We show some things we've never shown before, we show some behind-the-scenes stuff, we show some bloopers, and there may or may not be a musical performance that may or may not involve a Tina Turner song sung by someone who may or may not play my boyfriend on a television show (laughs). But for us, it's a great way for us to meet our fans and for the fans to come and say hi in person. We did our first in Los Angeles a little while ago and it was incredible. There was so much love in the room.

And there was a marriage.

There was a marriage! So you couldn't get more joyful than that.

My friend tells me I innately mirror Mariah's mannerisms in my everyday life. He's not wrong. Considering your Mariah fandom, have you thought about how much of David might actually be Mariah-influenced?

You know what, I haven't. But now that you've brought that up, there is a lot of gesticulation that happens. You're drawing connections that, to me, are probably just subliminal at this point.

It's all innate.

It's all innate. It all goes back to Mariah.

As it should. Regarding the writing, do you think in terms of meme-able moments in the writers' room?

No, no! In fact, there was some kind of Instagram sticker – you know the GIF stickers you can use? There's one of Moira that apparently had like a billion views or something insane, and I'm always sort of amazed how people have taken moments from our show and turned them into these little internet memes, because when we're writing we never really think about that. But it's quite an expressive show (laughs), so I understand how it would be very easy to take some reactions from our cast and make some sort of universal reactions of disgust or confusion.

I used your face when I was disappointed by the Golden Globe nominations.

(Laughs) I'm so happy that I could be there for you in that time.

Writing queer characters with your dad: Has working on this show and doing that with him bonded you in ways you didn't expect it to?

I honestly don't know, actually. I do know that the show has quite physically forced us together; I don't think we would be seeing each other every day if I was doing something else. The show has been sort of wonderful in the sense that we have been put in a position where we get to see each other every day. I think just going through the experience of making this show and seeing its success has been a wonderful thing for the two of us.

There are just times in your life when things happen that you'll never forget and you know that you're sort of in the middle of doing something quite special and lasting, so I know that whatever I do after this show, we'll always have this time together, we'll always have this sort of chapter of our lives that we got to immortalize on screen, which is quite lovely.

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



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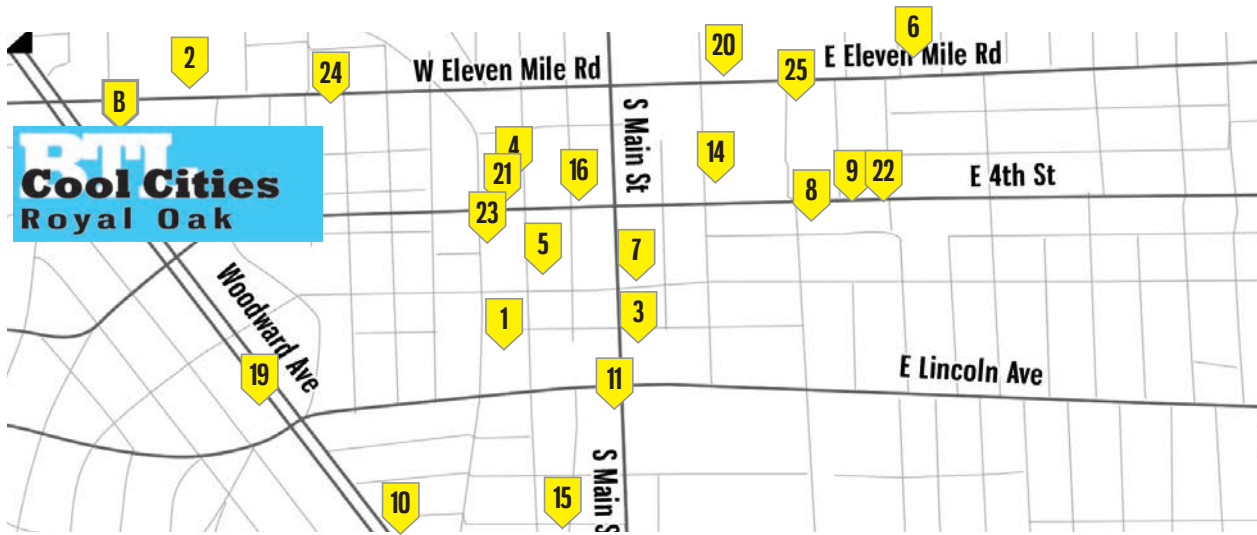
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Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday

A Day On; Not a Day Off.

BY BTL STAFF

The MLK Jr. Service Day began in 2017 as a way to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a 'day on' instead of 'day off' and inspire members of the community to get involved with local organizations past January and throughout the year. This year, the communities of Berkley and Royal Oak will honor the life Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for the third annual Day of Service on Jan. 21, 2019, at Royal Oak High School located at 1500 Lexington Blvd.

The event will begin at 7:45 a.m. with a light breakfast, followed by performances about the day of service from students. Admission is free with the donation of one or more unused items:

Gallon Ziploc Bags
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Full-Size Conditioner
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Liquid Body Wash
Washcloths
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Feminine Hygiene Products
Socks (Children and Adult)
Deodorant
Toilet Paper
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Beginning around 9 a.m. and following the morning program, various onsite and offsite volunteer opportunities will be available for participants. Onsite, participants will be able to help collect and sort items for area charities, and craft blankets for the Children's Hospital.

Attendees can also volunteer offsite. Yad Ezra, The New Foster Care, Neighbors Building Redford Brightmore and Cass Community Social Services are all taking volunteers from the event.

To sign up for volunteer opportunities visit the event's SignUp Genius page: [signupgenius.com/go/60b0f4badad22a2fa7-mkday1](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0f4badad22a2fa7-mkday1).

