

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



A Comedian's LGBTQ Legacy

Wanda Sykes to Be Honored at Upcoming REC VOICES Gala

Inside:

Buttigieg Holds His Own, EQMI Breaks a Few Records



DEFINING OUR HOME

HAGOPIAN CLEANING SERVICES

GET A CLEAN START THIS SCHOOL YEAR!



<p>AIR DUCT CLEANING</p> <p>\$100 OFF</p> <p>MUST MENTION COUPON WHEN SCHEDULING SERVICE</p> <p>some restrictions apply</p> <p>EXPIRES SEPT. 30, 2019</p>	<p>RUG CLEANING</p> <p>2 FOR 1</p> <p>Bring your rugs to any drop-off location and we'll clean every other one FREE!</p> <p>some restrictions apply</p> <p>EXPIRES SEPT. 30, 2019</p>	<p>CARPET CLEANING</p> <p>3 ROOMS \$89.99</p> <p>some restrictions apply</p> <p>EXPIRES SEPT. 30, 2019</p>
--	--	---



1-800-HAGOPIAN

(424-6742)

SCHEDULE ONLINE! HagopianClean.com

The Most Trusted Name in Cleaning Since 1939



**CLEANING DROP-OFF &
2-DAY RUG EXPRESS SERVICE**
OAK PARK

**SHOWROOMS &
CLEANING DROP-OFF**
BIRMINGHAM • NOVI

**ADDITIONAL
DROP-OFF LOCATIONS**
ANN ARBOR • CLARKSTON • PLYMOUTH • UTICA



18 COVER: DEFINING OUR HOME

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

Copyright 2019

www.PrideSource.com

NEWS

- 4 Fair Michigan Justice Reception 2019 Sept. 26
- 4 The LGBTQ Wedding, Home and Life Expo Brings Together Equality-Minded Businesses
- 6 Mission Equality: Mission Accomplished
- 12 Wanda Sykes' LGBTQ Legacy
- 14 Debate 3 Shows Buttigieg Has Staying Power
- 15 Lawsuit Prompts Decision to Repeal NYC Conversion Therapy Ban

- 16 Correa Connects Large and Small Businesses at On The Menu

OPINION

- 10 Parting Glances
- 10 Viewpoint
- 11 Creep of the Week

LIFE

- 30 Writing the Unwritten
- 36 The Frivolist: 6 Tips for Staying Motivated at Work When Nothing's Going Right

HOME

- 16 Need Continues to Spike for LGBTQ-Inclusive Elder Housing
- 18 Courteous Home Service
- 24 Gayborhoods May Have Shaped Our Country, but Are They a Dying Breed?
- 26 Lesbian-Owned Ann Arbor Real Estate Investment Company Blends Tech With Tradition
- 28 Michigan Approves Nation's First LGBTQ Credit Union
- 34 Happenings
- 37 Crossword Puzzle
- 38 The 12th Annual DIY Street Fair
- 38 The Reading Rainbow: LGBTQ+ youth Book Club
- 28 Bi-Weekly Femme Trans Women (FTW) Bike Ride

VOL. 2738 • SEPT. 19 2019
ISSUE 1124

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

News & Feature Editor

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105
eve@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers

Michelle Brown, Ellen Knoppow, Jason A. Michael,
Drew Howard, Jonathan Thurston

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists

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

Cartoonists

Paul Berg

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Andrew Cohen, Roxanne Frith, Tih Penfil

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

MEMBER OF

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



"Between The Lines Newspaper"



Follow us @YourBTL



Email your op-eds to
editor@pridesource.com



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

Fair Michigan Justice Reception 2019 Sept. 26

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

When Fair Michigan was formed initially, one of the main concerns for the LGBTQ community was securing marriage equality. Today, that need has been met, but the nonprofit's work is far from done as LGBTQ Michiganders can still be denied housing, employment and medical treatment solely based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. In fact, ask its President Alanna Maguire and she'll tell you that the organization has been undergoing a period of growth in an effort to become a statewide organization. That's also why this year at its Fair Michigan Justice Reception fundraiser, to be held on Thursday, Sept. 26, the special guests will be statewide officials: Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel.

"Primarily, we've been operating out of the Metro Detroit area, and once I took over in January my focus has been to really be a statewide resource to have a better idea of the issues facing the LGBTQ community in the state at large. And so, I really wanted to have a bigger event this year and raise significant funds toward the expansion of our projects and advocacy and outreach," Maguire said. "So, I thought one of the best ways to do that would be to invite some of the state's most well-respected and highest officeholders. I sent an invitation to the governor and she accepted and, of course, I am married to Dana Nessel so we managed to also secure her — and she is our past president and founder, so it's personally very important for her to support Fair Michigan as well."

Featured at the Justice Reception will be a VIP Reception, an awards reception and drag show. The event will also showcase Fair Michigan's expansion of services beyond its existing Justice Project — a collaboration between the nonprofit and the Wayne County prosecutor's office to focus on getting justice for capital offenses committed against LGBTQ people in the area — to other counties.

"I have worked with Carole Siemon, who is the Ingham County Prosecutor, and we're also going to be honoring her at our Justice Reception," Maguire said. "She and Fair Michigan actually established a joint partnership where we will be operating the Justice Project out of Ingham County."

