

MICHIGAN'S LGBTQ NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Hoadley Announces 2020 Run for Congress



Faith-Based Adoption Agency Sues State



'Dear Evan Hansen' Star Opens Up Before Detroit Show

Photo: Julian Broad

Spring Cleaning Made Easy With Hagopian!



80 years of trusted, quality service • Expert rug, carpet, tile, furniture, and air duct cleaning
Affordable, competitive prices • Highly experienced Cleaning Specialists
Incomparable Rug Care Spa • Rug restoration and repair by skilled artisans • Free repair estimates

RUG CLEANING

2 FOR 1

Bring your rugs to any of our drop-off locations and we'll clean every other one **FREE!**

Must present coupon at time of rug drop-off.
Not to be combined with any other coupons/offers.
Expires 4/30/19.

CARPET CLEANING

\$89⁹⁹

Any 3 Rooms In-Home Carpet Cleaning

Must present coupon. Up to 250 sq. ft. each room.
Not to be combined with any other coupons/offers.
Expires 4/30/19.

AIR DUCT CLEANING

\$100 OFF

State-of-the-art Cyclone System Air Duct Cleaning

Must present coupon. Some restrictions apply.
Not to be combined with any other coupons/offers.
Expires 4/30/19.

HAGOPIAN

Expect the Best... Expect the Purple Truck!

Oak Park • Birmingham • Clarkston • Novi • Plymouth • Utica • Ann Arbor

The Most Trusted Name in Cleaning Since 1939



1-800-HAGOPIAN (424-6742)

HagopianClean.com



COVER

16 This is Ben Platt

Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for claims made by our advertisers, nor can we accept responsibility for materials provided by advertisers or their agents.

Copyright 2019

NEWS

4 Faith-Based Adoption Agency Sues State Over Adoption Case Settlement

6 Connor Berdy: Macomb County's First Openly Gay Candidate Hits the Ground Running

8 Justice Elizabeth Clement: On Politicizing the Courts, Child Welfare, the LGBTQ Community and RBG

12 State Rep. Jon Hoadley Announces 2020 Run for Congress, Listening Tour

14 Massachusetts Becomes 16th State to Ban 'Ex-Gay' Therapy

14 Mayor Pete Buttigieg Declares 2020 Presidential Campaign

15 Trump's Transgender Military Ban Now in Effect

22 LGBTQ People Urged to Be Counted in 2020 US Census

OPINION

8 Parting Glances

8 Let's Win the Election First

10 Creep of the Week: Donald Trump

LIFE

16 This Is Ben Platt

19 NFL Star Wade Davis and Allan Gilmour to Headline Ford GLOBE 25th Anniversary Dinner

20 Use Your Home to Save Money on a Wedding

24 Happenings

27 Puzzle & Crossword

28 Deep Inside Hollywood

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

30 Art Show Grand Rapids Is Calling All LGBTQ Artists

30 Friday Night Socials at the Salus Center

VOL. 2716 • APRIL 18, 2019 • ISSUE 1107

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Feature News Editor

Kate Opalewski, 734.293.7200 x 108
kate@pridesource.com

Editorial Assistant

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105
eve@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers

Emell Derra Adolphus, Michelle Brown,
Ellen Knoppow, Jason Michael, Drew Howard,
Jonathan Thurston

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists

Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown,
Mikey Rox, D'Anne Witkowski,
Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Cartoonists

Paul Berg

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Andrew Cohen

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

MEMBER OF

Michigan Press Association
National LGBT Media Association
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber
Q Syndicate



"Between The Lines Newspaper"



Follow us @YourBTL

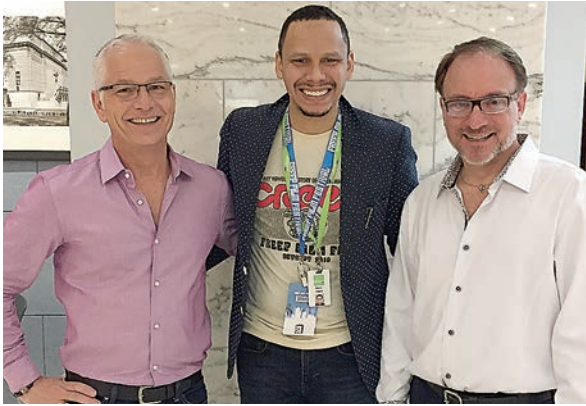


Email your op-eds to
editor@pridesource.com



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

Faith-Based Adoption Agency Sues State



Todd Evans, left, and Leo Cusimano, right, the co-chairs of the National LGBTQ Media Association, with Kevin Heard, president of the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Heard stopped by to greet the publishers' group at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

BTL Hosts National LGBT Publishers

DETROIT – Publishers of the 12 largest LGBT newspapers in America met in Detroit on April 10 and 11 for the annual meeting of the National LGBTQ Media Association. Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz, co-publishers of member paper *Between The Lines*, hosted the two-day gathering.

"It was wonderful to show off Detroit and the community I love to this group of professional journalists and thought leaders," said Stevenson.

The Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau helped sponsor the meeting space and lunch at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Christopher Pokorski, Manager at the DMCVB, welcomed the group with some highlights of Detroit and its recent resurgence.

In attendance was Todd Evans of Rivendell Media New York, Paul Schindler of Gay City News in New York City, Mark Segal of Philadelphia Gay News, Lynn Brown of The Washington Blade and the Los Angeles Blade, Leo Cusimano of Dallas Voice, Jason Parsley of South Florida Gay News, Michael Yamashita of Bay Area Reporter in San Francisco and Rick Claggett of Watermark in Orlando. (Not present were the publishers of *Windy City Times* in Chicago and *Bay Windows* in Boston.)

The group enjoyed a comfortable stay at The Inn on Ferry Street in Midtown Detroit.

BY BTL STAFF

A recent Michigan settlement that bans state contracts with foster and adoption agencies that refuse to work with LGBTQ couples has sparked backlash.

On Monday, April 15, The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty filed a lawsuit in federal court on behalf of St. Vincent Catholic Charities and two adoptive families it's served.

The lawsuit, alleging the new rules violated the group's First Amendment rights, was filed against the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director Robert Gordon, Children's Services Agency Director Herman McCall, Attorney General Dana Nessel, the federal Health and Human Services department and its secretary, Alex Azar.

"Faith-based agencies like St. Vincent consistently do the best work because of their faith, and we need more agencies like them helping children – not fewer. The actions by the Attorney General of Michigan do nothing but harm the thousands of at-risk children in desperate need of loving homes," Mark Rienzi, Becket's president, said in a statement.

The lawsuit was brought following Nessel's announcement in March that taxpayer-funded adoption agencies with religious objections to placing children in homes of same-sex couples will no longer be able to cite their faith as a legitimate reason to opt out of providing that service.

Nessel settled a lawsuit with the ACLU of Michigan – that the ACLU of Michigan

filed – that challenged the state's practice of allowing state-contracted, taxpayer-funded foster care and adoption agencies to use religious criteria to exclude same-sex couples.

The plaintiffs, Kristy and Dana Dumont and Erin and Rebecca Busk-Sutton, wanted to become foster parents with the intention of adopting children who are wards of the state, but they were turned down by two faith-based agencies Bethany Christian Services and St. Vincent Catholic Charities. The adoption agencies have contracts with the state of Michigan to act on behalf of the state but turned the plaintiff's down because of their own religious objections to accepting same-sex couples.

"Discrimination in the provision of foster care case management and adoption services is illegal, no matter the rationale. Limiting the opportunity for a child to be adopted or fostered by a loving home not only goes against the state's goal of finding a home for every child, it is a direct violation of the contract every child placing agency enters into with the state," said Nessel at the time.

According to MDHHS, each agency was providing foster care case management or adoption services for one or more children referred to them by MDHHS. Because the plaintiffs were not seeking direct-placement or private adoption services and because they were not referred to the agencies through MDHHS, the agencies could not reject them under existing state law.

When Nessel took office in January, she reviewed the facts of the case with

her team of legal experts and determined that MDHHS could be subject to liability on the claims of the plaintiffs. As a result, Nessel strongly recommended resolving the case on terms consistent with the law and existing agency contracts and that best serve the health, safety and well-being of children in need of state-contracted foster care case management and adoption services.

The plaintiffs and the attorney general's office, on behalf of its client MDHHS, entered into negotiations and agreed to settle the case.

According to reports, as of February, Bethany Christian Services, Catholic Charities and St. Vincent were responsible for more than 1,600, or 12 percent, of the state's 13,000-plus foster care and adoption cases. Faith-based agencies have said they will shut down their adoption and foster care services rather than violate their religious beliefs.

Kelly Rossman-McKinney, a spokesperson for Nessel, told MLive, "We have not had a chance to review the complaint. Based on the information provided during the plaintiffs' counsel's press conference, it appears that the plaintiffs' attorneys do not understand the settlement agreement."

Rossman-McKinney explained, according to the MLive report, that "the state does not take action against faith-based adoption agencies that don't take a state referral. If the agency accepts a state referral, however, the agency cannot refuse to provide the child with foster care or adoptive services that conflict with its religious beliefs."

We Are All Gods' Children

LGBTQ-Affirming Clergy Across the State Show Support for Community in Joint Statement

BY BTL STAFF

Clergy across Michigan released a joint statement this week in honor of Holy Week, seeking unity and support for protective policies for all — including LGBTQ people:

As Christian faith leaders across denominations, we are united in the understanding that we must all be free to worship as we wish. Freedom of religion is one of the most important freedoms we enjoy as Americans — that's why it's already protected by the U.S. Constitution. But that freedom doesn't mean that we impose our beliefs onto others, or discriminate.

This week, during Holy Week, one of the most special times of the year for so many people, we are reminded that we are all God's children, called to build welcoming, inclusive spaces that invite our neighbors in.

That's why we stand together this week and call for the passage of policies that protect our LGBTQ friends, neighbors and fellow congregants from discrimination. A majority of Americans from nearly every faith support these protections, including Christians, Jews, Hindus, Mormons, Buddhists and Muslims.

It is time for faith communities across the country to speak out about our support for the LGBTQ community, open doors, and heal wounds. No one should face mistreatment or discrimination just because of who they are or who they love. Let us share that message more stridently than ever during this holy season.

Sincerely,

Pastor PJ Anderson, *Space for Grace Fellowship Ministries, UCC, Lansing*

Rev. Tijuana Gray, Reconciliation Metropolitan Community Church, Grand Rapids

Rev. Joseph Summers; Pastor, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Ann Arbor

Pastor Matthew Bode, Zion Lutheran Church, Ferndale

Pastor Lindsey Anderson, Detroit Cooperative Church, Detroit

Pastor Jeffrey Ogonowski, Iroquois Avenue Christ Lutheran Church, Detroit

Rev. Adrain Mobley-Bowie, Breath of Life Center, Saginaw

Linda and Tom Karle Nelson, Co Presidents of Fortunate Families (Catholic), Detroit

Randy Block Director, Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network of Michigan

Rev Dr. Roland Stringfellow, African-American Roundtable Coordinator, Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies, Religion Pacific School of Religion



GRAB A COFFEE. TAKE A SURVEY.
CHANGE THE WORLD.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IS EASY.

Take the 13th Annual LGBTQ Community Survey®

Join 45,000 LGBTQ citizens from 150 countries
to take the largest survey of its kind!

LGBTQsurvey.com

 **CMI Community Marketing & Insights**
Leaders in LGBTQ Research since 1992

Community Marketing & Insights is Proudly LGBTQ-Operated, Founded in 1992.

Your survey information is confidential and secure, used for research only.

You will not be contacted for marketing purposes. Learn more: www.CMI.info

Connor Berdy: Macomb County's First Openly Gay Candidate Hits the Ground Running



BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Obama's Influence

It's not every 17-year-old who gets to attend a dinner party at the White House with his mom. That was the fortune of Connor Berdy, currently a candidate for Warren City Council, after President Barack Obama was re-elected in 2012. Berdy and his brother often joined their mother when she volunteered for Obama's campaign that year.

"That's when I got my introduction to politics," Berdy said, adding how exciting it was to be civically engaged in his community for the first time. Obama won; thus, the dinner party.

"At that point, I was just like, 'Wow, I never thought I would be in this kind of space,'" he said. "I got to shake his hand, and Michelle's. It was a very inspirational moment."

Berdy's mom, Leah Berdy, was inspired, too, as she's now a trustee on the Warren Consolidated School Board.

Later, Berdy named Obama as his primary political role model, citing Obama's capacity to encourage and empower people. He said his trademark ability to bring people together was something in particular that struck a chord for Berdy, who is openly gay.

"I remember his last State of the Union speech almost brought me to tears, when he was talking about all the fathers out there who support their gay sons," Berdy said. "It was just so cool to be able to hear that coming from the president of the United States, that I personally could feel that connection with him."

governor represented their values. And when the announcement was made, there was little time to respond.

"We organized and got people to show up at the board meeting the next day," Berdy said. "They said, 'No public comment, no one can talk, we're just gonna push this vote through.'"

However, Berdy refused to let that happen. After Berdy told his friends, "We should go sit up on the table and block the vote," that's exactly what he did, climbing up on the table to make his comments. Headlines and photos of Berdy reached across the state and, having broken the ice, other students aired their opinions as well.

"It was definitely an empowering experience to be able to stand up for what I believe in," Berdy said. "I spoke my truth in the situation, and then a year later, we won. Things have changed."

"It's the City That Made Me"

"Moving Warren Forward," Berdy's campaign slogan, is at the heart of the lifelong Warren resident's vision for his hometown, at a time that Berdy acknowledges can be difficult for people his age to find jobs there, and the reason why many of his peers have moved away.

"It's the city that made me; it's the city that raised me," Berdy said, calling his decision to return home after college and utilize his experience in government and his political savvy a "unique opportunity ... to turn things around."

"I definitely think there's so much work that can be done," he said. "There's no reason Warren, Michigan, can't be a word-class city."

"The biggest thing is diversifying the city's economy," Berdy said, when asked to name the number one challenge he'd like to tackle if elected to one of the two at-large seats open on city council. The GM Tech Center is by far the city's largest employer, followed by TACOM.

