

MICHIGAN'S LGBTQ NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



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Why We Need to Pass  
the Equality Act

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# Stonewall 50

## A Personal Memoir of a Year That Changed the World



Gay Liberation Front pickets Time Inc. 1970. Courtesy of NY Public Library. Author Mark Segal, front right, shares his memories of the Stonewall uprising and the year that followed, page 4.



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# Stonewall: A Personal Memoir of a Year That Changed the World

BY MARK SEGAL

That night, standing in Stonewall, I could not have imagined what the next few hours would do to change the gay and lesbian community around the world. I doubt anyone else could have known. How could we have known on June 28, 1969, that we'd be participating in history?

It started when the lights flickered on and off, alerting the patrons to something imminent, though I had no idea what. It was my second month in New York, my second month walking Christopher Street, my second month being an out and proud gay. Looking over at my friend, I asked what was happening and he said, nonchalantly, "Oh, it's just a raid." As an 18-year-old new to everything, his words were frightening.

The police barged in, pushing around anyone who was in drag or stereotypical-looking. They hurled insults and hurled people around. Anyone who looked like they were successful, anyone who had a few bucks, were forced to take out their wallets and, in the bright light, give their money to the cops, who slid the bills in their pockets. Welcome to Extortion 101. They robbed us in plain sight, and we had no possible recompense. That is how they felt about us. That's how they felt they could treat us: any way they wished.

As this was happening, they began to clear the bar by carding people. To this day I don't know why they were carding, since it was an illegal bar and drinking age didn't matter, but that was the procedure. At 18 and fresh from Philadelphia, I looked like the boy next door. They had little use for me and I was one of the first to be carded and let out, and I was glad about that.

But as I came out, I saw an obvious difference in what certain clientele were doing. Those with family ties, those with a good job, those on the fast track to a professional career, all ran for the subway as soon as they could get out that door. People like me, a street kid living at Sloane House YMCA on 34th street, and others, who today you'd call trans, just stuck around. We had nowhere safe to go. Our safety was with each other, right there, watching what was transpiring.

Eventually, there were more of us outside, and inside the bar remained only the police and employees. Those of us who stayed formed a semicircle around the double doors into the street. My memory tells me that there were between 50 and a 100 of us. The doors opened and the police shouted out a few insults and told us to disperse. We didn't. They opened the door a second time and again spewed insults, demanding we disperse. We didn't, and this time we yelled insults back at them. They closed the door, and at that point people picked up whatever there was around them: stones, discarded soda cans and bottles. For the first time in history our community wasn't



Courtesy of NY Public Library. Author Mark Segal, front right.

just fighting back. We had imprisoned our oppressors, the police. They were now our prisoners.

This continued for some time, and it was a while before police reinforcement came to their rescue. It is my belief that the reason for the slow reinforcements was the police inside that gay bar were so embarrassed to call their station house and have to tell their fellow officers, "We're trapped and surrounded by angry fags and dykes. Please save us."

The fact that we had them trapped created a certain joy on the street. People began to run to other bars in the area, passersby turned their heads as they came around the corner.

While this riot was happening, Marty Robinson, who had created a group called The Action Group, came up to me with chalk, and said, "Write on the walls and street, 'Tomorrow Night, Stonewall.'" I have no idea where he got the chalk, but I'm thankful he got it. That chalk was a catalyst for much more than one night of rebelling.

From the river, to Greenwich, all along Christopher Street, I wrote. "Tomorrow Night, Stonewall."

People ran and screamed and laughed. It was a joyous evening. We were fighting off 2,000 years of oppression, though we didn't realize it in that moment.

Amid the joy and the excitement, I had a light bulb moment. Standing across the street from Stonewall, watching everything around me, I thought to myself, "Black people are fighting for their lives, women are fighting for their lives. Latinos are fighting for their lives. What about us? What about me?"

It was at that point that I finally knew what I'd do for the rest of my life. I would be something that didn't exist yet, something that didn't have a title, something that had no salary: a gay activist. I didn't know, and I didn't care, how difficult it would be. All I knew in that moment was that I found what I was meant to do.

I was at a riot that started a revolution, and I would be a part of it.

In the commotion, I saw a window broken. I didn't see any molotov cocktails. I saw a feather boa being put on the statue of General Sheridan in Sheridan Square. I wasn't there when anyone was arrested, but I was there each and every night that followed, along with all of us who would later call ourselves Gay Liberation Front.

It was the members of GLF who wrote on the street that night, members of GLF who stood proudly at the front doors of Stonewall the second night to hear Marty Robinson and Martha Shelley speak, members who understood the changes we were demanding, not asking for.

The third and fourth nights were filled with organizing and a circus atmosphere that continued the entire week. We were joyous, since from the ashes of Stonewall came Gay Liberation Front, a group that would turn our community and the world upside down. Also from the third night on, leafleting began on Christopher Street. For the first time we were united, and for the first time we were a diversified community.

Let's make this clear, before GLF, you didn't see anyone but white men in suits and ties and white women in dresses representing the LGBT community. Those earlier organizations wouldn't have anyone else as spokespeople. That is why I was in the Action Group. Mattachine didn't want me, a youth of 18, in their office since they felt they could be raided for corrupting the morals of minors. And drag queens, people of color? They were ignored by those groups. But we in GLF welcomed all. From lesbian separatists, to radical fairy collectives, youths, street kids and, yes, drag queens, they were all GLF. You may have heard about a couple of our members: Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, they were welcomed.

GLF is the most important LGBT organization to have ever existed. We made

more change in one year for this community than any other organization since and we also were certainly the most dysfunctional, and we are all proud of that! That first year, from Stonewall to the first Gay Pride in 1970, was pure magic. And it made our community what it is today. It changed our lives in so many ways that no organization had until then.

We would no longer be invisible, we were out, loud and proud of who we were and we would no longer accept society's labels, we would tell them who we were. We were not "homosexuals." We were gay men, gay women, lesbians, dykes, drag queens. Not only would we be open about who we were, we'd also be in your face to fight for our rights, not merely plead for them. This was all revolutionary, since 99.9 percent of our community was in the closet and in 1969, before GLF, there were only four types of places to go. Illegal gay bars, cruising areas, private parties, and secret meetings of organizations, which were hidden so the police would not raid them.

GLF advertised our meetings. We advertised that we were going to have a dance — women dancing with women, men dancing with men — and not in an illegal bar but in public. We dared the police to raid us, and they were afraid to. That was rebellious! We also publicly took back our street — Christopher Street — by leafleting every night and facing off against the police. We did legal alerts, medical alerts, notices to gather for our next demonstration, handouts for Gay Youth meetings, a hotline, the nation's first trans organization, and the nation's first LGBT Community Center. And if all that were not enough, we were the organizers and marshals for that very first Gay Pride in 1970, which was called Christopher Street Liberation Day March originally dreamed up by Craig Rodwell, and Ellen Broidy.

Stonewall was not one night, it was a year, and GLF was its spirit. That spirit of rebellion transformed our world. Before Stonewall, less than a hundred out people represented us, all white men and white women, no diversity allowed. One year later at Gay Pride, people of color, trans people and youth, gathered under a grassroots movement that welcomed all segments of our community, we were not 100 picketing once a year. We were now thousands.

I wasn't just at Stonewall, more importantly, I was with Gay Liberation Front.

Stonewall and GLF are synonymous. One night led to one magical year. A year that changed the world.

---

*Mark Segal is publisher of The Philadelphia Gay News and last year his personal papers and artifacts including some from this article were inducted into The Smithsonian Institute American History Museum in Washington, D.C. His Memoir "And Then I Danced, Traveling The Road To LGBT Equality" was named book of the year by the National Lesbian Gay Journalist Association.*



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# Noble Takes Helm at ACLU

## Seeks To Mobilize LGBTQ and Ally Voters

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Every Michigander above the age of 6 or so should know of Lansing, and if they don't it's guaranteed that the decisions made in the state's capital have at some point had a direct impact on their lives. Still, as important as this city is for Michigan's citizens, it's fair to say that it's usually not one's first pick when planning a vacation in the state.

"People would ask me where I was going on vacation and I would say 'Lansing,' and they'd say, 'Who vacations there?'"

Thankfully for the ACLU of Michigan, its newly hired Executive Director Dave Noble does. That's important because, among a variety of other reasons, it's partially why he became familiar not only with the state but why he felt comfortable taking on his current role.

"I'd spent some time as a consultant to really figure out [what to do] after the [Obama] administration ended. I knew I wanted to take time to decide where I could make the most difference in the next chapter. Why Michigan? Not only had I done this work in Michigan before — and I had been coming to Michigan to vacation with groups of friends — but over the last 15 years at least once a year I'd find myself in Michigan."

In fact, though Noble is originally from Rhode Island and spent a large portion of his career in Washington, D.C., Michigan has been a recurring theme for him throughout his career. For example, while he was working with The National Stonewall Democrats and the Obama presidential campaign, Michigan was a fixture in his career.

But beyond his general familiarity and simply liking the state as a travel destination, Noble was particular in his decision to work with the Michigan's branch of the ACLU after the departure of his predecessor Kary L. Moss.

"I also followed what the ACLU of Michigan did with Prop 3 (to expand voter rights) and really knew how well-respected, well-regarded the team here was as fighters in so many ways to stand up for civil liberties throughout the state," he said. "So, I looked at this opportunity as a chance to come to a state where there's a lot of work that still needs to be done ... but also there's a lot of potential to do good work with an amazing team of staff, board members and supporters who have a proven track record of getting things done."

On a sunny June morning just months after settling into his new role, Noble took time out of his busy schedule to chat with *Between The Lines* about his goals at the ACLU, his tips for fighting back against discriminatory policies at the state and national level, and his own political background.

### A Burgeoning Interest in Politics

When asked what motivated him to get his start in politics Noble was upfront: "It's completely connected to me realizing I was gay."

"I remember still, I grew up in a family that was not very political at all. I grew up in Rhode Island. If we talked about politics at all my parents were what I think is referred to now as New England Republicans, but they weren't super engaged," he said.

It really wasn't until the 1992 presidential election that Noble took an interest in anything related to the political sphere. It was around that time that Noble was coming to terms with his sexuality and he heard Republican candidate Pat Buchanan of Virginia mention the LGBTQ community during a political debate.

"I still remember so clearly the 1992 election, sitting there in my mother's family room watching Pat Buchanan at the 1992 Republican convention go on and on about this culture war that he felt we needed to have because of people like me existing," Noble said. "And I had started to pay more attention to politics that year. I was always a student of history — I thought I wanted to be a history teacher — but it was really that election that crystallized for me the fact that this was something that I wanted to do and that I felt really called to do."

Fast forward a few years to Noble's college days and the political interest he'd had before had turned into the majors of political science and communications at Rhode Island College. While taking a summer course one year he bumped into a young state senator who he later befriended and who got him his first job on a political campaign.

"This was in [the] '96 cycle. From that campaign, I started working with a local candidate who was running for the state senate at the time. She was progressive, running against an incumbent who was not, and I did everything from knocking on doors with her to going over her positions to helping run election day," Noble said. "And by the end of that election, which we didn't win, I knew this was the kind of work that I wanted to do."

