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**Affirmations Spring
Bash Ushers in
New Era**

**Pistons Pride Night
Draws Hundreds**

**This Queer World:
Anna Paquin Q&A**



For Love and Faith

Central United Methodist Church Pastor
Mark Thompson will follow his conscience
and officiate same-sex weddings.



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4 Cover Story: For Love and Faith

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For Love and Faith

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A United Methodist Church minister in Lansing has declared he will perform same-sex weddings despite a recent denominational decision continuing the prohibition of gay marriage. At the church's annual conference, which took place last month in St. Louis, delegates voted 438 – 384 in favor of what was called the Traditional Plan. The Plan continues the church's ban on the ordination of LGBTQ clergy and the performing of same-sex weddings.

But Mark Thompson, pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Lansing, who himself came out as gay about a decade ago, has said he will follow his conscience rather than church rules and officiate at same-sex weddings. Thompson said he came to his decision after actually telling a Grand Rapids reporter that he would not officiate at such ceremonies. After seeing the interview broadcast, the passionate pastor said he had a restless night's sleep and shed a great many tears. By morning, he had had a change of heart.

"I found myself grieving that I had again let down my people," said Thompson, who called the reporter back to retract his previous statements. "I wanted her and others to know that I will conduct such ceremonies after appropriate premarital pastoral counseling.

"What right do I have to not offer unconditional love in every way that I can?" Thompson went on. "An amazing part of a wedding ceremony of a couple, who are deeply in love with each other, is to offer a divine blessing. I want to be a part of such gifting of love for couples. Doing such might bring about charges, yet I need to follow my calling to be a pastor to the community in which I am called to serve as a United Methodist pastor."

Thompson, who was once married to a woman and is the father of three children, said his coming out process was a slow one.

"For the most part, I found support," he said. "There were others who wished me back in the closet or away from the role of a clergyperson. It has not been an easy ride."

Ten years later and Thompson said he still struggles.

"I find myself still stifled, for I am part of an organization that wants me to live a single celibate life. I am part of a church that sees my role as a clergyperson inferior to straight people. I am left wondering who has my back and who is ready to stab me in the back."

Thompson said he is planning to retire next year and hopes to pursue a relationship of his own then. Still, he was hoping to not have to wait to live fully as his authentic self. Then came the conference. There, delegates debated between the Traditional Plan and the One Church Plan, which would have changed the definition of marriage from "one man and one woman" to "two adults" in church bylaws. It also would have deleted the current passage that reads, "The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian

"What right do I have to not offer unconditional love in every way that I can?"

teaching."

"I was actually trusting that the One Church Plan would pass," Thompson said. "Such trust was built on the strong support for it from the majority of bishops, as well as those for and against the plan. My spirit was at peace and I went as an observer that greeted delegates from all over the world, knowing that some of them might have never been greeted by an old, gay, queer, clergyperson. I proudly wore my rainbow stole and carried a sign that stated that I was a gay clergy. I was looking forward to a future of freedom to date, marry, celebrate acceptance that was long overdue for me and my siblings who are LGBT in the UMC."

Sadly, for Thompson, the One Church Plan did not make it out of legislative committee. Then the Traditional Plan passed.

"I felt a part of my spirit die, go numb," he said, recalling that day at the conference. "I had lost hope in the future of my church. I packed my car and drove through the night from St. Louis to Lansing. I don't recall speaking to anyone for the next 12 hours."

Now, Thompson said he feels compelled to speak out.

"The God that I worship is one that is a part of all creation, one in whose image all humanity is fashioned after, one whose name is unconditional love," he said. "I long for more places where that kind of God is taught about, worshipped and loved. It brings me great peace to know that once in a while I can bask in gatherings that proclaim such a God."

Thompson said he realizes that if he actually performs a same-sex wedding, he will be subject to discipline by the church.

"A United Methodist pastor can have charges brought against him/her/them for conducting a same-gender wedding ceremony," he said. "This has been the UMC law for a long time. Typically, a person would enter into a 'Just Resolution' process and, thereby, be able to use the situation to advocate for LGBT rights and justice. If the Traditional Plan, as voted through, takes effect Jan. 1, 2020, the option of a 'Just Resolution' would be taken off the table."

Despite it all, Thompson said he still believes in the UMC and its message.

"It is one of love for all of creation," he said. "It, in its better moments, sides with the disenfranchised, the poor, the homeless, the vulnerable. I want to be a part of that movement called UMC that truly lives out the ideals of 'open hearts, open minds, open doors' so that we can be a part of making this world a place that is transformed into a home of peace, justice and love for all of creation."



Mark Thompson, pastor of Central United Methodist Church in Lansing, who himself came out as gay about a decade ago, has said he will follow his conscience rather than church rules and officiate at same-sex weddings. Photo courtesy of Mark Thompson.



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5 Years Later, the Fight for Equality is Far From Over

SPRING WORSHIP GUIDE

Viewpoint

BY ROLAND STRINGFELLOW

On the morning of Saturday, March 22, 2014, I received a call from my lead Deacon demanding, "I need you to get to the Oakland County Courthouse. Now!"

"What's happening? Is something wrong?" I wondered if someone from the church had gotten into trouble and needed a pastor to show up in court.

"They are allowing couples to get married! We are so excited. There are six of us here from the church and we want both of our pastors to be the ones to marry us. This is urgent!"

I had only been on the job for a few weeks as senior pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit. Clearly, this was a very important to him as he gave me the command to drop what I was doing, but I recognized also that this window

of opportunity could close at any moment. As unexpected it was that four county clerks decided to open their offices on that Saturday morning to allow same-sex couples to wed, we also had no idea when that opportunity would end. I made my way to the courthouse.

On Sunday, March 24, 2019, MCC Detroit celebrated the fifth anniversary of that wonderful and unexpected opportunity for the roughly 300 couples who were wed. The irony is that our church now rents space in a United Methodist Church that recently voted not to affirm same-sex marriage. We chose to involve the entire church in a series of affirmations for these couples by having them repeat "I do" following each affirmation.

Many people in Michigan feared what took place five years ago was the beginning of the end of civilization. And when the U.S. Supreme Court made it legal for all same-gender-loving couples to marry in 2015, we witnessed tactics, such

as a person's "religious liberty," used as justification to deny access to adoption or even receiving a marriage license.

One would think those who were in opposition would realize that love is love, that it's love that makes a family, that children in same-sex households turn out fine, that the lesbian and gay couple actually make pretty good neighbors. But, that's not the case.

And for those who are still in opposition, ignoring them can prove to be costly.



Three of the 323 same-sex couples who were married on March 23, 2014, celebrate the fifth anniversary of the historic occasion. Photo courtesy of Roland Stringfellow.

Let us not fall into the belief we have conquered this mountain. Defending married same-sex couples and their families still requires work. The Equality Act, a federal civil rights bill that would provide comprehensive protections for LGBTQ people against discrimination in employment, housing, education and public accommodations was introduced on March 13 in the U.S. House with hearings scheduled for the first half of April. Opponents are working hard to insert religious exemptions to dilute the protections this bill would provide.

During this fifth anniversary of this wonderful occasion, let us take time to celebrate and bless the marriages of those 300-plus couples. But also, let it be a reminder of work still yet to be done as we live our lives openly by sharing our stories to our neighbors and to members of Congress. There is an urgency for us to do so!

Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow is looking for people in every district throughout the state willing to share their stories of discrimination with their congressional representative. If interested, contact mccdetroit@gmail.com for more information. Stringfellow is the Senior Pastor and Teacher of MCC-Detroit and celebrated 13 years of his ordination as a MCC pastor on Oct. 15.

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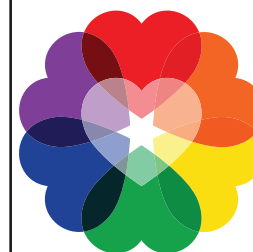
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Congregation Looks to LGBTQ Community to Help Develop Virtual Museum

Phase One of the American Museum of LGBTQ History is Underway at Whosoever Ministry UCC

BY BTL STAFF

When Whosoever Ministry became a part of the United Church of Christ, the congregation shared their desire to develop a virtual museum containing pictures, images and keepsake items that highlight LGBTQ lives. That vision is coming to life, according to Rev. Dr. Selma Massey, pastor at Whosoever Ministry UCC.



“We shared the importance of developing a footprint for our community so that we can educate and empower those who will follow us,” Massey said.

She said what will be known as the American Museum of LGBTQ History aims to “capture our history, with the ups and downs, struggles and accomplishments through photos, videos, memorabilia, and headline news stories that will stimulate conversation and restore a sense of pride for our LGBTQ brothers and sisters.”

Phase one of this project is in the works. Massey said the congregation is collecting photographs and items from around the country to be on display. The museum will be accessible to anyone who has a computer, smart phone or tablet. A preview of what is to come will be available on the Whosoever Ministry website, whosoeverministry.org, this fall.

“In the privacy and comfort of one’s home or office, visitors will travel through our collection visually and discover that gay lives matter,” said Massey, noting that the concept is similar to the old Look Magazine that told stories often without words. “We will let the pictures, videos, news articles and assorted treasures stand for themselves. Visitors will be inspired by the numerous contributions. Indeed, a picture tells a thousand stories.”

Massey said there was a demand for this kind of museum.

“There is need to tell our own stories and educate the world in a deliberate and credible manner. Surely, the LGBTQ community tells our story best,” she said.

Phase two of the museum project is scheduled to preview

in the summer of 2021. Massey confirmed there will be a physical location in Detroit, a Welcome Center, for visitors and travelers, where donated items will be logged in, archived and engraved with the donor’s name and hometown.

When asked about what kind of support Massey has received from the church community, she said, “Whosoever Ministry has never backed away from expressing important truths. Regardless of the potential barriers to our mission, we are encouraged by the historical work of the United Church of Christ. This denomination has supported the LGBTQ community for decades. The UCC ordained the first openly gay person before it was popular to be inclusive. The UCC was an instrumental partner in the movement for marriage equality.”

Although traditional churches may not be as welcoming initially, Massey said she believes they will come around.

“As the virtual American Museum of LGBTQ History gains increased momentum, and as society continues to evolve in time, there are those who will appreciate this educational, social, cultural and inspirational treasure. This important LGBTQ footprint will remind people that we have made tremendous contributions to society and the world. Our role, as a museum, is to collect, document, present and preserve our legacy for others to gain a wider appreciation for our community in America and eventually the world virtually.”