"Especially with the auto industry so up in the air, with its future so unknown, I really think we need to start looking right now about what we can do to promote small business in the city, to attract new business, to attract young people to the city," Berdy said.

He stressed the urgency of being preemptive when considering the city's long-term survival in a globalized economy, particularly in light of the prospect that the tech center could close.

Berdy recognizes and appreciates Warren's growing diversity, which has accelerated rapidly over the past 20 years or so. It's not too long ago that Michigan's third-largest city was notable for being overwhelmingly white. Further, he described his high school's diverse community, a largely accepting

place where he said he graduated with a transgender student who didn't experience problems there.

Berdy himself was not out at the time, because he said he wasn't aware of an LGBTQ "presence" in the area.

"So I didn't have something to look up to or model myself after," he said. "But coming to know the city more intimately, now that I'm older, I know a lot of gay and lesbian couples that live in the city."

"I've never seen Warren as being an anti-LGBT-friendly place," he continued. "I just don't think our leadership at the moment embraces that or reflects that. That's something [where] the campaign becomes personal to me, because if I can be that role model for that high school student that's looking for something, then that means a lot to me. I think there are institutional barriers in the city government that are wary about embracing that, and that's what city elections are for."

Berdy doesn't anticipate negativity about his sexuality during his campaign, saying, "if they plan to use [that] as something to attack me, I don't think that will go over well."

"The residents of the city, they're supportive," Berdy said. "My campaign's not about my sexuality, my campaign is about my vision for the city, how I want to help my community."

Warren Pride

Could a pride festival be coming to the city of Warren in the near future? If Berdy is elected this November, and has his say, that's definitely on his to-do list. Not just as a way to publicly celebrate the LGBTQ residents of Macomb County on their own turf for the first time, but it also has great potential to boost business in Warren as well. Everybody wins.

"If I'm elected, I want to have a pride event for the city," Berdy said. "I think Warren is one of the perfect places to start doing something like that. Having a pride event brings people to the city, it brings people spending money to the city. We can get local businesses to partner and sponsor – these are all things that we should be doing."

"I've tried to promote things like this, but I've definitely been shot down at some levels of city government, and so this is something I will spearhead if I am on city council," he said. "Not just for a pride event, but to promote other diversity we have in the city, other community events and organizations. [It's] something that I'm very passionate about."

Find out more about Connor Berdy by following him on social media. Twitter: @connorberdy.

WARREN'S HRC SCORE

In 2018, the city of Warren scored 14 out of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index, which evaluates how inclusive municipal laws, policies and services are of LGBTQ people who live and work there. How Warren's score breaks down: Twelve points for reporting 2016 hate crimes statistics to the FBI, plus two points for county-wide protection against gender identity discrimination in public accommodations. It should be noted that Sterling Heights, the other large city in Macomb County scored by HRC, received 20 points. Its breakdown was identical to Warren's, plus additional points for its leadership's public position on LGBTQ equality (5 points) and pro-equality legislative or policy efforts (1 point). Further, the MEI offers two bonus points for openly LGBTQ elected or appointed municipal leaders. Therefore, because Berdy was appointed to the crime commission in 2017 and is openly gay, the city of Warren should technically have a score of 16. Berdy said he was not aware of this, and suggested that the accuracy of Warren's MEI may not be a priority for the mayor's office.

Not a Newcomer

While Berdy is 23, and 2018 graduate from Michigan State University, this Gen Z candidate is no newcomer to politics. After changing his major to political science and transferring to MSU, Berdy interned for state Sen. Steve Bieda and was vice-chair of College Democrats of America. Managing Nate Shannon's successful campaign for state representative came next, and now Berdy works in Lansing for his own state representative, Lori Stone, as her legislative director. Not only that, Berdy serves on the Warren City Crime Commission; he is involved in other Macomb County Democratic organizations as well.

During his college years, Berdy was never shy about standing up, literally, for causes he felt strongly about. Advocacy and activism were Berdy's passions. As a senior last January, Berdy made national news when he interrupted the proceedings of an MSU meeting to appoint John Engler interim president after Lou Anna Simon resigned amid the Larry Nassar sexual abuse scandal. Numerous students did not feel the former

GRACE JONES



JULY 1
MASONIC TEMPLE THEATRE
PURCHASE TICKETS AT AXS.COM OR THE MASONIC TEMPLE BOX OFFICE

El Club AEG PRESENTS

Justice Elizabeth Clement: On Politicizing the Courts, Child Welfare, the LGBTQ Community and RBG

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

An Unlikely Scenario

Why would Between The Lines request an interview with a Republican justice on the Michigan Supreme Court? To begin with, Justice Elizabeth Clement, like many in the judiciary, would bristle at labeling judges Republican or Democrat. Yet in Michigan, justices are elected, not appointed, and they are nominated by party – although their names appear on the nonpartisan section of the ballot.

Appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder in 2017, Clement spent a 1 1/2 years on the bench prior to the 2018 midterm elections; therefore, she had a record to evaluate. And consider this: should you and your partner split, and your custody battle becomes part of a case that makes its way up to the highest court in the state, Clement could be one of seven justices deciding the future of your family.

Controversy

“I wanted to wake up the day after the election whether I won or lost, knowing I had done my job the right way.”

– Justice Elizabeth Clement,
regarding her ruling on Proposal 2

In the run up to the 2018 election, Clement was praised by some and vilified by others for her independent streak during her short tenure on the Michigan Supreme Court. Given that she was nominated by the Republican Party, worked for Republican politicians and was endorsed by conservative groups, there were certain expectations.

Nevertheless, she, along with one other Republican-nominated justice, voted with the two Democrats on the court in a case that challenged the fitness of Proposal 2 for the ballot, which passed, thus enabling voters to decide whether to end gerrymandering in Michigan and establish an independent redistricting commission. For that, plus her decision in a case that permitted schools to ban guns on school property, she was booed at her party's nominating convention, there was talk of choosing another nominee and her name was removed from campaign literature. In the end, endorsed by both The Detroit News and



Justice Elizabeth Clement with her family.

the Detroit Free Press, she was the top vote-getter of the four candidates on the ballot for two available seats.

At the same time, some point to the fact that Clement served in the Snyder administration from 2011 to 2016, during the early years of the Flint water crisis. She stated that she has, and will continue to, recuse herself from cases involving Flint. Regarding other matters during her time there – she served in succession as deputy legal counsel, deputy chief of staff, legal counsel and chief of staff – she will evaluate and make decisions about recusal as they arise, she said.

A New Era for the Michigan Supreme Court?

The Michigan Supreme Court ranked dead last in independence in a 2008 study conducted by the University of Chicago School of a Law – a finding that came as no surprise to many attorneys actively practicing in Michigan at the time and since. That is, certain justices were unquestionably influenced by partisan pressures. Eleven years later, Clement said she hopes the current justices have the same desire she does: to keep politics out of the equation.

“I think our court looks very different than it did 10 years ago,” she said. “And I think the public is going to continue to see that direction ... [where] it doesn't matter who nominated them. They're making decisions as a collective body, based on the law, based on the facts.”

As an example, she described when the court nominated Bridget McCormack as Chief Justice.

“... the story was, four Republican-nominated justices, three Democrat-nominated justices and a Democrat is now the chief. How did that happen?” Clement recalled. “I'll be frank, it happened because we picked the best person for the job. And it was unanimous.”

Democratic-nominated Megan Cavanagh is the newest addition to the court and Clement said that “we are so lucky to have her.”

She called Cavanagh hard-working, open-minded and down-to-earth.

“It's great for the chief justice and I to have another woman on the court,” she said, and reflected on the changes she's witnessed since January, describing the group as collegial, respectful when they disagree and commented on the “renewed excitement” she sees.

Child Welfare

After graduating from Michigan State University Law School, Clement began her legal career in private practice, focusing on family law. That was part of her interest in serving on the court, an interest she described as twofold.

“My passion has also been researching and writing, and I've always been kind of an introvert,” she said, adding that she has had to come out of her shell somewhat in her new role.

And while that is a significant part of her job, she explained that each of the seven justices also serve as liaisons with oversight over the state's trial courts.

“... the other part of my job is acting as liaison for the Michigan Supreme Court for problem-solving courts,” she said, “which involves mental health issues, drug addiction, alcohol addiction and our veterans, as well as our child welfare

system as it relates to the foster care system.”

She called the ability to be involved with both parts of her legal career that she has been passionate about “an amazing opportunity.”

Given Clement's background in family law, she was well-versed in Michigan's equitable parent doctrine, which relates to parenting rights for one's nonbiological children. This can be a challenging issue in custody disputes, and its impact on the LGBTQ community, in particular, cannot be overstated. Marriage equality has shifted the landscape somewhat, however, Michigan remains the only state that recognizes the parent-child relationship solely in the context of a legal marriage. Knowing that she could not weigh in, either way, we asked Justice Clement whether she would be interested in the Michigan Supreme Court taking up a case to look at this issue in the future.

“Yes,” she replied. “Having said that ... we have statutes today that do not account for what families look like in general. And I think there is a lot of work that can and should be done across the board. Whether it's custody and parenting time and all of that, when it comes to any family, regardless of what the makeup of that family looks like.

“In my mind, we don't want the court stepping into each and every different situation ... [because] there's never gonna be a perfect case that will cover all of it, just address a piece of it,” she continued. “And we're gonna be left with questions.”

She said she believes there are legislators who are passionate about this issue and hopes they will educate people on the need for statutes that protect parents and children, “because families look very different than they did when these laws were enacted years and years ago.”

The foster care system is an institution whose role is to protect children. And policies that allow foster and adoption agencies to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, etc., have been a minefield for the state. As court liaison, Clement said she's witnessed this herself.

“I don't know that you can balance them,” she said, when asked if she envisioned a workable solution. “Do you get to discriminate against a gay couple, or do you get to discriminate against an organization that has religious beliefs? ... This is something that is definitely happening in our state, where there's agencies that have very strong beliefs that they should be able to select foster parents or adoptive parents based on set criteria.”

She added, “I anticipate that a case could very well percolate up to our court.”

See **Justice Clement**, continued on p. 12

KNOW YOUR STATUS - GET TESTED! TESTING IS ALWAYS FREE!

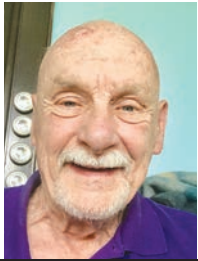


NATIONAL TRANSGENDER HIV TESTING DAY IS APRIL 18TH!

#TIMETOKNOWDETROIT



**WE OFFER HIV TESTING & SERVICES ACROSS METRO DETROIT ALL YEAR!
Call 1-888-226-6366 or visit TimeToKnowDetroit.org to get started.**



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Have a hateful Easter for Jesus

Just in time for Easter 2019, Fools for Christ (and Donald Trump) — an American Bible GOP group headquartered in Lumbago Falls, Texas — held a press conference on Palm Sunday to publicize “National Hate Someone Special for Jesus Week.”

Fools for Christ spokesperson Rev. Franklin Falwell Robertson called the press conference, “a clarion trumpet call to all true believers marching as to war with the double cross of Jesus going on before.”

The militant media event — covered by a coalition of several tax-free televangelist broadcast stations and nosey shopping market tabloids — followed a stirring sermon by Rev. F. F. Robertson called succinctly: “Hate the sin. Don’t forget to hate the sinner. (For Jesus).”

“As twice-born true believers, we’ve been turning our other cheeks far too long,” said Rev. Robertson. “With a fast-approaching time of the Left Behind just around the corner, we need to return to militancy values of Christian centuries long, long gone by.

“When it comes down to it, in God’s eyes, refusing to serve gays in your place of business because of your Trinitarian beliefs, or to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex couple, or to deny adoption rights to gays and lesbians are all socially redemptive actions.

“Say what you will, doubting Thomases, but the Crusades (especially the Children’s Crusade), the Inquisition with its beacon of repentance, the burning stake and an occasional pogrom now and then, had merit in saving souls, no matter how harsh or seemingly bigoted the Christian strategy.

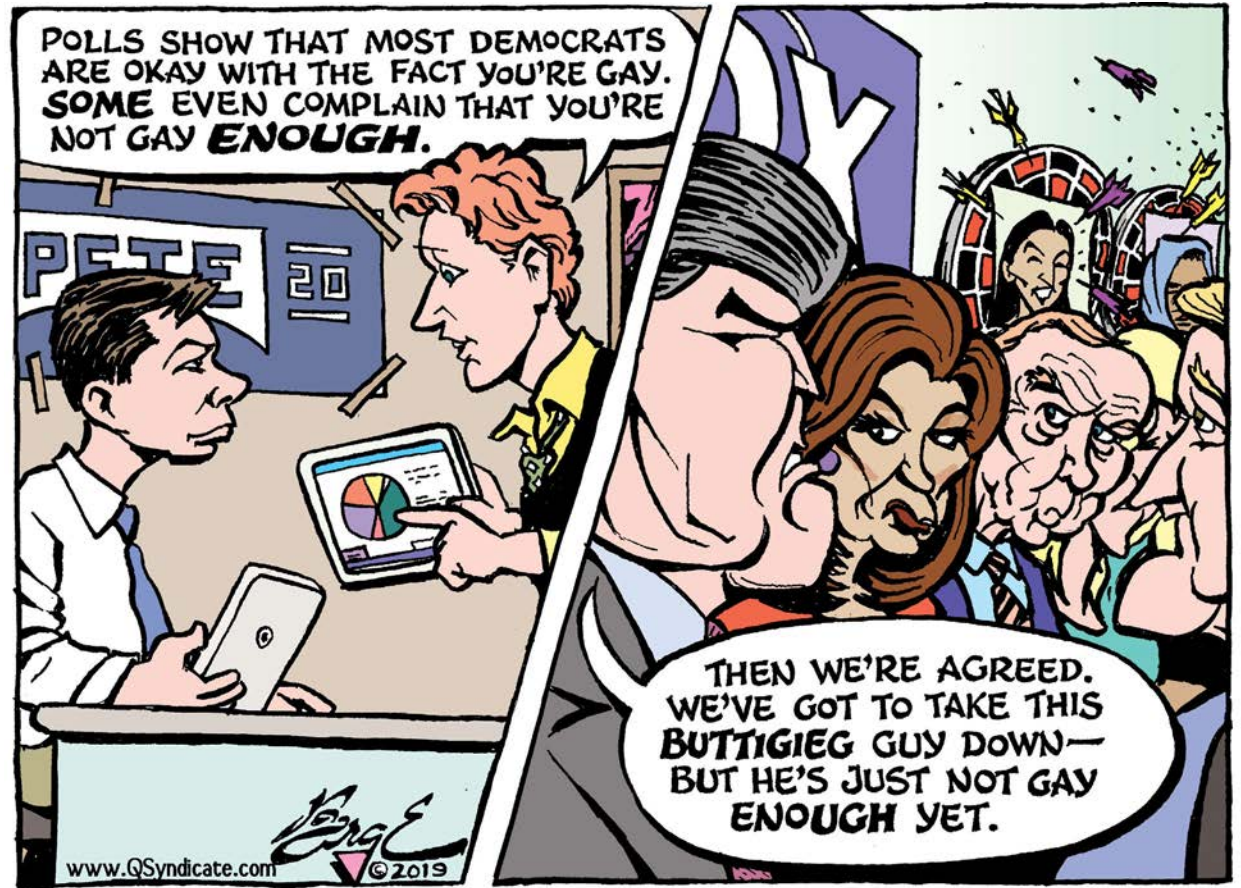
“For a time, slavery seemed a viable option, too. (It does have New Testament blessing, by the way.) But, for whatever reason of divine intervention, God permitted the Civil War. Don’t get me wrong — war has its place. (Thank Heaven for Christians Trump and Pence. And hopefully Mitch.)