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Modern Sex Therapy Institutes Present Weekend Workshops Across Detroit

BY BTL STAFF

Modern Sex Therapy Institutes is a Palm Beach, Florida-based organization that presents workshops on sexual health to therapists, counselors, medical professionals, educators and people interested in learning more on improving their relationship with their partner. Starting on Jan. 18 and lasting through Jan. 20, Michiganders can meet one-on-one with industry leaders at The Center for Relationship and Sexual Health in Royal Oak. For those who cannot attend in person, workshops can be streamed through live webinar, or online via video recording.

Here is the workshop schedule:

Using IMAGO relationship therapy to help couples erotically differentiate

Friday, Jan. 18: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Presenter: Joe Kort, PhD

Learn techniques to help couples reach the next level of their relationship, including communication techniques to help resolve conflicts and create more intimacy.

Sex on the download: When the internet disconnects you from your relationship

Friday, Jan. 18: 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Presenter: Joe Kort, PhD

Participants will explore how to help these deal with erotic differences, develop empathy and validation for one another, and learn effective communication skills to help resolve erotic conflict and create more intimacy.

Dr. Kort, presenter of the two workshops on Friday, received his doctorate in clinical sexology from the American Academy of Clinical Sexologists. He is a certified IMAGO relationship therapist, a board certified sexologist, and founder and director of The Center for Relationship and Sexual Health in Royal Oak, Michigan.

The science of sexual fantasy: What do we want and what do our sexual fantasies say about us

Saturday, Jan. 19: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Presenter: Justin Lehmler, PhD

Despite the vital role they play in our lives, fantasies too often can be a source of shame, embarrassment or guilt. A major reason for these feelings is that fantasies are not understood. Through this workshop, participants will latest learn where fantasies come from, and how they are connected to our own unique personality profiles and sexual histories. Participants also will learn the difference between a sexual fantasy and a sexual desire.

Dr. Lehmler received his PhD in Social

Psychology from Purdue University. He is an award-winning educator, having been honored three times with the Certificate of Teaching Excellence from Harvard University, where he taught for several years. He is the founder and editor of Sex and Psychology. He has published more than 40 articles including a textbook entitled "The Psychology of Human Sexuality" that is used in college classrooms around the world.



Joe Kort

Overview of human sexual response and taking a sexual history

Sunday, Jan. 20: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Presenter: Rachel Needle, PsyD

Participants will learn about the factors contributing to sexuality and functioning. Various models of sexual arousal and response will be taught.

Dr. Needle is a director of Modern Sex Therapy Institutes in Florida. She is a licensed psychologist and certified sex therapist in private practice at the Center for Marital and Sexual Health of South Florida. She also is the founder and executive director of the Whole Health Psychological Center, and founder and CEO of the Advanced Mental Health Training Institute.

The Center for Relationship and Sexual Health is located at 25600 Woodward Ave., Suite 215, in Royal Oak, Michigan. To register for any or all of the workshops, go to modernsextherapyinstitutes.com or by contacting Dr. Needle at drrachelneedle@gmail.com or calling 561-379-7207.



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8 Ways I'm Snatching My Happiness Back in 2019



The Frivolist

BY MIKEY ROX

I'll say it: The past few years have been a fucking nightmare.

The climate in this country – and, arguably, the world – is so volatile that it's a wonder any of us get a good night's sleep. I find myself angry, negative and depressed for no good reason, but at the end of the day how much does any of the shit we put ourselves through really matter? After a lot of reflection, I've come to realize that it doesn't. None of it. Not a single thing impeding your or my happiness is worth what we're feeding it. So why not stop? I am – starting now. Here's how I'm snatching back my happiness in 2019.

1. Allowing myself to be proud of me

My grandmother – the one who disowned me for being gay – used to talk a lot about the importance of humility. In fact, she prosthetized the importance of many “Christian” ideals, but rarely exercised them herself, especially where love and acceptance is concerned. And that's the primary problem with people trying to teach you to be *you*: They have no goddamn idea what they're talking about.

As a result, I grew up being ashamed of who I was while not allowing myself to celebrate the growth and progress I make as a human being every day. But that stops here. I have so much to be proud of as not only a man but a gay man. I'm young(ish), successful, blessed in so many ways, and I've done all my adulting on my own. That deserves a big pat of the back – and I'm giving it to myself this year.

2. Not giving into short-term gratification

I love shopping. If we're hunting for clothing and home-good bargains, I'm there in a jiff. But it's an expensive habit to maintain. I update my wardrobe and add décor to my homes more often than I'd like to admit (even though my bank account serves as a constant reminder), but I've recently made a resolution that nothing new comes through these doors for the entire year. How will I do that? I've started by cutting up credit cards and unsubscribing from every marketing email that has landed in my inbox since January 1. It's a virtual ghost town in there these days. The next phase is to start editing my closets and my homes for items I can sell to help reach my New Year's saving resolution, which this year is in the double-digit thousands – all

cash in hand. It's lofty, but I'm determined – and that's all the motivation I need.

3. Downsizing my entire life

I'll start selling my material possessions this year because I don't need them where I'm going. My long-term goal for 2019 is to unload all my real estate, purchase a van that's suitable for daily life, and hit the road. As I've sat in my properties – alone – for the past few years, I've had plenty of time to think, and the question I keep coming back to is, what the hell are you doing here? The answer is *nothing*. I'm doing nothing where I am but wasting the time I could be spending out there in the world *experiencing* life instead of literally watching it pass me by. It's a major change that'll signify the start of the second half of my life story, but I eat challenges like this for breakfast.

4. Cutting out alcohol so I can remember what I'm really like

Many people have a difficult relationship with alcohol, myself included. And as I reflect on the over 20 years that I've allowed alcohol to ruin relationships, squander opportunities and otherwise fuck me up physically, mentally and emotionally, I have to consider the alternative.

So beginning at the top of the year, I decided to live alcohol free until April 1. That's not the date when I'll start drinking again, but rather a date that gives me enough time to clear my head, concentrate on my fitness goals and then weigh my options. Will I be the better person I want to be, or am I a dick sober too? Time will tell.