Now with a set career path, Noble spent time working on local Rhode Island elections and his first paid political gig involved preventing a for-profit health care system from buying a nonprofit hospital, eventually landing him a position with the AFL-CIO, the state Senate and to founding the Rhode Island Chapter of the Young Democrats of America.

"That is what eventually brought me to D.C. I went to D.C. to run the Young Democrats of



“There are lots of other opportunities for work to get done and I'm excited to work with not just the rest of the LGBTQ community but with elected officials who have said, 'Yeah, it's time for us to make progress: let's see what we can get done.'”

— Dave Noble

BTL Photo: Roxanne Frith

America in the 2000 election. In 2002 I left the Young Democrats and went back to Rhode Island to work on a governor's race, but after that cycle I realized the reason I had gotten involved in politics in the first place was because I was gay and because I knew how important it was for people like me that policymakers were folks who would affirm our existence and were not out to oppress us," he said.

Knowing that he wanted to get into LGBTQ-specific work, Noble began to run The National Stonewall Democrats. While there he started a network of campus chapters called The Stonewall Student Network, the first one in Ann Arbor.

"We brought Barney Frank out and had a big event and did that for two years. After the 2004 cycle, I went to what was then called the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and for 3 1/2 years I worked there," he said. "I lead their faith organizing, I lead their team of legislative lobbyists, I would go and work on different ballot measure campaigns and I did a lot of our trans work there as well, including in 2007 when there was the federal effort to try to move the Federal Non-Discrimination Act. ... I'm very proud of the fact that since then no real push with any momentum at the federal level has been made to move non-discrimination language forward without gender identity protections."

His work on that project resulted in his highest profile job with the Obama campaign where as director of the LGBT vote he was responsible for garnering support from the community to aid Obama's campaign. After Obama won the 2008 presidential election, Noble stayed on for the full eight years of his two terms, aiding NASA for part of that time, until he transitioned from consulting into his current role at the ACLU. Though not exclusively LGBTQ-specific work, Noble said he's glad to be working in a space that deals directly with those issues and he feels a sense of responsibility as a prominent, openly LGBTQ political figure.

"I'll say that I'm very much reminded of my privilege, that I have the opportunity to work at an organization where I'm not worried about being fired from for being gay but I do work in a state surrounded by folks who still are. So I'm reminded of that. I also feel a sense of responsibility as a gay kid growing up and not knowing anyone else in my high school who was gay and not having anyone, no adults who I knew who were gay," he said. "While things have certainly changed everywhere since the early '90s when I was figuring out that I was gay, I do feel a sense of responsibility that those of us with the privilege and opportunity to be out to fill that role."

## Goals for a New Role

As extensive as Noble's resume is, it's easy to see how the skills he's gained in his other positions can transfer into his new role at the ACLU. However, when asked how he hopes to make a lasting impression in his new job, his focus isn't on his own accomplishments but on helping ACLU supporters across Michigan become a "statewide grassroots mobilized force."

"So, as we move into election cycles it is important to me in how we measure success based on if city and town clerks are implementing Prop 3 properly, and are we holding folks accountable and holding folks' feet to the fire who might be dragging their feet on making those changes? And really making sure that this mobilized community here in Michigan – that their voice is heard on all of these issues," he said.

Besides making sure to address accountability, Noble said he's focused on expanding on the current progressive groundwork in Michigan that's been building, especially since the last election, like the triple election of a progressive attorney general, secretary of state and governor — among other politicians.

"I think building upon that amazing groundwork that's been laid in the last couple of years here is our best way to achieve success on a whole host of issues," Noble said.

And when trying to tackle the breadth of issues that the ACLU has taken on, it's clear they are many. At the moment the ACLU is pursuing a variety of cases touching upon topics ranging from immigrants' rights, women's rights, education, search and seizure and more. Noble said he avoids burnout himself by taking time to take stock of the fact that even though the current administration is a hostile one toward many issues pertaining to marginalized groups — particularly within the LGBTQ community — there has been significant progress made.

"We are still making a ton of progress. You still see [it] ... in politics where you see more and more openly LGBT people running for or getting elected to office. Back in the D.C. suburbs Danica Roem being elected as the first out trans person in the state legislature and then last year eight more folks," he said, also adding the more than 100 policy wins that happened during the Obama administration. "So, we are still seeing progress even with folks trying to get in the way. In fact, it is because we are seeing so much progress, I think, that this is why people are trying to get in the way. They're scared. We've got them scared."

Specifically, however, one of the biggest goals regarding LGBTQ issues would undoubtedly be to amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and

gender identity.

"It needs to happen. It's 2019 and it's going to be 2020 next year and you can still be fired for being LGBTQ and, of course, as we're very familiar here at the ACLU, we have folks like Aimee Stephens who are," he said. "I know there are some folks who try to say, 'Well, we don't need this bill because discrimination doesn't actually happen in Michigan.' Well, you know, we can introduce you to her. Discrimination happens in Michigan."

## Getting Involved in the Fight

As valuable as personal goals are, Noble said that he's eager to use the community framework to encourage people both newly interested and veterans of the local political scene to take an active role in the upcoming election cycle.

"We now have members — whether they got inspired as Trump became president or whether they're inspired because they're upset with their local prosecutor or they're inspired because they understand what needs to happen when it comes to state legislation — who are working to engage folks who have been mobilized in the last couple of years," he said. "And we're gonna use this sort of strong political muscle moving forward to now leverage this mobilized community to make changes on all of our issues."

As important as that is, that will require the construction of infrastructure he said.

"One thing I'm really excited to do here is to be a coach and cheerleader not just for the team here but to really build infrastructure throughout the state so that we're focused on all of the ACLU issues and of course all of the ACLU issues impact LGBTQ people," Noble said. "Our criminal justice reform certainly impacts the parts of our community that are over-policed just like the rest of the state. [And regarding] immigration, I did a ton of work when I came to trans asylum seekers last year and immigration here in Michigan and abuses by the government on immigration and that certainly impacts our community, too."

And building that infrastructure, legislatively or otherwise, is something that the ACLU can always use supporters to do. He said that the best way for someone to aid the ACLU in its efforts for change is simply to pay attention to the political world around them and then to feel empowered to find opportunities locally to get involved. That could involve speaking with lawmakers, voting and even raising awareness among one's peers.

"There's still work that the legislature needs to do and community members and like-minded Michiganders, whether they be LGBTQ or not, who care about equality need to pay attention and weigh in with legislators and pay attention to what legislators are doing with equality," Noble said. "There are lots of other opportunities for work to get done and I'm excited to work with not just the rest of the LGBTQ community but with elected officials who have said, 'Yeah, it's time for us to make progress; let's see what we can get done.'"

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# Tecumseh High School Teacher Recognized for LGBTQ-Inclusive Efforts

BY DREW HOWARD

Coming out as LGBTQ as a high school student or earlier is rarely a simple affair with an almost built-in expectation of a period of exclusion after doing so. However, what's not expected is for that exclusion to be present in one's school curriculum. Kristalyn Musselman is lending a helping hand to her LGBTQ students as they face a unique set of hurdles in their educational journey, particularly in the realm of health education, and she has been recognized for that work. The Tecumseh high school teacher was recently chosen out of over 500 applicants as one of the 10 Michigan Regional Teachers of the Year for her efforts to improve the lives of marginalized students.

"When I found out about being selected to represent my region, I was completely shocked," Musselman told BTL. "There are so many amazing educators in the state, and I almost didn't believe that I was one of them. I had feelings of excitement and disbelief."

Musselman, who teaches health and leadership at Tecumseh High School, was chosen in April to represent her region covering Lenawee, Hillsdale, Monroe, Jackson, Livingston and Washtenaw counties. It is especially fitting, perhaps, that Musselman was recognized for her inclusivity-focused approach as health education across the U.S. has been reported to be glaringly out of date.

According to a 2017 national study by nonprofit GLSEN, only 6.7 percent of LGBTQ students reported receiving inclusive sex education reflective of their identity. The same study found that just one tenth of LGBTQ students were enrolled in a school with official policies to support transgender and gender non-conforming students. It also found that many such students don't have access to LGBTQ-related topics in the school library, textbooks and other assigned readings.

While it's certainly a long road ahead before an LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum becomes the norm, Musselman is actively fighting for that reality. Perhaps that stems from that fact that teaching has always been in Musselman's blood.

"Ever since I was young, I knew I wanted to be a teacher," Musselman said. "My parents and grandparents were teachers and coaches, and I grew up helping my dad in his classroom and pretending to be a teacher."

Following in the tradition of her family, Musselman attended Western Kentucky University on a softball scholarship where she earned her undergraduate degree in School Health Education. She was later prompted to continue her education after discovering her passion for special education in Michigan.

"I moved back to Michigan and began substitute teaching and realized that I also loved teaching Special Education," she said. "I decided to get my master's degree in special education and got a job at Tecumseh High



Tecumseh High School teacher Kristalyn Musselman with her students. Courtesy of Kristalyn Musselman.

School while I was working to finish that degree and certification."

"I taught special education for students with learning disabilities for the first four years of my career, and then the Health position opened up and I moved into that position," she said.

It wasn't until Musselman joined the Sexual Health Initiative for Transformation as the group's co-chair that she learned new and forward-thinking ways to create an inclusive classroom setting for LGBTQ students. The five-year initiative was purposed with improving adolescent health through exemplary sexual health education, improved access to sexual health services and the establishment of safe and supportive environments for students and staff.

"I was able to attend some amazing workshops and trainings that opened my eyes and made me realize how LGBT students are at a higher risk for a multitude of adverse health conditions, including depression and suicide," Musselman said. "They are also more likely to be bullied and discriminated against."

An inclusive health education class should provide information on gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation with examples of LGBT relationships and families, Musselman said.

"It's important that sex education not simply focus on heterosexual relationships between cisgender people," she said. "These lessons must encourage and explain protection during sex for people of all identities while engaging in all kinds of sexual behavior."

LGBTQ-inclusive sex education remains a divisive issue among school districts. In the

Allendale, Michigan, school district this year, leadership saw strong pushback from parents after a high school elective teacher discussed both sexual and gender identity with students.

News of the class lesson resulted in the formation of a parent group called Conservatives of Allendale Stand Together, who called for the elimination of LGBTQ issues in all classes in a 29-page letter to the school board. The group also asked that mentions of queer and transgender students in the school district's anti-bullying campaign be taken away.

The letter states that LGBTQ issues "may have significant physical and mental health ramifications" and that including queer and trans kids in anti-bullying materials would increase discrimination against those who are not pro-LGBTQ.

For those in support of LGBTQ-inclusive sex education, it isn't about pushing an agenda; it's about protecting students. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2014, men who are having sex with other men accounted for 83 percent of primary and secondary syphilis cases. Such men often get other STDs, including chlamydia and gonorrhea infections.

The CDC also reported that these men are 17 times more likely to get anal cancer than heterosexual men and that men who are HIV-positive are at a higher risk of getting anal cancer. Meanwhile, lesbian and bisexual women are reported to get less routine care than other women, including breast and cervical cancer screenings. Musselman said she has already seen the results of implementing an LGBTQ-



Teacher Kristalyn Musselman

friendly curriculum in her classroom.