“So that there’s no misunderstanding where Fools for Christ is coming from on its Last Day’s strategy of hating sinners for Jesus, let me emphasize: we are not engaging in our own honest hatred because we of late have been the persecuted minority following our policy on shunning gays, speaking out against feminism and telling other religions they are satanic or too financially competitive.

“Oh, no. Our interest is solely making America a Christian nation. If active hate does the trick, so much the better. If creative Christian hate can change things for national uniformity sake, it’s just steps away from making church attendance mandatory for citizenship; making America’s leaders religiously Republican in their economic outlook. Theocracy with a capital ‘T.’

“But in all fairness to sinners in need of a touch or two of blessed hate: there are degrees of sin. It’s easy to hate a murderer or someone who commits adultery, or, someone who

See next page



BY MARK SEGAL

Let’s Win the Election First

If you are like me, your position on the 2020 presidential election might come down to this: You will elect any of the Democratic candidates for president, no matter how far they stray from your views, because the current occupant is flawed and an embarrassment to our country.

After a big week on the issue of our time — the #MeToo movement — Joe Biden is still a 7-percent favorite among Democrats to be the nominee. This fact might provide answers for other Democratic candidates.

Many of us live in the bubble of urban America. Nominees in that bubble have done everything possible to be as progressive as possible, easily surpassing Bernie Sanders, the leader of progressives four years ago. While this may be popular for those of us in the urban bubble, the majority of Americans may not agree.

Republicans historically win the White House by using fear, and fear is a successful strategy. Here’s the proof:

Nixon: I will maintain law and order, stop the student demonstrations and implement a ‘secret’ plan to end the Vietnam War.

Reagan: I’m the one to stop the spread of radical Iranian thugs.

H.W. Bush: I’ll protect American women against rape. (Remember the infamous Willy Horton ad, which told voters that Democratic rival Michael Dukakis would allow convicted

See next page

Viewpoint

It's time to get serious about the upcoming election. I said the same thing when the orange-haired man descended the escalator three years ago. This is not going to be a walk in the park. Start listening to all of America, not just urban America.

► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 10

rapists out of jail?)

G.W. Bush: My re-election is about protecting American family and values, marriage between one man and one woman.

Trump: We need to protect our borders from the rapists, killers and drug lords who are storming our country.

Trump's people are already road-testing the fear campaign and, when former President Barack Obama spoke earlier this week in Berlin, he expressed concern that progressive Democrats may be helping them by creating an ideological purity that excludes any candidate who does not adhere exactly.

Republicans claim that Democrats want socialism.

"They'll take away your money and property," they say. It's not that the Republican perception of progressives is true — but it's not meant to be. These kinds of conservative talking points are meant to frighten voters.

Republicans embellish. Let's just say it as it is: They lie. The problem is that

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

masturbates or watches porn. Worse yet, someone who fails to tithe to the church.

"It's important to express hatred that gets national soul-saving publicity. The more outrageous. The more nefarious. The better!

"When it comes down to it, in God's eyes, refusing to serve gays in your place of business because of your Trinitarian beliefs, or to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex couple, or to deny adoption rights to gays and lesbians are all socially redemptive actions.

"Biblically speaking, it's just the Old Testament ritual of scapegoating. A time-honored tradition, by the way. Stars in your crown.

Americans are so frightened, they buy it.

"The criminals are storming the border again" and "The Green New Deal will take away your fast cars, the steak on your table and give you cancer caused by windmills."

It's time to get serious about the upcoming election. I said the same thing when the orange-haired man descended the escalator three years ago. This is not going to be a walk in the park. Start listening to all of America, not just urban America. Progressive values are good policy but maybe not good politics. To get elected, you need to practice both. Get elected first and then work toward more progressive policies. Don't push those policies on an electorate that is already frightened. Hold back on educating the public until after you are governing and can make real change.

Or learn how to talk about progressive issues in a way that doesn't frighten the average voter, because as we've seen, many Americans vote based on emotions rather than issues.

One last point: Relating to this conversation, some LGBTQ pundits have made statements that the out mayor of South Bend, Indiana, running for president is "not out enough." I believe statements like this are dangerous and divisive, and I want more for our community.

Mark Segal, PGN publisher, is the nation's most-award-winning commentator in LGBT media.

"I want to thank all of you for being here today. It's your turn now to go out and be a Fool for Christ. Just for practice sake, turn to the person seated on your left or on your far right and say, 'You're going to Hell!'"

"Have a joyful Easter! Hate rises with the Late J. C. Amen. (Oh, yes. The disciple whom Jesus loved was an exception. That disciple was bisexual. He loved tax-collectors and Roman coin collectors."

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

Creep Of The Week

Donald Trump

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

As I write this the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris is on fire. It is a terrible loss to anyone who cares about history. Donald Trump's response, however, was to Tweet to try to tell French firefighters how to do their jobs. Trump probably sees the fire as a business opportunity. Maybe he dreams that the latest Trump Hotel will spring up in its place.

Just in case it isn't clear, Trump is a terrible person.

Want more proof? Trump's totally needless transgender troop ban went into effect on April 12. The ban will effectively save America from ... *checks notes* ... people who voluntarily serve in it and are willing to risk their lives for the country.

Oh, and in addition to kicking out trans troops, the Trump administration is also hell-bent on kicking out immigrant troops. But don't worry, the military is addressing the problem by relaxing recruit standards making it a great place for white supremacists who are currently unhappy with their current access to weaponry in their civilian lives.

Whew. I know I'll sure be sleeping more soundly.

As you'll remember, this whole thing started with a Trump tweet in 2017, because that's how we make sweeping policy decisions that directly impact people's lives, FFS. Many entities immediately came out against such a ban and two years of wrangling in court followed. But the Supreme Court let the plan go into effect in a 5-4 decision further highlighting the fact that ELECTIONS MATTER, especially when a heartless madman gets elected.

The Human Rights Campaign, not surprisingly, denounced the ban.

"At this difficult moment for transgender service members and those wishing to serve their country, every transgender patriot should know that a grateful nation supports you," said HRC National Press Secretary Sarah McBride. "The Trump-Pence transgender troop ban is dangerous for both transgender people and our national security, which is why a bipartisan chorus of members of Congress, leading military experts and overwhelming majorities of Americans oppose this despicable policy."

The majority of Americans also oppose Trump, but here we are.

McBride is also the author of "Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss and the Fight for Trans Equality," a book I really cannot recommend highly enough.

Now, some conservatives will argue that this isn't a transgender troop ban. But as The Daily Beast's Samantha Allen points out, they've "made gender dysphoria [a] disqualifying condition." This allows the Trump administration to "ban transgender troops without admitting that they are banning

"At this difficult moment for transgender service members and those wishing to serve their country, every transgender patriot should know that a grateful nation supports you," said HRC National Press Secretary Sarah McBride. "The Trump-Pence transgender troop ban is dangerous for both transgender people and our national security, which is why a bipartisan chorus of members of Congress, leading military experts and overwhelming majorities of Americans oppose this despicable policy."

transgender troops; rather, they can argue that they are simply pushing out people with gender dysphoria."

"That's disingenuous because the Venn diagram of transgender people and people who experience gender dysphoria, while not a perfect circle, is pretty damn close to one," Allen writes.

Allen argues that this ban is basically "don't ask, don't tell" for transgender service members. Just as DADT was harmful and wrong when it applied to all LGBTQ members, it is still harmful and wrong now.

One of the biggest complaints Trump and other anti-trans bigots have about transgender people serving in the military is the cost of their medical care. And it's true, the cost of, say, a gender affirmation surgery can be pretty expensive.

And so there's this right-wing conservative idea that transgender folks are flocking to the military in order to get their surgeries paid for.

This is not true. But even if it were, SO WHAT? If you've got someone who is qualified and capable who is volunteering to serve their country, even going so far as risking their lives, then we should be thanking them not kicking them out because we fear their health care costs.

But, of course, this isn't really about money. It's about bigotry. Letting a transgender person wear a uniform of the United States military is tantamount to saying, "This country does not discriminate and care more about someone's qualifications than we do their gender identity."

But under Trump, we aren't that country. Sure, the majority of Americans might disagree with the ban, but they aren't the people running the country. We've got a radical minority at the helm hell bent on hurting the people they don't like.

If you feel like each day under Trump gets worse and worse, rest assured. You are 100 percent correct.

State Rep. Jon Hoadley Announces 2020 Run for Congress, Listening Tour

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Now in his third and final term as a state representative in Michigan's 60th House District, Jon Hoadley announced last week his intentions to represent Southwest Michigan nationally. In 2020, Hoadley plans to run against Republican U.S. Rep. Fred Upton who currently sits in Michigan's 6th District seat. Additionally, in an effort to reach out to his potential constituents, Hoadley has started a month-long listening tour with stops all across Southwest Michigan during April.

Hoadley found time in-between tour stops to fill BTL in on some of his national legislative goals if elected, his takeaways from the state legislature and what he's learned as an openly LGBTQ politician.

What was your motivation to do a listening tour after announcing your campaign?

The reason that we're doing the listening tour is because everybody can be the hero of their own story, and there are so many great solutions that are out across Southwest Michigan to the problems that we're facing. And so, I firmly believe that elected officials, if you want to represent people, you've got to be willing to listen to people. So, that's exactly what we're out here doing. We launched with our video on Monday and now we want to make sure that we're both taking our message out on the road and hearing what people want to talk about. We launched on Monday and immediately, the National Republican Committee, the Michigan Republican Party, started attacking me and we know [in] this race, that people will spend millions of dollars telling people what to think about me. And instead, I firmly believe, 'Why don't voters make up their own minds?' So, come meet me, shake my hand, say howdy and decide if I can earn your vote.

Fred Upton's official campaign statement said, among other things that he understands "there are those excited to start politicking, but right now Fred's energy and efforts are focused on solving problems." What is your response to that?

With the urgency of the challenges that our country is facing we cannot wait. So, I've been working to solve problems in the state legislature for the last five years and I'm going to continue working to solve problems in the state legislature until my last day there. At the same time, when we're talking about politicians and the Trump administration trying to take away our health care and that we have major impacts of climate change coming and there are still plenty of places throughout Southwest Michigan where people aren't sure they can't drink their water, now is absolutely the time to start facing our challenges head-on and bringing some fresh ideas to this conversation.

What is something you've learned during your time in office?

Day one we're ready to hit the ground running and working on the change people are asking for. But things that I've learned are that, I'm the type of person who believes we can find common ground if we put our head down and get to work we can make good things happen, even in divided government. And I'm hopeful that I can use many of those skills



Michigan's 60th House District representative Jon Hoadley.

to serve folks across Southwest Michigan. The work takes a lot of energy and passion, and what I've found is that over the last five years, I really feel great when I get to be serving people, when I get to be connecting with constituents, when our team gets to solve problems and so I'm really excited about the opportunities ahead.

You come from a family of educators, will that be a large focus of yours if elected?

Absolutely. Education is going to continue to be a strong priority in our campaign. Overall, I talk about the fact that, for every decision that's being made, whether in Lansing or in Washington, D.C., we should be putting people and communities at the center of our

decisions. And nothing hits closer to home than when we're talking about things like education or protecting our environment or even fixing the roads. These are choices that are being made in the budget that are saying given the choice on how to spend taxpayer dollars, I think the better investment is in our kids or making sure that we have clean water and clean air. Or health care that keeps every family safe, secure and healthy instead of yet another tax cut to yet another profitable corporation or billionaire that doesn't need it. And so, that's what I talk about and I think maybe it comes from the fact that I grew up talking about education and from a family of teachers that, for me, when you pencil it out and you look at the lesson plan, this is one of the most important values that we need to be talking about.

What does it mean for the Michigan LGBTQ community in your eyes that an openly gay man is running for Congress?

I think it's an exciting moment that Southwest Michigan could elect a member of the LGBTQ community. As a gay man in the legislature, it matters that our community has representation, it matters that we have folks who are sharing our stories as decisions are being made and so I'm running because the way that we solve problems is going to help people regardless of who they are, who they love or what their family looks like. But I also think it matters that LGBTQ folks see members of their community also making decisions and in these positions representing all of our friends and neighbors.

To find out more about Hoadley's campaign or where to see him during his listening tour visit jonhoadley.com.