5. Finding more people who raise my spirits

I don't like to put down our own LGBTQ community, but we can be real cunts to one another. It's not just us, though. There are so many people out there who are committed to infecting everyone around them with their negativity that I sometimes dread leaving the house. Everybody has an attitude these days, and for what? Who knows, but I'm canceling all my dates with those downers and only giving time to people who make me feel good about myself. Thank you, next.

6. Avoiding as much political media as I can

I'm turning off the TV, changing the settings on the news I receive, and avoiding all political debates on social media. It'll drive you fucking nuts if you give into it, and we can't let the trolls control us. Look the other way and have nothing to say is my new motto. It's everybody for themselves out there.

7. Practicing more self-care

More hot baths, facials, massages, meditation, gym classes, yoga, (safe) SEX, and whatever else makes my mind and body feel like I *deserve* this. Because I do.

8. Refusing to do anything I don't want to do

I'm already very good at saying no, but I have a conscience and I sometimes feel bad when I'm direct to someone who's kind. I don't want to hurt their feelings, but I'm also not willing to engage in situations that bore me or make me uncomfortable or that cost me money I don't want to spend. Thank you for asking, but I'm politely declining, perhaps for eternity. I don't owe you an answer why either.

Get out there and snatch back your happiness this year too, friends. Clock's ticking.

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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'Rent' Rolls Into Fisher

BY PAULA BRADLEY

DETROIT—“Rent” has taken up residence in Detroit’s Fisher Theatre as part of its 20th Anniversary Tour. While very loosely based on the Puccini’s opera “La Boheme” and addressing classic themes of love, betrayal and loss, this version, directed by Evan Ensign, still feels modern and gritty; the music is anything but dated, and covers a variety of styles.

The story takes place in a spartan urban/industrial apartment in the city and revolves around struggling 20-something roommates Mark (Logan Marks), an aspiring film chronicler, and Roger (Joshua Bess), a wannabe rock guitarist still coming to grips with the death of his girlfriend. The rest of the characters are a combination of their friends and lovers — both current and former — and a collection of folk who eke out their existence near the building, struggling with homelessness, drug addiction and HIV infection.

There are three couples whose romantic relationships propel the story. Collins (Devinré Adams) falls for Angel (Javon King), a popular drag queen who shares her relative prosperity with the impoverished around her; Mark’s rather wild ex-girlfriend Maureen (Lyndie Moe) has a new, volatile relationship with the more uptight Joanne (Lencia Kebede); and Roger finds himself drawn, against all his better instincts, to Mimi (Deri’Andra Tucker), a young exotic dancer with a past that haunts her.

The show is told almost entirely through music with little dialogue, so quite a bit of it is expository, but there are many musical moments that let the cast vocals shine, individually and as a group, and the cast is extremely capable here. Bess as Roger has a voice that is appropriately edgy enough for rock ‘n’ roll, but with classical roots lying underneath, showcased in “One

Song Glory” and “Your Eyes.” Tucker as Mimi sings with lyrical ease in “Light My Candle” and “Out Tonight,” which also features clever railing choreography. Adams as Collins has a smooth, deep and mellow voice that really tugs at emotions in the R&B style ballad “I’ll Cover You” (Reprise).

Act II opens with the ensemble number “Seasons of Love,” the popular breakout hit of the show, and features a solo by Jasmine Lawrence that will leave viewers wishing for more, more, more of her voice. Other notable moments are “Life Support,” an ensemble piece with multiple layers of voices; “Tango: Maureen,” which blends character exposition in song with fun choreography; “Over the Moon,” Maureen’s awkward, modern performance art done with no music; and some cool choreography by Benny (Marcus John) and Angel in “Take Me or Leave Me.”

The set design (Paul Clay) is industrial, and lends a cold and slightly uncomfortable feeling while also being multi-purpose and practical. The downside to this production (and it was difficult to ignore) is that many of the lyrics are swallowed up during the higher energy numbers by the volume of the live band residing off to the side of the stage. Stylistically, the music enhanced the theme of the show, but it caused way too many “What did he say?” moments.

“Rent” is a proven entity that gives audiences a range of emotions, a variety of personalities, compelling relationships and a good balance of musical styles. It has broad appeal, and will especially appeal to young adults who are mature enough for the themes of drug use, homosexuality and HIV infection.

“Rent” is playing at the Fisher Theatre through Jan. 20.