Beyond expanding existing services, Maguire said that the Reception will demonstrate how Fair Michigan has been developing projects by listening to specific community needs. She pointed to its Transgender Renaming Project, spearheaded by its Director of Transgender Outreach and Advocacy Julisa Abad, as an example of that.

"She was explaining how a big problem in the trans community is when you don't have your legal name match the one of your gender identity and the myriad challenges that would pose that many of us would probably take for granted," Maguire said. "So, we launched the Trans Renaming Project earlier this year as well and so, we operated a full-service name-change clinic where we'd have an attorney work with our vulnerable trans clients who would otherwise not be able to afford these services themselves and we'd process name changes for them."

Perhaps most importantly, Maguire said she's eager to let attendees know of the organization's focus on growing and fostering community partnerships.

"We've seen fractures in the past, so for us to have these working relationship Equality Michigan and the Ruth Ellis Center and others, I think that it shows our community is stronger and more united," she said. "And rather than holding at odds with each other, we're able to amplify our advocacy and outreach and be that much more effective. So, for me, I'm really happy to see these improved relationships and all of us working toward the same goals, which makes sense."

The 2019 Justice Reception, Strand Theater, Pontiac, Thursday, Sept. 26. 12 N Saginaw St.. Tickets start at \$50. More online at fairmichigan.org.



Great Prizes include

- 5 Weekend Getaways and Theater Dinner packages

- Complimentary Broadway Brunch

(11 a.m.-noon)

- Fashion Show

- Great Vendor Giveaways

The LGBTQ Wedding, Home and Life Expo Brings Together Equality-minded Businesses

Over 80 LGBTQ-Affirming Vendors Featured

BTL STAFF

DEARBORN — Since marriage equality became the law of the land in 2015, LGBTQ people have been seeking equality-minded vendors who want to do business with them. Backlash from a minority of companies has put the national spotlight on this issue, driving it all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where arguments now rage on the legality of discrimination in providing services like baking cakes and photography.

The 9th Annual LGBTQ Wedding, Home and Life Expo will provide the perfect opportunity for LGBTQ couples and families to meet, talk and shop with local businesses. Over 80 vendors, including wedding specialists such as wedding gowns and tuxedos, caterers, venues, florists and more — will join a cadre of home service suppliers and professionals to create a showcase network of equality-minded businesses who are ready, willing and able to serve the LGBTQ community.

This year, The Expo introduces some new features:

1.) a new location at The Henry — an Autograph Collection in Dearborn. Its ballroom and entrance foyer will be filled with booths, entertainment, displays, demonstrations and lots of food.

2.) The Henry is providing a complimentary, continental pre-event brunch from 11 a.m. to noon.

3.) the scope of Expo is expanded to include home improvement companies and professional service providers such as legal, accounting and adoption specialists who are ready to help couples build and structure their relationships.

Many favorites from previous Expo's will return, including Jason Bowen as emcee, a fashion show, the Bluewater Kings Band and, of course, lots of cake!

Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz are the co-producers of the event and co-publishers of *Between The Lines*, which is in its 26th year.

Since the beginning, the Expo has been a popular event for the LGBTQ community, drawing more and more attendees and vendors each year. Stevenson said they quickly learned that vendors appreciated their expo's fun approach.

"A lot of vendors found traditional bridal shows to be a little stuffy — and it's almost always the bride and other women, where our expo is a mixture of men and women," she said.

She added that attendees consistently give the expo high marks, complimenting it for being well-organized and neatly presented.

"Attendees and vendors tell us

they felt they really connected with each other — and that it's a warm, approachable fun event," Stevenson said. "In the LGBT community, that can be kind of a foreign thing, so attendees really appreciate talking with vendors who are excited to work with them."

All are welcome to the expo, whether or not they identify as LGBTQ. The expo will continue to be Detroit's only LGBTQ-specific destination for couples planning their wedding to meet with inclusive vendors. But it will also be a place where couples and families that care about equality can meet with LGBTQ-friendly vendors that can help them celebrate all the special occasions in their lives: anniversaries, vow renewals, graduations, bar and bat mitzvahs, adoptions, baby showers and more.

The Ultimate LGBT Wedding, Home & Life Expo is Sunday, Oct. 13 from noon to 4 p.m. at The Henry in Dearborn. Tickets are \$10 at the door or \$5 in advance. Group rates for families is available by calling 734-293-7200 ext. 101. Learn more or order tickets online at MiLGBTWedding.com. For updates, follow [facebook.com/UltimateLGBTExpo](https://www.facebook.com/UltimateLGBTExpo) on Facebook, @BTLExpo on Twitter and @BTLEXPO on Instagram.



Great Prizes!

**Including 5 Weekend
Getaways**

Free Brunch

Over 90 Equality Vendors



New Location The Henry • Dearborn
300 Town Center Drive **FREE PARKING**

Between THE Lines™

**THE ULTIMATE LGBTQ 9TH ANNUAL
WEDDING EXPO
HOME & LIFE**

*Join Us For An Afternoon Celebration with
Equality-Minded Businesses and Services*

Sunday, Oct. 13

Complimentary Continental Brunch Begins 11 a.m.