► Justice Clement

Continued from p. 8

Author's Note: The day following our interview, Attorney General Dana Nessel reversed the state's policy which allowed state-contracted agencies to discriminate against LGBTQ couples. This decision was challenged again with a suit on April 15.

Bottom Line

How Justice Clement might rule on issues that affect LGBTQ Michiganders is not yet known, and she is the first to acknowledge that. She only asks that the community consider her record and the value she places on open-mindedness.

"I tell people that I am a listener," she said. "Someone that does not have their mind made up, that does not bring bias or their personal opinion to a case. But someone that rather is prepared, looks at the law, looks at the cases and then comes and listens. ... One of my favorite things is talking to my colleagues that share their perspective on something, and get me to see something in a way that I wasn't looking at it before.

"I feel that every single person, regardless of anything about their background or who they are today or what they believe in deserves to be treated the exact same as the next person that walks into a courtroom," she continued. "And that's just who I am at my core. So I would hope that your readers would actually afford

me the same. That if they have questions, they want to get to know me, invite me to things or ask me to come speak. Because I don't think there's anything that divides us."

Clement said also that although she can't answer specific questions on how she would rule on a case, her track record shows that she is an open-minded justice, too.

"And until those cases come before the court, they're not gonna have that confidence that they see it in practice, but I think that there's enough cases out there in the last year and a half they can look to and say, 'It doesn't matter what her career path was here, or who she worked for, this is who she is as a justice, and what she's telling us is her philosophy on how to do her job and who she is as a person.' And

at least be willing to be open-minded to me as well," she said.

Outtake

"You're gonna print this and I'm gonna get in big trouble, and I just don't care. Ruth Bader Ginsburg," Clement said, when asked to name the sitting U.S. Supreme Court Justice she most admires and why. "She's a rock star. I know everything about her, I've read every book about her, I've watched every documentary, every movie. She, to me, as a woman, as a woman in the law, as the mother of four children ... she's amazing, she's brilliant, she's hard-working ... a trailblazer for women, not just in the law, but for women everywhere. And men, too."

All You Need is Love -
Let Me Help You Find the Home of Your Dreams



Proud Sponsor of BTL's 2018 Ultimate Wedding and Anniversary Expo

Real Estate
One®



Lynn L. Stange
Realtor Associate

70 West Long Lake Rd., Troy MI 48098
248.561.6967 | LLStange@aol.com

Full Service Residential Real Estate
Local Neighborhood Specialist Representing Buyers & Sellers



at *Hodges*...

We know that moving forward means remembering where you came from. That's why we're proud to say that Hodges is celebrating nearly 90 years in Ferndale, Michigan. We'll help you get where you're going, because you've helped us get where we are. Thank You!

2019 SUBARU
OUTBACK
2.5i

\$229 PER MONTH LEASE/
36 MONTHS / 10,000
MILES PER YEAR
\$1,999 Down Payment
\$0 Security Deposit



**HODGES
SUBARU**
Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

21205 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220
248.547.8800 • www.hodgessubaru.com

HOURS: TUES, WED, & FRIDAY SALES - 9 A.M.-6 P.M. SERVICE - 7:30 A.M. - 6 P.M.
MONDAY & THURS SALES - 9 A.M. - 8 P.M. SERVICE - 7:30 A.M. - 8 P.M.
SATURDAY SALES - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M. SERVICE - 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

EVERYDAY!

EXCELLENT SERVICE • OUTSTANDING SELECTION • FANTASTIC PRICES....

ANNOUNCING

Gian Clair
MEDICAL SPA

AT PARTRIDGE CREEK OBGYN

Love
without
discomfort

Laugh
without fear of
embarrassment

Live
reclaim your
body with vaginal
rejuvenation



FemTouch™

Now offering Vaginal
rejuvenation treatments.

Fast, efficient and safe vaginal laser
procedure for women's health.
Call today and schedule your treatment.

586-247-8609



Center: Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOOG

Left: Teresa C. Kuz, MSN, WHNP-BC
Marcie S. Mullins, MSN, CNM
Angela V. Viviano, MSN, FNP-BC

Right: Tanya M. Vaughn, DNP, CNM, FNP-BC
Beth K. Mutch, MSN, FNP-BC
Corinne Sakyi, MSN, CNM, WHNP-BC
(Not pictured: Hina Javaid, MD)

1991 Hall Road, Suite 105
Macomb, MI 48044

partridgecreekobgyn.com

RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS

Dedicated to make our
community brighter
One Smile At A Time
248-399-4455



Zoom Special
\$249
**One-hour Teeth
Whitening**

*Must mention this BTL ad - Expires 5/29/15

Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)

Proud participants in the Ryan White Program

No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.

Uninsured? No problem. Significant savings with our in-office club.

Care Credit



1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4,
Berkley, MI 48072
www.rontwilliamsondds.com

Find us on
facebook

Massachusetts Becomes 16th State to Ban 'Ex-Gay' Therapy

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Massachusetts became the 16th state in the nation to ban “ex-gay” conversion therapy on Monday after Gov. Charlie Baker signed a measure into law prohibiting the widely discredited practice for youth.

Brendan Moss, a Baker spokesperson, confirmed via an email to the Washington Blade his boss signed the legislation against conversion therapy.

“Gov. Baker today signed HR140 into law and is proud of the commonwealth’s history of support for equal rights and protecting all citizens against discrimination,” Moss said.

Mathew Shurka, strategist for the National Center for Lesbian Rights’ Born Perfect national campaign to end conversion therapy, said in a statement the signing represents “a huge victory for LGBTQ youth and their parents in Massachusetts.”

“These unethical practices destroy families and cause lasting harm to young people who urgently need acceptance and support,” Shurka said.

A survivor of conversion therapy, Shurka testified before the Massachusetts legislature about his firsthand experience with the practice and urged lawmakers to pass the bill.

Other jurisdictions that have enacted similar laws against conversion therapy are Connecticut, California, Delaware, Nevada, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Oregon, Illinois, Vermont, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Washington State, Maryland, Hawaii and New Hampshire. (Last month, Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló signed an executive order against conversion therapy after the legislature failed to pass legislation against it.)

Legislation banning conversion therapy has enjoyed bipartisan support. Baker is the seventh Republican governor to sign into law a measure against therapy. (Former Maine Gov. Paul LePage last year became the first governor – Democrat or Republican – to veto such a measure.)

Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said in a statement the effort to pass the Massachusetts law “has been a truly bipartisan effort to address one of the most important public health issues of our time.”

The practice of therapy aimed at changing an individual’s sexual orientation or transgender status is considered ineffectual at best and harmful at worst. Major medical and psychological institutions – including the American Psychological Association, the World Health Organization, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics – widely reject the practice.

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

Mayor Pete Buttigieg Declares 2020 Presidential Campaign

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Before a crowd of adoring supporters in South Bend who braved the rain to hear him speak, Pete Buttigieg made his 2020 presidential campaign official by declaring he’d pursue the Democratic nomination to run for the White House.

“I’m here to join you to make a little news,” Buttigieg said. “My name is Pete Buttigieg. They call me Pete Buttigieg. I am proud son of South Bend, Indiana, and I am running for president of the United States.”

Previously, the South Bend mayor had formed an exploratory committee for a possible presidential run, but hadn’t yet declared a candidacy. His announcement changed that, making his campaign official.

The crowd responded to Buttigieg’s announcement with roaring applause, chanting, “U-S-A! U-S-A! U-S-A!” as they waived American flags.

A key component of Buttigieg’s was the economic recovery of South Bend under his watch as mayor after stagnation following the loss of manufacturing – a situation with which many cities in the Midwest are familiar.

More people are moving into South Bend than we’ve seen in a generation,” Buttigieg said. “Thousands of new jobs have been added in our area, and billions in investment. There’s a long way for us to go. Life here is far from perfect. But we’ve changed our trajectory, and shown a path forward for communities like ours.”

Touting the reinvigoration of his city under new economy, Buttigieg – without ever mentioning President Trump by name – also criticized the American Dream can be restored by seeking to go back to the past under a “Make America Great Again” mentality.

“Because there is a myth being sold to industrial and rural communities: the myth that we can stop the clock and turn it back,” Buttigieg said. “It comes from people who think the only way to reach communities like ours is through resentment and nostalgia, selling an impossible promise of returning to a bygone era that was never as great as advertised to begin with. The problem is, they’re telling us to look for greatness in all the wrong places.”

Policy items Buttigieg mentioned were ensuring climate security, abolishing the Electoral College, preserving the right to abortion, ensuring access to health care and confronting a growing threat of white nationalism.

At one point, Buttigieg invoked his inner Bill Clinton (and criticized him) by disparaging the Reagan economic policies of supply-side economics he says were embraced by both Republican and Democrats.

“That era, too, is now over,” Buttigieg said.

But much of Buttigieg’s speech was deeply personal. He told the story of his immigrant father who died last year after a battle with cancer, his mother who needed heart surgery as well as his personal story of accepting his sexual orientation.



Buttigieg referenced about the struggles of his youth – in terms of his sexual orientation and intellectual curiosity – when he said the only time he’d go back to the past was 20 years ago to allay the fears of his youthful self.

The candidate said he tell his younger self he’d be “all right” and “one rainy April day, before he even turns 40, he’ll wake up to headlines about whether he’s rising too quickly as he becomes a top-tier contender for the American presidency, and to tell him that on that day he announces his campaign for president, he’ll do it with his husband looking on.”

Prior to his speech, campaign staffers warmed up the crowd at the rally with a chant holding up three separate signs guiding attendees in saying Buttigieg’s often mispronounced name: “Boot-Edge-Edge.”

Nan Whaley, mayor of Dayton, Ohio, heaped praise on Buttigieg during the rally in a speech explaining her support for her fellow mayor.

“He’s someone who’s both a great friend to me, someone who is a compassionate leader for everyday people who have elected him to office, he is the smartest person I know and he is deeply committed to serving our country,” Whaley said.

Whaley concluded with a zinger about the current occupant of the White House that generated significant applause from rally attendees.

“Folks, in short, he’s the polar opposite in every way to Donald Trump,” Whaley said.

Annie Parker, CEO of the LGBTQ Victory Fund, was in South Bend for the announcement and said in a statement Buttigieg “shattered a lavender ceiling once thought unbreakable, becoming the first openly LGBTQ Democratic presidential candidate in American history and our first real shot at the Oval Office.”

“There is enormous power in an openly gay presidential candidate stumping at town halls in Iowa and speaking to Americans from the presidential debate stage – it changes perceptions of our community and raises the bar for candidates who seek LGBTQ support,” Parker said.

A Victory Fund spokesperson said the organization has not yet endorsed the candidate, but “we recognize the power of this moment for our community and have been working with his team quite closely.”

The newly official candidate – who was unheard of when he started exploring a presidential run

at the start of the year – has enjoyed a size boost in the polls in race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Dazzling many supporters with his demeanor and skill at answering questions, Buttigieg also has a captivating personal story as an openly gay mayor, Harvard graduate, Rhodes scholar and Afghanistan war veteran.

A Monmouth University poll published on Thursday found Buttigieg was in third place in Iowa with nine percent support behind Joseph Biden and Bernie Sanders, who polled at 27 percent and 16 percent respectively. Following Buttigieg was Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, Beto O’Rourke, Amy Klobuchar and Cory Booker.

In New Hampshire, Buttigieg is also running in third place. Biden had 23 percent support and Sanders had 16 percent, but Buttigieg followed at 11 percent support.

Parker said Buttigieg’s “meteoric rise is most notable for the support he’s receiving from diverse groups of voters.”

“There are enormous minefields and hurdles to running as an openly LGBTQ candidate, and so far, Mayor Pete has gracefully leapt over them on the world’s largest political stage,” Parker said. “He’s the real deal.”

After Buttigieg concluded his speech, his spouse, Chasten Buttigieg, joined him on the stage, where the two had a quick smooch and

See next page

Trump's Transgender Military Ban Now in Effect

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The Pentagon initiated Friday the transgender military ban in accordance with Trump administration plans for the policy, returning the U.S. military to restrictions on LGBT service that harken to the days of “don't ask, don't tell.”

Transgender service members – who had been able to serve openly and obtain transition-related health care since the final year of the Obama administration in 2016 – will now face significant impediments on their service and an outright ban for many of them seeking to enlist.

Aaron Belkin, director of the San Francisco-based Palm Center, said in a statement Friday the policy marks a retreat on civil rights after three years of transgender service with no problems.

“In implementing “don't ask, don't tell” for transgender troops today, the Trump administration has put petty politics above military readiness, and personal prejudice above the genuine judgment of military leaders, who have made clear that inclusive service has succeeded for the last three years,” Belkin said. “Today our nation lurches backwards in a disgraceful retreat from the arc of our civil rights history.”

Although the Trump policy is now in effect, Belkin foresaw a day in which the ban would come to an end.

“Our hearts break for the courageous transgender patriots who want nothing more than to defend their country, and we pledge not to rest until inclusive policy is restored,” Belkin said. “The transgender ban won't stand for long.”

In 2017, President Trump announced via Twitter he'd ban transgender people from the military “in any capacity.” Months later, former Defense Secretary James Mattis produced a report on the implementing the policy – allowing limited retentions of transgender troops – after an internal study at the Pentagon.

Although courts had previously barred the Trump administration from enforcing the policy as a result of lawsuits filed by LGBT legal groups, the orders were lifted after the U.S. Supreme Court essentially green-lighted the policy by allowing to go into effect as litigation proceeds against it. Subsequently, the Pentagon issued guidance announcing it would implement the ban on April 12.

The Defense Department has insisted the new policy is a medical-based policy applied

to every service member, even though the policy applies to conditions faced solely by transgender people, and is not a ban, even though it bars many transgender people from service.

As described by the Pentagon, the policy discharges service members who are diagnosed with gender dysphoria or are prescribed transition-related care at a later time. For enlistments, a history of gender dysphoria unless the individuals are willing to serve in their biological sex (an extremely small number of transgender people), and people who obtained transitioned genders are outright banned.

The transgender ban contains an exemption that allows transgender people who came out during the Obama-era policy to continue to serve and receive transition-related care. But those troops could face complications, such as if they seek promotions, want to change services or drop out to pursue educational opportunities and seek to re-enlist.