"I have noticed that all students are becoming more comfortable asking questions in my class during sex education," she said. "And I feel this increase in comfort level is due to an environment feeling more safe and welcoming."

Moving forward, Musselman said there is still much more work to do in fostering an inclusive school environment.

"Creating a climate of culture and acceptance and empathy is an ongoing battle," she said. "Schools need to provide training to their staff on the importance of creating an inclusive and safe environment within their classrooms. Teachers need tangible ideas that they can implement into their day to day classroom structure."

She continued, "Before the workshops I attended, I truly had no idea how to support and include LGBT students ... It just wasn't on my radar. And I know that most other educators would feel the same way."





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## ► Viewpoint: U.S. Sen. Peters

Continued from p. 11

wanted to start a loving family. They took their adoption case all the way to the highest court in the land.

It took courage – and America is better because of it.

But there's more work to be done. Here in Michigan and in many places across the country, you can still be fired simply for being who you are, denied an apartment or mortgage or refused service at a restaurant. That is wrong and must change.

Every American has the right to be with the person they love and not worry that it will lead to discrimination in any form. This is why I proudly support the Equality Act. Employers should be prohibited from discriminating against individuals based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. By ensuring that the Civil Rights Act includes a clause prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, we can take a huge step towards a more inclusive and equal country for all Americans. If we ensure equality at every level then there will be no worry of inequality at any level.

We have yet to fully come together and show that we are a country where anyone

can truly have the chance to succeed. The Equality Act can help change that – I'm glad the House passed this bill, and it's past time for Leader Mitch McConnell to put it on the Senate floor for a vote.

We need to get to the point where every American feels confidence in the notion that they will not face discrimination because of their sexual orientation. Even today, legally married same-sex couples are struggling to do something as simple as amend their taxes to reflect their corrected marital status. Just this week, I cosponsored the Refund Equality Act to ensure that every married couple is able to file amended joint tax returns back to the date of their marriage.

We have shown before that as a country we can rise above and stand stronger together in the face of hardship. Fifty years ago this week, the Stonewall riots took place that sparked the movement helping us to where we are today. As Senator, I'll always support this movement by defending the rights of all Americans: no matter whom they love or how they identify.

## ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

bosses. Or else!

According to Carter, the blackmail ring operated mostly in New York City and Chicago: “[The operation’s] scope and size were staggering: having operated for almost ten years, the ring victimized close to a thousand men [netting \$2 million] who were highly successful.

“Among those listed [in an ongoing police investigation] were the head of the AMA, two army generals, Admiral William Church [a suicide], a Republican member of Congress from New Jersey [\$50,000], a Princeton professor, a leading motion picture actor, a musician who made numerous appearances on television, heads of business firms, a much admired television personality and a British producer.”

The shaved-head arachnid behind the blackmail spider web was Francis P. Murphy, known among his cronies as “The Skull.” His criminal record began at conception. His den was above the Stonewall Inn bar.

But Murphy proved a canny operator. He managed to sidestep indictment, time after time – for one important reason: a buddy-buddy photo of him with America’s Big Untouchable; Federal Bureau of Investigation chief J. Edgar Hoover.

Writes Carter, “...investigation into the nationwide blackmail ring had turned up a photograph of Hoover ‘posing amiably’ [in drag] with the racket’s ringleader, and had uncovered information that Clyde Tolson, Hoover’s lover, had himself ‘fallen victim to the extortion ring.’” Oh, yes; Hoover’s SOP – Dick Tracy. Tolson’s: Tess Trueheart.

“After federal agents joined the investigation, both the photograph of Hoover and the documents about Tolson disappeared. Poof!” (Actually two ‘poofs,’ but who’s counting?)

*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](mailto:Charles@pridesource.com).*

# Creep Of The Week

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

## Kevin Swanson

I just finished watching the music video for Taylor Swift’s “You Need To Calm Down.” It’s cute. It’s catchy. And all of Big Gay is in it. That it ends with a call to sign a Change.org petition in favor of the Equality Act is nice, though it would be more useful to direct people how to register to vote because the Equality Act is never going to pass with Republicans in charge.

Swift has gotten some flack for the video. Apparently, there was a rumor that Swift was going to come out as bi and/or she and Katy Perry were going to make out but that didn’t happen. Swift and Perry DO, however, hug while wearing hamburger and fry costumes, which does make them legally married in McDondland, presuming that Mayor McCheese issues them a marriage license before the Hamburglar steals it.

Anyway, I’m old enough to remember when people were mad at Taylor Swift for not being political enough (and there were rumors she might’ve voted for Trump). I’m also young enough to remember when people were mad at Swift for being too political, like when she released this music video.

And it’s true, LGBTQ lives are inherently political, whether we want them to be or not. So if a pop superstar wants to throw her support behind equality, inclusion and love, I ain’t mad.

Kevin Swanson, a right-wing radio preacher, is SO MAD, though.

“Taylor Swift, most popular female singer in America today, released a song promoting the Leviticus 16 list of abominations, pretty much,” Swanson says on his radio show.

I’m not sure, but I think “The Leviticus 16” is a new new K-pop group, or it will be soon.

“‘You Need to Calm Down’ is the name of the song, and she’s apparently telling God to calm down about all of his ethical concerns,” Swanson continues. “The video is pushing a petition to support the Equality Act, which is now before the U.S. Senate and it’s intended to persecute Christians who don’t want to celebrate homosexual heathen rites and rituals.”

“Homosexual heathen rites and rituals” sounds pretty badass.

Seriously, though. The Equality Act supports things like living in a home, having a job, attending school and going to a store. You know, super freaky stuff.

“The message [of Swift’s video] is basically this: we’re beautiful and we’re right and those of you opposed ... you’re poor and dumb,” Swanson laments.

Now, in the video the LGBTQ people are portrayed as fabulous, and then there’s a group

**it’s true, LGBTQ lives are inherently political, whether we want them to be or not. So if a pop superstar wants to throw her support behind equality, inclusion and love, I ain’t mad. Kevin Swanson, a right-wing radio preacher, is SO MAD, though.**

of protesters who are portrayed as stereotypical rednecks, complete with signs that read things like, “Homasekualty is a sin” and “Get a brain morans!” So, yes, these people are intentionally made to look dumb and ugly, but hate is dumb and ugly so...

Swanson has a word of warning for Swift.

“You can get a little extra cash in your pocket, you can feel like you can get along without God, you can start making your own rules and afford to sin a little more, but that’s just the utmost in foolishness,” Swanson says. “That’s the total lack of the fear of God because the eyes of the Lord are every place beholding the evil and good.”

OK. So if I’m following Swanson right, he’s saying that just because you’re rich doesn’t mean God can’t kill you. So, also, spoiler alert: Taylor Swift is going to die. I know that’s a bummer, but we all are. So maybe don’t devote your life to hating people? That’s the message of “You Need to Calm Down,” actually. Swift is saying love yourself, love others, eat some cake, and also throw some cake on the ground for some reason.

But that’s not the conclusion Swanson comes to.

“In the words of Johnny Cash, ‘You can run on a long time, but one of these days God will cut you down,’” Swanson said. “So what do we say to Taylor Swift and her new concoction ‘You Need to Calm Down’? I think we just tell Taylor Swift she’s a fool. That she doesn’t fear God, and sooner or later, God will cut her down.”

Uh, sure. But at this very moment children who’ve been kidnapped by our government are sitting in their own filth in concentration camps while the Trump Administration argues before a court that there is no obligation to provide these kids with soap, or toothbrushes, or beds. And you the Republican response to outrage over these atrocities is, “You need to calm down.”

I’ll take Taylor Swift’s version any day.

# Kalamazoo Pride: 1 Festival, 4 Perspectives

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Kalamazoo Pride, a two-day festival celebrating southwest Michigan's LGBTQ community, was at Arcadia Creek Festival Place June 7 to 8. Between The Lines spent the second day at the park, and spoke with individuals while they staffed vendor tables, enjoyed the entertainment, perused the merchandise or simply chilled out in the shade on that very sunny day. Here are just four of those stories.

## Two Organizers

"We're so happy, and we're so proud," said Grayson Valenti, office manager of OutFront Kalamazoo and one of the organizers of Kalamazoo Pride. OutFront is the LGBTQ community center that benefits from the proceeds of the event. "My co-worker went up on stage yesterday to look at the crowd and it was incredible. We're just so happy that everything's running smoothly and everybody seems to be having a great time."

Valenti isn't the only one who remarked on the huge crowd Friday night. The event overall was the largest in Kalamazoo Pride's history.

"This is such a big community event and we have people coming from out of state — even Indiana and Ohio — just to come to Kalamazoo Pride," Valenti said. "It's so incredible."

Maime Butler, an OutFront board member who also helped organize the festival agreed.

"I think sometimes we think that Kalamazoo Pride is small, it's just going to be serving Kalamazoo people, and we know everybody here. But I think this year proved that Kalamazoo Pride is so much more impactful than for just Kalamazoo people," she said. "And I think that's a pretty big deal. I give a lot of props to OutFront staff and the Executive Director Denise Miller. They worked really, really hard to get this to be successful and I think they have gone above and beyond that."

Valenti, who was on the volunteer steering committee, ordered supplies for the event and was responsible for coordinating the vendors along with another OutFront staff member. He was impressed by the number of vendors and sponsors as well. He also remarked on the community support, as did Butler.

"I think in the year of the Trump Administration, the year of the United Methodist Church deciding not to have gay marriages, I think it is so important that the people who showed up today are sending a message not only locally, but to the United States, that we're here. We love ourselves, and we love our family. Even the allies that are here ... I think that is the most important thing that people can do right now with what is going on in the United States is to back each other, and to support LGBTQ+ people."



## Two Allies

It's not unusual to see allies attending Pride festivals in support of their LGBTQ friends and family, or just there to have a good time in an inclusive, welcoming space. But to witness an ally mom in tears at Kalamazoo Pride who was there to celebrate her transgender daughter who currently lives out of state and did not attend the festival was something that stood out. Ellen Swarts and Sarina Swarts-Kinsey came from Sturgis, Michigan, at the Indiana border to attend Kalamazoo Pride this year. BTL spoke with the two ally family members once they finished loading up with pride merchandise from one of the vendor tables.

"My sister is transgender," said Swarts-Kinsey. "She lives in LA, doing her dream job," where she is "very socially accepted."

"Los Angeles was so much easier for her to move to because of the openness and the inclusivity," her mother added.

When asked what it was like experiencing Kalamazoo Pride on behalf of her daughter, Swarts, who sported a rainbow temporary tattoo, teared up. Her daughter began, "This is really hopeful," Swarts-Kinsey said. "I'm gonna say that I hope that this is the world that she gets to live in all the time. It's sad that we have to wait for it to come around once a year."

"Yes," Swarts said. "She only came out about a year and a half ago. And it was very, very hard. And that breaks my heart." She paused, and added through tears, "cause I love her no matter what. Everybody else should, too."

## The Candidate for Congress

As an LGBTQ elected official running for higher office who was working the crowd at a Pride festival in his hometown, state Rep. Jon



Hoadley (D-Kalamazoo) could not have been more in his element. He stepped away from his very busy booth to talk pride and politics with BTL.