Expo Open Noon to 4 p.m. • Free Parking

Fashion Show 1:30 p.m.

2019 Sponsors

THE HENRY

300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn, Michigan

Comerica Bank

C & N PARTY RENTALS

B. Ella Bridal

\$5 Advance / \$10 at door

Family Group Rates Call 734-293-7200 x. 101

email: Jan@pridesource.com

Tickets Available at:

MiLGBTWedding.com



Above Attorney General Nessel, next page top Gov. Whitmer, U.S. Sen. Stabenow. Photos by Marcus Thompson.

Mission Equality: Mission Accomplished

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Equality All-Stars

It may have been Friday the 13th, but the Equality Michigan Fall Reception was not the least bit unlucky for EQMI that night. With 400 in attendance, the event was record-breaking in terms of fundraising for the annual gala. There was much to celebrate, with the electoral wins of 2018 that ushered in a wave of pro-equality officeholders, many of whom were in the room, not to mention that the organization is fully funded through 2019 and 2020.

The evening's emcee, WDIV reporter Hank Winchester, introduced himself as "a proud Michigander, a proud gay man" who was there with his husband. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer warmly welcomed the crowd, and immediately shined the spotlight upon those she felt most deserving that evening.

"People who are elected to office often get the accolades, and yet it's the ones who are on

the ground making a difference every single day who really deserve our gratitude and our acknowledgment," Whitmer said.

In reference to displaying Pride flags in Lansing last June, Whitmer said she lamented to a leader in the LGBTQ community that it was merely a symbolic gesture. He corrected her, saying that flying the Pride flag signals that we have leadership that see us, values us and will fight to protect us.

"I see you," Whitmer told the crowd. "I see your tenacity and your beauty and your hope and your strength. And you inspire me."

Sen. Debbie Stabenow commented on the need to carry some of the excitement and new opportunities in Lansing to Washington, D.C., because while the Equality Act passed in the House of Representatives, it won't be voted on this term in the Senate, and it was promised a veto by the president regardless.

Stabenow also recalled Jeffrey Montgomery, leader of the Triangle Foundation, Equality Michigan's predecessor organization.

"The one thing that I remember ... is that he spent his entire life fighting for the LGBTQ community and endured more than his fair share of losses but he never gave up," she said. "He kept pushing forward and that is exactly what we need right now with this administration, who's trying to roll back progress in every direction."

Remarks and spoken word poetry by Denise Miller, OutFront Executive Director and anti-racism facilitator, followed. Miller introduced their poem, titled "Drop in the Bucket," by saying that it was "in celebration of what Equality Michigan and what so many of us here in this room have already achieved on behalf of the LGBTQ community, and in deep anticipation for the setbacks and victories ahead."

"Don't ever say that it can't be done."

Equality Michigan board chair Michael Rowady commented, "We have made great strides ... as LGBTQ citizens, but we are still under threat. And we are now under threat from above. So, we as an organization, think of us as the vanguards. We are the cops on the beat."

He then introduced Attorney General Dana Nessel, the night's keynote speaker, calling her a pioneer in the movement.

"I can't believe the difference between last year and tonight," Nessel began, noting the gains made in terms of pro-equality representation. Nessel's journey to the attorney general's office began in 2016, on a day she described as the single worst thing ever to happen to the United States in her lifetime: the election of the current president.

During times of hopelessness Nessel said she would reread her Facebook post written the day after the marriage equality ruling in 2015. In the post, Nessel realizes she's crying on what should be a happy day because she's



Honorees

When a trans woman was shot in Detroit last year, Judge William McConico agreed with prosecutors that because gender was an issue, the case could be classified as ethnic intimidation based on gender. As it stands, LGBTQ people are not protected under Michigan's hate crime statutes.

"Everything happens at the right time, and it happens to people for a reason," said McConico, recipient of the Catalyst Award, referring to being assigned that case. "The courts have long been a place for people to get civil rights. ... We were not going to wait for anyone in Lansing to give someone rights. We were going to do it in my courtroom."

The Activist Award went to Laura Goos and Greg Fulmer, both city commissioners and Whirlpool employees in St. Joseph, who were instrumental in the passage of a non-discrimination ordinance in their Southwest Michigan city.

Goos credited Fulmer with the idea originally, and described bringing OutFront Executive Director Mary Jo Snell to talk to the commissioners.

"Do you remember the first time that you met an LGBTQ+ person?" Snell asked them. "And the commissioners kind of said, 'Sure,'" Goos recalled. "And she said, 'That wasn't the first time.'"

It was an emotional moment. And when they realized the implications, "all of a sudden our community became that much bigger," Goos said.

"Sharing this with my wife of 25 years truly is magical," said Susan Horowitz, recipient, along with Jan Stevenson, of the Community Builder Award. The two have dedicated their lives to building a strong LGBTQ community in Michigan and are the publishers of Between The Lines newspaper and Pride Source Media Group. Horowitz thanked the community for sharing their stories with BTL.

"These stories have created the foundation that is the real power of our community and all that it brings," Horowitz said. "Without it we would not have the strength and the gift of hope to press on."