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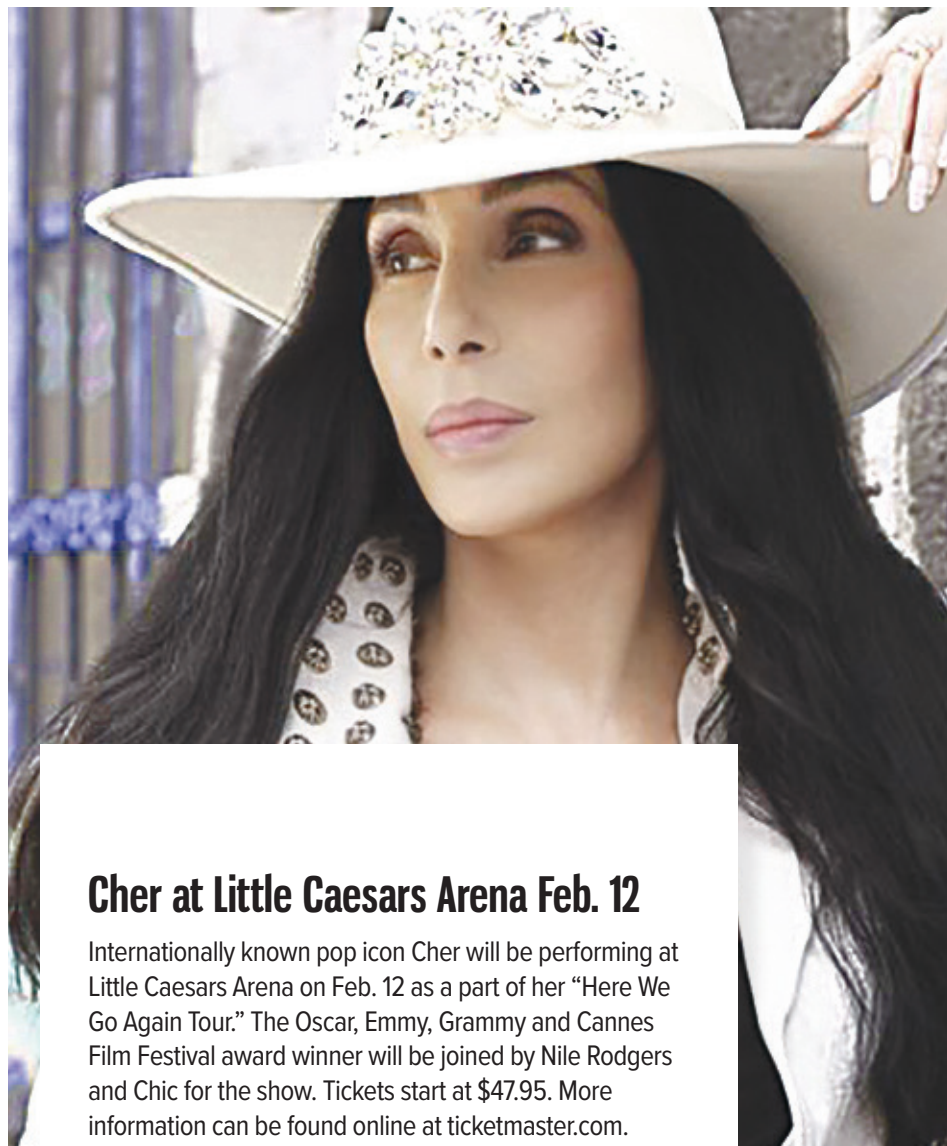
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Happenings



Cher at Little Caesars Arena Feb. 12

Internationally known pop icon Cher will be performing at Little Caesars Arena on Feb. 12 as a part of her “Here We Go Again Tour.” The Oscar, Emmy, Grammy and Cannes Film Festival award winner will be joined by Nile Rodgers and Chic for the show. Tickets start at \$47.95. More information can be found online at ticketmaster.com.

Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County 7 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this free group. Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington

Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620. oaklandumc.org. standwithtrans.org.

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting 7 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. lawrencemoebbs@gmail.com. speakout.toastmastersclubs.org.

Sunday, February 3

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

Tuesday, February 5

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

Thursday, February 7

Pride Night at Thunderbowl! 7 p.m. Thunderbowl Arena, 4200 Allen Road, Allen Park. 313-928-4688. thunderbowl.org.

Monday, February 11

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups

each month @ Journey of Faith Christian Church. Parent Support Group Facilitator – Yma Johnson, ymaj1968@gmail.com or 734-780-4092. Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. standwithtrans.org.

Wednesday, January 23

31st Creating Change Conference 2019 9 a.m. The National LGBTQ Task Force's 2019 Creating Change Conference convenes in Detroit. We are excited to host our annual national movement gathering in the Motor City. Detroit Marriott at Renaissance Center, 400 Renaissance Drive West, Detroit. 313-568-8000 marriott.com.

Affirmations Senior Koffee Clatch!

1 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 and older. Various discussion topics, social outings and potlucks are held throughout the year. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 goaffirmations.org.

Rainbow League Bowling! 7 p.m. This is a fun bowling league and provides a great opportunity for anybody to become acquainted with bowling. Lodge Lanes, 46255 S. I-94 Service Drive, Belleville. 734-697-9178. info@a2bowling.com. rainbowbowlingleague.com.

Thursday, January 24

Stand with Trans 2018 Support

OUTINGS

Saturday, January 19

LGBT Community Chat 11 a.m. Saturday LGBT Chat is an on going social discussion group meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. Come join us every Saturday at 11 am. Java Hut Ferndale Michigan, 165 W 9 mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 20

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4 p.m. Free. This group meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month @ St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St., Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. standwithtrans.org.

Monday, January 21

LGBT Game Night 7 p.m. LGBT Game Night is an opportunity for all LGBT people and allies to come play a board game, drink coffee and socialize with other LGBT individuals. Java Hut, 165 W Nine Mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Tuesday, January 22

Stand with Trans Support Groups – Ann Arbor – Washtenaw 6:30 p.m. Trans Support Group meeting the 4th Tuesday of

– **Macomb County** 6:30 p.m. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700. chippewavalley.schools.org.

Wednesday, February 13

Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genesee 6:30 p.m. Free to all, Trans Youth Support Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023 uuf Flint.org. standwithtrans.org.

MUSIC & MORE

2019 Kresge Artist Fellowship Application is Open!

January 17, Metropolitan Detroit artists are invited to apply for a 2019 Kresge Artist Fellowship. Fellowships are funded by The Kresge Foundation and administered by Kresge Arts in Detroit at the College for Creative Studies. kresgeartsindetroit.org.

Jazz & Soul Singer Sky Covington & Club Crescendo Live Every Thursday Night

January 17, 9 p.m. Northern Lights Lounge Proudly Presents Neo Soul & Jazz Cabaret w/Sky Covington, Jimi Blues on Keys, Alex Brooks on Drums, Greg Cook on Bass. northernlightslounge.com. Northern Lights Lounge, 660 W. Baltimore, Detroit. 248-445-1277. northernlightslounge.com. northernlightslounge.com.

Detroit Zoo Kicks Off Wild Winter Weekends

January 19, 10 a.m. Embrace the winter weather this season during our Wild Winter weekends at the Detroit Zoo! Wild Winter is a fun way to experience the magic of the Zoo in winter. The Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Road, Royal Oak. detroitzoo.org.