Anyone interested in submitting photos and materials to archive and share, please email whosoeverphotomuseum@gmail.com.



From left to right: founding executive director of Affirmations and Between The Lines Co-Publisher Jan Stevenson is gathered with Ferndale Mayor Dave Coulter, Judge Lisa Langton, U.S. Rep. Andy Levin, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, State Senator Jeremy Moss, Oakland County Clerk Lisa Brown, Judge Jake Cunningham and Affirmations Board President Mike Flores. BTL Photo: Eve Kucharski

Affirmations Spring Bash Commemorates 30 Years of Center History, Fresh Start Into New Decade

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Hundreds of guests filled one of MGM Grand Detroit’s largest ballrooms Saturday to commemorate the Affirmations Spring Bash. As planned, the annual event served as a spotlight for the LGBTQ community center’s achievements and as a key fundraiser. However, 2019’s event is unique for the organization in several ways. First, Affirmations officially announced that the search for its executive director was over with the reappointment of Dave Garcia after a five-year hiatus, it earned statewide recognition from the governor and other politicians for its advocacy work and it celebrated its 30th birthday after an uncertain previous fiscal year.

The evening began with an announcement from Mike Flores.

“Last year I introduced myself as the interim president, this year I am honored to introduce myself as the president of the board. I serve at the will and pleasure of the community. I am leading the board with your permission. Because of that, we are able to accomplish many things at Affirmations, the largest LGBTQ community center in the state of Michigan,” he said. “Truly, the evening is about you, you and you; the community that made Affirmations a

reality 30 years ago, the community that supports Affirmations today and the community that will make sure that we are successful in the future.”

That message was reiterated by Affirmations’ founding executive director and Between The Lines Co-Publisher Jan Stevenson, along with a reminder why the center plays a vital role within the community in a video message to attendees.

“What Affirmations is and why it’s important is that it’s the community’s home,” Stevenson said. “For 30 years it’s provided that space. There’s a tendency to think that everything’s OK and we’re not going to need a safe space, but if anything has taught us that that’s not true it’s been our experience fighting HIV/AIDS.”

Stevenson underlined the important role the center originally played for those in the thick of that fight and how the advocacy within it would allow for Affirmations’ current 30-year legacy to unfold.

Political Support

Among some of the evening’s most noteworthy guests were both statewide and local politicians who made clear that LGBTQ support and advocacy was a priority in the state of Michigan and in their roles. Of the politicians in attendance, Secretary

of State Jocelyn Benson addressed the crowd first, emphasizing the importance of LGBTQ visibility.

“I just want to thank you for all the work you’re doing, for all the support that you give so many who feel they don’t have a voice, so many who are afraid, so many who, as you all know, worry as the hate crimes rise that they will be affected because they see people who look like them who are being treated as victims,” Benson said. “We are not victims. We are empowered, we have a voice. You have a voice that matters, that will be heard, that needs to be heard and I’m proud to be a secretary of state that’s going to march right alongside you to ensure that’s a reality.”

Sen. Jeremy Moss echoed those sentiments when he took the stage to receive Affirmations’ Community Hero Award. The openly gay politician added that as honored as he was to accept recognition for his work in supporting the LGBTQ community, he considered community organizers like those who keep Affirmations running to be truly deserving of recognition.

“I represent a community of heroes,” Moss said. “I represent people in this room, I represent a vibrant LGBT community not only

See **Affirmations**, continued on p. 10

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► Affirmations

Continued from p. 8

in Ferndale and in Pleasant Ridge which have the highest LGBT population in the state of Michigan. I represent people all throughout this state. You're my heroes, the activists of the '60s, '70s and the '80s who certainly helped to form Affirmations are my heroes. The people who are still marginalized within our community today who don't have the same advantages that even I have, especially trans women of color are my heroes. The 300 married couples who just celebrated their five-year anniversary are my heroes. Matthew Shepard is my hero and his father who is here today, my parents who are here today."

Moss pointed out in his address that the 2018 midterm elections brought with them "a new day" to the Lansing legislature, leveling the playing field for those in the minority party. He underlined that point with a dedicated gift to Affirmations.

"Today we actually have the ability to present a tribute from the state legislature to Affirmations on behalf of their 30th anniversary, not only signed by me but by state Rep. Robert Wittenberg who represents Ferndale but signed by the governor of the state of Michigan and the lieutenant governor," Moss said. "That's not enough. ... As we know we are pushing hard to expand our civil rights in the state of Michigan to make sure that nobody is fired or denied housing due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. We're going to be rolling out that legislation at the end of May."

In addition to the announcement of pro-LGBTQ equality legislation, Moss announced an upcoming pride month town hall to be held at Affirmations featuring Gov. Whitmer.

"It's a new day in Lansing where we have so many people that are allies advocating for us and it's a totally different experience especially being a gay person in this culture," he said.

Awardees

Beyond political guests, highlighted during the evening were local volunteers and community organizers who aided Affirmations in all aspects, and who kept it afloat during the past several months.

Highlighted as the Karen Dorgan Volunteer of the Year, Elizabeth Arnott said that it was the Affirmations staff that made volunteering a possibility.

"It's an honor to be up here and to be recognized, but for me, supporting the community and also the staff was so important," Arnott said. "I want to give it back to the staff because if it wasn't for them, I would not be a volunteer, I would not be up here. So, thank you."

Volunteer Rosemary Ruppert received the Jan Stevenson award. It was accepted on her behalf by Marjo Rogers.

"Think how many lives have been changed for the better because this organization exists.



State Sen. Jeremy Moss presents tribute from state legislators and governor to Affirmations Board President Mike Flores and Vice Chair Cheryl Czach.



Eric Jirgens encouraged people to join him and Allan Gilmour in supporting the center.



Newly appointed executive director Dave Garcia in an emotional moment greeting keynote speaker Dennis Shepard. Photos Alex Bustamante

I also would like to thank Affirmations for creating the Senior Coffee Klatch discussions group," Rogers said. "Each week this group offers our generation a place to meet and an opportunity to meet new friends and share our stores together. We are a family of friends and we are holding a place for all of you at our table. On behalf of Rosemary and myself, thank you, Affirmations."

Megan Fuciarelli received the Lorna Utley Outstanding Ally Award, making sure to mention in her address volunteer Dani Som who died by suicide only weeks before.

"When I was first introduced to Affirmations I had no idea what impact this would have on me, but isn't that how all volunteer opportunities start?" Fuciarelli said. "I had the distinct pleasure of working with Dani who we all saw on the video and we lost Dani recently and I just would like to take a moment to remember that that's one of the reasons why we're here is to provide an opportunity for everyone to be able to be safe and be heard

and listened to and that's what I hope I was able to provide."

The evening's final award was the Charles Moyer Philanthropy Award that was given to MGM Grand Detroit for going above and beyond in supporting Affirmations and in hosting the Spring Bash.

Keynote Speakers and Key Messages

When Dave Garcia took the stage, he outlined some of his incoming goals for Affirmations and reiterated the value of a center designed by and for the community, drawing parallels between his former role as the political director for the Los Angeles LGBT Center.

"When you've been the political director at the largest LGBT organization in the world and been to every board meeting and been to every senior director meeting and every special

event and every fundraiser you learn a few things," he said. "And I'm not here so that we can pretend we can have a \$121 million annual budget — yet. Or have 700 employees — yet. But there are things that we can do that aren't going to cost a lot of money."

He gave an example of the Out for Safe Schools Badge program that provides badges for those school employees who want to be known as a safe resource for LGBTQ youth. He said that after only a five-year span, the program is present across the country in states like New York and Texas.

Garcia left the stage with a final message for both the audience and Dennis Shepard who was present that evening. He is the father of Matthew Shepard who was infamously murdered in 1998 for being an openly gay man whose landmark case helped secure more rights to the LGBTQ community across the U.S.

"I want to thank you for the tremendous class that you have shown to this community and really to the world and I want to thank you for being here tonight to celebrate with us and I want to thank your son because there are so many people that, like me, wouldn't be standing here today if it wasn't for your son, Matthew," Garcia said. "So, thank you very much. We all appreciate it and for all of you, thank you for welcoming me home and I'm going to do my best to make you proud."

Flores hosted a live Q&A session with Shepard in which he first asked if he believed the Matthew Shepard Foundation was a continuation of the work that Matthew would have done had he still be on Earth.

"Yes, I believe so. His dream was to work overseas for the state department as a diplomat, possibly an ambassador. He spoke English, German, Italian, Arabic and Japanese and was taking French when he died. He wanted to bring the same rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities to other countries that he thought as an American citizen he had here," Dennis Shepard said. "So, the foundation is based on his dreams and goals and vision of what he wanted to do to make the world a better, safer place."

Covering topics that ranged from being a better ally to advocacy work within the LGBTQ community, perhaps Shepard's overall message was best summed up when he elaborated on what the LGBTQ community should do to continue his son's message and goals.

"Support them, encourage them, protect them, educate them so they can educate us," he said. "Our young people are our greatest national treasure, if we lose our young people to hate, to suicide, to just giving up hope, we become a third-rate country in no time."

Find out more information about Affirmations and the Spring Bash by visiting goaffirmations.org.



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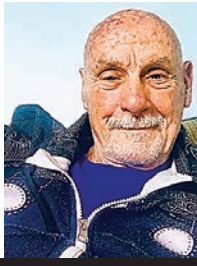
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Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Alexander Birth: a Guinness First?

As a gay teenager, I hung out at the Hub Grill in downtown Detroit, a greasy spoon of a place, located at the corners of Farmer and Bates in convenient walking distance of four quite popular gay bars, City Hall and the 1st Precinct Police Station!

Just out of Class Technical High School I was eager to find work, and a gay friend named George Trapper (nicknamed "Trapezoid") told me that Harper Hospital, where he worked, was hiring high school grads to be trained as operating room technicians.

That sounded like a great lead for many reasons, one of which was that I was born at Harper Hospital. (At the time I hadn't the slightest idea that my OR training would lead to what might well be the first coincidence of its kind.)

My training as an OR Tech lasted about two months. I learned how to wash my hands with antiseptic, gown without breaking sterile scrub, how to identify and pass surgical instruments and chromic sutures, how to keep detailed records, use the autoclave, do sponge counts and once, deal with a dying patient.