Stevenson shared what she hoped would be future headlines, including "Jon Hoadley Elected First Openly LGBT Congressman From Michigan."

The program concluded with remarks from EQMI Executive Director Erin Knott, who said the organization would continue its focus on policy and electoral work and plans to increase investments in programming to build active, civically engaged LGBTQ people and allies.

"We need to do four things," Knott said. "We need to change the minds of decision-makers, we need to change who's making the decisions, we need to continue to change the hearts and minds of the public — but I think that we're almost there — and we need to empower marginalized LGBTQ people all over Michigan."

thinking back to a much earlier and unhappy time in her life.

"Being gay was not something to shout from the rooftops or to post on a billboard," Nessel read. "It was a dark secret you tried your very best to hide deep within yourself. So deeply, it felt suffocating. And more than once, I contemplated suicide. And I know now I was not alone in having these thoughts."

She continued, saying that she honestly believed "it was not possible in my lifetime for gays to be tolerated much less legally legitimized."

Shortly thereafter, however, "We have fallen pretty far, pretty fast," Nessel said, and read an exhaustive list of the current administration's attempts to harm the LGBTQ community. Numbering well over 30 items, Nessel concluded, "Donald Trump is a monster."

"I saw that Democratic state attorneys general around the nation were filing suits against the Trump administration in record numbers," Nessel said, as she considered how to fight back. She ran and won, reversed course on many of former A.G. Bill Schuette's cases and, as she stated, has sued Trump "a lot."

In conclusion, Nessel stressed how important it is that all civil rights organizations and LGBTQ groups work together toward a greater purpose.

"Be engaged. Be active. Continue to resist," Nessel said, directing those in attendance to become politically involved. "I truly believe the arc of a moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice, as MLK would say. Now it's our job to take that arc and to turn it into a rainbow."

9/
26/
2019



The
Historic
Gem
Theatre

2019
VOICES

A DETROIT LEGACY

VIP Reception 6 p.m.

\$295 per ticket

Main Event 7 p.m.

\$195 per ticket

Open Bar

Complimentary Parking

Strolling Dinner

Silent Auction

Program

Dessert

CELEBRATE WITH
THE RUTH ELLIS CENTER!



Wanda Sykes

2019 Ruth Ellis Center
Legacy Award Honoree

Emmy winning stand-up comic,
writer, actress & producer

Limited Tickets Available at: RUTHELLISCENTER.ORG

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

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

(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

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

ABOUT BIKTARVY

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

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

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

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

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- ▶ Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- ▶ Have any other health problems.
- ▶ Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- ▶ Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- ▶ BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

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

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

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

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

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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

BIKTARVY, the BIKTARVY Logo, DAILY CHARGE, the DAILY CHARGE Logo, KEEP PUSHING, LOVE WHAT'S INSIDE, GILEAD, and the GILEAD Logo are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc., or its related companies. Version date: December 2018 © 2019 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved. BYYC0103 02/19



BIKTARVY[®]
bictegravir 50mg/emtricitabine 200mg/
tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets

LOVE
WHAT'S
INSIDE[®]

KEEP PUSHING.

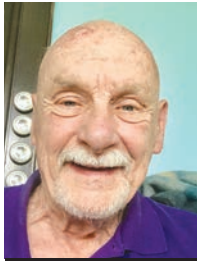
Because HIV doesn't change who you are.

BIKTARVY[®] is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in certain adults. **BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.**

Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you. To learn more, visit [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.biktarvy.com).

Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the previous page and visit [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.biktarvy.com).

GILEAD



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

39, and Not Counting

Editor's Note: This column first appeared in BTL in April 2014, when Charles was 77. He's now 83 years young.

At my advanced age I've come to realize I really don't exist. With the exception of the IRS, my creditors, my column's faithful baker's dozen fans, my friends, I'm a nobody, and an old nobody at that. *Sigh.* It happens.

Of the 7 billion persons on this over-crowded, truculent planet, how many care that I'm but one more bug in the trained flea circus of life?

Everyone knows, of course, that in Gay US of A oldsters (anyone over 39) are space ghosts, keening but seldom seen. If you don't believe me, ask yourself how many folks do you know of who are willing to admit to being 39? Or willing to associate with persons alleged to be of antsy age?

We seniors are last season's limp linguine. And, horror of horrors, us GOPs (gay old potboilers) have weak knees, fixed opinions, sleep apnea, bladder leakage and not infrequently read newspapers. Youngsters don't.

I suppose that's kinda good. Being eternally pretty is a great burden on society. And God knows the hardest years to be eternally pretty are between 39 and 50. (I got to 45 and came unglued.) After that it's why the heck bother.

Why diet? Do yoga! Stop drinking? Give up smoking! Sleep eight hours. Nobody cares one way or the other. Do the honorable thing. Just go to pot. (But legally.)

Yes, Captain Invisible. Shazam! You're over the hill. Stop dyeing your hair. Don't bother with transplants (top or bottom). Forget personal trainers. Leave the Viagra, yohimbe, and horny goat weed alone. Your salad days are over. It's chunky canned noodle soup from here on in.

You think I'm kidding. I'm not. For Lent recently I thought I'd peek into one of Chicago's popular gay spots - Faucet's. (Or, some such leaky place.) Just to see how the young plumbers plumb, and bingo! I got stopped before I could put one pleated trowser inside the door.