"I love Kalamazoo Pride," Hoadley said. "It really draws in supporters, both LGBT people and allies from across southwest Michigan. It's really an opportunity for everyone to come together and not only show up and show their support for equality but then the way they structure Kalamazoo Pride is the proceeds of the event benefit OutFront Kalamazoo," he said, adding that having such a place to go for people who are faced with discrimination, harassment or are coming out "is still as important in 2019 as it was 50 years ago" — a reference to the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

Hoadley announced his candidacy for U.S. Congress just a few months ago, and he spoke about that, too.

"It has been such an exciting time so far to run for Congress," he said. "And I think we're at a generational moment. Where there's a number of big-picture issues that people are hungry for wholesale change and equality is one of them. It was not lost on me that when we had Democratic control of Congress ... we are for the first time able to put the Equality Act up for a vote and pass it out of the U.S. House of Representatives. It was unfortunate that the current Representative for the 6th Congressional District in Southwest Michigan voted no and didn't support fairness and equality," he said, referring to Congressman Fred Upton (R-MI6). "And I think it is yet another example of where there is a clear difference in how we solve problems and the values that we share."

Before Hoadley had to head back to the booth, he added a few thoughts about what makes Kalamazoo Pride is so special for him personally.

"One thing, for anyone that's worked on a campaign, sometimes getting volunteer to help with a festival or a parade can be a bit of a challenge, but with Pride, it is the easiest piece," Hoadley said. "So many young people are raising their hand, and so many people of all ages want to get involved, want to work the booth, want to connect with folks that are here. So, I think that's incredible. I love seeing that energy on our campaign. And the other thing I'd say is Kalamazoo Pride marks the start of Sparkleberry season, so I always look forward to having a Sparkleberry beer here at Kalamazoo Pride," he said, of the seasonal beverage offered by Bell's Brewery, a major sponsor of the festival and whose Pride-style corporate flag flew over Arcadia Park along with the universal rainbow one.

## The Newbie

Attending a Pride festival for the first time was Lily, a high school student there with two friends. With curly dark hair and glasses, Lily was the tallest of the trio, all of whom wore hand-painted T-shirts and flags around their shoulders.

"It's very interesting," Lily said when asked to comment on the Pride experience. "I wasn't ever sure what it was because I had just — I had always heard, 'Hey, there's Pride downtown.' 'What's that?' 'Oh, yeah, it's a festival where all of us get together.' 'What happens there?' And here I am! I've got my trans flag and my button."

"It's honestly very fun to just be here, and I actually saw somebody I didn't expect to see," Lily continued. "And it's just interesting seeing everybody in one place. And I love it. I'm following the two experienced ones here like a lost duckling. It's very fun."

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# Grosse Pointe Pride Features 2 Notable Grosse Pointe South High School Graduates

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

## Unlikely Pair, an Unlikely Pride

Equality Michigan Chairman of the Board Michael Rowady and up-and-coming New York drag queen Sierra Misst might seem like they have little in common. Yet both are alumni of Grosse Pointe South High School and both were featured, at different times, on stage at a rally following this year's Grosse Pointe Pride March. Each captivated the crowd in their own way — but only one of them did the splits.

Hosted by Welcoming Everyone Grosse Pointe or We GP, the pride march is in its third year and drew an impressive crowd of approximately 2,000 individuals, as estimated by the organizers. The march began at Grosse Pointe South High School and proceeded along Fisher Road and then down Kercheval Avenue, eventually ending in the parking lot of Maire Elementary School. There, about a dozen nonprofits and local businesses including PFLAG, Stand with Trans, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and Supportive Counseling Services — a practice recently opened by clinical social worker Amanda Be who treats primarily children and teens — had information tables. Face painting, the group Free Mom Hugs and treats for sale rounded out the festivities.

In the school parking lot anticipating the arrival of the marchers was Sarah Eisenberg, volunteer coordinator for We GP and one of the event organizers. She spoke about the significance of this march, what the event meant to her personally and to Grosse Pointe at large.

"It's been so important to me and a lot of people here because it's really about changing the community culture, about stating affirmatively and openly that we are a supportive and inclusive community, that we welcome and celebrate everyone here," Eisenberg said. "All of our children, all of our neighbors, everyone is part of this community. ... and really combatting some of the negative narratives that are out there about what Grosse Pointe is about and what reputation our community has."

The parade boasted a few decorated vehicles, but mostly proud community members — whether pride-clad or not — as well as a number of proud-looking dogs. The clear, sunny morning was perfect for a ride in a convertible, and this march featured a red one with Sierra Misst sitting on the back wearing a bubble gum pink party dress, smiling and waving to the crowd. The 2011 graduate who now lives in New York City later said it was her homecoming queen dream come true.

## Michael Rowady, 1990

Rowady kicked off the rally with words about his experience growing up in Grosse Pointe, the importance of the work that Equality Michigan does for the community and remarked about



Jeff Hastedt and Michael Rowady, Equality Michigan board members. BTL Photo: Ellen Knoppow

the necessity of amending the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. In addition, he added some encouragement and inspiration for the young people in the crowd. He spoke with Between The Lines prior to the event.

As a board member of Equality Michigan, Rowady is tasked with representing the organization and getting their message across in an ambassador role, but he felt this opportunity was particularly "special and important," so he reached out. Although Rowady said he didn't expect to be asked to speak, he was glad to, and called it "an honor." Having had limited involvement with his high school since graduating, Rowady remarked, "I've given a lot of speeches. But 2,000 people in my own home town? That's a big deal." Rowady spoke about his teenage years.

"Being gay was unheard of — you just didn't know anyone who was gay," Rowady said, of his time in high school during the late '80s. He called himself a "normal kid" who got good grades and went on to college and law school. He said he didn't think of himself as gay in high school and doesn't recall any struggle.

"My parents and my family were and always have been supportive — until I came out and then it was some rough waters for a couple years there," he said.

Rowady cited LGBTQ activist Jeffrey Montgomery, who founded the Equality Michigan's predecessor the Triangle Foundation, as a role model when Rowady was in high school. Montgomery was a Grosse Pointe South High School graduate as well (1971). And although Rowady didn't think of himself as gay at the time, he remembers being fascinated by Montgomery.

"I always looked at him and said, that it one brave SOB," Rowady recalled. "He's standing out there, alone. There was no group of people. That was an amazing thing. And he took a lot

of heat."

Montgomery died in 2016, and the two never met. But Rowady called it "really, really cool" that as chairman of Equality Michigan, he has the same role that Montgomery had in the Triangle Foundation years ago. (Montgomery's title was President, and he later became executive director.)

Beyond his own experience and the work of Equality Michigan, Rowady had some words of wisdom for the audience he was anticipating: "What I would also say is that never lose your integrity," he advised. "The lesson that transcends beyond being gay or anything, is always maintain your self-respect and your integrity. That is critical."

At the rally, Rowady told the crowd, "When I was growing up, there were no out, proud young folks. There was darkness, and there was fear. And now we see the light: You are the light. You represent the light. Think about how far we have come."

In terms of how far Grosse Pointe has come, Rowady told BTL, "I think it's slowly keeping up with the times," he said, in terms of increased diversity in every respect. "I gotta tell you, I had a tear in my eye yesterday when I was in Grosse Pointe on a business call, and there were pride flags all over the place. It was beautiful. It was an amazing feeling."



Sierra Misst, BTL Photo: Ellen Knoppow

## Sierra Misst, 2011

It's not every Saturday morning that a professional drag queen performs on an outdoor stage in an elementary school parking lot in Grosse Pointe. But this is Pride month, and this was a homecoming of sorts for Sierra Misst. Following Rowady's speech and a performance by a high school choir, Sierra took the stage. Rowady had to leave early and only caught part of the show. As it happened, the two didn't have a chance to meet.

Professionally trained in musical theater and

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an accomplished dancer to boot, the lady with the effervescent name did not disappoint. Lip-syncing to two of three songs, she performed "I am What I am" first, in her own voice.

As she stood in the shade after her performance, many lined up to have a picture taken with the hometown drag heroine. Sierra beamed, hugged children of all ages and chatted with at least one former teacher. After that, and while her mother waited, Sierra answered a few questions.

As it happens, Sierra Misst was born just about a year ago. Lifelong Grosse Pointe Park resident Evan Whittstock studied Music Theatre at Western Michigan University then attended the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York City, where he now lives and performs. Wittstock "dabbled in drag" then decided to create a fully fledged persona.

Asked whether Evan was out in high school, "not at all," was the quick response.

"I was kind of sheltered," Whittstock said. "Nobody talked about gay people necessarily. I did show choir at South for a long time and that was me gayve thriving as a high schooler. But it wasn't really talked about: 'The gay community' or drag queens — God forbid.

"So it was kind of lonely. But to see how far the Grosse Pointe communities have come, just in the past couple years since I've been gone, is really inspiring and kind of surprising," Whittstock continued. "It's something I never could have imagined when I was actually living here. [To] become more of myself, figured out who I really was at the core of it all, and be able to come back to where I came from and share it with people, and have it be celebrated ... feels really special to me."

And how did Sierra end up back in Grosse Pointe, in the parade and then performing on stage before a couple thousand cheering Grosse Pointe friends

and neighbors?

It was very last-minute, according to Sierra. Just a couple weeks prior, Evan was joking over the phone with sister-in-law Sammy about being in the parade. One thing led to another, and before she knew it, the event organizers purchased a plane ticket and Sierra Misst was headlining the 2019 Grosse Pointe Pride March.

As the interview concluded, a couple more kids approached the park bench, introduced themselves and asked for hugs, which they were given warmly. Of the entire experience, Sierra said, "It's been a blessing. It's been a whole lot of fun."

# SAGE Talks Multigenerational Community Building at 9th Annual Older Adult Summit

## BTL Publishers Susan Horowitz and Jan Stevenson Receive Lifetime Achievement Award

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

In a new location inside the Education Building on Wayne State University's main campus, the 9th annual SAGE Metro Detroit Older Adult Summit drew a crowd of about 150. Attendees flowed in and out throughout the day as guest speakers and panel discussions dealt with a variety of subjects.

Keynoting the summit was Citizen Detroit Deputy CEO Misha Stallworth, who spoke on the subject of multigenerational community building. Stallworth, a community organizer who sits on the Detroit School Board, said that "multigenerational" is a very intentional term.

"I chose 'multigenerational' because it allows us to speak about how many generations are living across the lifespan right now," Stallworth said, starting her address. "When we say we want to connect with youth, are we talking about teenagers? Adolescents? Twenty-year-olds? Who are we talking about? Or when we talk about older adults, are we talking about 80s or 90s? Sixties or 70s? Who are we talking about? There are different perspectives, different experiences. There's different access, different places you will find groups of people when you're trying to organize in that way."

Stallworth said she has a three-way approach

to multigenerational organizing.

"The world teaches us that we're supposed to be in spaces with people our own age," she said.

"I believe in starting with a level set of what are things that are interesting to you? What are the things you love and where are those things happening? If you love roller skating, go roller skating. And if you're trying to connect with a certain group of people, you'll find them there because people go where their interests are.