2nd Annual Women's Automotive Cup Outdoor Hockey Game

January 19, 6:30 p.m. General Motors and Ford Motor Company female employee hockey teams will face off for charity. All proceeds will benefit Clark Park Coalition and Matrix Theatre Company, two nonprofits located in southwest Detroit. Clark Park, 1130 Clark Ave., Detroit. info@matrixtheatre.org. clarkparkdetroit.com. matrixtheatre.org.

'Jess Hilarious' Moore comes to the MGM Grand January 19, 7 p.m. Social media phenomenon and comedian Jessica “Jess Hilarious” Moore is bringing her hilarious and unique stand-up performance to the MGM Grand. MGM Grand Detroit, 1777 3rd Ave., Detroit. 877-888-2121. mgmresorts.com.

Flint Symphony Orchestra Presents Rachmaninoff's Symphony No.2 January

19, 7:30 p.m. Experience the beauty of Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2, a series of orchestral solos erupting in a final rowdy, jousting dance! Pre-concert talk at 6:30 p.m. The Whiting Auditorium, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 810-237-7333. thewhiting.com. thefso.org.

The Great Tamer at The Power Center

January 19, 8 p.m. A surreal masterpiece that was the surprise hit of many European festivals last summer. The Great Tamer is a visually stunning pageant that grapples with the meaning of life and the mystery of death. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. smtd.umich.edu.

Michigan Philharmonic Presents 'Miniature Masterpieces'

January 20, 2 p.m. Performed in the beautiful chapel at St. John's in Plymouth, this concert features a variety of chamber music with a little twist. The Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth. 734-414-0600. theinnatstjohns.com. michtix.com.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration

January 21, Join the Flint Public Library and the Flint Institute of Arts to commemorate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a full day of free activities that emphasize identity, unity and community engagement. Free Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org.

Stand with Trans Parent Support Group – Lansing- Ingham County

January 21, 6 p.m. Salus Center, 624 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. 517-580-4593. saluscenter.org. standwithtrans.org.

LGBT Game Night

January 21, 7 p.m. LGBT Game Night is an opportunity for all LGBT people and allies to come play a board game, drink coffee and socialize with other LGBT individuals. Java Hut, 165 W Nine Mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Safe and Effective Management of Pain and Addiction

January 22, 7:30 p.m. Dr. Carl Christensen and Dr. Mark Weiner will discuss relative risks and benefits of pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic pain management, and creative approaches to pain relief for people in recovery from St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. dawnfarm.org.

Marisa Moran Jahn January 24, 5 p.m. An artist, filmmaker and writer of Ecuadorian and Chinese descent, Marisa Morán Jahn founded Studio REV-, a nonprofit

organization whose public art and creative media affects the lives of low-wage workers, immigrants, women, and youth. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. stamps.umich.edu.

The Novi Home Show is Back!

January 25, 2 p.m. Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi. 586-752-6381. gmonette@allseasoncommunications.com. novihomeshow.com.

42nd Ann Arbor Folk Festival @ Hill Auditorium

January 25, 6:30 p.m. Get Ready to Find Your Folk! The annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival returns for two dynamic and different nights of folk and roots music. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 734-763-TKTS. theark.org.

Flint Institute of Arts 12th Annual Community Gala

January 26, 6 p.m. Community Gala is a diversity initiative presented in conjunction with the exhibition openings of Vanessa German. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org.

Cabaret 313 Presents University of Michigan Musical Theatre Seniors

January 26, 7 p.m. As the University of Michigan Musical Theatre seniors prepare for their annual Theatrical Industry Showcase in New York City, they discover songs that they fall in love with but do not quite make the final. N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest Ave., Detroit. 313-831-8700. nnamdicenter.org. cabaret313.org.

'Phantom' Cast to Perform Benefit Concert for Affirmations, Broadway Cares

January 28, 6 p.m. Cast members of the national touring production of 'The Phantom of the Opera' will perform a special concert 'Next to Normal' to benefit Affirmations and Broadway Cares/Equity Fights Aids. The Loving Touch, 22634 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-820-5596. thelovingtouchferndale.com.

Amanda Williams and Andres L. Hernandez

January 31, 5 p.m. A visual artist who trained as an architect, Amanda Williams' practice blurs disciplinary distinctions. She employs color as a way to draw attention to the political complexities of race, place, and value in cities. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. stamps.umich.edu.

Wanda Sykes at the Detroit Music Hall

February 8, 8 p.m. Wanda Sykes is an American actress, comedian, and writer.

Editor's Pick

Bowie Night at Ferndale's Loving Touch

Fans of LGBTQ icon can get a taste of his musical prowess close to home as The Loving Touch puts on its annual Bowie Night. This event will feature a playlist of 100 percent David Bowie music that's performed by a variety of local acts. Doors open at 7 p.m. for the all-ages show. Tickets are \$5 and can be found online at thelovingtouchferndale.com.



She was first recognized for her work as a writer on The Chris Rock Show, for which she won a Primetime Emmy Award in 1999. Detroit Music Hall, 350 Madison St., Detroit. 313-887-8501. musicchall.org.

A John Williams Celebration! February 9, 8 p.m. For five decades, Leonard Slatkin has championed the diverse music of America. This three-week festival begins with a cross-country musical travelogue of sorts from Morton Gould, Joan Tower, Leonard Bernstein, Virgil Thompson and more. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. dso.org.

Appalachian Spring February 14, 7:30 p.m. In the second week of programs highlighting American music, Leonard Slatkin leads Adagios for Strings by Samuel Barber and Cindy McTee, Copland's Appalachian Spring, and Leonard Bernstein "Age of Anxiety" Symphony and more. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. dso.org.

Wanted Dead or Alive February 15, 7 p.m. The Experts in Mystery Entertainment are now performing live public and private interactive murder mystery dinner shows in Livonia and surrounding areas throughout Michigan. Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia. shows@themurdermysterycompany.com.