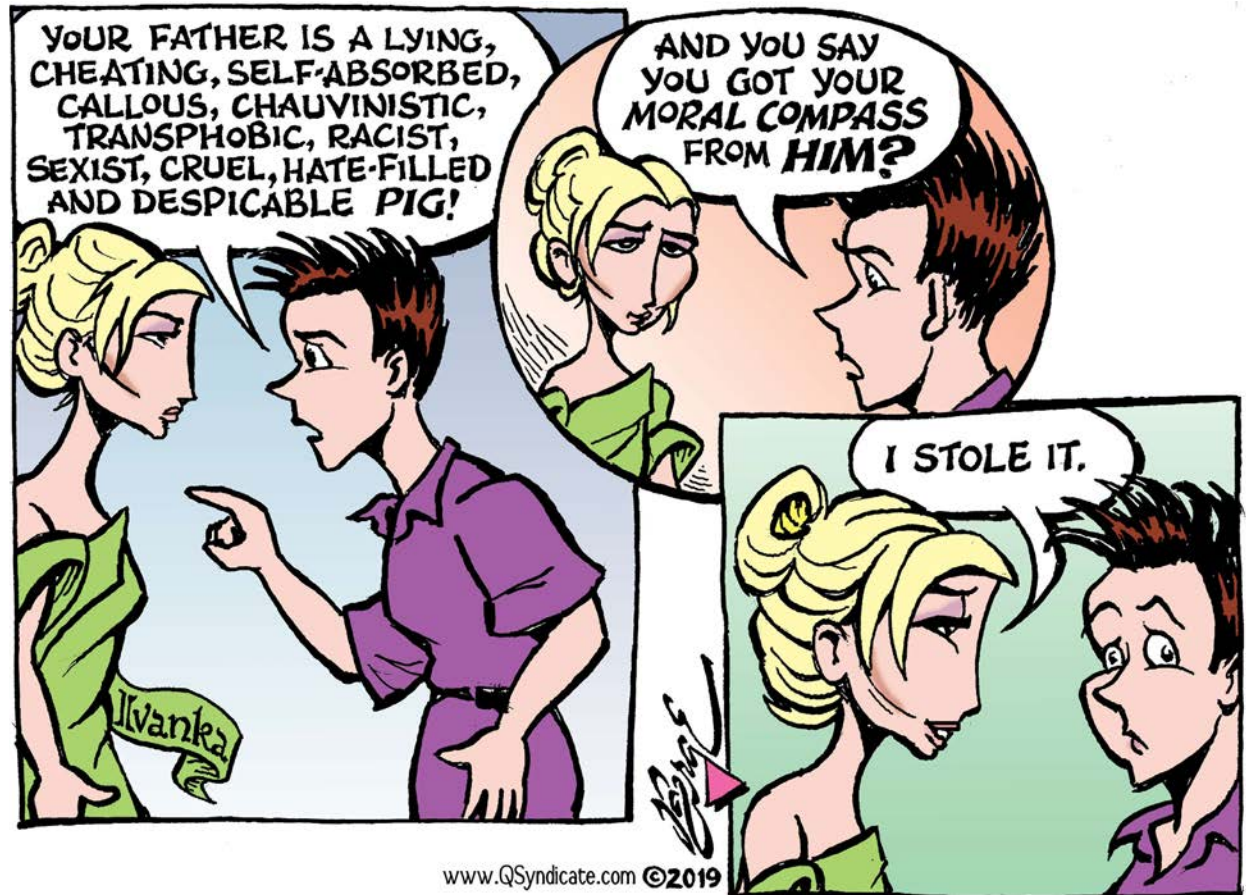
DOOR GUY: "Got ID?" TROWSER: "You're kidding. Man, I'm into Social Security. Why in the world do I need to prove it? I'm harmless - reasonably." DOOR GUY: "Sorry, don't croak. I don't make rules. I enforce them. It's too crowded inside anyway! Nothing' to see." TROWSER: "Or be seen by."

I coulda made a scene - I'm a sequin karate belter, but not wanting to besmirch the honor of our line-backing Go Blues - or Go Blowers - I held my piece, er, peace.

The evening wasn't a zero. Not far from Faucet's there's a nice, scenic go-go bistro, The Lucky Shoe Horn. It thoughtfully caters to us mature types - plus or minus a few decades - with a nonstop bevy of proverbial "barefoot boys with cheeks of tan."

I know it's a tad déclassé, but for a token of financial support - a dollar or two to help ensure, er, insure, the collective family jewels - said interpreters of the liberal dance arts are quite

See next page



Transmissions

Rapid Onset



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

I have always been intrigued by history. I love to look at how things came together over time, and how advances in knowledge, technology and society — for both good and ill — helped to shape the world we live in today.

Being transgender makes me keen on transgender history, too. The stories of pharaohs and emperors who may well have been trans, for example, shed light on just how many centuries there has been a transgender presence in this world.

In the modern era, it's learning about the great advances in trans lives centered in Magnus Hirschfeld's Institut für Sexualwissenschaft — and the loss of the same at the hands of the Nazis.