"My second thing is a collection of values that I think are foundational to building meaningful relationships," Stallworth continued. "They are empathy, curiosity and humility. We have to approach people with humility in order to truly hear their stories. We have to be curious enough to ask questions to try to really get to the next level of things. Then we have to have empathy when we hear from them. I find that especially when we're engaging across age, having those three things at the core of the approach is essential because stereotypes about age are so pervasive. Whether it's a stereotype about millennials ruining every major industry in the world somehow all by killing the diamond industry or whether it's those type of stereotypes or stereotypes that older people don't know anything about technology. These stereotypes are pervasive."

Stallworth said her last approach is representation.

"I don't care if you're thinking about how to grow your social circle or if you're trying to figure out how to get somebody to a meeting

*"If you are organizing and you're saying, 'I want to do this multigenerational organizing,' well do you have someone from the age group you're interested in as part of the planning?"*



Cornelius Wilson, second from left, and Angie Perone, right, presented the SAGE Lifetime Achievement Award to BTL publishers Susan Horowitz and Jan Stevenson. Photo Richard Campbell.

or an event, you have to identify someone who is the member of the group to be representative," Stallworth concluded. "If you are organizing and you're saying, 'I want to do this multigenerational organizing,' well do you have someone from the age group you're interested in as part of the planning?"

### Later in the day

Other speakers throughout the day included Truman Hudson, attorneys Jane Bassett and Henry Grix, The Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow and Jay Kaplan from the ACLU. An afternoon panel discussion on connecting with technology also took place.

Between The Lines publishers Susan Horowitz and Jan Stevenson were presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

"The AIDS crisis taught us that it's up to us to take care of each other," said Stevenson when accepting the award. "Now it's up to us again to take care of each other as we grow older. Thank you SAGE for your work in connecting older LGBTQ people to each other, to the resources within our community and within mainstream service agencies."

Horowitz thanked the attendees for sharing their stories with BTL.



Ron Doe, left, received the Volunteer of the year Award from Cornelius Wilson. Janet Hunko also received the award but was not present. Photo Richard Campbell

"It's your stories that make up the essence of the paper. Thank you for refusing to be invisible," she said, referring to the theme of the SAGE conference itself.

Two dedicated volunteers were presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award. Ron Doe is a member of SAGE Metro Detroit's Programming Committee. Meanwhile, Janet Hunko is on SAGE's board and is a volunteer member of their Training and Education Committee.

"SAGE's mission is to build awareness and promote change so that LGBT older adults can age with dignity and authenticity," said SAGE Metro Detroit Executive Director Angie Perone. "It's really important to keep that mission moving forward."



Community organizer Misha Stallworth spoke on multigenerational organizing at the 9th annual SAGE Metro Detroit Older Adult Summit. BTL photo: Jason A. Michael

- Misha Stallworth



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Lavender Celebration at Eastern Michigan University, held April 10.  
Photo credit: Desmine Robinson



Lavender Graduation at Ferris State University, held May 8.  
Photo credit: Bill Bitzinger, LGBTQ+ Resource Center



Lavender Graduation at Grand Valley State University, held April 18.  
Photo credit: Milton E. Ford LGBT Resource Center



Lavender Graduation at the University of Michigan, held May 2.  
Photo credit: Hannah Brauer, Spectrum Center



Lavender Reception at Michigan State University, held April 14. Photo credit: LGBT Resource Center





Lavender Graduation at Western Michigan University, held April 10.  
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Rainbow Graduation at Wayne State University, held April 12.  
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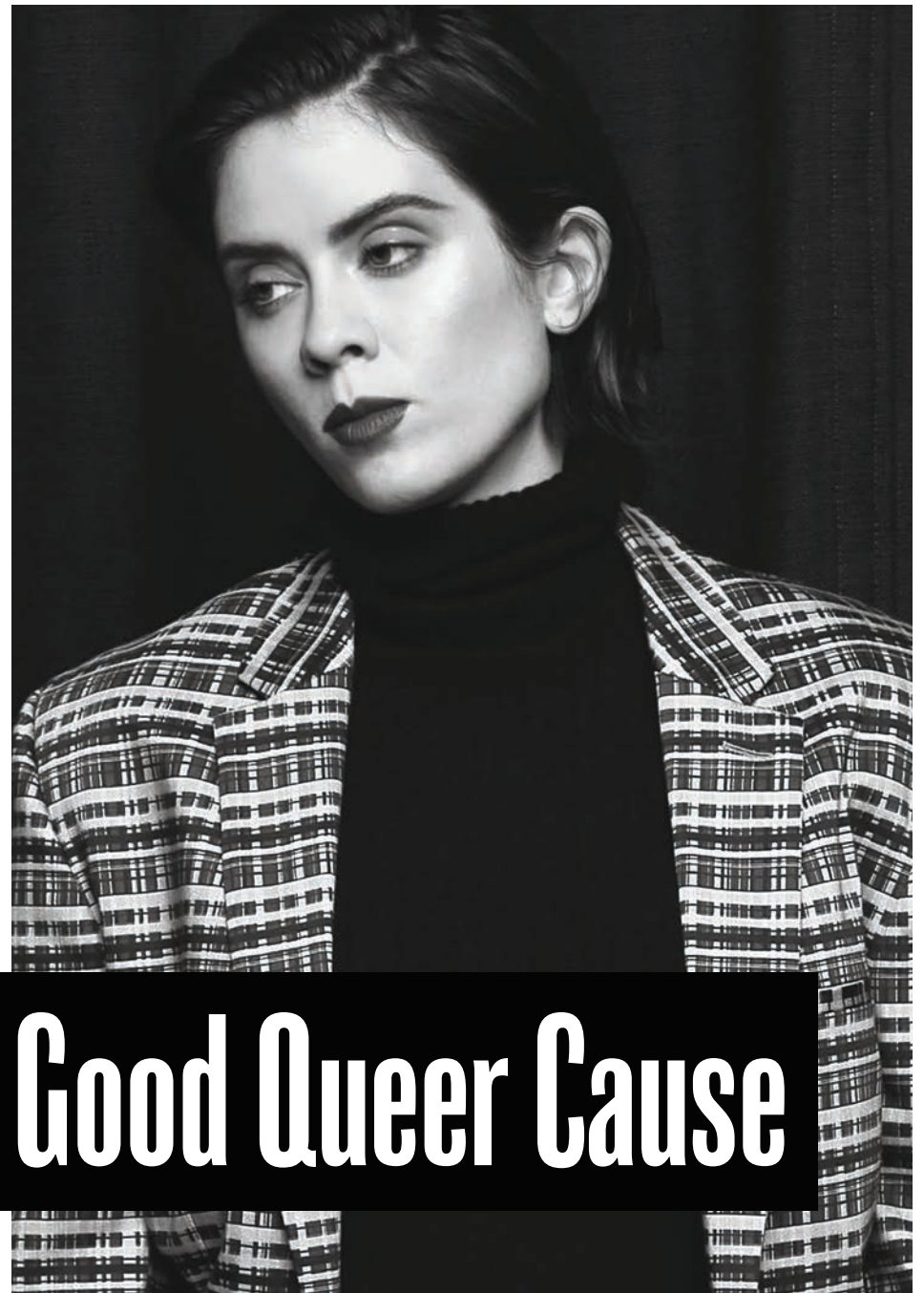
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Photos courtesy of LoveLoud Festival

# Loving Loud, For a Good Queer Cause

## Dan Reynolds and Tegan Quin Talk LGBTQ Festival's Third Year and the Best Kind of Straight White Man

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Imagine Dragons frontman Dan Reynolds' devotion to LGBTQ issues – chief among them: mitigating queer-youth suicide rates – has only escalated in the years since he founded the first LoveLoud Festival Powered by AT&T in 2017. Look no further than the Billboard Music Awards in May, when Reynolds chose to use his brief onstage moment while accepting the top rock prize with his band to bring public awareness to the troubling prevalence of conversion therapy.

On June 29 at USANA Amphitheatre in Salt Lake City, the 31-year-old musician will once again put his global rock-star clout to good use, returning to the stage for the third annual LoveLoud Festival with event co-organizer Tegan Quin, one half of openly lesbian indie-

pop twin duo Tegan and Sara.

Last year, Reynolds raised over \$1 million for LGBTQ charities, including The Trevor Project, GLAAD, HRC, the Tegan and Sara Foundation, Encircle and GLAAD, among others. This year's one-day event includes a headlining performance from Kesha, who will perform alongside Reynolds, Tegan and Sara, Daya, Grouplove, K. Flay, Laura Jane Grace, and more.

During a recent call, Quin and Reynolds spoke about the festival's evolution (more LGBTQ artists ... and rainbow buses?!), how Reynolds has set a new bar for straight white men, and hoping to get Beyoncé on the bill.

**Tegan, what does it mean to you that a straight white man, particularly now when the straight white man is not the most popular person in the**

**room, is standing up for us?**

**Tegan Quin:** (Laughs) Honestly, it's why I'm involved with LoveLoud, because the first conversation I had with Dan, I was just like, "Oh, this is the bar, this is not just where straight, white, cis men should be but where all of our allies should be." And at this point, it's fair that we should just all care. Here's the thing: there's really, really easy ways to show up and care as an ally. We did it before we started a foundation. We just donate a dollar from every ticket sold to something that matters to us.

I think that Dan is an incredible ally and he's the new bar, and when he gets up every single time it bewilders and moves me and I'm just like, I can't believe this! Every time he performs on television in a Tegan and Sara Foundation shirt (laughs) I have

a giggle because most people don't know what the shirts says, but Dan is on national television broadcasting a mission about supporting LGBTQ women and girls and fighting for economic justice and health and representation for an incredibly marginalized group of people in society. I think that it's absolutely wonderful, because for the people who know what he's doing it says to them, "I care." And we *should* care. And I'm so moved that he cares.

**I hate that in 2019 I even have to ask a question like this, but Dan, being a straight white male ally, do you think you're able to reach people that an out lesbian female artist such as Tegan may not?**

**Dan Reynolds:** Yeah, I think it would be ridiculous to not recognize the privilege that

I've been given as exactly that: a straight white man. Our LGBTQ artists are just starting to come up on the scene and they've been there for a long time. In fact, they probably are more of a backbone in the arts community than a straight white man but a straight white man is given a stronger voice because of privilege and that's it. Further marginalized are LGBTQ women, especially those of color. So we have a long way to go, absolutely. But sadly it is going to take those who are privileged to speak up because some people are only going to be hearing them, and that's the sad truth and it sucks. But the only way to change it is for all hands to be on deck.

**Having done this now for three years, do you find you're reaching the people that you have intended to reach?**

**Reynolds:** Yeah, I think we've reached a small margin of the people we want to reach but, certainly, we're starting to get there. A big part of this year and last year was AT&T live streams the whole concert, so people really, all across the globe, can watch. Because this is way more prevalent than just Utah. Really, there are hundreds of cities that need LoveLoud desperately. We started in Utah because the number one reason for death among teenagers there is suicide and LGBTQ youth are seven times more likely to take their life when they're not accepted in the home or their community, but that statistic is really prevalent all over the place and Utah just happened to be a place that I grew up in, and I understood the community to some regard, especially the religious community that exists there. So, this has been kind of a learning process for the last three years and we absolutely want to grow and expand and move to other places and raise more money and put on these celebratory events in as many places as we can.