Lt. Col Carla Gleason, a Pentagon spokesperson, confirmed to the Washington Blade Friday the policy is now in effect, but insisted transgender people will be grandfathered in service when asked about any denial of enlistments or discharges on the first day.

“Transgender members currently serving will be able to continue serving so we do not anticipate any discharges,” the spokesperson said. “I am not yet aware of any denials.”

The American Medical Association, which previously said there was no medical basis on which to ban transgender people from the armed forces, issued a statement on Thursday condemning the principles on which the policy is based.

“The DOD regulation also instructs service secretaries to add gender-dysphoria to service-specific lists of ‘administratively disqualifying conditions’ that DoD regulations label ‘congenital or developmental defects,’” AMA President Barbara McAneny said. “The only thing deficient is any medical science behind this decision. The AMA has said repeatedly that there is no medically valid reason – including a diagnosis of gender dysphoria – to exclude transgender individuals from military service. Transgender service members should, as is the case with all personnel, receive the medical care they need. There is a global medical consensus about the efficacy of transgender health care, including treatment for gender dysphoria.”

► Buttigieg

Continued from p. 14

embraced as the crowd cheered – but not before the candidate offered encouraging words to his audience.

“If you and I rise together to meet this moment, one day they will write histories, not just about one campaign or one presidency but about the era that began here today in this building where past, present, and future meet, right here this chilly day in South Bend,” Buttigieg said.



CORKTOWN
—HEALTH CENTER—

Michigan's first medical home focused on
the needs of the LGBTQ Community.

Primary Care - Behavioral Health Services – HIV Care
Breast/Cervical Cancer Screening
Hormone Therapy – Insurance Navigation
Fully integrated PrEP Services and more!

(313) 832-3300

www.corktownhealth.org

“Let's talk about it
- take control and
care about yourself!
Knowing my status
is important to me,
so I get tested. Do
it today, get tested
for HIV. //”

- Ka’Juan Hill, YouTube
personality and HIV activist

**I'M
DOING
IT**

Testing for **HIV**

#DoingIt

Testing is Fast, Free, and Confidential | cdc.gov/DoingIt

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACT UP ON AIDS



THIS IS BEN PLATT

'Dear Evan Hansen' Star Talks Telling His Story With Debut Album & When Coming Out Is a Problem

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

It comes up casually, as Ben Platt prefers. Tucked into “Older,” a theatrical juggernaut that doesn’t even try to hide the fact that the actor-singer introduced Evan Hansen to the world (because why would it?), the line is a personal aside expressed on an otherwise universal ballad about wishing to speed up time in your youth, only to hope for more of it as you age: “And will I get to know myself in the place I am / Get to fall in love with another man, and understand.”

If you didn’t already know Ben Platt is gay, this is how he wishes you’d find out. Casually.

The theater star turned pop crooner came

out in his personal life when he was 12, then landed his Broadway debut in “The Book of Mormon” as Elder Cunningham in 2012. He went on to bag a Grammy and a Tony (he has an Emmy too, putting him on EGOT watch) for his moving portrayal of the titular teen in “Dear Evan Hansen,” also on Broadway. And, of course, he brought literal magic to the “Pitch Perfect” franchise, as super nerd Benji Applebaum.

But Platt’s earnest and emotional Atlantic debut “Sing to Me Instead” is his first public expression of self, at 25. “The main reason I wanted to make this music was to have the opportunity to go around the country and play it live and have that live connection,

because that’s what I grew up loving the most,” he says, “and singing live is my favorite thing to do.”

In addition to a 12-city tour, Platt will also star alongside Gwyneth Paltrow, Jessica Lange and Bette Midler this year as a high school go-getter who’s eager to be the actual president – but first, student government – in the forthcoming Netflix comedy series “The Politician,” which debuts Sept. 27. The series, he says, is, “in true Ryan Murphy fashion, very queer-positive.”

During our recent conversation, Platt also discussed being the reason so many people are crying, LGBTQ stigma in Hollywood and why he thinks we should move beyond

coming-out announcements.

How do you process the fact that you’ve been making so many people cry with this album?

You know, it’s a strange thing. I think it’s just nice to see that people are finding ways to connect to it. I tried to make it as sort of specific as possible because usually that kind of thing begets the most universality, and it’s been really nice that that’s really been the case. And I hope it’s all good, cathartic-type tears and not the bad kind! (Laughs)

INFO

Ben Platt

7:30 p.m. May
Fisher Theatre
3011 W Grand Blvd., Detroit
broadwayindetroit.com

How did these songs come to you? In waves? All at once?

First in waves. I think when I first sat down to write the album I tried to just lean on what came in terms of what I thought deserved to be sung about, because I come from the theater, so I feel like my philosophy has always been that you only really sing when there's something emotionally valuable enough to sing about, and that ended up being largely the relationships that I'd had and a couple I was in while writing. So I think it was a mixture of trying to lean on those experiences and those emotions, then also accruing phrases and ideas and conceptual things that I felt hadn't been necessarily stated that way before or said that way before and finding a way to join them.

What hadn't been conveyed that you wanted to say with this album?

"Grow as You Go" is the one that comes to mind only because I had never really heard a song that addressed this cop-out thing that always tends to happen when you're in a relationship and you get to a point where it gets a bit too scary and the person backs out with the excuse of, "I need to go find who I am and I don't have enough legs to stand on as my own person." Of course that's valid in many cases, but I've also found out that it's kind of something to hide behind.

I think if the connection is strong enough, and theoretically if it's a special enough person and it's the right person, then it shouldn't really keep you from experiencing personal growth and finding who you are just because you happen to be with someone else who is also figuring those things out.

Was there ever a time you didn't think an album like this, where you could be your out, authentic self, would be possible?

I think, yeah. If we're all realistic about the world, it's not all roses and it's not all fantastic and we don't live in a vacuum where it's all pure acceptance. And particularly as an actor, there's a lot of stigma surrounding what you're castable as when you're out of the closet, and sort of what characters you can play and how people will view you going forward.

But as far as the decision (to be out), it really was a no-brainer, because if I was gonna try to do something that felt authentic to me and was gonna sort of express any kind of truth in my own life then there would be no room to edit it or change it just because I hadn't expressed those things before.

You say there's a stigma to be out if you're an actor. Do you think gay actors and musicians are asked to keep their sexuality quiet when promoting projects and has that ever happened to you?

I'm sure that's something people encounter. I know that's definitely not something we've moved forward from in general. I have been really lucky personally to work pretty much only in environments where it was incredibly accepting and open – and, I mean, I grew up in the theater where everyone is gay, so it was never an issue (laughs). And I don't necessarily think that an actor's private life, regardless of their sexuality or any of that, is pertinent when you're playing a different character. I think when you're promoting something, it's about the project and the work. What was beautiful about this experience was the work: It was sort of built into the work itself, and it was part of what the content is. And I think it gave me an opportunity to discuss it in the context of art rather than sort of trying to interject it into a conversation about work that was really sort of irrelevant to it.

But I do maybe think there is pressure to present a certain accepted form of masculinity, or to feel like you can still fit into certain boxes so you don't limit yourself. I'm hopeful that is slowly fading away and that everybody can just accept that actors are chameleons and we can play who we can play.

Is it necessary to still make a coming-out announcement in 2019? I gather that you think it's not?

I just don't think it should be perceived as an abnormality at all, and in and of itself, having to announce something suggests that it's departing from the norm or that it's something that needs to be addressed. I think it should just be part of who we are – same as that I'm Jewish, and I'm also gay. The more that it can become an assumed part of reality, the better.

So, for example, it's time to move on from calling you "gay musician Ben Platt." We don't need that identifier anymore, do we?

I agree. Yes, indeed.

In putting forward your own authentic self with this album, have you consciously had to work against the sort of nerdy-kid persona that's been your staple?

Sure – *sure!* Less the archetype and more so the specific role of Evan Hansen, I think, especially in the context of music, just because I think most people, as far as my voice, are most familiar with that album. So I've tried to really embrace the emotionality of that and how beautiful it is that people connected to that character and my interpretation of that character, and try to use that as a fire under my butt to create my own stuff and to put my own self out there rather than a road block of, "Let me try to change the way that

See **Ben Platt**, continued on p. 18



SOUTHERN COMFORT

Book and lyrics by DAN COLLINS

Music by JULIANNE WICK DAVIS

APRIL 26 — MAY 12, 2019

2nd STAGE MUSICAL | DIRECTED BY JAY KAPLAN

TICKETS \$20 | THU, FRI, SAT (8PM), SUN (2PM)

TICKETS AT STAGECRAFTERS.ORG OR CALL 248.541.6430

415 S. LAFAYETTE AVENUE, ROYAL OAK, MI 48067

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @STAGECRAFTERSMI

"Southern Comfort" is presented with special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

SPONSORED BY



"Home is right here
with my chosen family"



Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, 4/18/19 at 7:00 p.m.
Worship Service in the Chapel

Good Friday, 4/19/19 at 7:00 p.m.
"The Passion" Service in the Sanctuary

Holy Saturday, 4/20/19 from Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Prayer Service in the Chapel

Easter Sunday, 4/21/19
9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Worship Service and Easter Breakfast
(Children's Egg Hunt)



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



► Ben Platt

Continued from p. 17

I'm viewed." Hopefully just by virtue of the fact that I'm now presenting myself free of any character, that's just gonna change the perception regardless of how I posture myself.

Does maturity explain the beard?

Yeah – well, I just prefer to have a beard whenever possible. I've just been playing teenagers so much, like in "The Politician," that I've not been able to have one. I'm enjoying it while I can.

One YouTube commenter wrote: "Ben's beard grows as his heart breaks."

(Laughs) That's about right!

Alongside Blake Shelton and Zac Efron, you were included in People's Sexiest Man Alive in 2017, as Sexiest Broadway Performer. Were you prepared for that moment in your career?

Certainly not! (Laughs) That was *not* something that was ever on my sort of preconceived bucket list! I mean, it's very flattering and very nice, but it was never a conscious goal. It was not like the Tony and the Broadway of all of it, but it was lovely to see! And it made me feel good – and made me want to go out and go on some dates!

Did it get you some dates?

Well, not necessarily *from* it but it restored a bit of confidence. It was a nice boost.

And then you were on "Ellen" recently, noting you're single, so that couldn't have hurt.

Yeah, exactly! Whenever possible. I'm around.

Are LGBTQ youth reaching out to you expressing what this music means to them? Are you seeing the same tweets that I'm seeing?

It's hard to gauge. This is the first time I've released music on my own, so this is the first time I'm experiencing, like, how to experience

the way it's being received. There are so many different measures of that, but definitely as I give the social a scroll, if you will, there are beautiful messages from people. Of course there are messages from youth, particularly LGBTQ youth who feel really affected by the representation and feel really seen and like they can see themselves in the art, which is something that's obviously very beautiful to me. But what's been the most heartening to me is how innocuous that aspect of it has been and how it's really been about the music itself, and how regardless of walk of life or

sexuality or age, people are really finding ways that these songs fit into their lives, and that's the ultimate gift: that they become so malleable. That's been really beautiful.

That songs that are very specific to your own life can have universal appeal?

For sure. And that I can sort of express an experience that can then make it maybe easier for someone else to go through that same experience or an experience like that.

What have you learned from other out artists, like Sam Smith and Troye Sivan, when it comes to navigating the music world as an out artist?

I would say from all artists, not just queer artists. But certainly all of my favorite artists, queer or not, are sort of the ones who are true to themselves and more singular to themselves and not really wasting any time trying to fit into a preconceived box. Something that's been really wonderful about working with Atlantic is they've been so reverential to my vision, allowing me to lead the way creatively and really trusting my instinct and my gut feeling, and allowing me to be the kind of artist I wanna be and not sort of "pick a lane" in any way.

I think the only reason it's been successful thus far and people are connecting with it is because they've allowed me to be individualistic. And so I certainly admire any artist, queer or not, who is able to blaze their own path in that way. Just if you're authentic, I think that's the most attractive quality beyond just a beautiful voice, feeling like this is undoubtedly exactly who you are.

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.



CAGE FREE 24 / 7

HAPPY HOUNDS





BOARDING IN COMFORT

Day & Overnight Care!

FOR DOGS

WHO DON'T LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE ANIMALS

GROOMING

pet care extraordinaire

BOARDING

A SECOND HOME FOR YOUR FURRY FRIEND

1 ACCOMMODATIONS





Happy Hounds®
Dog Day Care & Lodging
24/HR SUPERVISION

Call (734) 459-3647 or visit
www.HappyHoundsDayCare.com

♥ 673 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan

NFL Star Wade Davis and Allan Gilmour to Headline Ford GLOBE 25th Anniversary Dinner



Former NFL star Wade Davis (left) will talk about being openly gay in professional sports. Allan Gilmour (above) will be honored for his decades of support to Ford GLOBE and the Detroit area LGBTQ community.

BY BTL STAFF

DEARBORN – Twenty-five years ago a group of dedicated LGBTQ employees of the Ford Motor Company came together to form Ford GLOBE, the automaker’s LGBTQ employee resource group, to unite and network LGBTQ employees, to advocate within the

company for LGBTQ equality and to help the company reach out to potential LGBTQ customers.

Now, a quarter century later, Ford GLOBE will celebrate its 25th anniversary at a gala dinner June 6 at The Dearborn Inn, in partnership with the Detroit Regional LGBT

Chamber of Commerce. Senior Ford executives, Ford GLOBE current and former members and hundreds of ERG members from dozens of other Detroit area companies will join in the celebration.

The night will feature former NFL player and openly gay diversity consultant Wade Davis and former Ford Vice Chairman Allan Gilmour, who will accept the Inaugural Allan D. Gilmour Award for Outstanding Leadership in Inclusion.