OR Techs all wore green scrub uniforms like physician interns, surgeons and medical students on learning assignments. (If a patient called me doc or doctor I did little to dissuade them from the vicarious honor so accorded me. Suffice it to say that OR Techs wore no telltale stethoscopes.)

In time, I passed instruments for several caesarian section births, witnessed a four-holed drilled craniotomy, circulated during dozens of tonsillectomies and attended while a patient died on the operating table.

(I and another OR tech ID tagged his right-hand thumb and toe and took his body three flights down for temporary freezer storage. Our first experience with death, we sought to dispel the unexpected shock by touches of tension-easing humor.)

In cystoscopy I reluctantly collected urine specimens; and curiously, somewhat reluctantly, during vaginal surgeries took D&Cs or "dusting and cleaning" samples.

The shortage of operating nurses during World War II — an understandable critical need — led at the time to the training of laypersons to fill the need.

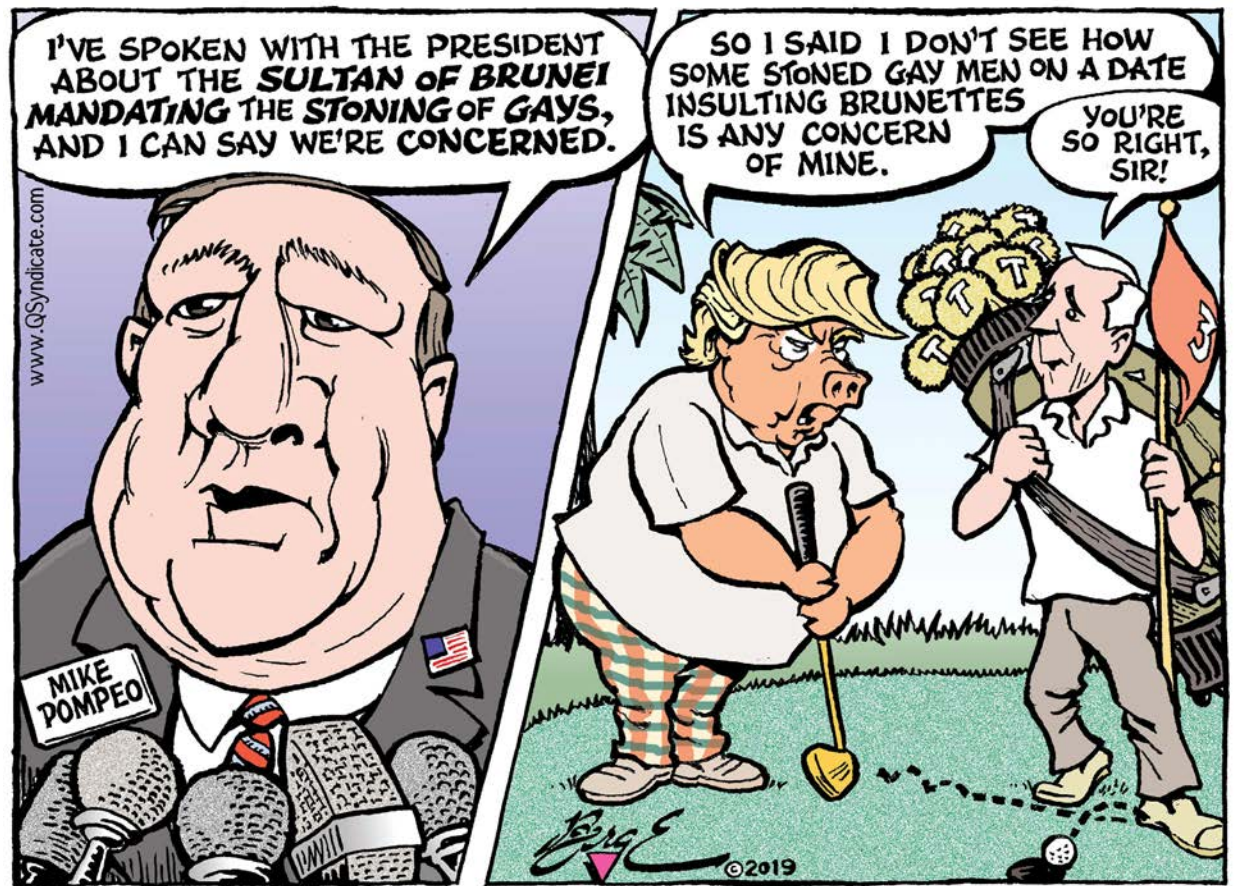
In the late '50s there was also an extensive surgical nurse need in metropolitan hospitals and so laypersons — like high school grads, conscientious objectors avoiding war service — were trained.

As a Harper Hospital OR Tech I made mental notes about who might be gay or lesbian. I suspected the rather-butch nurse responsible for keeping surgical tools sharp, honed and sterile was a lesbian.

We OR Techs were also warned about the head of the anesthesia wing. We were not to accept rides on his summer yacht. There were, at the time, 13 operating rooms at Harper, numbered one through 14. There was no number 13.

Once I attended my third surgical go-around the sight of blood no longer bothered me. I also found out that surgery often was subject to participant talk about sports, touches of humor and tension-dispelling banter among the interns, residents and surgical chiefs.

See **Parting Glances**, continued on p. 13



BY SUSAN GRETTEMBERGER

Thoughts on New United Methodist LGBTQ Rules

I am a lesbian. I am also a lifelong United Methodist and the daughter of wonderful, loving, accepting parents. My dad is a UM pastor. I have seen the best sides of a denomination which has, nonetheless, struggled for as long as I can remember to resolve how to respond to me and others who identify as LGBTQ. The denominational struggle has harmed people, even while many United Methodists have strongly supported us, even allowing marriages in their buildings.

I have stayed a member because parts of the UM Church were so progressive and visionary, doing work that really mattered, and because so many Methodists I know were so supportive of LGBTQ people.

Yet there it was in February, a public vote of the United Methodist denomination, with the results shared across American media. The vote, to the shock and anguish of even many bishops, resulted in tighter rules on LGBTQ people in the church. The recent decision was far more hurtful than I expected it to be. My wife and I considered bolting right on out the doors. And yet ...

There was an immediate, supportive response from many

United Methodists expressing their dismay and apologizing for the hurt caused by that vote. Ads saying just that, filled with thousands of signatures from clergy and pew-sitters, were run simultaneously in several Michigan papers. A similar statement signed by pastors from across the country ran in the New York Times. Bishops issued statements in some areas saying they expected pastors under them to do weddings for anyone in their congregations, including same-gender couples who are, and therefore must be, treated as equal in the eyes of God. I learned that as many as two-thirds of the U.S. delegates voted against the punitive proposal, and that it was primarily supported by a minority of conservative churches here. The remainder of the votes come from delegates outside the U.S., whose Christian views were shaped by conservative American missionaries — colonization's ugly side.

I have been brutally honest with church folks I know about how crappy this all has been. They are SO clueless at times about how they contribute to the oppression of

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

► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 12

LGBTQ people through their silence, with many holding the same attitude as white people who believe they are not part of the oppression because they have black friends. What has heartened me is that while some conservative church people I know aren't sure they are fully support gay marriage, they have heard my pain and they care. They are genuinely trying to figure this out. Some of them are even less defensive than the progressives who half got it before.

One such conservative at my own church, who has always been very warm, said she never understood the pain we have felt. She sincerely wanted to find a way to ease that pain and asked me, "Would it be enough if I can live with our church doing gay marriages?" I watched as she came to realize that her beliefs and past behavior had caused me pain, and I watched as she struggled to move to a new place in her beliefs so that she could support and stop hurting me, a person she cares about. In the end, she supported a statement saying we would allow same-sex couples to be married in our church, a beautiful and historic building which has seen so much change in our world and which now has seen a bit more.

The United Methodist Church, like all denominations, is a microcosm of our society. Some members have had our backs for a long time. Some members were silent allies before, on our side but not wanting to rock the boat too much. Now, many of the previously silent folks are fighting for us, and a bunch of churches are bucking the recent decision to support the right of LGBTQ people to fully participate. Across Michigan, dozens of UM churches and

What has heartened me is that while some conservative church people I know aren't sure they are fully support gay marriage, they have heard my pain and they care.

pastors have publicly committed to marry us.

In fits and starts, we are moving forward. Increasing numbers of people and congregations of many religions, including the UM Church, see us as divinely made and welcome us fully. I am still hurt that so many do not understand the ways they and their religion do harm the LGBTQ community, or worse, believe we deserve to be hurt. Yet, I have hope because so many more people now do understand and are making a commitment to fight the oppression we have faced within the United Methodist Church and in society generally. Do all of them understand it completely? No, but they care about us as people and have moved forward. For me, for now, that is enough.

Author's Note: While I have used 'LGBTQ' in keeping with language being used elsewhere, I want to acknowledge that the matter of equity and inclusion for trans people has not been addressed by most commentators or congregations discussing the recent decision.

Susan Grettenberger, PhD, MSW is Director/Professor in the Social Work Program at Central Michigan University. She and her wife Nicole are committed to ending sexual violence. (No last name used as she works for MSU).

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 12

Each surgery ended with what was called a "sponge count." No surgical opening could be sewn shut until the blood-absorbing sponges were accounted for. None left in the patient.

Alas, one surgery a sponge was missing. We recounted and recounted. Finally, a resident admitted to standing on the truant sponge. Was it an accident or an OR prank?

And! What may well be an item for "Guinness World Records." I had the privilege of scrubbing with the doctor who

brought me into the world, Dr. Leonard Heath. A surprise to both of us when we came to the realization of our "kinship."

Whether or not I was his first gay baby birth is not known. It was, however, I'm sure a memorable experience for me and, presumably, Dr. Heath. (Pass me the chromic oh!)

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

Linda Harvey

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network's annual Day of Silence is Friday, April 12, and you know what that means. Silence.

Well, sort of. The anti-LGBTQ right is always very vocal this time of year.

According to GLSEN, the Day of Silence "is a student-led national event where folks take a vow of silence to highlight the silencing and erasure of LGBTQ people at school."

It sounds, well, pretty tame to say the least (no pun intended!).

But to hear Linda Harvey tell it, the Day of Silence is a "weapon" in a "war on children."

This war, Harvey writes on the Barb Wire website, "includes pronouns as a battlefield, schools secretly colluding with deeply disturbed children behind parents' backs and even teachers encouraging students to join private 'gay' clubs on Instagram without parental knowledge."