In the Mood for Swing! February 16, 7:30 p.m. Swing into Valentine's weekend, paint the town red and get ready to bob as the Michigan Phil takes you back to the age of swing! The Village Theater at Cherry Hill, 50400 Cherry Hill Road, Canton. 734-394-5300 ext. 3. cantonvillageattheater.org. michtix.com.

Dispelling Myths about Smoking, Mental Health/Substance Use Disorders and Recovery February 19, 7:30 p.m. People with mental health or substance

use disorder can quit tobacco use. Health educator Rosemary Bak Lowery will shed light on the relationship between tobacco, mental health and substance use disorders. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. dawnfarm.org.

ART 'N' AROUND

Eva Respini, Chief Curator January 17, 5 p.m. Eva Respini is the Barbara Lee Chief Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston and specializes in global contemporary art and image-making practices. At the ICA, Respini recently curated Art in the Age of Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. stamps.umich.edu.

Marisa Moran Jahn January 24, 5 p.m. An artist, filmmaker, and writer of Ecuadorian and Chinese descent, Marisa Moran Jahn founded Studio REV-, a nonprofit organization whose public art and creative media affects the lives of low-wage workers, immigrants, women, and youth. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. stamps.umich.edu.

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Editor's Pick

'legally Blonde - The Musical' at Fox Theatre

On Feb. 9 fans of Elle Woods can follow her story as she tackles stereotypes, sexism and more in her path to prove herself at Harvard Law. Tickets start at \$34 and more details about the show can be found online at ticketmaster.com.



THEATER

'Rent' is Back at The Fisher Theatre – 20th Anniversary Tour! January 17, 1 p.m. A re-imagining of Puccini's La Bohème, RENT follows an unforgettable year in the lives of seven artists struggling to follow their dreams without selling out. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com.

The House on Poe Street at The Detroit Repertory Theatre January 17, 8:30 p.m. Gothic ghosts encounter modern monstrosities when twin sisters inherit the house where Poe is reputed to have composed The Raven. Detroit Repertory

Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 313-868-1347. DetRepTh@aol.com. detroitreptheatre.com.

The Great Tamer at The Power Center January 19, 8 p.m. A surreal masterpiece that was the surprise hit of many European festivals last summer. The Great Tamer is a visually stunning pageant that grapples with the meaning of life and the mystery of death. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. smtd.umich.edu.

A2CT Auditions for Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike January 20, 7 p.m. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre announces auditions for its main stage production of

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike by Christopher Durang. The production is directed by Cassie Mann. A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org/audition.

Williamston Theatre Presents 'To Quiet the Quiet' January 24, 8 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. 517-655-SHOW. info@williamstontheatre.org. williamstontheatre.org.

The Phantom of the Opera Returns! January 24, 8 p.m. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 313-237-SING. broadwayindetroit.com.

Stagecrafters Presents If/Then January 25, 8 p.m. What if? At the heart of every

choice we've ever made lies this question. Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak. 248-541-8027. stagecrafters.org.

Cabaret 313 Presents University of Michigan Musical Theatre Seniors N'Namdi Center for Contemporary Art, 52 E. Forest Ave., Detroit. 313-831-8700. nnamdicenter.org. cabaret313.org.

A2CT Auditions for Now.Hear.This. January 27, 7 p.m. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre announces auditions for its Second Stage production of Now. Here. This., with book by Hunter Bell and Susan Blackwell, and music and lyrics by Jeff Bowen. Children's Creative Center, 1600 Pauline Blvd, Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org/audition.

THE HOW AND THE WHY by Sarah Treem Michigan Premiere February 1, 8 p.m. Two female evolutionary biologists share a bold, contrarian approach to their male-dominated field, but the younger scholar challenges the older woman's work with a radical new theory. Theatre NOVA, 410 W. Huron, Ann Arbor. 734-635-8450. A2TheatreNOVA@gmail.com.

Reap the Grove by Caity-Shea Violette February 1, 8 p.m. An estranged family reunites for their mother's final days. Reap The Grove is a poignant and darkly funny exploration of partnership, transgenerational trauma and the anticipated grief of death with dignity. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley St., Detroit. 313-967-0599. info@matrixtheatre.org. matrixtheatre.org.

Angels in America: Part One – Millennium Approaches February 8, 8 p.m. In Part I of this two part epic, Prior Walter, a young man living in NYC in 1985, is diagnosed with AIDS. Hillberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. 313-577-2972. wsushows.com.