Hirschfeld's seminal work, "Die Transvestiten," paved the way for a greater understanding of transgender people. Harry Benjamin — who had met Hirschfeld in those heady Weimar days — picked up the torch, penning his own study of transgender people in the 1960s, "The Transsexual Phenomenon."

Benjamin was also known for one of his most famous subjects, Christine Jorgensen. While she was far from the first trans woman to undergo surgery, her appearance in mainstream consciousness in 1952 likely contributed the most to the common understanding of transsexual women.

In the decades since, many other trans names have been widely noticed in the media. Wendy Carlos, Renee Richards, Roberta Cowell, Candy Darling, Holly Woodlawn, Caroline

"Tula" Cossey, Kate Bornstein, Lana and Lilly Wachowski, Laverne Cox, Janet Mock and so on.

Another patient of Benjamin was Reed Erickson, a trans man who started what was known as the Erickson Educational Foundation, where he worked to provide information and resources for two decades. He, too, is part of a legacy of amazing, influential trans men such as Louis G. Sullivan, Loren Cameron, James Green, Jude Patton, Alexander John Goodrum, Stephen Whittle, Ian Harvie, Scott Turner Schofield, Shannon Minter, Sean Dorsey and Dr. Kortney Ziegler

Today, this same work continues into new frontiers, as non-binary and genderfluid voices enter the discussion, and a new generation of trans people begin to influence the world.

In this world exists those who wish to tell you that transgender people are something new, who are undergoing care that is untested, and that many people who are coming out now as subject to a new quack concept labeled "Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria."

The notion is that, given the easy availability of transgender resources, more and more people are coming out as trans as part of some quickly evolving social contagion. I hasten to give this idea too much air for one simple reason.

It's nonsense.

Look back on all I just said, of decades of transgender

See **Transmissions**, continued on p. 11

► Transmissions

Continued from p. 10

people coming out, of advances in the understanding of transgender people that were taking place over 100 years ago in Berlin, that spread to the U.S. in the post-war era, and which have blossomed since the 1990s in part due to the availability of information.

For myself, coming up into the community when I did meant that a lot of the resources weren't at my fingertips. It was something I had to stumble my way through things. This didn't make me less trans than anyone with the power of a smartphone and today's internet. It has only served to make the information more available.

Far from being some insidious group pressure than forces people to become transgender, this availability of information has helped allow people who already were trans or non-binary to finally have a name for their feelings, find others like them and grow into whole, functioning people.

This is no insidious plot brought on by an out of control pharmaceutical cabal like the conspiracy nuts would like you to believe. There is no shadowy trans lobby forcing matters. Indeed, if there was, I don't think it would be so blasted hard to get transgender care and medications in the world today.

What's more, this notion of people becoming transgender as a result of peer pressure should be laughed at as loudly as possible. When one does come out as trans, we often face anger and hatred from friends and family, ostracization

from peer groups and a whole world that seems willing to tear down our identities at every turn. If we were so swayed by a push towards social conformity, we'd certainly not choose to be transgender or non-binary in such a hostile world.

So, you may ask, if this isn't about people falling under a delusion they are transgender and rushing into a potentially perilous transition, why is it referred to as "rapid onset"? The answer should be obvious.

For many of us who are trans, we may feel that something isn't right for years, even decades of our lives. In that time, we may grow to feel that our trans leanings are shameful, and should be locked away. Those outside of us may never know those feelings are there, under the surface all the time. Still others may suspect them, but have learned to avoid any deep realizations about their friends or families out of their own feelings of shame.

For us, coming out and bringing our truth to the surface may indeed feel rapid to those who don't inhabit our bodies and may not have agonized over this over our lifetime.

To them, this decision came in a snap, just like those who never had heard of transgender people might think this community came into existence, as is, the moment Caitlyn Jenner squeezed into lingerie on the cover of *Vanity Fair*.

I assure you, however, just like the trans community has a long history, so do our innate feelings about our own genders — of the lack thereof. There's simply nothing "rapid" to it.

Gwen Smith does almost nothing rapidly. You can find her at www.gwensmith.com

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

willing to prove 7 billion inhabitants of this wacky planet wrong. I actually do exist. (However, briefly.)

Editor's note:

Our beloved Charles Alexander suffered a stroke this Memorial Day that has left him physically weaker and with some sight deficits. Alexander has been a prolific writer, artist, muse and devoted supporter of the LGBTQ community for many decades. An exhibition of his art is currently on display at the Pittmann-Puckett Art Gallery at the Affirmations LGBTQ community center in Ferndale, and on Sept. 29 from 4 to 7 p.m. we will celebrate him, his art and his remarkable life and contributions to the fabric of the

LGBTQ and artistic communities.

Alexander will be at this opening Sept. 29 to meet and speak with his many friends and fans. All the artwork on display will be available for sale, to benefit the Charles Alexander Care Trust established to support him as he recovers from the stroke.

Since *Between The Lines* was founded in 1993, Alexander has written nearly 1,000 of his weekly "Parting Glances" columns. Each one has brought his unique perspective on Detroit's history, the evolution of the LGBTQ community and the ever-changing political/social landscape we all share.

All are invited to attend the opening reception. For more information visit <http://gaybe.am/Yk>.