**Anybody can watch the livestream. Is there anyone specifically that you think should tune in?**

**Quin:** What was cool about when I got involved with LoveLoud was to hear Dan and the whole team who've been involved since the beginning talk about their dreams for what LoveLoud will become, and obviously AT&T is allowing them to live that dream. I think the people who need to watch the stream are the same people who need to come to the show, which is just all of the community that surrounds LGBTQ people; whether you are completely understanding, or OK with it or not, it's a great place to start that conversation.

I think Dan draws really kind of beautiful pictures for every kid who's watching the livestream on their laptop, maybe alone at home, who haven't had that conversation yet, or maybe they're watching with their family. There's so many moving moments. It's not just the music - in fact, it's what happens in between the music: the speeches and the speakers and some of the other big moments

that happen from community members.

To see the power and to see the positivity, I hope a lot of young people watch the stream and feel good about themselves and see themselves represented. I know for myself, personally as a young queer person, I did not see myself represented. In the '90s the closest representation I had were the few women who were out, like k.d. lang and Melissa Etheridge, who were amazing but they were decades older than me. Representation is important, and Dan and LoveLoud and all of us on the board are trying really hard to find representation of everyone so LGBTQ people see themselves and feel good.

**What are some next steps the music industry can take in combating homophobia in the industry?**

**Reynolds:** I think affording more opportunities for LGBTQ artists. One of the rad things that Tegan was just telling me she's doing right now: They're finishing their record and it's all produced and engineered by women, which is super rare. And it's not for lack of women trying; it's not for lack of women producers. It's just because people don't afford them the same opportunities. And especially for LGBTQ songwriters, they've been around for a long time but just finally are being recognized. One of my dear friends is Justin Tranter, who now is being recognized as an incredible songwriter and yet way before he was songwriting for his own band, Semi Precious Weapons, he just wasn't afforded the same popularity because he was asked to be less queer by so many people time after time. I can just say that absolutely affording more opportunities for our LGBTQ community would be a great start.

**Tegan, do you feel like we have to stifle our queerness... you, not we... ha, I'm not in the music industry. But do you feel you or other LGBTQ artists have to stifle their sexuality to get a leg up in the music business?**

**Quin:** No, actually, I think you should say "we." I think as queer people, of course we have to stifle who we are no matter where we work. My experience is not singular; it's not mine, it's ours. We all feel it. I know tons of women in the music business who are not out at work, which is wild to me. But the music business is like every business: men are at the top. And generally, it's straight men, and if they're gay men that doesn't necessarily fare any better for us as women (laughs). Yeah, I think we do have to stifle a part of who we are, our personhood, and I think Dan's right (about) providing more opportunities for LGBTQ women. Clearly, obviously, all LGBTQ people need that space but for women specifically in the industry that would be incredible. But it's a double-edged sword. You don't just want to be known as a queer producer or a queer songwriter. And so we all face this sort of question of, "How much do

See **Loving Loud**, continued on p. 20



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## ► Loving Loud

Continued from p. 19

we make that a part of who we are?"

I think what's really gonna have to happen is that straight men and men with huge recording budgets and men with power are gonna have to stop making their records with 20 men and start using women – and women at the top. And I think that's when the industry will really change. All the women we just worked with are all under the age of 30 and that's a good sign to me. I think Dan's right: those rooms are getting more diverse and they're getting more opportunities, but I think what the industry really needs to do is just address the problem with women still. It's a desert out there for women, so of course it's hard for LGBTQ people.

**More LGBTQ artists are on this year's bill than during the festival's first and second year. Can you talk about how queer inclusion in the festival has changed, why that has changed and if there was any pressure to be more LGBTQ-inclusive?**

**Reynolds:** The answer is: yes, yes and yes (laughs). As far as the artists and speakers: this has been a learning project for me. I knew in the beginning that my heart was in this and it was in it because it affected people around me. It was my friends growing up who were Mormon and queer and watching the struggles that they had with that and the acceptance they weren't receiving at home, and then meeting my wife who's a fierce activist (who was) living with her two best friends who are LGBTQ and all of them dressing up in wedding dresses and wanting to go handcuff themselves to the Federal Building during Prop 8. So I married a woman who also ignited what was already there for me and who is also the roaring fire behind LoveLoud.

**So every straight white man needs to marry your wife.**

**Reynolds:** Yes. But hell no. I got there first! (Laughs) My long answer is that I came into this as, you're right, a privileged straight white man saying, "Hey, let me help," and the only thing I knew to help with was my band, Imagine Dragons; it has a big platform and a big following and a lot of that following is families, which is exactly who we wanted to affect. We wanted this dinner-table conversation to destigmatize. So long story short: It started with the band, it launched off the shoulders of the band, and now we're moving it toward where it should be, which is primarily focused on LGBTQ artists, affording them



more opportunities, affording them a stage in front of tens of thousands of people. Between our lineup, between our speakers, it's a very LGBTQ-focused lineup and I think on top of that it's all hands on deck, so we also have some really great mainstream artists who are allies.

**What's the future of LoveLoud?**

**Reynolds:** That it's everywhere. I want it to be such a household name that it becomes boring so that this becomes destigmatized so people can stop talking about it as an issue. That's the main goal at the end of the day: for this to be destigmatized so that LGBTQ kids can just be kids and that's it. I think that's the goal, and to do that we take it into every city and every home. I want everyone talking about this, I want conservative-religious parents to sit down and have to talk about this with their kids because the kids say, "I want to go to this concert," and they say, "What is it? What does that mean?" and have the conversation and that starts the destigmatization process.

**Would either of you be interested in taking LoveLoud on the road?**

**Reynolds:** Yeah.

**Quin:** Yeah, I've heard some pretty awesome ideas thrown around at some of our board meetings and I think it could be really cool to see LoveLoud in a lot of other places. Again, I've said it so many times, but this isn't just a Utah issue, so I think there's lots of potential. There's just nothing like it. Just never had that feeling. There's just literally never been another thing like this – the closest is, of course, celebrations around Pride every year in major cities, but this is different because it's everyone coming together for a very, very specific reason and rallying around our youth. But it touches everybody because it really connects with the families, but it also connects with older LGBTQ people. I

went with some of my dear friends last year and they were just like, "I needed this as a young person, desperately." It just makes you really feel so seen when you're there.

**If you could pick a dream artist or speaker to appear at the festival, who would it be?**

**Quin:** For me, personally, I feel like I walk a fine line because I think it would be cool if Madonna came, if Pink did it; I think it could be an amazing thing if Katy Perry came and did it. I think having women like that who have been incredible allies to the community would be so powerful. Beyoncé and Jay-Z, when they got their GLAAD award, I was like, "They should come to LoveLoud!" They would be amazing. But I think Dan just pointed out something really important, which is that often when LGBTQ events happen our allies get the stage and it's often the LGBTQ artists who don't get asked to play. And so, I don't know. There's a fucking amazing crop of young LGBTQ people: I'd love to have King Princess, I'd love to have Shura, I'd love to have Janelle Monae.

**Reynolds:** I'd love to have Frank Ocean. I'm just putting these names out just to get the offer out there. I'd love to have Lizzo. There's a lot of artists, both queer and not. And like I said, I think it's all hands on deck. We need everyone, because this is a global issue.

**Quin:** Every year we're just gonna keep adding to the list, and Dan's quite ambitious about what he wants to do and I'm along for the ride.

**Reynolds:** And rainbow tour buses rolling across the U.S.!

**Quin:** Rainbow tour buses! I'm into it.

*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. Reach him via Twitter @chrisazzopardi.*

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## Brian Justin Crum's Latest Offering is the Single 'I & U'

*“I'm a flamboyant gay man and I celebrate that in myself every day.”*

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

You probably remember Brian Justin Crum from Season 11 of NBC's hit reality competition "America's Got Talent." He finished in fourth place, and videos of his performances blew up YouTube, especially when he returned earlier this year for "America's Got Talent: The Champions." His performance of Elton John's "Your Song" took him to the finals and won standing ovations and raves from the judges. And Crum, he admitted in an interview with *Between The Lines*, was not surprised.

"I had sung that song so many times and felt so comfortable with it," he said. "It was fun to play with it and make it my own. Definitely a favorite of mine."

Still, Crum said he wasn't always able to sing his favorites on the show.

"I really love my first two song choices but full disclosure, once we got into the live shows I didn't feel like I had much

of a choice," said Crum. "Same goes with 'Champions.' They were very opinionated about what I would sing."

But don't think that Crum harbors any resentment toward the show. Quite the opposite is true.

"It has totally changed my life," he said. "All of these shows are the same in that what happens next is up to you. It's all about the follow-through and 'feeding the beast.'"

Crum's latest offering is the single "I & U." Produced by Michel "Lindgren" Schulz, the song was written by Lindgren and his wife singer Melanie Fontana.

"I connected to the song so deeply because it speaks so purely to the human experience," Crum said. "Finally getting out of a toxic relationship and wondering why you still want that person."

Crum said there's significance to him releasing the song during Pride Month.

"The video for 'I & U' is the first time I have been able to really go deep into myself," he said. "I finally feel strong and

brave enough to dress my outsides the way I have always felt on the inside. I'm a flamboyant gay man and I celebrate that in myself every day. Pride Month was the perfect time for me to deliver that message to the world."

Crum is also playing Pride festivals across the country this summer, something he said he particularly enjoys.

"[They have] great energy and [are] extremely emotional," said Crum. "There is no greater feeling than having young queer kids showing you love. It's many of their first Prides. I want to make it extra special for them."

When not playing Prides or other gigs, Crum is in the studio working on more music.

"I'm working hard on getting an album together," he said. "I'm really excited to take people on a journey."

Crum just released the video to "I & U" and the song is now available on most major music platforms.

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# The Frivolist 5 Reasons Sitting at the Bar Is the Best Way to Dine

BY MIKEY ROX

Booths may be the most popular seating option at restaurants, but dining at the bar has more benefits than you may realize. Here are five.

## 1. You'll receive faster service

Wait staff that serve the main dining floor have several to many tables each, and it's sometimes difficult to receive the attention you need when their hands are literally full throughout your experience at that restaurant. That's not to say that the bar doesn't get busy too – it does – but at least there you have a dedicated bartender or more who is constantly scanning the length to see who needs what. Lock eyes or raise a finger and you're good to go.

The bar also is a better option if you're in a hurry. You usually receive your food and drinks much faster compared to sitting at a full-service table or booth, which can be helpful if you need to dine and dash – after you've paid for everything (plus tip!), of course.

## 2. Eye candy is up close and personal

I can't confirm that bartenders are hired based on their appearance related to the type of clients the establishment serves, but when have you ever been to a gay or gay-friendly bar or restaurant where the hired guns didn't have a pair of their own to gawk at? Thus, if you enjoy sucking on a little eye candy – proverbially speaking – while satisfying your nutritional cravings, belly up.