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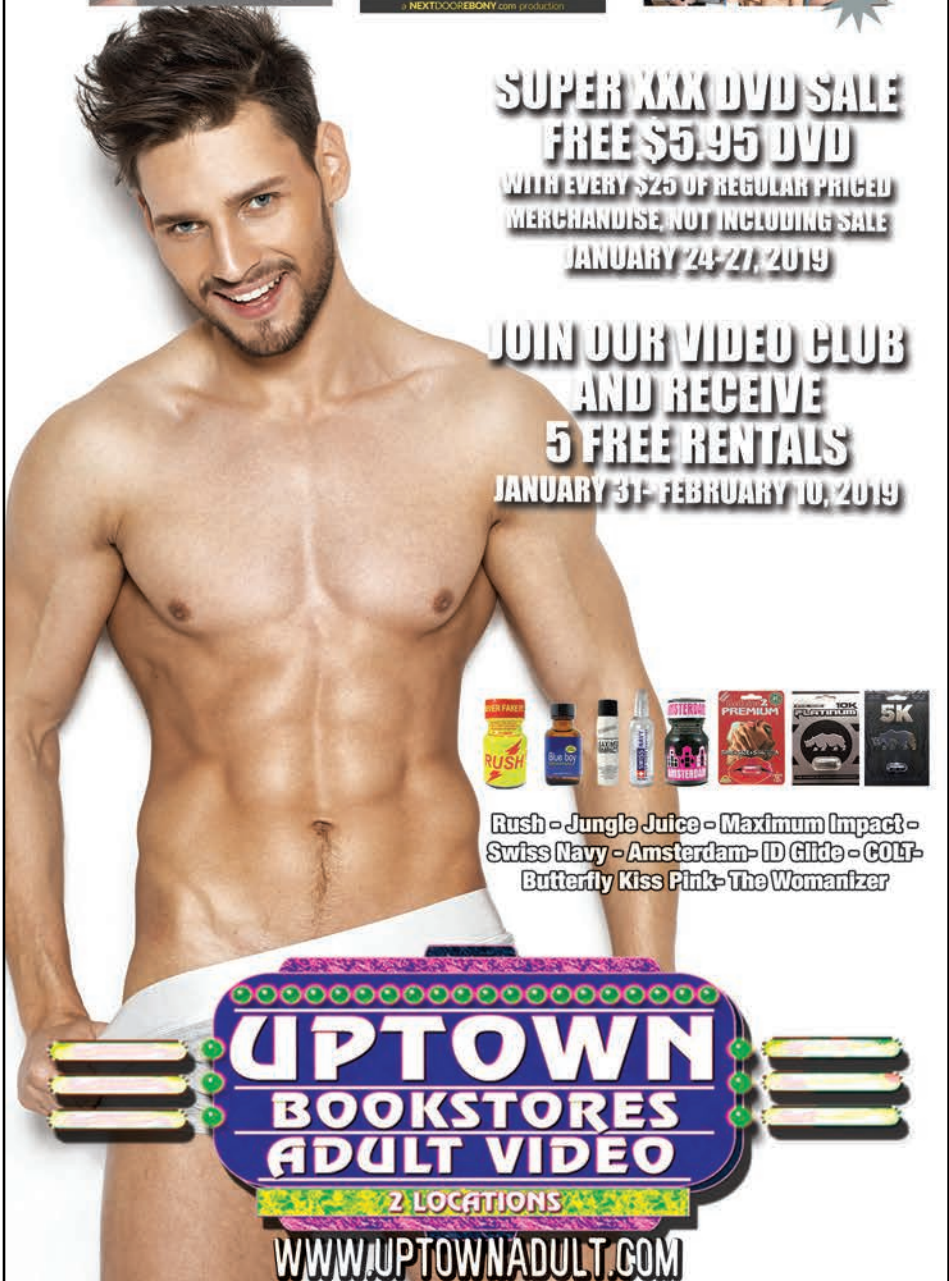
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dj Edward Alan
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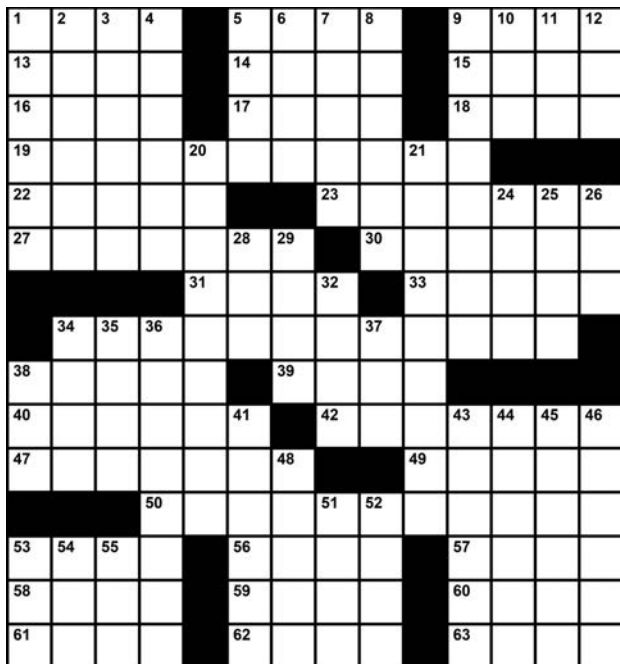


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Lady of Spain

QPuzzle

Across

- 1 One of the Three Bears
 5 Sites for three men in a tub
 9 Dave Pallone and others
 13 Hertz competitor
 14 "A" in radio lingo
 15 Witty Coward
 16 Lair of bears

- 17 Petty of "A League of Their Own"
 18 Claim innocence of
 19 Miss Spain in this year's
 34-Across pageant
 22 Prefix with media
 23 Scare the pants off of
 27 Deems necessary
 30 Twin city of Mary Richards'
 Minneapolis.

Down

- 1 Brothel bosses
 2 Q, in a theater
 3
 4 Nice buns, e.g.?
 5 Room for Frida
 6 Plunk down
 7 Kinky coils
 8 Peter and Mary
 9 Like an eagle, for Sheehan
 10 Howard of a comic threesome

- 31 Bus. school course
 33 Tom of "Philadelphia"
 34 Beauty pageant that recently had its first 50-Across contestant
 38 Campbell of "Martin"
 39 Practice boxing
 40 Like Fiennes's Shakespeare
 42 With petticoat exposed?
 47
 49 Language of Leif
 50 Like 19-Across
 53 Royal threesome
 56 Fly like a falcon
 57 Men behaving badly
 58 Second fruit eater
 59 Columnist Bombeck
 60 Sexologist Shere
 61 Choice for Hamlet
 62 A Scout may do a good one
 63 ___ about
- 11 Whitman's tool
 12
 20 It has a hole and you put it in your mouth
 21 Keener of "Capote"
 24 South Beach mementos
 25
 26 Dottermans of "Antonia's Line"
 28 Hosp. ward
 29 Loads
 32 They may show through a wet T-shirt
 34
 35 Man or Lesbos
 36 "The L Word" channel
 37 Kilmer of "The Doors"
 38 7th notes in "Do-Re-Mi"
 41 Used rubbers
 43 Something to save for a rainy day
 44 Make like Mychal Judge, e.g.
 45
 46 Less likely to use the tongue
 48 Make noise in bed
 51 ___-sex marriage
 52 New alum
 53 Where wrestlers lie together
 54 "Much ___ About Nothing"
 55 Gift of Ellen