Gilmour was the highest ranking out gay executive in the mid-'90s, and supported the formation of LGBT employee resource

groups at the big three automakers. He was president of Wayne State University from 2010 to 2013 and has served on numerous corporate boards including Dow Chemical, Whirlpool, DTE and the Henry Ford Health System. The Affirmations building in Ferndale is named after Gilmour and his husband, Eric Jirgens, in recognition of their key role in the capital campaign that funded the center’s creation. Gilmour has also been a driving force behind the HOPE Fund at the Community Foundation,

See **Ford GLOBE**, continued on p. 23

Alexander Zachary Realtor

313-502-2284 *cell*
248-626-2100 *office*
azachary@kw.com
<https://alexander.kwrealty.com>

Keller Williams West Bloomfield
30500 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 300
Farmington hills, MI 48334



PATTERSON
DOG
&
CAT
HOSPITAL
1844-2019

Celebrating 175 Years in Detroit

Glynes D. Graham, DVM
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

3800 Grand River, Detroit, MI 48208-2866
tel: 313.832.7282 fax: 313.832.4990
www.pattersondogandcat.com

 Find us on:
facebook.

Two Different Programs

Martha Graham Dance Company

Janet Eilber, artistic director

Friday & Saturday
April 26 & 27 // 8 pm
Power Center

PROGRAM - FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Secular Games (Martha Graham)
Deo (Maxine Doyle & Bobbi Jene Smith)
Lamentation Variations (Aszure Barton)
Chronicle (Graham)

PROGRAM - SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Diversion of Angels (Graham)
Ekstasis (Graham)
Untitled (Souvenir) (Pam Tanowitz)
Herodiade (Graham)
I used to love you (Annie B. Parson)

Presenting Sponsors:
Ken Fischer Legacy Endowment Fund

 Media Partner:
Ann Arbor's 107one


734.764.2538
— UMS.ORG 





DELTA
HOTELS
MARRIOTT

Accessible | Affordable | Inclusive

Call us for room blocks, events,
weddings, and receptions

31500 Wick Rd
Romulus, MI 48174
734-721-3315
www.DeltaHotelDTW.com

#LoveTravels Simple Made Perfect™



Use Your Home to Save Money on a Wedding

BY VALERIE BLAKE

Almost everyone on HGTV who is hunting for a house wants “space to entertain,” but what do they really use it for, other than Thanksgiving dinner and other holidays?

How about a wedding?

The average cost of a wedding is more than \$33,000 and, in some areas of the country, as much as \$70,000. Engagements last for a year or more while people prepare for their lavish and expensive wedding.

Costs are skyrocketing – a \$12,000 Oscar de la Renta dress, matching \$2,000 Jimmy Choo heels, and \$3,500 Armani suits for starters. Wedding planners are there to help you spend your money on a pre-wedding checklist.

The venue for the reception is one of the first decisions a couple will make, even basing the wedding date on the availability of the chosen reception hall. Booking the photographer and videographer is also high on the list, as well as finding a caterer, a florist, and either live music or a DJ.

Wedding websites with names like herbandjohngethitched.com are very popular. You can tell the story of how you met, include information about the wedding and reception destinations, create a photo gallery, and post the ever-popular gift registry, where people can see what’s on your wish list, then go on Amazon to buy it much cheaper.

You’ll also need to create a guest list. This exercise will be in the running for “first big fight of the engagement,” so kiss and make up, attend the cake tasting, and buy insurance for your engagement ring,

just in case.

Once you’ve agreed on who and how many will attend, send out your Save the Date e-cards, add the guest list to your website with a link to confirm attendance, plan your menu, and follow up with formal invitations as you get closer to the actual wedding date.

Wow! I’m exhausted and broke already, and there’s still a lot of stuff to check off the wedding planner’s cheat sheet. Thankfully, the price of a wedding can be reduced by using your home for such things as rehearsal dinners, receptions, and space for overnight guests.

My favorite wedding was in 1976, before people began to spend their life savings, inheritance, or trust funds for one day of happiness.

It was an unconventional church wedding, held at 9 p.m. The bride wore flowers in her hair instead of a veil and carried candles instead of flowers. Her dress was made by her mother’s best friend and the bridesmaids wore halter dresses made from a Simplicity pattern – something they would be able to wear post-wedding.

The reception was held on the screened porch of the family home. Food and alcohol flowed freely. The bride’s mother, who was getting her master’s degree in music therapy at the University of Miami, hired their jazz combo to play at the reception.

The bride’s father, however, left a lasting impression when he dove into the pool in his tuxedo, swam to the other end, raised his glass and asked, “Will somebody get me a Scotch?”

The next wedding of note was in 1988. The bride and groom were living in a

studio apartment while their new home was being built. Their wedding was as small and as cheap as that apartment.

Two friends served as best man and maid of honor. The ceremony was conducted by a justice of the peace in her living room, followed by a reception at Bob’s Big Boy for their all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet.

The next wedding took place in 2005 in the bride’s backyard. The officiant was a city councilman who had been ordained on the internet just for this purpose. While the bride and groom were reciting their vows, a jetliner flew overhead, drowning out the ceremony. The reception made up for it with authentic Mexican food prepared by the groom’s family.

The pictures of the event came out badly and the videographer took his payment of \$350 and was never seen or heard from again. Lesson learned: don’t rely on Craigslist to find your wedding professionals.

So, as the season approaches, make your wedding memorable but less expensive by including something personal – grooms in matching, yellow tennis shoes, brides in tuxedos, barefoot on the beach with margaritas, or maybe a reception on the roof deck of your condo.

You’ll find many ways to conserve your cash, but whatever you do, get the Jimmy Choo shoes. I’ll look for you at our annual high-heel race.

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



**DIGNITY
DETROIT**

A Catholic Faith Community of
LGBTQI individuals, families and friends.

Liturgy every Sunday at 6 P.M.
Please join us – all are welcome!
Sacred Heart Chapel – Marygrove College
West McNichols at Wyoming
www.dignitydetroit.org



ONE CHURCH DETROIT

Bringing Families together to worship as ONE
One God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and
in you all.
Ephesians 4:6

Join Us every Sunday @11am – All are Welcome!

10115 W. McNichols Detroit, MI 48221
313-939-2594
Pastor Jeffrey M. Seals



SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019
Palm Sunday Service @11:00 a.m.
Hosanna Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2019
Good Friday
Service @ 12 Noon
Food from Last Supper will be served

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2019
EASTER Sunday Service @11:00 a.m.
Come take your picture with the
Easter Bunny

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019
3rd Anniversary Family Style dinner
Theme: Our Family
Served after the regular service
Come Let Our Family Serve Your
Family!

Service 11 a.m.
Tindal Activity Center
10301 W. Seven Mile
Detroit MI 48221

Forever Begins Here



Miner's Den
JEWELERS

248.585.6950
MINERSDEN.COM

3417 ROCHESTER RD
ROYAL OAK, MI 48073



B. Ella Bridal

570 S. Main St., Plymouth Mi 48170

734-459-0000

www.facebook.com/b.ellabridalplymouth



**Vita Nova
Massage**
Paul Mattson, LMT
Massage Therapist, Owner/Operator

- Therapeutic Massage
- Foot Reflexology
- Thai Massage
- Craniosacral Therapy
- Trigger Point Therapy
- Reiki

Mon, Wed, Thu: 10AM - 8PM
Tue: 10AM - 4PM
Fri-Sat: 10AM - 6PM
Sunday: Closed



9188 Middlebelt Rd., Livonia, MI 48150
248-270-2686
VitaNovaMassage7@gmail.com

Prism of Possibilities Psychotherapy

Christine Cantrell, PhD
Fully Licensed Psychologist



Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

- ▼ Speak Your Truth
- ▼ Discover What You Want
- ▼ Create Your True Self
- ▼ Heal Old Hurts, Find Wholeness

Located in Royal Oak
www.christinecantrell.com
christinecantrellphd@gmail.com

CALL NOW! 248-591-2888

A	S	I	S	V	A	N	E	O	N	C	E		
G	U	R	U	E	R	I	K	V	I	B	E		
A	B	E	L	R	O	B	E	E	A	S	E		
	L			L									
A	L	A		S	E	A	L	U	P	A	R	C	
R	I	N		O	N	S	E	T	S	R	O	E	
K	U	D	Z	U				E	T	A	I	L	
	A	T	R	O	C	I	T	Y					
S	P	A	N	E	M	A	G	P	A	I	R		
N	O	P	E	D	A	R	N	E	R	N	O		
A	L	P		S	E	R	B	I	A	T	V	A	
P	A	L	A	T	E			T	R	A	D	E	R
P	R	I	M	E	M	I	N	I	S	T	E	R	S
L	I	E	S	E	R	I	N	A	C	T	A		
E	S	S	O	R	A	N	G	D	O	S	T		

See Page 27



LGBTQ People Urged to Be Counted in 2020 US Census

BY LOU CHIBBARO JR.

The D.C.-based National LGBTQ Task Force was part of a coalition of more than 15 national civil rights and progressive advocacy groups that launched a campaign last week to encourage members of marginalized communities to make sure they are counted in the 2020 U.S. Census.

In a development that LGBTQ activists view as a positive change, the 2020 U.S. Census questionnaire will explicitly ask couples living together to define their relationship to their partners in a new way – as “same-sex” or “opposite-sex” partners.

Although the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census counted same-sex couples through questions about gender and relationships, the newly worded questionnaire in 2020 is expected to provide a more accurate count of the number of same-sex couples in the United States.

However, to the disappointment of LGBTQ advocacy organizations, Census officials declined to include in the 2020

questionnaire questions asking about a person’s sexual orientation and gender identity so that non-coupled LGBT people could be counted.

Nevertheless, the National LGBTQ Task Force has said it’s important for all LGBT people to take part in the 2020 census.

“Over-counts of privileged people and undercounts of marginalized people reinforce systems of power and oppression in this country,” the Task Force said in a statement. “That’s why the Task Force is working with our colleagues in the LGBTQ and social justice movements to ensure that all of us, and especially people from marginalized communities, are counted in the 2020 Census.”

“Although the Census doesn’t explicitly ask about our sexual orientation and gender identity, it is still critical for us to be counted on the 2020 Census,” the Task Force statement says, adding, “We need to be counted so our communities can: Get access to federal funds for programs like SNAP, Medicaid, and public housing; have representation in our state, local,

and federal government; and enforce our civil rights.”

The Williams Institute, an LGBT think tank affiliated with the UCLA Law School, has used data on same-sex couples obtained from the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Census to extrapolate an estimated count of all LGBT people in the U.S. But former Williams Institute official Gary Gates has said it would have been far better if the Census counted LGBT people directly.

National LGBTQ Task Force spokesperson JR Russ said the group has created a “Queer the Census 2020” page on its website that will be updated each month to inform LGBT people on how the Census will impact them and how they can best participate in the Census. The page can be accessed via the taskforce.org.

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

COMING IN OCTOBER: 2019 BTL Same-Sex Wedding Expo

Michigan’s Definitive LGBTQ-Friendly
Wedding & Anniversary Guide

MiLGBTWedding.com

A PROJECT OF **Between the Lines**

To learn more contact donelle@pridesource.com
Call 734-293-7200 ext. 101



► **Ford GLOBE**

Continued from p. 19

one of the largest funders of LGBT projects in southeast Michigan.

“I am excited to celebrate 25 years of Ford GLOBE with the current and former Ford GLOBE members, allies, and executives along with the rest of the LGBT community,” said Bill Peters, president of Ford GLOBE. “The partnership with the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce highlights to me the importance of working together to achieve the inclusion we desired 25 years ago.”

“Allan Gilmour’s support at Ford, at the HOPE Fund, with Affirmations and countless other projects has altered the very landscape for LGBTQ people for the better,” said Jan Stevenson, co-publisher of Between The Lines and vice president of the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce. “He has inspired me and led many others to follow him in supporting LGBTQ people and the projects and organizations that serve them. It’s a real thrill to be able to honor him at the Ford GLOBE 25th Anniversary dinner.”

This is the first of what will be an annual dinner hosted by the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce to celebrate and acknowledge LGBT inclusiveness in Detroit’s workplaces.

This inaugural dinner is supported by Ford Motor Company as a gold sponsor, silver



sponsors include Henry Ford Health System and Tito’s Handmade Vodka, bronze sponsors are The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, EY Accounting, the United Auto Workers, Wayne State University and Herman Miller. Table sponsors include Pride Source Media Group, Flagstar Bank and BASF among others.

Tickets are open to the public, start at \$50 and are available online at detroitlgbtchamber.com/Ford25.

Did you just put a ring on it?

RENT OUT YOUR OTHER HOUSE

Secure your family’s future.

GROSSE POINTE APARTMENTS & Property Management



Anna Bartolotta, Owner, Broker
313-505-0456 GrossePointeApartments.com
17728 Mack Ave. Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

A woman owned and operated business since 2006.

DETROIT’S BEST FLORIST SINCE 1977

BLOSSOMS
FULL SERVICE FLORIST

2 Locations - Order Online - Delivery to City & Suburbs

BIRMINGHAM MIDTOWN DETROIT

BLOSSOMSBIAMINGHAM.COM BLOSSOMSDETROIT.COM
(248) 644-4411 (313) 447-1919

BLOSSOMING ARTISTS.NET EMERGING ARTISTS SPACE

GALLERY INSIDE **BLOSSOMS MIDTOWN**
Monthly Exhibitions | 4152 Third St. | Detroit, MI 48201

BEST OF HOUR DETROIT

BTL **Shop The Rainbow**
Between Lines

There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and welcome everyone.

Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan’s LGBTQ community!

RAINBOW

St. John’s Episcopal Church, Royal Oak
(11 Mile and Woodward)
26998 Woodward Avenue,
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Phone: 248 546-1255
www.stjohnro.org

Here is our invitation to you: regardless of your cultural background, ethnicity, gender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or heterosexual identity, economic status, physical or cognitive ability – you will not be labeled, singled out or excluded here. You will be welcomed, affirmed, embraced and celebrated! We will be better because you are here.

Believe OUTLOUD
Episcopal Congregations

Everyone is welcome! Everyone belongs!