## 3. Food and drinks are often cheaper

I practice what I preach in my other life as a personal finance expert, and I'm always looking for deals and discounts when I dine out. The best way to score those savings is usually at happy hour, which requires bar seating to qualify for limited-time food and drinks specials. Even outside of happy hour, bar-only menus typically features lesser-priced items than the regular menu. Making a meal out of a couple of those dishes will save you cash over buying a full-fledged entrée.

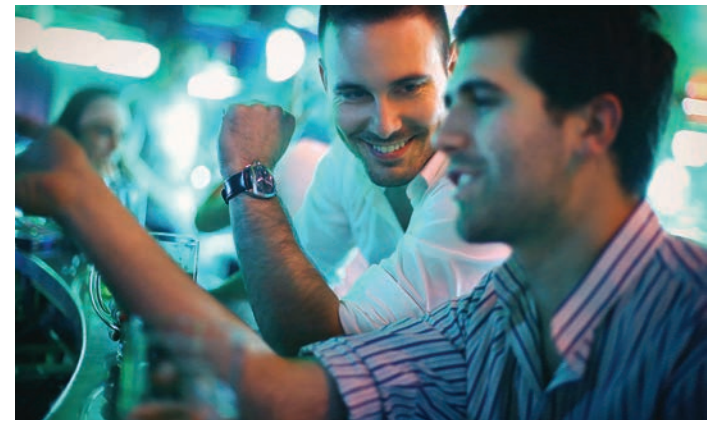
## 4. You can be more affectionate and romantic

My boyfriend and I almost exclusively sit at the bar when we dine out, save for a couple special occasions a year where we like to

switch it up and be a bit more traditional at a cozy table. What we both love about bar seating is that we can be closer than if we were seated opposite another. We like to canoodle, put our arms around each other's shoulders, and rest our hands on each other's thighs. The seemingly inconsequential decision on where to sit when we dine out helps us maintain a certain closeness – figuratively and literally – which is very important to our relationship. Spending an hour or two at the bar is a simple way to accomplish that.

## 5. You'll meet new people and make new friends

My boyfriend was a server at a restaurant when I met him while dining at the bar with a couple buddies, so, yeah, I'm a bit biased on its benefits, but you can't deny that in a restaurant setting the bar is where social



people make connections. I've met friends, business contacts, one-night stands and long-term lovers while noshing on half-price apps and dollar-off drafts at the bar, connections I would have denied myself dining in another location.

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

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## Slipstream Presents 'Gross Indecency' Through June 30

BY BTL STAFF

Moises Kaufman, revered for bringing audiences shows like “The Importance of Being Earnest” and “The Picture of Dorian Gray,” has another work that delves into the life of famed LGBTQ poet and playwright Oscar Wilde: “Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde.” Now playing at Ferndale’s Slipstream Theatre Initiative, the show will run through June 30.

“Wilde’s tumultuous relationship with the young ‘Bosie’ Douglas sparked speculation and gossip about the flamboyant playwright. But it was the young man’s father, the Marquess of Queensberry, who finally brought about Wilde’s downfall,” wrote event organizers. “Filled with rumor, whispers and deceit, the play showcases the three growingly disastrous trials of Oscar Wilde – illuminating his journey to prison and eventual death. The play makes it clear that the ‘gross indecency’ of the title happened to Wilde rather than by him, but it also shows us, with brutal honesty, how his arrogance and belief that he was untouchable sealed his fate.”

This show is an intentional seasonal pick, too, as it is Slipstream’s way of celebrating 50 years since the Stonewall Riots.

“Slipstream is reflecting on those that paved the way. Oscar Wilde was the personification of

The play makes it clear that the ‘gross indecency’ of the title happened to Wilde rather than by him

an artist, in all his debonair nonchalance. And though society has come a long way since the days of punishing homosexuality with prison, we’re never as far along as we thought. We are reminded to keep our minds and hearts open to all people, perhaps more now than ever before,” organizers wrote. “Join Slipstream this June, to witness the wit, the passion and the tragedy of the man who believed in the pursuit of beauty, at all costs.”

Playing Wilde is Slipstream founding company member Richard Payton, company Technical Director Jackson Abohasira plays Lord Alfred “Bosie” Douglas and Patrick O’Lear plays the Marquess of Queensberry.

Learn more online at [slipstreamti.com](http://slipstreamti.com).

Shows will run Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and available via [slipstreamti.com](http://slipstreamti.com) or by emailing [InsideTheSlipstream@gmail.com](mailto:InsideTheSlipstream@gmail.com). Slipstream Theatre Initiative is located at 460 Hilton in Ferndale.

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# Motor City Bears Meet and Greet Monthly Meeting at Affirmations

Established in 1994, Motor City Bears is a Detroit-based social and fundraising group for gay male bears and their admirers. The group hosts regular monthly meet and greet gatherings at Affirmations LGBTQ community center in Ferndale and Saturday, July 20, they hold the next event. Held from 5 to 8 p.m., attendees are encouraged to chat with the Bears and to learn more about the group.



“The Bear Greet begins in the community room. We meet with members, friends and anyone that wants to stop by. Guests and visitors are always welcome,” said event organizers. “Then at 6 p.m., right after the Bear Greet our general meeting takes place. This includes discussions of past and upcoming activities and other club business. If you want to know if we’re the club for you, come check us out. The meeting usually lasts about an hour or so.”

*Those who attend are invited to dinner afterward. All members, as well as those interested in joining the group and their guests, are welcome to attend the dinner, too. Find out more about the Motor City Bears online via [motorcitybears.wixsite.com](http://motorcitybears.wixsite.com) or by visiting the group’s Facebook page. Affirmations is located at 290 W 9 Mile Road in Ferndale.*

## Affirmations Hosts Kings & Queens for a Day

The Affirmations LGBTQ center will host royalty on Saturday, July 13, in a youth-focused “gender-bending” drag event. Lasting from noon to 6 p.m., in collaboration with Slay Inc. — a Detroit-based LGBTQ events company — attendees will be helped into drag as they learn more about the art form.

“Join us on Saturday, July 13 for half a day of drag, food and fun! LGBTQ+ Youth, ages 13- 18 and their family’s are welcome to join us free of charge as we explore gender and drag with local performers,” wrote event organizers. “Each child will have professional makeup and hair stylists to help put some fabulous looks together. The event concludes with a high-energy runway show where our newest kings and queens can strut their stuff.”

This event is sponsored by ROUGE MakeUp and Nail Studio, Randolph’s Salon and Mike and Judy Taylor.

*With only 20 slots available, interested participants are encouraged to sign up soon at [weslayinc.com](http://weslayinc.com) or by calling Kyle Taylor at 248-398-7105 ext. 224. Affirmations is located at 290 W. 9 Mile Road in Ferndale. For more information about the event visit the Affirmations Facebook page.*

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## The Music of Queen Featuring the DSO July 14

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## Happenings

### OUTINGS

#### Saturday, June 29

**LGBT Community Chat** 11 a.m.  
Saturday LGBT Chat is an on going social discussion group meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. Java Hut Ferndale Michigan, 165 W 9 mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. [redbellysenegal90@gmail.com](mailto:redbellysenegal90@gmail.com).

**LGBT Social Meet Up** 6:30 p.m. Lgbt social meet up group is a group for all lgbt people who want to meet have light hearted discussions and social activities some activities, all welcomed, we are on going every ongoing Hazel Park Community Center, 620 West Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. 248-632-8274. [redbellysenegal90@gmail.com](mailto:redbellysenegal90@gmail.com).

#### Monday, July 1

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

#### Tuesday, July 2

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups - Lake Orion / Oakland County** 7 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For parents of transgender kids. St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663.

[stmariyinthehills.org](http://stmariyinthehills.org).

#### Wednesday, July 3

**Affirmations Senior Koffee Clatch!** 2 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 and older. Various discussion topics, social outings, and potlucks are held throughout the year. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org).

#### Thursday, July 4

**Pride Night at Thunderbowl!** 8 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](http://thunderbowl.org).

#### Sunday, July 7

**Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals** Free. For Parent Support Group information, contact

facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st Street, Wyandotte. 734-747-4363 <http://standwithtrans.org>.

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

## Editor's Pick

### Overcoming and Preventing Sexual Abuse in Family Systems

The Center for Relationships and Sexual Health will examine child sexual abuse in family systems and the various impacts it can have on one's life as well as avenues for treatment and overcoming and preventing further abuse. Find out more about the event online at [crsh.com](http://crsh.com).



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## Between THE Lines™

## Editor's Pick



### Detroit Trans-Fusion July 17-21

This brand-new event will be held at the Trumbull and Porter Hotel in Detroit and is called Detroit Trans-Fusion. This event will include four days of summer with a schedule of dinner cruises, party buses, workshops and more. Find out more about the event online at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com).

#### Monday, July 8

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Macomb County** 7:30 p.m. Macomb Teen/Youth Support Group: All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. Come and meet other trans\* youth and teens and support each other through your journeys. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700. [hippewavalleysschools.org](http://hippewavalleysschools.org).

#### Wednesday, July 10

**Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genesee** 7:30 p.m. Free to all. Facilitator Sara Griffin, MA, LPC is a psychotherapist and a parent of a transgender son, [eiregriff@aol.com](mailto:eiregriff@aol.com). Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023. [uuf Flint.org](http://uuf Flint.org). [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

#### Thursday, July 11

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County** 8 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this free group. Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620. [oaklandumc.org](http://oaklandumc.org). [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

**Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting** 8 p.m. Professional & personal communication skills development. With better communications skills, you'll better your leadership style as well as your relationships. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. [speakout.toastmastersclubs.org](http://speakout.toastmastersclubs.org).

#### Wednesday, July 17

**Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County** 7:30 p.m. Free to all. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

**Stand with Trans Support Groups – Ann Arbor – Washtenaw** 7:30 p.m. Trans Support Group. Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

### MUSIC & MORE

**Grace Jones** July 1, 7 p.m. The legendary Grace Jones will come to the Masonic Temple on July 1. Masonic Temple Theatre, 500 Temple St., Detroit. [themasonic.com](http://themasonic.com).

### THEATER

**Anastasia** June 17, 7:30 p.m. Anastasia, the new Broadway musical, comes to the Fisher Theatre. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000.

[broadwayindetroit.com/anastasia](http://broadwayindetroit.com/anastasia).

**Detroit Repertory Theatre Presents "Williston"** Three energy reps travel to Williston, ND to get mineral rights to the last big piece of undeveloped land. A scintillating exploration of how business corrupts people and the fine line between commerce and conscience. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 313-868-1347. [detroitreptheatre.com/williston](http://detroitreptheatre.com/williston).

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## Grace Jones Returns to Detroit for First Time in 18 years With Masonic Temple Show

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Pull up to the bumper, baby, drive on in between Little Caesars Arena and the Temple Bar and head on inside the Masonic Temple on Monday, July 1, for what is sure to be a memorable musical experience. Well, musical, yes. But Grace Jones is so much more than a songstress. She is a performance artist, a supermodel, a fashion icon, a muse to the late, great Andy Warhol, a Studio 54 princess and just the type of bold black beauty that commoners look to in awe.

Grace Jones was born in Jamaica but emigrated with her family to the States when she was 13. The family initially settled in Syracuse, New York, but it would be in the Big Apple where Jones would get her modeling start. Soon enough, she was appearing on the covers of Vogue and Elle. She walked the runways, both in NYC and Paris, for designers such as Yves Saint Laurent and Kenzo.