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For more information about PrEP and prevention services please contact our Lead Prevention Specialist Keith Hughes at khughes@miunified.org

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Find over 300 Non-Profit Listings Serving Michigan's LGBTQ Online @ pridesource.com

AIDS/HIV

There are dozens of AIDS/HIV organizations and resources listed at PrideSource.com. Here are just three of them:

AIDS Walk Detroit

Contact info@aidswalkdetroit.org or 248-399-9255 for more information. The walk takes place this year on Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Royal Oak Farmers Market

Macomb County STD Clinic

27690 Van Dyke
Warren, MI 48093
586-465-9217
health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDSCounselingTesting

Matrix Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program

120 Parsons Street
Detroit, MI 48201
888-226-6366
248-545-1435
matrixhumanservices.org/programs/ryanwhite/

UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

3011 W. Grand Blvd. Suite 230
Detroit, MI 48202
313-446-9800
miunified.org
Michigan HIV/STD Hotline
800-872-2437

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

19641 W. 7 Mile, Detroit, MI
313-537-7000
equalitymi.org
[Facebook.com/equalitymichigan](https://www.facebook.com/equalitymichigan)

Campus

Currently there are 19 organizations listed as active online at pridesource.com/yellow/pages. The following are some in the southeast Michigan area:

U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center
Spectrumcenter@umich.edu
spectrumcenter.umich.edu
734-763-4186

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

gsc@oakland.edu
oakland.edu/gsc
248-370-4336

Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center
emich.edu/lgbtrc
734-487-4149

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp
Wayne State JIGSAW

[Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW)
wsujigsaw@gmail.com

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor
jimtoycenter.org
[facebook.com/jimtoycenter](https://www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter)
or follow them on Twitter @JimToyCenter.
319 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI
734-995-9867

LGBT Detroit

Detroit
lgbtdetroit.org
[@LGBTDetroit](https://www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit).
20025 Greenfield Road
Detroit, MI
Phone: 313-397-2127

Affirmations

Ferndale
goaffirmations.org
[facebook.com/Affirmations/](https://www.facebook.com/Affirmations/)
or follow them on Twitter @GoAffirmations.
290 W. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI
248-398-7105

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI
aclumich.org
313-578-6800

Fair Michigan

PO Box 6136
Plymouth, MI 48170
877-432-4764, 313-556-2300
fairmichigan.org
[Facebook.com/fairmichigan2016](https://www.facebook.com/fairmichigan2016)

Know Your Rights Project

Outlaws U-M student group
outlawslegal@gmail.com
734-995-9867

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI
313-578-6812
sagemetrodetroit.org
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

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

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 32446
Detroit, MI 48232
detroitlgbtchamber.com
1-800-DET-LGBT

Ties Like Me

Professional networking events
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.
TiesLikeMe.org
Suits And The City
Lansing, MI
suitsandthecity@gmail.com
suitsandthecity.org

Transgender

FtM Detroit

<https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/>
ftmdetroit@gmail.com.

FtM A2 Ypsi

ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/>

Transgender Michigan

23211 Woodward Ave.
Ferndale, MI
info@transgendermichigan.org
transgendermichigan.org
800-842-2954

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Find a digital version of PrideSource Magazine online under Our LGBT Yellow Pages

Find these resources online

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313-537-7000 Ext 107
info@tscopdetroit.org
[facebook.com/TSCOPD/](https://www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/)

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

77 Victor Street, Highland Park, MI
48203
info@ruthelliscenter.org
Facebook: Ruth Ellis Center
313-252-1950

Ozone House

102 N. Hamilton Street
Ypsilanti, MI
734-662-2265
734-662-2222

Stand With Trans

Farmington, MI
standwithtrans.org
248-739-9254

Adoption Services
AIDS/HIV Hotlines
AIDS/HIV Organizations
Alzheimer's Association
Animal Shelter
Anti-Violence
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Campus; Student and Alumni Groups
Cancer Support Groups
Choruses
Community Centers
Employee Resource Groups
Families and Parents
Foster Care
Foundations and Funders
Hotlines & Switchboards
Labor Union
Legal Organizations
Museums
Music Groups
National Organizations
Political Organizations
Professional Organizations
Religious & Spiritual
Senior Living
Seniors
Social/Community Organizations
Sports
Substance Abuse
Transgender Groups/Services
Women's Health
Youth Services



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Coming Out Support Group

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Weekly Sunday Worship @ 11:30 am.
205 N. Main St. www.mccdetroit.org
Clawson, MI 48017 (248) 399-7741

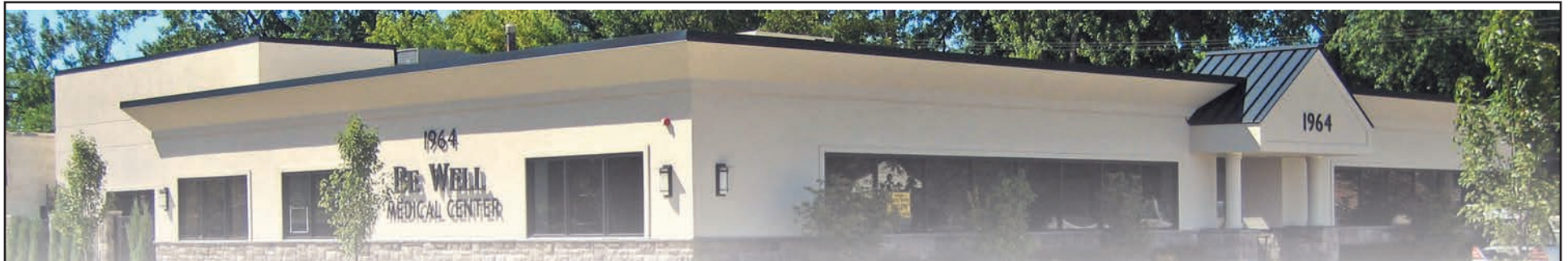


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