What? Teenagers on Instagram without parental knowledge? Can you even imagine?

The Day of Silence, which GLSEN has been sponsoring since 2001, is a textbook example of peaceful protest. What are people protesting, you ask?

According to GLSEN, "Nearly four in five LGBTQ students don't see positive LGBTQ representation in their curriculum, nearly eight in 10 experience verbal harassment and almost a third miss school for feeling unsafe or uncomfortable. The Day of Silence is a national movement to highlight the silencing and erasure of LGBTQ students in school, which demands that school leaders take action to be more inclusive."

Alas, "inclusive" is a dirty word to Harvey. In fact, she doesn't believe LGBTQ kids are being bullied.

"Here's how the bullying story goes," she writes. "We are told that people who claim a homosexual or opposite-sex identity — which no one needs to do, so always keep that in mind — that these folks are relentlessly bullied, are perennial victims and are being 'silenced' everywhere. Are you laughing yet? Where and when have homosexuals and their allies been 'silent' lately? If only!"

LOL! Those big-mouth homos! Those loud lesbians! Those garish gays! Those booming bisexuals. Those thesaurus-using trans folks. OMG aren't you laughing SO HARD right now about them supposedly being bullied? No? Well, Linda is. She's not very nice.

I'm struck by her aside that "no one needs to [claim a homosexual or opposite-sex identity], so always keep that in mind." First of all, I'm not sure what an "opposite-sex identity" is, but Harvey doesn't know either, so at least we're even. But I'm struck by her claim that her readers should "always keep that in mind." It sure sounds like what she's saying is that no

To hear Linda Harvey tell it, the Day of Silence is a "weapon" in a "war on children."

one needs to come out as LGBTQ, and if people choose to come out, well, sucks for them and any bullying they experience they brought on themselves.

She admits that some bullying happens "and that's never acceptable." But then she says that LGBTQ oppression is a "phony narrative" and that it's "quite a stretch" to accuse people of being bullies just because they don't see LGBTQ bullying as a big problem but they do see the existence of LGBTQ people as a big problem.

"Any person can object to high-risk 'LGBTQ' behavior but also, never bully anyone," Harvey writes (comma placement is all hers). "And of course, faithful Christians believe the Word of God, and so we know this behavior is wrong. So the Day of Silence is an event that, by definition, discriminates against Christians."

Ah, yes. The old "not being allowed to insist that LGBTQ people are gross and damaged violates my religious beliefs" argument.

Harvey then asks, "Who are the real bullies here?"

You are, Linda. It's still you. Why are you so bad at this?

Thankfully Harvey knows how to protect innocent would-be bullies from being unwillingly exposed to the idea that LGBTQ people are human beings worthy and deserving of respect and kindness.

"We are suggesting that parents keep kids home that day and away from the false messages that don't help anything," she writes. "Our children will not benefit from lies combined with a flagrant misuse of instructional time."

OK, so if I'm understanding this correctly, the most hardcore anti-LGBTQ students will be skipping school on Friday, April 12, so that they don't miss any instructional time. Got it.

It's interesting that Harvey thinks that the Day of Silence doesn't "help anything," and yet she's urging parents to keep their kids away from school that day lest they be tempted into humanizing or feeling any compassion toward LGBTQ people. Yep, sounds like the Day of Silence is totally ineffective at reaching people, then.

The Day of Silence is," according to Harvey, "a huge con job" intended to normalize "sexual deviance."

Oh, Linda. Shut up. Shut up for us all.

For more information on how to participate in the Day of Silence visit glsen.org/day-silence.

Kelly Stough's Murderer to Be Tried in Court

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Albert Weathers, pastor of the Logos Church in Detroit, was ordered Friday, March 29 to stand trial for open murder in the death of Kelly Stough. Stough, a transgender woman, was shot and left to die in the area of Six Mile Road and Brush Street in the early morning hours of Dec. 7, 2018.

Weathers initially told police that the shooting was in self defense. Then, later during the same police questioning, said that the gun went off accidentally. In court, defense attorney David Cripps kept with the accidental shooting story.

"It was not self-defense so much as it was an accidental shooting," Cripps said. "This isn't an intentional shooting. I would ask the court to look at this as an accidental shooting."

But Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Jaimie Powell Horowitz of the Fair Michigan Justice Project said the shooting happened after Weathers argued with Stough, who also went by the name of Keanna Mattel, over the price for a sexual service. Stough was shot once in the left underarm before Weathers fled the scene. He called from his job to report the shooting approximately an hour later.

"She was disposable," Horowitz said. "He threw her out like trash and left her to die in the streets."

But according to her mother, Jessica Williams, Stough was both loved and valued.

"I don't understand the fear and the stereotyping, not just of trans women but gays, lesbians, bisexuals," Williams said in an earlier article for *Between The Lines*

"I don't understand the hatred. Why not talk to somebody? Have a dialogue. They eat and breathe, have a family that loves them. They contribute to their community. I don't understand why there is so much hatred or the perception that they are trash ... that people don't care what happens to them. This is not true."

Judge Michael Wagner of the 36th District Court denied Cripps' request for a bail reduction. Weathers currently remains incarcerated with his bail set at a \$1 million cash bond.

"The judge said he couldn't get away from the fact that Mr. Weathers, after shooting Kelly, that he left her in the middle of the street, not knowing if her life could have been saved," said Jey'nce Poindexter Mizrahi, transgender victims advocate for Equality Michigan and a friend of Stough's, who was in the courtroom.

"He went to work and he showered and he changed clothes and then he called the police. That's why the judge said in the courtroom that he wouldn't reduce the bond."

Weathers is due back in court for an arraignment April 5.



Photo Courtesy of Kevin Heard.

Detroit Pistons Pride Night Draws Hundreds of LGBTQ and Ally Fans

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

More than 300 members of the LGBTQ community and its allies cheered on the Detroit Pistons as they defeated the Orlando Magic, 115 to 98, during Pride Night on Thursday, March 28, at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit.

The event, hosted by the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber Of Commerce in partnership with the Detroit Pistons organization, has grown in popularity since it began in 2015.

"There has been a lot of blood, sweat and tears for us to be able to be incorporated inside of a sports arena, which is still to this day pretty much homophobic," said Kevin Terrell Heard, the founding board member and board president of the DRLGBTCC, which continues to be a leading force in building employment, networking and substantial business growth opportunities within Detroit's LGBTQ community.

"But the Pistons have opened up their hearts, they had an ally on their team [Reggie Bullock], they still have allies on their team for the LGBTQ community, and we're so excited that one of the four pillars this year that the sales team and the Detroit Pistons organization wanted to do was support equality, and that means equality for everyone, especially LGBTQ people in our community. They have been such a great partner to work with," Heard said.

When former Detroit Piston, Bullock,

used his platform and began speaking out about LGBTQ acceptance, the Detroit Pistons organization got behind him. And while he's been traded to the Los Angeles Lakers, LGBTQ equality still remains an important pillar for the sports league.

"Equality is one of our pillar platforms for work within our community, and Pride Night is an important activation of that platform," said Erika Swilley, senior director of community and social responsibility with the Detroit Pistons. "Partnering with the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce was important to our organization in an effort to ensure that we were inclusive of as many groups and organizations in our area as possible."

The organization showed its support with Pride lapel pins for employees and the coaching staff, and the players wore Pride shooting shirts on the court. All Pride Night attendees were given a free T-shirt, and a portion of the proceeds from their ticket purchase will benefit local LGBTQ non-profit organizations. Some of those organizations were invited by the DRLGBTCC to help promote the event like the Ruth Ellis Center, the Jim Toy Community Center, Affirmations, PFLAG, Freedom House Detroit, Stand With Trans, SAGE Metro Detroit, and the Trans Sistas of Color Project.

This was a big draw for Kevin Dedicatoria of Saginaw.

"I think it's important to give, to help



Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce President Kevin Heard and Vice President Jan Stevenson. BTL photo: Kate Opalewski.

people who may not have the same privileges like I did. I think it's needed," said Dedicatoria, who is hopeful that LGBTQ athletes will become more accepted.

"The more LGBTQ athletes and allies that are out there and are willing and able to be open, that will help normalize LGBTQ athletes in sports and people will begin to realize we're not a homogeneous group. We all have different interests and passions

“Equality is one of our pillar platforms for work within our community, and Pride Night is an important activation of that platform.”

- Erika Swilley, senior director of community and social responsibility with the Detroit Pistons.

and sports happens to be one of them.”

Representatives from various employee resource groups leading the way toward LGBTQ equality were in attendance – Chase Pride, Comerica Bank, Turtle & Giraffe and Eric Martin of State Farm. Corporate partners for the event included PNC Bank, Miller Canfield and Ally Financial, which brought 52 people together to support the LGBTQ community on Pride Night.

“We have a culture at Ally that encourages participation in our employee resource groups and the members of PRIDE Allies are an awesome bunch of people who enjoy getting together to show our support for the community as evidenced in the activities and organizations we have been able to support in the two years since the ERG was formed,” said Phil Silvio, chairperson of PRIDE Allies and SharePoint technical delivery manager.

Before the game, PRISM gay men and allies chorus of Metro Detroit sang the national anthem. All Pride Night attendees were



welcome to participate in the halftime pride performance by the Detroit Pistons Dance Team to honor the LGBTQ community. Each attendee who purchased the Pride Night package were also invited to a special meet-and-greet at the end of the game with University of Michigan swimmer alumni G Ryan, who came to the game with their friends Erica Watson and Mari Longmire of Ann Arbor.

G Ryan, a five-time Big Ten champion and four-time All-American swimmer, identifies as nonbinary and previously swam on the U-M women’s team. They were invited to represent queer athletes and to discuss their mental health journey through depression, anxiety and gender dysphoria.

“The realm of athletics has a lot of issues. It was tough at times and other times it was the best feeling ever because I got to be surrounded by other people who were celebrating being queer and being an athlete at the same time,” G Ryan said.

When asked if they have any advice for aspiring young, queer athletes, G Ryan said, “It’s all about community support. You can’t do it by yourself. Finding the people who support you, who validate you and really affirm you, that was the most important thing for me, finding my community.”

G Ryan, center, a five-time Big Ten champion and four-time All-American swimmer, identifies as nonbinary and previously swam on the U-M women’s team.



The Jumbotron was filled with kiss cam fun and PRISM gay men and allies chorus of Metro Detroit. They sang the National Anthem.