Creep Of The Week

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Brett Kavanaugh

I just read on NPR's health blog about a new study that found that "an estimated 3.3 million [women] nationwide said that their first sexual experience was rape."



And this is likely an underestimate! The data for the study predates the very new #MeToo movement and only women age 18 to 44 were included.

That's a lot of women and a lot of rape. And it's both shocking and completely unsurprising

considering that we live in a country where President Trump has been accused of rape and sexual assault many times and all of his accusers have been dismissed as liars. And then, president rapist appointed Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court and the Republicans enthusiastically supported him despite very credible testimony by Christine Blasey Ford that he'd sexually assaulted her in high school.

And lo and behold, what's this trending on Twitter? Brett Kavanaugh's penis. Because that's the horror show we're living in right now.

To be clear, it's not a dick pic of Kavanaugh on Twitter. It's more allegations of him using his penis to be a sexually assaulting trash heap. The latest allegations refer to incidents that happened while he was in college and they star his penis being thrust at women who didn't want that to be happening to them.

Trump, of course, came to Kavanaugh's defense. "Brett Kavanaugh should start suing people for libel, or the Justice Department should come to his rescue," Trump tweeted, indicating yet again that he has no idea what the Justice Department does. "The lies being told about him are unbelievable."

Trump's very Strange and Random capitalizations aside, Trump doesn't know if what's being said about Kavanaugh is true or not because the FBI didn't bother to investigate around the time of his nomination. Of course, that's according to the liberal media, so ...

The next day Trump tweeted: "I call for the Resignation of everybody at The New York Times involved in the Kavanaugh SMEAR story, and while you're at it, the Russian Witch Hunt Hoax, which is just as phony!"

That's journalism in America, folks. The goddamn president calls for the resignation of reporters he doesn't agree with.

Other, much smarter, people (Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris for example) are calling for resignations, too. Or, more specifically, impeachments.

President Trump has been accused of rape and sexual assault many times and all of his accusers have been dismissed as liars.

"Confirmation is not exoneration, and these newest revelations are disturbing," Warren tweeted. "Like the man who appointed him, Kavanaugh should be impeached."

Would the Senate go for it? Well, no. Of course not. It's still Republican-controlled (though you can help that by volunteering for a U.S. Senate race in your neck of the woods) and Mitch McConnell, who said the new allegations "felt a little like Groundhog Day," is calling the shots.

But that doesn't mean a full investigation shouldn't happen. Impeach Trump. Impeach Kavanaugh. Let the proceedings begin because Democracy is heading toward an iceberg and if we don't do something this ship is going down.

Americans deserve the truth. Granted, a number of them will choose only to believe their dear leader. But winning over the mindless isn't the point. It's taking seriously charges of sexual assault and saying, "Gosh, maybe men who have credible accusations against them shouldn't be allowed to hold the most powerful positions in the land."

Look, it's clear that Kavanaugh wasn't a good person before his confirmation hearing. It's also clear that he wasn't a good person during his confirmation hearing. Which means he isn't a good person now that he's a sitting Supreme Court justice.

This is a man who, for the rest of his life, will be making decisions that govern the bodies and lives of women and LGBTQ people in this country. This man who thought that pushing his penis into a woman's face was a funny joke in college.

I can't stop thinking about those 3 million women in this country were raped as their FIRST sexual experience. Their first! This doesn't count the many more who were raped after that.

And still, our default is to not believe women. To dismiss them as liars, especially when they accuse powerful men. The idea that there are all these women out there who will stop at nothing to destroy a good man's life is absurd. Sexual assault isn't something the majority of women lie about.

The idea that there are all these men out there who will stop at nothing to destroy a good woman's life by assaulting her and then calling her a liar? We see that played out over and over again. And it has to stop.

A Comedian's LGBTQ Legacy

Wanda Sykes to Be Honored at Upcoming REC VOICES Gala

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

In Wanda Sykes' latest comedy special "Not Normal" she takes on everything from the Trump administration, the #MeToo movement and racism; it's clear that over the course of her 30-year career Sykes has been fearlessly outspoken. That confidence also translates to the charitable causes she supports, too. An out lesbian, Sykes has used her platform to aid LGBTQ groups like The Trevor Project, GLAAD, The True Colors Fund and even Detroit's own Ruth Ellis Center, which works to prevent homelessness among the city's LGBTQ youth. In part because of her trademark candor, Sykes is being honored this year at REC's upcoming VOICES Gala fundraiser on Thursday, Sept. 26.

As is tradition, a recipient of the Ruth Ellis Legacy Award is chosen who embodies the same spirit of activism in their field as Ellis herself — an African-American lesbian activist who came out in 1915 and by the 1930s was providing shelter and support to LGBTQ people without a safety net. REC Director of Development and Advancement Mark Erwin-McCormick said that for this year, the Emmy Award-winning comedian was the obvious choice.

"This year being the 20th anniversary, a really monumental year, we wanted to highlight somebody who came on as an early supporter of the Center, before it had grown into what it is today, and Wanda is that person. She was the first national figure to use their platform to bring greater awareness to the work of the Center and the Legacy of Ruth Ellis," he said. "And it seemed fitting that for the 20th anniversary we honor her in this way."