Sunday April 21st
EASTER Sunday Services
Sunday morning 8:00am – Holy Eucharist
Sunday morning 10:15am – Holy Eucharist (with brass, organ, timpani and choir)



Happenings

OUTINGS

Saturday, April 20

LGBT Community Chat 11:00 a.m. Saturday LGBT Chat is an ongoing social discussion group meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. CJava Hut Ferndale Michigan,

165 w 9 mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

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

"POSE" with The HOUSE of FRIENDSHIP – Clarence Xavier Davis. Guest Artist 8:30 p.m. Dance party. Club attire. Cash bar. Westin book cadillac detroit, 1114 Washington Blvd., Detroit. 313-442-1600. marriott.com.

Sunday, April 21

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support

Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4:00 p.m. Free. For Parent Support Group information, contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st Street, Wyandotte. standwithtrans.org.

Monday, April 22

LGBT Game Night 7:00 p.m. LGBT Game

Pink at Little Caesars Arena April 26-27

Grammy Award-winning pop star Pink is known the world over for her critically acclaimed vocals. Fans will be able to see her perform for two nights in a row, April 26 and 27, at Little Caesars Arena. Joining her in her performance is Julia Michaels, whose platinum-selling debut single "Issues" garnered her "Best New Artist" and "Song of the Year" Grammy Award nominations. Tickets start at \$47.45. More information about the show can be found online at 313presents.com and at ticketmaster.com.

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 23

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

Wednesday, April 24

Affirmations Senior Koffee Clatch! 1:00 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 and older. Various discussion topics, social outings, and potlucks are held throughout the year. With age comes wisdom but, for LGBTQ seniors, loneliness can often come along, too. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org

Thursday, April 25

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

Thursday, May 2

Pride Night at Thunderbowl! 7:00 p.m. Meet & Greet First Thursday of every month, unlimited bowling, shoe rental, private room, private bar area, drink specials, billiard room, 250-foot video wall. Come as you are! Thunderbowl Arena, 4200 Allen Road, Allen Park. 313-928-4688. thunderbowl.org.

Friday, May 10

Cinetopia Film Festival 8:00 a.m. The eighth annual CFF kicks off a Friday, May 10, and concludes on Sunday, May 19. Spanning 10 days, Cinetopia brings films to local theaters and venues. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 info@cinetopiafestival.org <http://cinetopiafestival.org>

Monday, May 13

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Macomb County 6:30 p.m. Macomb Teen/Youth Support Group: All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. Come and meet other trans* youth and teens

and support each other through your journeys. We meet the 2nd Monday of each month every month that begins at 6:30pm on day Second of the month, repeating indefinitely Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700 <http://www.chippewavalley.schools.org/schools/high-schools/dhs/>

Wednesday, May 15

Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County 6:30 p.m. Free to all, group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month @ Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Parent Support Group Facilitators Karen Sessler, kssesle@yahoo.com or 734-673-3590 and Scott Sessler, pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org or 734-673-2485 Trans Youth Support Group (12+) Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. <http://www.standwithtrans.org>

MUSIC & MORE

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, research supporting the efficacy of mutual aid participation, and include a panel discussion by members of a sampling of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725 www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series

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. All will be reminded that no life is less Towsley auditorium, 4800 East Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor. www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series

Flint Symphony Orchestra Presents 'Mahler's Resurrection' May 11, 7:30 p.m. FSO bringing you yet another Classical Concert featuring Enrique Diemecke, conductor with the Flint Symphony Orchestra. Pre-Concert talk at 6:30pm. These fun and informative talks take the mystery out of classical music. Flint Institute of Music, 1025 E. Kearsley Street, Flint. 810-238-1350 <https://thefim.org> <https://thefso.org/calendar/?i=6>

Cabaret 313 Presents Kate Baldwin May 18, 6:30 p.m. Kate Baldwin makes her Cabaret 313 debut in How Did You Get This Number?, a new stage show featuring

Editor's Pick

Easter Eggstravaganza

On Saturday, April 20, from 1 to 5 p.m., Beacon Park Detroit will host the 2nd Annual Easter Eggstravaganza. Attendees will experience an afternoon of free activities including an egg hunt, make-and-take crafts, Peep s'mores and a live DJ.

The Beacon Parkcade will also be open with more than a dozen classic arcade games like air hockey, NFL Blitz and Spider-Man. Food truck fare and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Beacon Park is located at 1901 Grand River Ave. in Downtown Detroit.



signature songs from her acclaimed performances in Finian's Rainbow, Giant, Big Fish and Hello Dolly!. The Marlene Boll Theatre, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. <http://cabaret313.org/shows-tickets/kate-baldwin/>

Relapse Prevention May 21, 7:30 p.m. Erik Anderson, LMSW, CAADC, will discuss the dynamics of relapse from substance use disorder recovery, how to develop a relapse prevention plan and creative, effective strategies to handle both every-day and high-risk situations. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725 www.dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series

THEATER

Williamston Theatre Presents 'The Gin Game' April 20:30 p.m. Winner of the 1978 Pulitzer Prize for Drama! 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 <http://www.williamstontheatre.org/the-gin-game>

Detroit Repertory Theatre Presents 'Aubrey' April 20, 3:00 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 <http://www.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

See **Happenings**, continued on p. 27



1617 E. McNichols @ I-75.
Det. 313-3669663 . Open 24/7
PRIVATE GAY HEALTH CLUB

Entry ID: Drivers License-State ID-Passport

*Room upgrades charged at normal rates

**Lights
Out Party
Friday
APRIL 19**

**LEATHER NIGHT
SAT. APRIL 27**

\$5 Lockers for
members in
Chaps /Harness

**TUESDAYS: College Night
FREE LOCKERS
for Members 18-25**

**WEDNESDAYS:
Wet & Wild Wednesdays
FREE LUBE with a room or
locker rental**

**THURSDAYS: COUPLES NIGHT
Couples get a \$5 Locker
when renting any room**

MISS RICHFIELD 1980

Sunday May 5th

Gender Fluids

A non binary approach to happiness!

Tickets at: **12Drags.com**

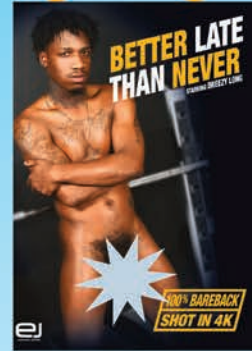
FIVE15
600 S. Washington, Downtown Royal Oak 248-515-2551 FIVE15.net

THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!

BUY
ADULT DVD'S
STARTING AT
\$5.95

EVERY TUES & FRIDAY
NEW
RELEASE
DAY

ALL XXX
DVD RENTALS
AS LOW AS \$1.25
EVERY DAY!



UPTOWN SALE
\$10 OFF
ANY \$50 PURCHASE
\$20 OFF
ANY \$100 PURCHASE
REGULAR PRICED MERCHANDISE ONLY!
MAY 1-5, 2019

UPTOWN SALE
\$10 OFF
ANY \$50 PURCHASE
\$20 OFF
ANY \$100 PURCHASE
REGULAR PRICED MERCHANDISE ONLY!
MAY 1-5, 2019



Rush - Jungle Juice - Maximum Impact -
Swiss Navy - Amsterdam - ID Glide - COLT-
Butterfly Kiss Pink - The Womanizer

UPTOWN
BOOKSTORES
ADULT VIDEO
2 LOCATIONS
WWW.UPTOWNADULT.COM

16541 Woodward Ave.
at McNichols next to "Deja Vu"
Highland Park
313.869.9477

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

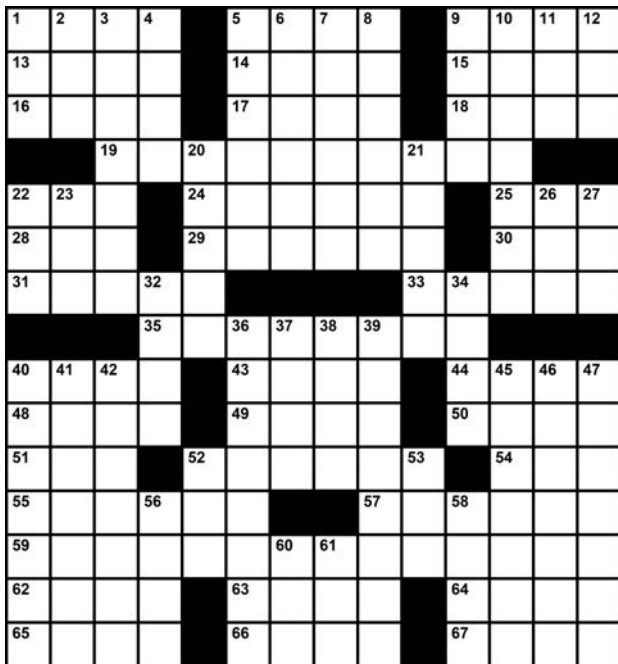
Hours:
Mon-Sat 9am - 10pm
Sun Noon - 8pm

Hookups =
SQUIRT
.org



Visit www.squirt.org
to hook up today





- 29 Starts
 30 Opponent of Wade
 31 Comic strip named for a vine
 33 Online prostitution?
 35 The Orlando shooting, for example
 40 Go across
 43 On-line 'zine
 44 Two queens, e.g.
 48 Terse oral refusal
 49 Disney's "That ___ Cat!"
 50 Rubik of cube fame
 51 "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" peak
 52 Ana Brnabic's country
 54 Dam agcy.
 55 Susan Feniger may pleasure it
 57 Bear or bull
 59 Gay leaders of three countries in this puzzle
 62 Positions for Patty Sheehan
 63 Emma Donoghue's country
 64 Official records
 65 Petrol station choice
 66 Initiated phone sex
 67 "Methinks thou ___ protest too much"
- 7 Tug on a fishing line
 8 Barely make
 9 Out partner
 10 1953 Marilyn Monroe film
 11 "Some of My Best Friends" network
 12 Shrek's shoe size, perhaps
 20 Lines through
 21 Unexpected victory
 22 Boat with a pair of bears
 23 Lucy of "Charlie's Angels"
 26 Rimbaud's king
 27 Animation unit
 32 Billy of "Titanic"
 34 Be a hunter and pecker
 36 Christ the ___ (Rio landmark)
 37 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
 38 Prep for a marathon, with "up"
 39 Arsonist activity
 40 Type of fruit juice
 41 Shiny part of the Little Bear's tail
 42 Brings to bear
 45 Erte's style
 46 Turns inside out
 47 Guffaws about, as a Kate McKinnon skit
 52 Sault ___ Marie
 53 Caesar's arts
 56 Schoolyard retort
 58 Not much
 60 "Got a Rainbow" lyricist Gershwin
 61 Anais who went both ways

Gay World Leaders

QPuzzle

Across

- 1 Early AIDS play
 5 Weathercock
 9 Fairy tale start
 13 Wise guy
 14 Debussy contemporary Satie
 15 Vague sense

- 16 His brother laid him in his grave
 17 Garb for Troy Perry
 18 The life of Riley
 19 Xavier Bettel's country
 22 Home st. of Tallulah Bankhead
 24 Make airtight
 25 Rainbow shape
 28 ___ Tin Tin

Down

- 1 Khan's title
 2 Where to put your meat, in a deli
 3 Leo Varadkar's country
 4 George Takei's role on "Star Trek"
 5 Dancer Ben
 6 They come from pansies

Editor's Pick

Pride at The Corner April 23

Ferndale Pride at the crew at Detroit Axe invite you to show off your Axe-throwing skills or learn how to throw in support of Ferndale Pride. A portion of proceeds from ticket sales will be donated directly to Pride as well as to providing Pride supporters with a deal on Detroit Axe Tickets. Axle Brewing Co. beer will also be available. Find out more by following the Ferndale Pride Facebook page.



Happenings

Continued from p. 25

Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538
http://smt.d.umich.edu/about/facilities/north_campus/walgreen/arthurmillier/
<http://www.a2ct.org/shows/fahrenheit-451>

Angels in America – Parts I and II
 April 26. In this two-part epic, Prior Walter, a young man living in NYC in 1985, is diagnosed with AIDS. Hillbery Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. <http://theatreanddance.wayne.edu/theatre/>

Angels in America: Part Two – Perestroika April 26, 8:00 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. Hillbery Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. (313) 577-2972 <https://www.wsushows.com>

Stagecrafters Baldwin Theatre Second Stage Presents "Southern Comfort"
 April 26, 8:00 p.m. Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. 2485418027 <https://www.stagecrafters.org/>

Angels in America: Part One – Millennium Approaches May 5, 3:00 p.m. In Part I of this two part epic, Prior Walter, a young man living in NYC in 1985, is diagnosed with AIDS. Hillbery Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. (313) 577-2972 <https://www.wsushows.com/TheatreManager/1/online?performance=188>

Stagecrafters Baldwin Theatre Presents "Oklahoma!" May 17, 8:00 p.m. Baldwin Theatre, 415 South Lafayette, Royal Oak. 2485418027 <https://www.stagecrafters.org/on-stage/main-stage/38-oklahoma.html>

Jersey Boys at Music Hall! May 17, 8:00 p.m. They were just four guys from Jersey, until they sang their very first note. Detroit Music Hall, 350 Madison St., Detroit. 313-887-8501 www.music hall.org <https://www.broadwayindetroit.com>

Cabaret 313 Presents Kate Baldwin May 18, 6:30 p.m. Kate Baldwin makes her Cabaret 313 debut in How Did You Get This Number?, Electrifying works fill the program with gorgeous One event on May 18 at 8:45pm The Marlene Boll Theatre, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. <http://cabaret313.org/shows-tickets/kate-baldwin/>





PrEP Clinic

Now Open
 Tuesdays
 10:00am-3:00pm


3011 West Grand Blvd
 Suite 230
 Detroit, MI 48202
 313-446-9800

UNIFIED
 hiv health and beyond
 LIFE CONTINUES. LIVE HEALTHY.
 In partnership with
 Sinai Grace Hospital


 Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a way to help prevent HIV by taking a pill every day.
 PrEP must be taken every day to be most effective.

 HIV Testing
 PrEP Assessment
 Insurance & Payment Guidance.
 PrEP Education


 When taken consistently, PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by more than 90%.


 Your risk of getting HIV from sex can be even lower if you combine PrEP with condoms and other prevention methods.