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New Smithsonian Channel Documentary Proves American War Hero is Intersex

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

For those who aren't history buffs, the name of the Polish General Casimir Pulaski likely doesn't ring any bells, but without his contributions during the American Revolutionary War, there's a high chance George Washington would never have lived to serve as president. For almost 200 years after his death, the remains of the father of the American cavalry, as Pulaski was known, sat undisturbed in a Savannah, Georgia, monument until some structural damage caused them to be disinterred. At first glance, the pelvis found among the war hero's remains was observed to be buried by mistake; it was female. That theory held until researchers came to the conclusion that there was another option: Pulaski was intersex.

A discovery that took years of research to confirm, the Smithsonian Channel's show "America's Hidden Stories" will shed new light on Pulaski's life and follow the scientists who made the breakthrough. The episode titled "The General Was Female?" will air April 8 at 8 p.m. and features insight from intersex activist and author of "Born Both: An Intersex Life" Hida Viloria. BTL spoke with Viloria in advance of the episode's release to get he/r thoughts on intersex historical figures and the benefits of thinking outside the gender binary and the implications of discovering an intersex war hero in today's political climate.

Had you known about General Casimir Pulaski before you were approached to be in the show?

I had a vague recollection of the father of the American cavalry being the term that an early American war hero was given, but I did not know his real name and really knew nothing about Casimir Pulaski's life.

In the show you're given a uniform to try on that Pulaski likely would have worn onto the field of battle. Was it powerful to literally put yourself into his shoes like that?

I think it was incredible and really powerful to think about the different possibilities for people who are intersex over time and throughout history. Because I'd already thought about the fact that if I had lived in a prior time

period I may have chosen to live as a man because I think that the roles that were reserved for women might have been limiting to me. I think that I'm lucky that in today's society people who are raised female have a lot more leeway in terms of how they're able to behave



and dress and I've made the most of that (laughs). But if I were living back then, I wouldn't have had that freedom unless I would have gone all the way into a male role.

Though we live in a very binary world, statistics show that intersex people are about as common as one in 2,000. Why is being an activist for the intersex community important to you?

I think that all humans are suffering under this very exclusively binary notion and model of sex which impacts our model of gender. And I know that this is true because I have so many people who have reached out to me who are not even a part of the LGBTQIA community in any way, they're gender-conforming males or females who feel like men or women respectively to tell me that they have felt freed up to embrace parts of themselves after finding out that intersex people exist and after watching the way in which I embrace all aspects of my masculinity, my femininity and androgynousness. Given this as well as given all the anti-trans efforts right now from the U.S. administration and across the world as well as anti-intersex practices, it's essential that we realize that sex itself is not exclusively binary.

Were you happy to learn the Pulaski is intersex?

Yes! I'm so happy that not only have we discovered a historical figure who

was intersex, because sadly we lack that history as a community because being intersex has been a private and hidden experience in most cases and we don't know who our ancestors were, but now we do know one of them, Pulaski. What's really amazing and very, very significant to note about Casimir Pulaski being intersex is that if the medical practices and social attitudes that inform the medical practices today existed at the time that Pulaski were alive, we literally would have lost the father of the American Cavalry.

How do you feel this discovery ties into the transgender military ban?

Females at that time were not even allowed in the military and so it has very, very strong correlations with the trans ban. Honestly, the trans ban is all about prejudice, it's just built on that, there's not really even a sound logical argument for it. If you read parts of language around the trans ban they'll say that everyone's sex and gender should be determined by their sex traits at birth as either male or female and they're trying to write intersex people out of existence in order to strengthen their arguments against trans people. Because they know that if you admit that humans are running a gamut in terms of how we are born on the spectrum and that someone's biology may not match how they end up being perceived and living in the world. If people really know that, if people start to educate about that, then obviously trans people are OK. Once you embrace that intersex people exist, you put a huge dent in transphobia and homophobia as well.

There have been studies that have examined the "throw like a girl" myth that have shown that women who were encouraged in sports threw with the same accuracy as their male counterparts which seems to underline that point.

Right? That's amazing. I hadn't heard about it, but it makes perfect sense, though. We can't even imagine how much humans could be allowed to achieve if we were really allowed to express all aspects of ourselves.

To find the full interview online, visit pridesource.com. Go online to smithsonianchannel.com to learn more about "America's Hidden Secrets."

Supporters Rally in Lansing for 10th Anniversary of the International Transgender Day of Visibility

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

Rachel Crandall-Crocker, co-founder of Transgender Michigan, said 10 years ago she had an idea.

“Why can’t there be a day that we can be proud of what we are? Why can’t there day that people from all over the world can come together? Why can’t there be a day to celebrate the living?” she asked herself.

Her answer was to create the International Transgender Day of Visibility.

“And honestly, I can’t believe I’m the one who started it,” she said to members of the community who braved the rain and cold weather on Saturday, March 30, to rally outside the Capitol in Lansing for the International Transgender Day of Visibility.

But the holiday is not just celebrated in Michigan. It’s celebrated across the U.S., too, and in countries around the world.

“It’s even celebrated in Uganda now. It’s even in Kuwait. It’s even in places where it’s not legal to be trans, however it’s there all the same,” she said.

At the event, Crandall-Crocker was recognized by Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, who presented her with a proclamation on behalf of the Whitmer administration, which “stands in support and solidarity of the transgender community in the state of Michigan.”

Gilchrist said he and his team are committed to making life better for everyone in Michigan, and that includes the transgender community.

“I want to commend Rachel for being such an international leader. It makes me proud that in the state of Michigan one person can declare a day that everyone around the world now respects, recognizes and celebrates,” Gilchrist said.

A second proclamation was presented to Crandall-Crocker by LGBTQ Liaison Matthew Schraft on behalf of Lansing Mayor Andy Schor.

Several special guests were invited to speak during the rally including Zekiye Salman, president of the Lansing Association for Human Rights; Michelle Fox-Phillips, executive director of the Gender-Identity Network Alliance; Samantha Rogers, leader of Transgender Detroit; Grace Bacon, founder of the pioneer transgender organization Crossroads; Father Charles Blanchard of Christ the Good Shepherd in Ferndale;



International Transgender Day of Visibility rally on Saturday, March 30, at the Capitol in Lansing. Photo courtesy of Robert McCann

public educator and trans activist Char Davenport; and Cara Mitrano, student and LGBTQ activist.

Longtime trans activist Amy Hunter said she took her life into her own hands to be in public as her authentic self many years ago. Today, that is still the case for some transgender people, but Hunter said that has to change.

“We are at a new place as a community. We are at a place where how we identify as a community is changing rapidly. Those who are under the umbrella of being trans is burgeoning at a tremendous rate,” she said. “We need to think about a new vision for what visibility means. Visibility means that we are visible to our legislators, we are visible to our community leaders, we are visible to our media, we are visible to our children, we are visible to our parents, we are visible to society in general and we are unapologetic and proud to be who we are.”

Moving supporters through the program was Emily Dievendorf, treasurer for LAHR. Before introducing Jey’nce Poindexter, a founding board member of the Trans Sistas of Color Project, Dievendorf said, “One thing we don’t recognize enough is that our entire movement, not just the trans movement, was founded by two trans women of color. Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson set the stage for us to be working for decades to make important, radical, necessary change.”

Change that Poindexter said is so desperately needed by trans women of color who experience violence on a daily basis.

“We need everyone to be very intentional about connecting with us and supporting the work that we’re doing,” said Poindexter, who is also a transgender specialist and the first official transgender advocate at Equality Michigan.

While standing at the podium, she announced a clear call to action.

“What do you do to stand with a black trans woman? What do you do to support the work of a black, trans woman-led agency? What do you do to connect in times of trauma and loss that is physical, that is palpable, that someone can see and relate to instead of the sorry sentiments that are often shared? We get that there’s a sorrow and that there’s a connecting ability on that trauma, but now we need you to help us survive. Now we need you to help us step out and step up and call into action about the violence that we face.”

And while the International Transgender Day of Remembrance is held each year to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia, Emme Zanotti, representative for Stand With Trans, wanted to make sure members of the community were celebrating on the International Day of Transgender Visibility.

“Recognize and celebrate who you are,” she said. “Look at the person next to you and celebrate who they are, and recognize and celebrate the achievements we’ve made as a community. And tomorrow we’ll wake up and we’ll get our butts back to work.”

To watch the entire rally, visit <http://gaybe.am/rE>

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Photo: Pop TV

This Queer World

According to Anna Paquin

'True Blood' Actress Talks 'Tricky' LGBTQ Representation, Understated Queer Roles & Trans Teachings

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Enough with the labels: Anna Paquin just wants LGBTQ people to be *people*. As star and executive producer of Pop TV's "Flack," Paquin's celeb-PR spin doctor, Robyn, fascinates because her hyper-controlling nature at work is in sharp contrast to her out-of-control family life. Robyn's bisexuality is a mere footnote.

It's 2019. This is the queer-is-human moment Anna Paquin has been waiting for. This explains why, though she plays a lesbian character, she appreciates that her love interest (Holliday Grainger) in her upcoming film "Tell It to the Bees," out May 3, eludes any kind of fixed sexual identity.

Openly bisexual herself, Paquin came out in 2010 in a public service announcement for Cyndi Lauper's Give a Damn campaign, dedicated to LGBTQ equality. At the time, she was portraying southern heroine Sookie Stackhouse on HBO's vampire queerfest "True Blood"; she married her co-star, Stephen Moyer, that same year. (The couple have 6-year-old twins, Poppy and Charlie Moyer.)

But the 36-year-old actress' precocious career in film and TV goes back decades to her childhood, when, at just 11 years old, she won the best-supporting actress Oscar for her portrayal of Flora McGrath in 1993's "The Piano." Cross-genre roles abounded: "Fly Away Home" (1996), "She's All That" (1999), "Almost Famous" (2000) and three "X-Men"

films. In 2017, Paquin starred as a detective investigating the disappearance and murder of a trans woman (Sadie O'Neil) on the short-lived drama series "Bellevue."

Nearly 10 years later, Paquin still gives a damn – about inclusivity in her work, entertainment as a way to open close-minded minds, and actors who are forced out of the closet in the name of representation.

In "Flack," there's a gay scandal, a trans scandal and a lesbian sex tape, and that's all within the first three episodes. I mean, this show was made with the LGBTQ community in mind, right?