Jones segued into singing in 1975, when she released the single "I Need A Man." The single would only make it as far as No. 83 on the pop charts, but it became a disco smash going all the way to No. 1 on the dance charts. It also became an anthem for gay men everywhere.

"La Vie en rose," "Nipple to the Bottle," "Slave to the Rhythm" and other hits followed. She is perhaps best known for 1981's "Pull Up to the Bumper." The song has been re-released twice by Jones herself and covered by artists such as Patra.

Jones made her mark in film with roles in

such movies as "Conan the Destroyer," "A View to a Kill," "Boomerang" and more.

In 2015, Jones released her autobiography, "I'll Never Write My Memoirs," and three years later she was the subject of the documentary "Grace Jones: Bloodlight and Bami," directed by Sophie Fiennes.

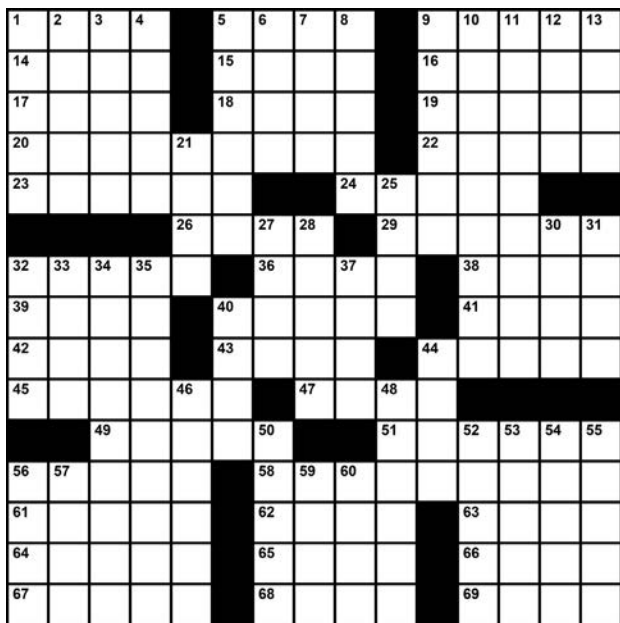
Known for a sometimes gender-bending style and the hard edges of a sculpted body that sometimes alludes to a masculine silhouette, Jones spoke to W Magazine while promoting the documentary about her thoughts on gender identity.

"I think we're all oysters to begin with and the whole gender thing is like some people have two genders," she said. "I believe that you can have your male and female and that if you're born as a male you can have more female. I believe God made us in all kinds of ways. What comes out, comes out.

"I really feel very male sometimes," Jones continued. "I act it as well. I do act it, and I'm not sure if has to do with I was actually born with more male in a female body. I embrace both of them. I remember someone I was with said to my mom, 'I've married a man.' Men expect women to be subservient and do as they say. But I'm a Jamaican woman. Jamaican women are just different."

*Grace Jones first Detroit show in nearly two decades takes place Monday, July 1st, at the Masonic Temple Theatre. Tickets range from \$39 to \$250 and are available from [asx.com](http://asx.com).*





## You Bet Your Sweet Astronaut QPuzzle

### Across

- 1 Chops off, like at a circumcision  
 5 "Trick" director Jim  
 9 Being an active breeder, in slang  
 14 Part of, as a plot  
 15 Warhol pal \_\_\_ Sedgwick  
 16 Escorted from the door  
 17 Drag queen's leg scraper  
 18 Starch source  
 19 Able to bend over  
 20 Biopic/musical fantasy of 2019

- 22 It dangles on a private  
 23 Half of a pair of balls  
 24 Bisected  
 26 Symbols of queens  
 29 Egyptian king of the dead  
 32 Foursome at a card game  
 36 Sgt. Snorkel's pet  
 38 Gershon of "Bound"  
 39 For most students  
 40 Egerton, who plays the title role in 20-Across

- 41 Fag \_\_\_ (women with gay friends)  
 42 Cheese in red  
 43 It may get a licking  
 44 Charles, who could make you a man  
 45 Type of aircraft engine  
 47 It is butt a toy  
 49 Cornmeal breads  
 51 Nap with Frida?  
 56 Liszt of piano pieces  
 58 Subject of 20-Across  
 61 Having nice stems  
 62 Cloverleaf part  
 63 "A Streetcar Named Desire" director Kazan  
 64 Caligula's year  
 65 Folk history  
 66 Permission request  
 67 Carolyn who wrote about a Nancy  
 68 Marsh of "South Park"  
 69 Very in Vichy

### Down

- 1 They serve up whoppers  
 2 In a dominant position  
 3 Swingers' place?  
 4 Venom carrier  
 5 Put in shackles  
 6 Cukor's rib donor  
 7 Old Italian coin  
 8 TÈa of "Fun with Dick and Jane"  
 9 Makes pigtails, maybe  
 10 58-Across before he changed his name  
 11 Opinion piece in "The Advocate,"

- e.g.  
 12 Arizona river  
 13 Force that causes you to go down  
 21 He took a bow  
 25 Time that goes either way  
 27 Wild pig  
 28 Deep throat problem  
 30 "Cunt" author Muscio  
 31 Give some lip  
 32 Raspberry that isn't a fruit  
 33 Alan of "M\*A\*S\*H"  
 34 Region of Vivien's country  
 35 Dictator that homophobe Trump nicknamed with 20-Across  
 37 Member  
 40 Package carrier  
 44 Opposed to, to Gomer  
 46 Pepsin, e.g.  
 48 Billie Jean won this often  
 50 Acts like a bear  
 52 Spit out  
 53 Like rays caught at Sitges  
 54 "To \_\_\_ own self be true" ("Hamlet")  
 55 Lover of Henry and June  
 56 Antiaircraft fire  
 57 Actor Auberjonois  
 59 Pirates' take  
 60 Japanese attack word


Find solution on page 35 and at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

## 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](mailto:khughes@miunified.org)

[WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG](http://WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG)



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](http://www.corktownhealth.org)



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**THE UPPER LEVEL**  
 A QUIRKY URBAN STAY

3 Great Rooms; The Retro Room  
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2324 Division Ave S  
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Tel 616-452-3754  
**PRIVATE GAY HEALTH CLUB**

# #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

ALSO TESTING IN BARS, CLUBS AND OTHER METRO AREA LOCATIONS

**MONDAY**

Matrix MAC Health  
**FERNDALE**  
**9AM-4:30PM**  
*By Appointment*

**TUESDAY**

Matrix MAC Health  
**FERNDALE**  
**9AM-7:30PM**  
*Walk-In*

**WEDNESDAY**

Affirmations  
**FERNDALE**  
**5:30PM-8:30PM**  
*Walk-In or Appointment*  
Mpowerment Detroit  
**MIDTOWN**  
**11AM-7PM**  
*Walk-In*

**THURSDAY**

Matrix MAC Health  
**FERNDALE**  
**9AM-4:30PM**  
*Walk-In*

**FRIDAY**

Matrix MAC Health  
**FERNDALE**  
**9AM-5PM**  
*Walk-In*  
**STD Testing ONLY**  
*Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Chlamydia, Hep C*

**SATURDAY**

Mpowerment Detroit  
**MIDTOWN**  
*3rd Saturday of each month*  
**11AM-2PM**  
*Walk-In*

NO  
SUNDAY  
TESTING

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](http://MatrixHumanServices.org)

## NEED HELP WITH HIV SERVICES?

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## LINK-UP OAKLAND CAN HELP

# 248.858.5416

OakGov.com/Health | PUBLICHEALTHOC

*The Oakland County Health Division will not deny participation in its programs based on race, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. State and federal eligibility requirements apply for certain programs.*

**OAKLAND COUNTY**  
MICHIGAN  
HEALTH DIVISION

**NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY IS JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>!**



**WE HAVE EXTENDED TESTING OPPORTUNITIES ON JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup>**

**KNOW YOUR STATUS!**

**FERNDALE**

VISIT MATRIX MAC HEALTH FROM 1- 8PM  
429 LIVERNOIS | FERNDALE 48220

**ROYAL OAK**

FIND US AT WALGREENS PHARMACY 1- 5PM  
30852 WOODWARD | ROYAL OAK 48073



**(888) 226-6366**

**TIMEToKNOWDETROIT.ORG**

**#TIMEToKNOWDETROIT**



Dr. Paul Benson's



**We are committed to provide quality health care and to serve our patients without regard to race, nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion, political preferences, or sexual orientation.**

It is our intention not to discriminate, be judgmental, or have bias towards anyone. These are not simply published words, but are practices we strive and train for to do our best each and every day. We must all be respectful and put our commonalities first. Our priority is your good health.

We are here to help you and want each and every one of our patrons to feel comfortable in our patient-centered medical home. It is the essence of equality that defines who we are. Please join us in this endeavor.

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(248) 544-9300  
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**Primary Care • HIV Rapid initiation of Therapy • PrEP • Hormone Affirming Therapy**

### Most Experienced and Knowledgeable

Established in 1980 as the first Primary Care Medical Clinic in the Detroit area specializing in our LGBTQ community.

### Board Certified in Family Practice & Designated Patient-Centered Medical Home

by Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Center of Excellence.

**We're a Recipient of the Peter M. Fox Excellence in HIV Credentialing Award** from the American Academy of HIV Medicine. Also, Dr. Benson was one of the first physicians credentialed and has maintained the AAHIV-S specialist designation since.

**Certified Clinical Research Professional** by the Society of Clinical Research Associates. A Principle Investigator in Clinical Trials since 1989 providing early access to life-saving HIV Medications.

### Extensive Network of Sensitive Specialists

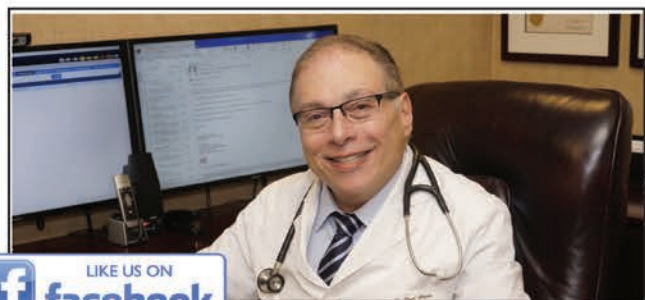
with an ongoing relationship to refer as necessary.

**There is a difference.** We're a patient-friendly Private Practice small enough to individualize care by a staff that knows you and large enough to manage all of your Primary Care Needs.

- HIV Prevention (PrEP), Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), STI testing & treatment
- **Hormone Affirming Therapy** for HIV positive and negative transgender individuals
- Evening Clinic Hours Monday-Thursday, most Saturdays, and Same Day Appointments
- Full-time Patient Navigator/Advocate Social Worker on site
- Most Insurances accepted
- Ryan White Provider
- Medcart Pharmacy on Premises
- Group Medical Appointments (available soon!)
- Tele-Medical Visits (available soon!)

**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:



Dr. Paul Benson, D.O.



Caleb Youngblood, PA-C, AAHIV-S



Mark Rosen, PA-C



Leon Bullough, NP-F



Keyuna Nance, MSW