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

WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG



Our Second Floor
THE UPPER LEVEL
 A QUIRKY URBAN STAY

3 Great Rooms; The Retro Room
 The Loft | The Suite
 Hot Breakfast Served Daily
GENDERFLUID
 Check in 3 pm and Check out 11am
 RESERVATIONS/INFO: **616-427-3323**

24/7/365 • Hot Tub • Cedar Wood Sauna
 Large TV Areas • Hot Videos • Theatre
 And many more amenities!

www.thediplomatclub.com

2324 Division Ave S
 Grand Rapids, MI

Tel 616-452-3754
PRIVATE GAY HEALTH CLUB



Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Christmas terror with 'NOS4A2' and Zachary Quinto

Christmas is coming early this year and it's going to be horrifying. AMC premieres the new series "NOS4A2" on June 2, starring Ashleigh Cummings (this fall's Oscar-bait, "The Goldfinch," from which you'll no doubt be hearing more) and, as the baddest Santa of all, Zachary Quinto. Cummings plays a young woman who discovers she has a supernatural gift for finding lost things, which puts her at cross purposes with and battling against one Charlie Manx (Quinto). Manx is a creature who feeds off the souls of children before leaving them in Christmasland, a place where it's literally Christmas every day and unhappiness is against the law. It's all based on the best-selling 2013 novel by Joe Hill, and we're pleased to know that it will serve as a vigorously dark rebuke to the Hallmark Channel's insistence on showing bland, white bread Christmas-themed TV movies every other night of the year.



Judith Light. Photo: KathClick

Viola Davis brings Octavia Butler to TV

Viola Davis A-list status means she has a production company now. It's called JuVee, and she and her production partner, Julius Tennon, have something in store for Amazon: a drama series based on the novel "Wild Seed," the first of the "Patternist" series from legendary lesbian sci-fi author Octavia Butler. The story of two African immortals – one

cruel, one healing – who travel from pre-Colonial West Africa into the far away future, it's an epic of supernatural struggle that spans history and shapes life on Earth. No cast is set yet – though, obviously, we know we want Viola in there, please and thank you – but it will be co-written by Nnedi Okorafor and filmmaker Wanuri Kahiu, who will also direct. More on this one as it develops, because America is literally starving for lesbian-created sci-fi TV content and there will be no peace until that hunger is sated.

Queen Latifah, Missy Elliott and Mary J. Blige spread the gospel

Among the 150 films on Lifetime's production slate – yes, you read that correctly, one hundred and fifty – one certainly stands out, and that's because it's from a power trio production team comprised of Queen Latifah, Missy Elliott and Mary J. Blige. We're not here to tell you that there's anything explicitly queer about this news because at least two thirds of that triangle remain, after all this time, for so very long, quite quiet about their sexuality, which is their right and we absolutely respect their privacy, but still, when Latifah and Missy do anything our ears prick up, you know? Anyway, it's a film about The Clark Sisters, one of the 20th century's most

important and enduring gospel music quartets. They are, in fact, the bestselling gospel group on the planet. So far the only casting news is Aunjanue Ellis ("If Beale Street Could Talk"), but come on, if Mary J. doesn't get in on this and sing it until it breaks then what's going on in Hollywood? Excited about this one.

Diva alert: Judith Light! Bette Midler! Janet Mock!

Ryan Murphy has yet another new show in the works. It's called "The Politician," it's coming to Netflix, and it stars that adorable (and now openly gay) Ben Platt as a high school student convinced he's going to be president someday, but who must first navigate the choppy, ruthless waters of student government. And in a cast already packed with names like Gwyneth Paltrow, Jessica Lange and Zoey Deutch, new additions Judith Light and Bette Midler will be taking their own turns on set. Even better, "Pose" writer and director Janet Mock will be at the helm for at least one episode of the season. With "Glee" gone for a minute already, and with "Popular" now a fond memory of the early 2000s, we're ready for Murphy to head back to high school, especially with this kind of diva power.

Romeo San Vicente would vote for Judith Light for president.

#TIME2KNOW GET TESTED

NOW OFFERING INTEGRATED TESTING



- Rapid HIV
- Rapid Hep C
- Gonorrhea
- Chlamydia
- Syphilis

CONVENIENT METRO DETROIT LOCATIONS

Matrix MAC Health in Ferndale & MidTown Detroit • Affirmations in Ferndale

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NO SUNDAY TESTING
<p>Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-4:30PM <i>By Appointment</i></p>	<p>Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-7:30PM <i>Walk-In</i></p>	<p>Affirmations FERNDALE 5:30PM-8:30PM <i>Walk-In or Appointment</i> Mpowerment Detroit MIDTOWN 11AM-7PM <i>Walk-In</i></p>	<p>Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-4:30PM <i>Walk-In</i></p>	<p>Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-5PM <i>Walk-In</i> STD Testing ONLY Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Chlamydia, Hep C</p>	<p>Mpowerment Detroit MIDTOWN <i>3rd Saturday of each month</i> 11AM-2PM <i>Walk-In</i></p>	

Call 1.888.226.6366 to make an appointment or for information.

1 (888) A CONDOM



MATRIX MAC HEALTH IS A PROGRAM OF MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES. LEARN MORE. GIVE. VOLUNTEER. DISCOVER MATRIX AT MatrixHumanServices.org

HONOR • REMEMBER • RESPECT • GIVE THANKS • HONOR • REMEMBER • RESPECT • GIVE THANKS

MOTOR CITY PRIDE | DETROIT

FESTIVAL AND PARADE

JUNE 8-9, 2019



STONEWALL

50

www.motorcitypride.org

  #motorcitypride

Art Show Grand Rapids Is Calling All LGBTQ Artists

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Known for its biennial ArtPrize competition, Grand Rapids has long been considered a hub for Michigan artists who get to display their work across the city during the 19-day event. However, as prolific as many of the competitors are, artwork from LGBTQ creators isn't a direct focus, that's why The Apartment Lounge, a Grand Rapids gay bar, is putting on Art Show this coming June.

"Art show is an outlet and market for LGBTQIA artists to sell and share their works with our community in Grand Rapids," wrote event organizers. "We found that there wasn't a large-scale event for our community to be represented and celebrated with their art. There are more and more people in our community that are identifying as queer and with that come many things: A grand culture filled with diversity and inclusivity, stemming from the vein of acceptance. But most importantly, to say 'We're here!'"

Though the show's official date is Sunday, June 9, applications are being accepted now, with a deadline for submissions of May 5. Eric Zuniga is the General Manager of The Apartment Lounge. He said that besides paying the \$50 application fee, submitting artists should be aware of two rules:

- 1.) All work must be original and produced by the artist.
- 2.) Artwork displayed must reflect the category for which the artist applied.

"It's got to go hand-in-hand with what you're applying to present," he said. "The art won't be accepted if you say that you have oil paintings and you show up with papier mache dolls."

When asked why this year was chosen for the Lounge's inaugural Art Show, Zuniga said that it's been in the works for a long time, but 2019 felt right.

"We've thought about doing it for quite some time, [but] we didn't really have the resources as far as personal connections," he said. "And people in our community that could help us out with the planning process and actually getting the correct wording out and getting people that have actually been participating in art shows before, so that we could actually use that as a skeleton for our event."

He said one of the most rewarding parts of putting on a show like this is because it's allowed him to not only form closer relationships with the regular clientele at The Apartment Lounge, but with the Grand Rapids art community.

"The [pieces] we've gotten here have actually been cool," he said. "Because I am the GM here at the Apartment Lounge, I see a lot of these people [that], unbeknownst to me, they're actually artists. So, when the work comes in, it's really cool; it's kind of a little window into looking past people as patrons and now seeing them as artists in our community. It's very eye-opening what they're sharing and what they want to share at our art show that's coming up."

The free event will involve shutting down the streets in front



of the bar, from Sheldon Avenue NE and Fulton Street E, to allow for artist's booths and "we'll have a food truck, a little bar with White Claw and some beers, and we'll also have free water stations to make sure people are staying hydrated."

Zuniga said that what he's most excited for on the day is to expose the local community to the talent of LGBTQ creators and to bring them closer together, too.

"I just haven't seen a big venue that is mainly focused on LGBTQIA, so that was kind of our whole thought process going into this like, 'What can we do? How can we create a space for people in our community to be able to share their work?'"

To apply to present artwork in the upcoming event visit The Apartment Lounge's Facebook or email wh.artshow@gmail.com with any questions. The Apartment Lounge is located at 33 Sheldon Ave NE in Grand Rapids.



Exciting Announcement!

Williams Auto World has Expanded & Now Includes Williams Hyundai

2845 East Saginaw St., Lansing, MI 48912
517-484-1341 | www.williamsautoworld.com

Williams



Friday Night Socials at the Salus Center

Lansing's dedicated LGBTQ community center, the Salus Center, is hosting a weekly Friday social night that's aimed at getting local LGBTQ folks together to socialize and get to know each other. The next available events are Friday, April 19 and April 26.

"Join me (Mercuri, one of the Salus Center's awesome interns) on Friday nights for fun times and new friends in a LGBTQIA+-affirming atmosphere!" wrote event organizers. "Activities will change each week. You're encouraged to bring a snack to share, this is not required. Everyone, kids included, (are) welcome for these free fun nights!"

Previous activities have included a game of Unstable Unicorns, book binding and card making. Attendees are encouraged to reach out in advance of the event to suggest activities, too.

"Have a hobby or skill you'd like to share? Just generally enjoy planning social events and want to help out? Contact Mercuri! Always happy for the help!" organizers wrote.

To find out more about the event visit the Salus Center's Facebook page or go online to saluscenter.org. The Center is located at 408 S. Washington Square in Lansing.





exp REALTY


Amber Steciuk
 Contact Me!
ambersteciuk.exprealty.com
 Check me out on Facebook at Amber Steciuk - Realtor

As part of an experienced Real Estate team in South East Michigan, I am excited to utilize my passion for relationships, community, and Metro Detroit to help you on one of the biggest adventures of your life!

License # 416343

P: 248-561-8245 E: AMBER.STECIUK@DEIGHTONGROUP.COM

DAVID HARRIS, PH.D.
 FULLY LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST




**Individual
 Couples
 Family Therapy**

LANSINGPSYCH.NET
 adjacent to msu campus

234 MICHIGAN AVENUE, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823
 (517) 337-6545 X 232 FAX: (517) 337-3010


TRIANGLE CHIROPRACTIC



INTEGRATE MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT VIA NATURE AND CHIROPRACTIC MASSAGE AND NUTRITION

GROSSE POINTE OFFICE PLAZA
 1-94 SERVICE DRIVE AT ALLARD EXIT

OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY
 313-885-9496
WWW.TRIANGLECLINIC.COM



JOHN TSAKOS, DC
 MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

Guss Pappas
 Financial Advisor

WELLS FARGO ADVISORS

Vice President - Investments
 34100 Woodward Ave., Ste. 300, Birmingham MI 48009
guss.pappas@wellsfargo.com • wellsfargo.com
 Direct: 248-723-3148

Investment and Insurance Products:

▶ NOT FDIC Insured ▶ NO Bank Guarantee ▶ MAY Lose Value

Wells Fargo Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, Member SIPC, a registered broker-dealer and non-bank affiliate of Wells Fargo & Company, 2011, 2013, 2016 Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. All rights reserved. CAR-0178-01772 1702 IHA-562803

Licensed Swedish Massage
 Auburn Hill
 Kansonn 248-672-0669
kanrubu@yahoo.com

BTL Shop The Rainbow
 Between Lines

There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and welcome everyone.

Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan's LGBTQ community!



Linda Lom Team
 AT TRILLIUM



Linda Helps People Make Good Decisions.

Come find out why Linda Lombardini was voted Washtenaw County's Favorite Realtor.

Thrice.

734-302-3600 323 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor
www.LindaLom.com Linda@LindaLom.com

TRILLIUM REAL ESTATE

Educate.

Scholarships through the LCC Foundation provide opportunities that grow talent and build skills that ELEVATE our community. DONATE today.

Donate. Educate. Elevate
lcc.edu/elevate



LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Enjoy Sunday snuggles at home.

Whether hosting a dinner party or spending quiet time with your loved ones, your home is so much more than just a house. It's where your life happens.

Make your dream home a reality. Contact MSUFCU today.
msufcu.org • 517-333-2424

MSU MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
 Building Dreams Together

NCUA Federally insured by NCUA **LENDER**

You are Invited to our "Over 50" Living with HIV Medical Lecture

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

Complimentary dinner, 6 pm • Program, 6:30 pm

**Ascension St. John Macomb Oakland
Hospital Educational Center
27351 Dequindre, Madison Heights, MI 48071**

As we age living with HIV, our metabolism changes more rapidly than uninfected individuals and so does our well-being. In other words, we get older quicker. These changes include all body systems, such as heart, lungs, brain, liver, bones, kidneys, vision, hearing, gastrointestinal, and more. The number one cause of mortality in older persons living with HIV is not HIV, but non-HIV-associated malignancies, such as colon cancer, prostate cancer, liver and pancreatic cancer to name a few. Thankfully, with all newer HIV medications, the virus itself is not really the problem any longer.

There are many things you can do to enable yourself to live longer and more healthy with HIV. At the **Be Well Medical Center**, we focus our HIV primary care for our treasured older HIV population, many of whom have been with us since the 1980s. We do the seemingly little things, like early and aggressive treatment for borderline high sugar, cholesterol, or blood pressure. It makes a difference.

Our primary care for the "over 50 crowd" separates good from great. As your healthcare team of coaches, we are constantly reviewing medications to avoid over medicating. Sometimes, less is more. We address and encourage good nutrition, exercise, and tobacco cessation. We provide evidence-based care to protect your liver, bones, kidneys, and other vital body systems. We limit or substitute medicines to reduce risk of falling, especially at night, to help prevent bone fractures. We respect aging livers and kidneys. We have Keyuna Nance, MSW, on site, to aggressively screen for and treat depression that sometimes accompanies getting older.

We will be announcing plans for "Group Medical Appointments" for those over the age of 50. These visits will provide an opportunity



Dr. Paul Benson's
Be Well
Medical Center

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



Leon Bullough, NP-F



Keyuna Nance, MSW