I mean, not intentionally. It was just made more with, you know, the human race in mind. And that includes all of us (laughs).

There's humor and drama to be found in all of our communities, but, yes, there is definitely something to be had for our LGBTQ community in the world of "Flack." Although a lot of people ask me if that was me, because obviously it's important to me, but that was just always part of the fiber of the show in those episodes, and that was our writers. I wish I could take more credit for that, but I really can't.

As an actress, are you drawn to stories that tell our stories?

Yes, but I'm also just drawn to really amazing writing, and I think especially when there are stories that are our stories but are also written in a beautiful and eloquent way, that,

to me, is a twofor. I mean, I love the fact that Robyn being bisexual just kind of casually drops in; it's not a thing because it shouldn't be a thing. And I feel like so many movies and shows, if they have characters who are leading anything other than heteronormative lives, it's made into a big deal. It really shouldn't be and isn't. So I do love that part of the show.

It sounds like you don't think we're at a place where LGBTQ characters can simply live within the fabric of the world, and maybe that's because LGBTQ people can't just yet either.

Are we? (Laughs) I mean, I think everyone has different experiences. I really think it depends what part of the country you're in and what kind of community you grow up in. Look, I'm a non-American-born Canadian-Kiwi living in liberal California, so my experience of the world as a bisexual woman is probably incredibly different from someone who lives in – not to single anyone out in particular, but let's say a less progressive state. So I feel like we still have a ways to go, but we're obviously going in the right direction.

Where do you stand on the debate that exclusively LGBTQ actors should be playing LGBTQ roles?

In casting all the characters in this show it would never have occurred to us to look at anyone other than trans actors for trans roles. I frankly did not ask the actress who plays Robyn's ex-girlfriend because I also don't really think it's any of my business. What's tricky around some of that stuff is that, while I think representation of people within our community is incredibly important, I think it's also putting a lot of pressure on people to come out in a public way that they may or may not be ready to do yet. I don't think it's anyone's place to force people out of the closet, to be like, "Hey, you shouldn't be playing this role because you're not gay." Well, what if that person is but isn't comfortable coming out? Where does that leave us as far as representation, but also respecting people's own timeline for their own lives and what they're comfortable with? I think it's incredibly complicated.

Was there pressure on you when you came out?

If there was, I certainly didn't experience any. Everyone in my private life knew. It wasn't a big deal. But also, things aren't a big deal if you don't make a big deal of them.

I'd like to note that your show "Bellevue" represented the trans community in a very real way. I know you really bonded on the set with actress Sadie O'Neil, who played a trans character.

What an awesome, smart, talented actress and writer and poet. She was incredibly patient with all of us who know less about her community asking quite specific questions as far as how we're representing the community on the show. Because the script, you can do a good approximation, but if that's not the life

that you have lived then, obviously, you're not gonna get all of it right. And being patient with the fact that we had taken a good stab at it, but then wanting to actually get it right, was something we were really very grateful for, and we obviously very much deferred to her on a lot of it.

In what ways was the show and being with Sadie on set a teaching moment for you?

It's one thing to conceptually support all members of our rainbow community, it's another thing to pretend that you know what somebody else's life experience is like, and I don't pretend to know things I don't know. So, to me, getting more information is something that I just think you can't have enough of. And the more you know, the more helpful you can be. It literally had never even occurred to me that feminism could exclude trans women. That, to me, just doesn't make any sense, and that's a huge deal and kind of blew my mind. You know, these kinds of conversations that end up casually happening because you're working with them and getting to know them, it's like, "Wow, I feel a bit embarrassed that I didn't know that and I'm glad I know that now."

Does it mean something to you that a role such as Robyn or your role as Dr. Jean in "Tell It to the Bees" is creating greater visibility for the LGBTQ community?

Absolutely ... *absolutely!* Yes. I think that people learn about people they don't understand through entertainment. That's one of our most powerful tools for bringing people out of their own bubble and their own world, because if you see somebody depicted on screen you sort of are emotionally connected to that person and their story and their life, and maybe it can change people's minds about how they sort of snap-judge other people and their sexual orientation or gender identity or whatever it may be. I think entertainment is a very powerful tool for that, so yeah, it's very meaningful to me.

When were you first aware that entertainment had that kind of power?

Honestly, not really until I was a grown up because when I was a teenager just, you know, doing my thing and going to school, I wasn't massively conscious of it. Becoming a parent I think also makes you more aware of that, the cause and effect when your kid watches something and repeats something back that you're like, "We don't speak like that." You get to see a very tiny microcosm of what its effect is, just even on little humans, because they don't know. But it's all around us. That's not to say that all entertainment that I do (laughs) can be watched by all people of all ages, because I do some stuff that is, obviously, very adult-oriented, but it has made me think about what kind of things I put out there into the world.

See *Anna*, continued on p. 20

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► Anna

Continued from p. 19

In "Tell It to the Bees" you play your first explicitly queer character in film.

In a film, yes. But my character in (2017's sci-fi anthology TV series) "Electric Dreams" was also a lesbian.

Why did it take so long?

It wasn't really a conscious thing. A lot of times with choices it kind of depends on what material comes your way and when. I hadn't happened to have a proper lesbian love story of any sort really come my way prior to that. I think I was probably somewhat obvious casting for that (laughs). But it's a beautiful love story, it's set in the 1950s in Scotland, my character is adopted, basically got outed as a teenager and left her community under quite traumatic circumstances. (She) falls in love with another outsider, a young mother in the community who is – we don't ever really put a label on her sexuality, but it's probably more on the bisexual-to-straight-but-falls-in-love-with-the-human. It's about what they bring out in each other.

I'm surprised to hear that you haven't been offered more queer film roles.

I was on a TV show for, like, the entire time

surrounding (coming out), so I wasn't really available to do anything else (laughs). And also, "True Blood" reps hard on the Pride front.

How aware were you of what "True Blood" was doing for the LGBTQ community at the time it aired?

Vampires coming out of the coffin: the metaphor was pretty specific! (Laughs) And also just the sexual fluidity of all the vampires. Obviously, we would have to have been living under a rock not to have felt the support and love from the community.

Do you hear from gay fans about "Flack" on Twitter?

In general, yes. Whenever I've done work that has any representation of our community, yes, I always end up hearing really cool, nice feedback from people who are appreciative of conversations being easier to have because they're happening in the public eye.

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 Twitter @chrisazzopardi.



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'The Beauty Out of Detroit' LGBTQ Art Show April 13

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Famika Edmond said she has always been artistically inclined. As early as 10 years old she knew that drawing was a way for her to destress and decompress, a useful skill when her parents told her at that age that they were moving from New York City to Detroit.

"It was hard trying to adjust, so that was my way of being able to express how I was feeling," Edmond said. "But it just gave me joy and I liked doing it."

That's a skill that, decades later, Edmond has maintained in her adult life. Though she now works as a community outreach specialist for the City of Detroit Health Department, she still devotes time to artistic expression through drawing and photography, though admittedly not as much as she would like. In fact, it was when a friend saw some of her latest photography and asked her, "Why haven't you been taking pictures?" that Edmond said she got an idea for a local art show featuring herself and other LGBTQ artists.

"I started looking at my work and

thought, 'You know what? I want to do a gallery.' And then the idea popped [up] to me because I have so many friends that have been trying to explore it and who are LGBT," Edmond said. "A lot of times we don't have a lot of avenues to promote us, so I figured [a show] would be excellent to spotlight our talent."

Titled the "Beauty Out of Detroit," Edmond's show will be held on Saturday, April 13, and will blend together the mediums of photography, portraiture, spoken word and mixed media at the Norwest Gallery of Art in Detroit's Northwest Neighborhood.

"We have had so many negative connotations surrounding Detroit and I think with us coming back and with so many of the things happening in Detroit, these are the things we need to highlight," she said.

The artists to be featured in the exhibit besides Edmond will be Elishia Johnson, Demetrius R. Green and Ari Hampton and the event will be hosted by local presenter Ka'Juan Hill. When asked how she thought of the event's title and theme, Edmond said that she wanted to leave a topic

broad enough for everyone involved to provide their own interpretation of Detroit's beauty.

"I want whatever comes out of their heart, whatever they want to express to be what they express," she said. "I want whatever flows to be as authentic and organic as possible."

Even though Edmond has never put on a show like this before, she said she was motivated because she hasn't yet seen anything quite like it in the area.

"When you see stuff that's not happening, just go out and do it for yourself," she said. "I'm not going to sit back and wait for someone to say, 'You shouldn't be doing this,' or, 'Here, let me give you this opportunity.' I think because of the way that things are coming back to Detroit, it's given those doors of opportunity to people who might not have normally tried things out."

Asia Hamilton is the owner of Norwest Gallery and a similar entrepreneurial spirit, having started her business just a year ago. She said that though this is the first LGBTQ-specific event happening in the space, she's thrilled to host it because it



Famika Edmond (right) with presenter Ka' Juan Hill. BTL photo: Eve Kucharski.

highlights local talent.

"I love exhibitions that pertain to the city as well as celebrate the city that have a significant amount of artists from here," Hamilton said. "We need to spread out a little bit and we need more support of the arts and more people supporting the arts that are not artists in Detroit."

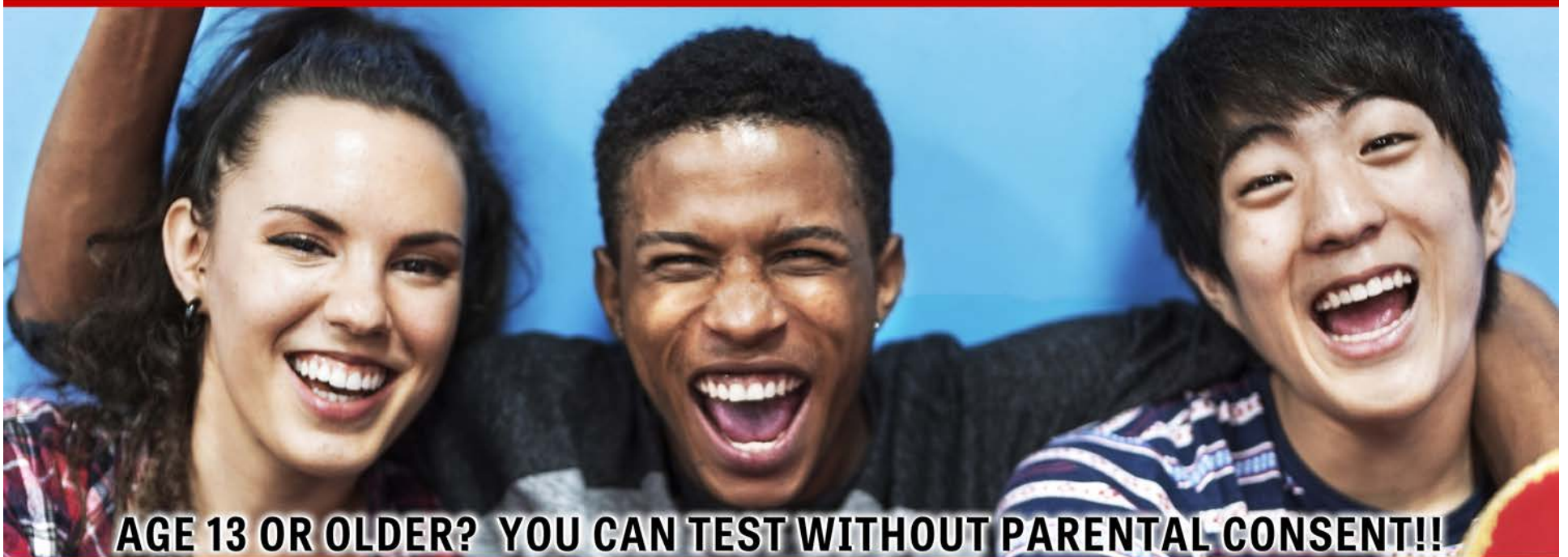
Edmond said that there are plans in motion to do future events as well, but that for right now, she's mostly excited to showcase the work of some of her fellow creators.

"Just being able to give this

opportunity to a couple of my fellow friends and to get their names and work out there, I'm excited about that," Edmond said. "And because I know the people I'm working with, I feel it's going to be a really good event. It's a great opportunity to highlight our work."

"The Beauty Out of Detroit" will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. To find out more about the event visit the event's Facebook page or go online to norwestgallery.com.

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Happenings



An Evening With the Clintons April 12

Former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton are taking part in a series of conversations across 13 cities in North America and on April 12 will visit Detroit's Fox Theatre. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear one-of-a-kind conversations with the two leaders as they tell their stories from some of the most impactful moments in modern history. Tickets start at \$99.50. Find out more at ticketmaster.com or at 313presents.com.

OUTINGS

Friday, April 5

LGBT Social Meet Up 6:30 p.m. Lgbt social meet up group is a group for all lgbt people who want to meet have lighthearted discussions and social activities. Hazel Park Community Center, 620 West Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 6

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. Coming out, dating and much more. Come join us every Saturday at 11 a.m. Java Hut Ferndale Michigan, 165 W. 9 mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Sunday, April 7

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4 p.m. Free. For Parent Support Group information, contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St., Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. standwithtrans.org

Monday, April 8

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

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, April 9

Serving Up Knowledge: Bold Beauty for the Trans Community 12 p.m. Bring a lunch and join us for our session on Bold Beauty for the Trans Community. Open to all OU students! OC Rooms 128-129.

Wednesday, April 10

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.

Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genesee

6:30 p.m. Free to all. Facilitator Sara Griffin, MA, LPC is a psychotherapist and a parent of a transgender son, eiregriff@aol.com. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023. uufint.org. standwithtrans.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. lodgelanes.com. rainbowbowlingleague.com.

Thursday, April 11

Stand with Trans 2018 Support 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. Professional & personal communication skills development. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. lawrencemoeb@gmail.com. speakout.toastmastersclubs.org.

Friday, April 12

Gender and Sexuality Center Semester Send-Off! 12 p.m. Make crafts, socialize and celebrate the end of the semester at our last event of winter 2019! OC Gold Room B, GSC@Oakland University.edu GSC@Oakland. oakland.edu/gsc/events/.

Tuesday, May 7

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

MUSIC & MORE

Michigan Philharmonic Presents 'PhilPalooza2' April 6, 7:30 p.m. Highlighting our local stars playing cool

Editor's Pick

"POSE" with The House of Friendship

Held on Saturday, April 20, POSE with The House of Friendship will host the second annual event for the National Friendship Movement — a movement dedicated to celebrating friends and making new ones. Attendees are invited to dance, meet new people, enjoy the cash bar and musical stylings of Clarence Xavier Davis. Tickets cost \$40. Find out more about the event online at eventbrite.com.



music with an urban vibe. Plymouth Arts & Recreation Center, 650 Church St., Plymouth.

Intervention to Durable Recovery: The Power of Family April 16, 7:30 p.m. Best-selling authors, educators and clinicians Debra Jay and Jeff Jay will provide practical, helpful, hopeful information about how to do an intervention. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. dawnfarm.org.

People Like Me: Mutual Aid and Recovery from Substance Use Disorders April 23, 7:30 p.m. Dawn Farm staff member Todd Diana will provide an overview of mutual aid addiction recovery programs. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. dawnfarm.org.

Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship April 30, 7:30 p.m. Father Gregory Boyle; founder of Homeboy Industries and best-selling author, will share how compassion, kindness, and kinship are the tools to fight despair and decrease marginalization. Towsley auditorium, 4800 East Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor. dawnfarm.org.

THEATER

Young Frankenstein April 5, 7:30 p.m. This monster musical comedy is an adaptation of Mel Brooks' legendary cult classic film. Watch as hilarity abounds! The Marlene Boll Theatre, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. tasiopeg@udmercy.edu.

Detroit Public Theatre Presents 'Girlfriend' April 5, 8 p.m. Romance unfolds in a new musical wound around

the tender love songs of Matthew Sweet's landmark album, *Girlfriend*. Two teenage boys — one a social outcast, the other a quintessential jock — realize there's more. Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5162. dso.org.

Williamston Theatre Presents 'The Gin Game' April 5, 8 p.m. Weller Martin is playing solitaire on the porch of a seedy nursing home. Enter Fonsia Dorsey, a prim, self-righteous woman. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Road, Williamston. 517-655-SHOW. info@williamstontheatre.org.

Stagecrafters Presents 'Boeing Boeing' April 5, 8 p.m. Meet Bernard, a Parisian bachelor whose well-ordered life spins out of control when his three stewardess fiancées unexpectedly land in the same city at the same time. Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. 248-541-8027. stagecrafters.org.

Theatre and Dance at Wayne Presents 'Venus' April 5, 8 p.m. Traveling from her home in southern Africa for what she hoped would be a better life, Saartjie Baartman became an unfortunate star on the 19th Century London freak show circuit. Studio Theatre at the Hilberry, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. theatredanceatwayne.com.

Mamma Mia! Presented by Theatre and Dance at Wayne April 5, 8 p.m. Over 54 million people all around the world have fallen in love with the characters, the story and the music that make *Mamma Mia!* Bonstelle Theatre, 3424 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-577-2960. theatredanceatwayne.com/mammamia/.

Detroit Repertory Theatre Presents 'Aubrey' April 5, 8:30 p.m. Aubrey Gagnier, a heroin addict, haunted by her

role in her lover's overdose death, seeks out the grave digger and coffin maker. They become each other's best hope to live. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 313-868-1347. DetRepTh@aol.com. detroitreptheatre.com/aubrey/.

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Presents 'Fahrenheit 451' April 25, 7:30 p.m. In a dystopian none-too-distant future, "firemen" don't extinguish fires, they start them. And they know that 451 degrees Fahrenheit is the temperature at which paper ignites — because that is how you destroy books. Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538. smtd.umich.edu.

Angels in America: Part Two — Perestroika April 26, 8 p.m. Following the events of Part I: Millennium Approaches, *Perestroika* continues the complex and fantastical examination of homosexuality, race and AIDS in 1980s America. Hillberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. 313-577-2972. wsushows.com.

Stagecrafters Baldwin Theatre Second Stage Presents "Southern Comfort" April 26, 8 p.m. *Southern Comfort* is based on the true story of Robert Eads, a transgender man with ovarian cancer, who lives in rural Georgia with his chosen family of transgender friends. Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. 248-541-8027. stagecrafters.org.

Angels in America: Part One — Millennium Approaches May 5, 3 p.m. In Part I of this two part epic, Prior Walter, a young man living in NYC in 1985, is diagnosed with AIDS. His boyfriend, Louis, struggling to cope with the disease and his own fears. Hillberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. 313-577-2972. wsushows.com.

Playlist Bingo: '80s Edition Ferndale Pride Benefit April 8

A Southeast Michigan tradition since 2011, Ferndale Pride will be held this year on June 1 in partnership with The Candle Wick Shoppe and other community organizers. In advance of the event, Pride organizers are hosting a variety of events to raise money for the annual street fair and on April 8, '80s fans can gear up for bingo at The Rust Belt Market in Ferndale.

"Flashdance! It's '80s Bingo Night! This event is all about hanging out, flashin' back and listening to '80s tunes while benefitting Ferndale Pride," wrote event organizers. "Everyone will receive a bingo card with top songs from the '80s. When you hear that song,

cross it off! Grab a '80s-inspired cocktail from REVEL bar and join us for a fun night!" Bingo sheets are four for \$20 and winners can only win once per round.

Also the Rust Belt Market will be donating 10 percent of all bar sales to the cause," organizers said. "If you're hungry, grab a Detroit style sub at M.C. 'Wiches next door. Winners will receive Rusty Bucks, valid at any store inside The Rust Belt Market."

Round one of bingo begins at 7 p.m. and round two begins at 8 p.m. Find out more by visiting Ferndale Pride's Facebook page.

William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*

Théâtre National de Bretagne
Created in conjunction with American Repertory Theater
Arthur Nauzyciel, director

One of the greatest theatrical studies of tyranny, revolution, and civil war, *Julius Caesar* is also a highly personal play — a breathless, gripping portrayal of friendships and alliances torn apart by political ambition and the intoxicating effects of power. In this production, French director Arthur Nauzyciel adopts the look and style of the late 1960s, when the world is in flux and the national psyche is in turmoil after President Kennedy's assassination. Performed in English.

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Hugh Jackman is your new 'Music Man'

It was inevitable. It's an impossible task trying to keep Hugh Jackman from busting out his song-and-dance-man persona. He loves musical theater so much we imagine he just walks down busy streets trying to get everyone around him to burst into song and perform meticulously choreographed group dance numbers. So it's good news for the former Wolverine that he'll be taking on the role of con man Harold Hill in a 2020 revival of Meredith Willson's 1957 classic musical "The Music Man." Produced by Scott Rudin, directed by Jerry Zaks, and with choreography by Tony Award winner Warren Carlyle, the revival will head back to Broadway in September of next year. Jackman himself posted an Instagram teaser picture of a suitcase, a trombone and an ID tag that read "Harold Hill," none of which is particularly subtle, but entertaining all the same, much like crowd-pleasing musical itself.



Hugh Jackman. Photo: KathClick

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Lance Bass presents 'The Boy Band Con'

Fan or not back in those golden "TRL" days, you probably always imagined there was something not quite authentic about manufactured groups like Backstreet Boys and *NSYNC. And you were right, only it wasn't the music that was fake: it was the entire system. In the new documentary, "The Boy Band Con: The Lou Pearlman Story," directed by Aaron Kunkel and produced by former *NSYNC-er Lance Bass for YouTube Originals, all the dirty details are laid bare. Producer and music mogul Pearlman organized those two cash-cow groups, among others, and it would have appeared from the outside that everyone was getting rich. Turns out, though, that Pearlman was a criminal running a Ponzi scheme that defrauded everyone in his orbit. Caught and sentenced to 25 years in prison, he died there in 2016. Lance is calling it a cautionary tale for young people entering the music industry, and it'd be wise to watch it before signing any of those dotted lines. The film just premiered at SXSW, and will be streaming soon on a phone near you.

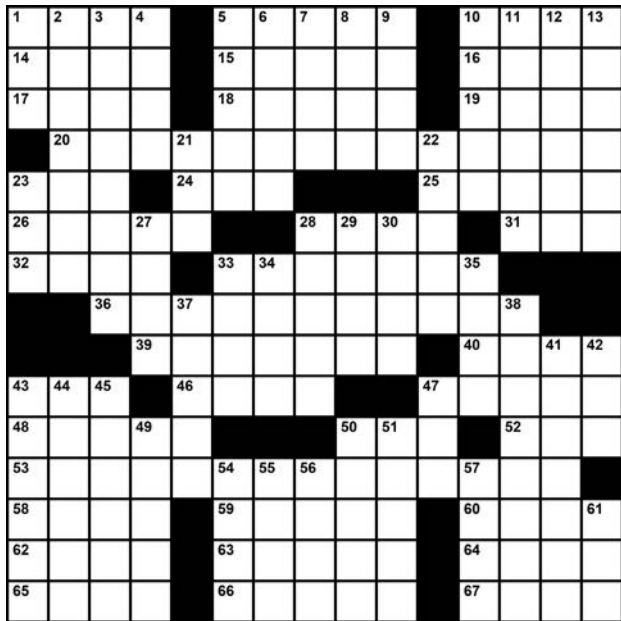
Broadway (and Elton John) 'Wears Prada'

Anna D. Shapiro won a Tony Award in 2008 for directing "August: Osage County." Later, Meryl Streep would star in the film version of "August," much like she starred in the film adaptation of "The Devil Wears Prada." And soon "The Devil Wears Prada" will come to Broadway in musical form, under Shapiro's direction, with a book by Paul Rudnick ("Addams Family Values") and songs by Elton John. It's unlikely that Streep will take her singular interpretation of fashion magazine editor Miranda Priestly to the stage to complete this web of interconnectivity, but we can dream (and Streep can sing, too, so please, Queen Meryl, consider the possibilities, and if the answer is still no, THEN GET US PATTI LUPONE). And in case you think these things have nothing to do with you and don't know the story, "Prada" concerns a serious young female journalist who takes a job as an assistant to what amounts to the cartoon version of Anna Wintour. Then she learns that no amount of stunning outfits can make her amazing enough for a life in fashion. It happens. And since we've already begged Streep to make Broadway Great Again, we'd like to put in a request for an Elton John song called "Cerulean."

Rock Hudson biopic coming from 'Love, Simon' director

Universal is in talks with screenwriter Richard LaGravenese ("The Fisher King") to adapt Mark Griffin's book "All That Heaven Allows: A Biography of Rock Hudson" for a planned biopic to be directed by Greg Berlanti ("Love, Simon"). Hudson's story is one of fame and fear, one predicated on the other, because the traditionally masculine sex symbol and star of films like "Giant" was gay. He spent decades hiding in plain sight, even until his death in 1985, trapped in a Hollywood system that did not allow for openly LGBTQ performers. The recent success of the Freddie Mercury biopic, "Bohemian Rhapsody," hinged on music rather than on an uncomfortable exploration of the closet, and the film never really bothered to find out what toll that experience took on Mercury. Instead, it focused on the construction of the band's hit songs, the singer's reputation of general flamboyance and Queen's Live Aid triumph. But LaGravenese knows this terrain very well, having already penned the Liberace biopic "Behind the Candelabra," a film that didn't flinch from the realities of gay oppression in the bad old days, so let's hope this one gets it right.

Romeo San Vicente is breaking out the short shorts for spring.



Unforgettable

Across

- 1 Part of a vacuum cleaner that sucks
- 5 Hibernate with the bears
- 10 Change partners
- 14 Organic compound
- 15 Reinaldo Arenas' Peter
- 16 Like an unbelievable tale
- 17 Boob tube warrior
- 18 Medium for Frasier Crane

- 19 "Cunt" author Muscio
- 20 Trump said he wishes he could run against her again
- 23 Alternative to smoking
- 24 Objectivist Rand
- 25 Gawk like a chicken hawk
- 26 Like enhanced briefs
- 28 Cole Porter's Indiana hometown
- 31 Some, on the Somme
- 32 Hit the books hard

QPuzzle

Down

- 1 Put the whammy on
- 2 Robin Williams' "___ Photo"
- 3 Husband, to his husband's parent
- 4 Airline to Ben Gurion
- 5 Do a facial, e.g.
- 6 Get smart
- 7 Swirl around three men in a tub
- 8 "Spamalot" writer Idle
- 9 Drag queen Gene ___
- 10 Time on the job

- 33 Transplant King Richard's heart?
- 36 Start of the response of 20-Across (from "Mean Girls")
- 39 Film showers
- 40 Able to bend over
- 43 Econ. total
- 46 Diddles the expense account
- 47 Took part in the Blue Wave of 2018
- 48 Make erect
- 50 Cole Porter's "___ Gigolo"
- 52 Hypotheticals
- 53 End of the response
- 58 Mall bag
- 59 Calvin of underwear
- 60 Brings to light
- 62 Hurry along
- 63 Triangle sign
- 64 Objectifies, sexually
- 65 Northern capital
- 66 At the crack of dawn
- 67 Tommy's gun

- 11 It may show an opening
- 12 Popular vote winner of 2000
- 13 Earhart vehicles
- 21 Of the congregation
- 22 Mazda competitor
- 23 Network of "Will & Grace"
- 27 AIDS org.
- 28 Hart Crane works
- 29 Irish pop singer
- 30 Rivera's rivers
- 33 Chloe's "Boys Don't Cry" role
- 34 Teed off
- 35 Canadian oil company
- 37 "Blow me down!"
- 38 Cock-eyed Nellie in "South Pacific"
- 41 WNBA employee
- 42 Stat for Esera Tuaolo
- 43 Small cavern
- 44 Pyle player
- 45 Gay rodeo accessory
- 47 Brewing tank
- 49 Care for
- 50 "___ Survive"
- 51 Pam Dawber's role with Robin Williams
- 54 Actress lone
- 55 Film director Kazan
- 56 Santa's team, e.g.
- 57 Dwelling, to the von Trapps
- 61 1040 ID

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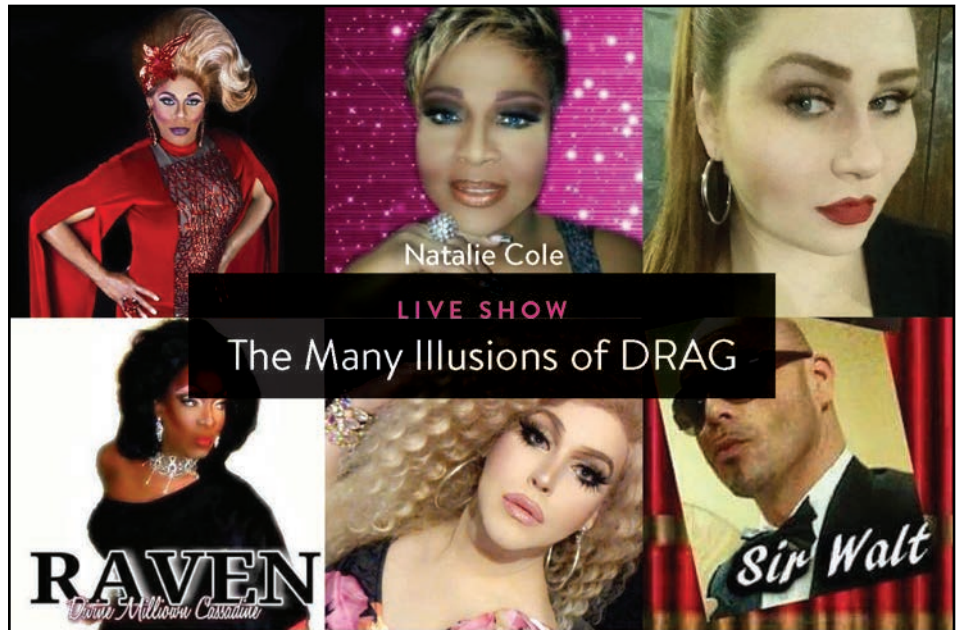
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to hear from different specialists about combating the issues getting older with HIV. At these visits you can have discussion with your peers and can get your HIV tests completed as well.

This meeting is complimentary and open only to our Be Well patients until April 23, 2019. After that, we will open registration to others as space is limited.

RSVP! It is essential that our patients RSVP by April 23, 2019.
Call **248-544-9300** or email research@doctorbewell.com to RSVP.

Sincerely,
Paul Benson, D.O.

DoctorBeWell.com

Dr. Benson is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University providing training to our next generation of physicians. **He leads our team of professional and talented providers at the Be Well Medical Center**, 1964 Eleven Mile Rd, Berkley, MI 40872.



Caleb Youngblood, PA-C, AAHIV-S



Mark Rosen, PA-C



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