Sykes has been using her influence to publicly support REC since 2012. But as commonplace as it might be to see Sykes at pro-LGBTQ charity events like this one, it wasn't until her late 30s that she began to realize the importance of the work at organizations like REC. Ahead of the Gala, *Between The Lines* caught up with Sykes to learn more about why that is, to get her thoughts on what it means to create a pro-LGBTQ legacy and why she feels it's her responsibility to use her platform for more than just jokes.

You're receiving the Ruth Ellis Center's Legacy Award. What does creating a pro-LGBTQ legacy mean to you?

I don't think one ever feels like they're worthy of such an award, you know? It's humbling but it's also — I appreciate that they want to do this for me, but Ruth Ellis, she did so much without the platform that I have. More boots on the ground. So, for me, what I can lend to the organization and try to help is exactly that,

it's a platform. I can use the notoriety to bring awareness to such an organization. Because I guess that's my skill, my talent, you know? But I have so much respect for people who are there day-to-day, doing the work. So, for me to accept this honor is mainly just to be there and thank the people who are the boots on the ground, who are actually making a huge difference in the lives of these kids.

Do you believe it's a comedian's responsibility to use their platform for causes like this one?

I do, because that's one of the things that I'm interested in. My comedy is grounded in the real world, and for me to not talk about it, to not say, 'Hey, I'm aware of what's going on,' it just feels like I've been intentionally avoiding it. And I also believe as an artist that — it's not that I knock other comedians who just want to get up on stage and tell a joke, our job is to make people laugh. But the comics that I admire, the ones that I looked up to growing up were the comics who were also socially and politically involved and used the comedy to touch on subjects — especially for people who were in the margins.

Have you seen a shift in recent years of other comedians focusing more on the political? You've mentioned that you had other things on your mind when other presidents were in office.

Yeah, because it's so crazy now (laughs). You can't help it. Even if you're not political, I don't see how you can avoid it. Unless you're a straight white guy, but then who cares? "Life is good, who cares, you know? It doesn't matter. Why do I need to vote? My life is always going to be great for me. I'm a straight white guy. I'm good." But, yeah. I think politically when times are not so crazy and just kind of calm then it's easier to just talk about your kids (laughs) or just life in general, but we're living in these times right now. I don't see how you can avoid it.

Ruth Ellis is a beacon of hope for many in the LGBTQ community. Growing up, did you ever have anyone who you looked up to who was in the LGBTQ community? Or did that ever come to you later in life?

No. It wasn't until later in life when I kind of developed a group of friends who were gay or lesbian, and mainly from work with doing shows or in the entertainment business. Those were the people I came across and built my little family. It started there.

What first made you aware of the importance of the work REC was doing?

I think what opened my eyes was I was almost 40, a grown woman, on my own, financially



sound. And when I came out to my family, how hard that was. We went through a period where they weren't really talking to me that much and not really involved in my life. And I just looked at it and went, "Wow, I'm going through this, someone who really isn't in need of anything just the love and support of my family." And then I said, "Wow, how magnified that is when you're 16 or 15 and now you don't have the love and support, but now financially you're out." I couldn't imagine that happening and living life like that. So, that was the wake up for me. Like, how I was feeling going through it who had the means to take care of themselves and living a great life, (laughs) surrounded by people screaming and loving me and a team of people working for me. I just thought about a kid without any of those things, how hard it would be for them.

You've spoken in interviews before about how it's hard to be funny in an era that is so ridiculous politically right now. How do you stay hopeful and positive?

Wow. Well, I am a person of faith, so I rely on that. Also, I look at the last election. I don't know how much meddling was done with the numbers, but the majority of people, I think,

who vote (laughs) want things to be equal and they're on the right side. I look at that and just the day-to-day people I meet, and strangers in the streets. Like this lady today, she got off the elevator when I got off and just told me how much she appreciated the [Netflix "Not Normal"] special and the things I said and how important it is. So, yeah, I think there are [so] many like-minded people out there that I know we're going to get this right. And also, historically, just being African-American and a minority and woman, we've had a tougher battle. I just believe as they say, "We shall overcome." So, I believe it's gonna happen. It'll get better.

Do you have a piece of advice to share with one of the kids at the Ruth Ellis Center?

Just to never give up and always remember that you are loved. Someone loves you and cares about you. And someone's going to be there to help you. It might not be that day that you expect it, but it's gonna happen.

The REC VOICES Gala is on Thursday, Sept. 26 at the Gem Theatre in Detroit. This year's event is sponsored by Cadillac. Find out more about the event online at ruthelliscenter.org.



All Well-Being Services (AWBS) is a nationally accredited organization that has provided services to residents of Wayne County for sixty-five years.

BRINGING WELLNESS TO LIFE



AWBS offers a variety of services to allow members to function at their greatest potential by using trained professionals and best practices

AWBS SERVICES: Mental Health Services, Substance Use Prevention & Treatment, Assertive Community Treatment, HIV/Hepatitis Prevention & Testing, Primary Care & Dental Services, Health Workshops and Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Services (Skill Building, Family Support and more).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR APPOINTMENT
CALL (313)924-7860 | www.awbs.org**

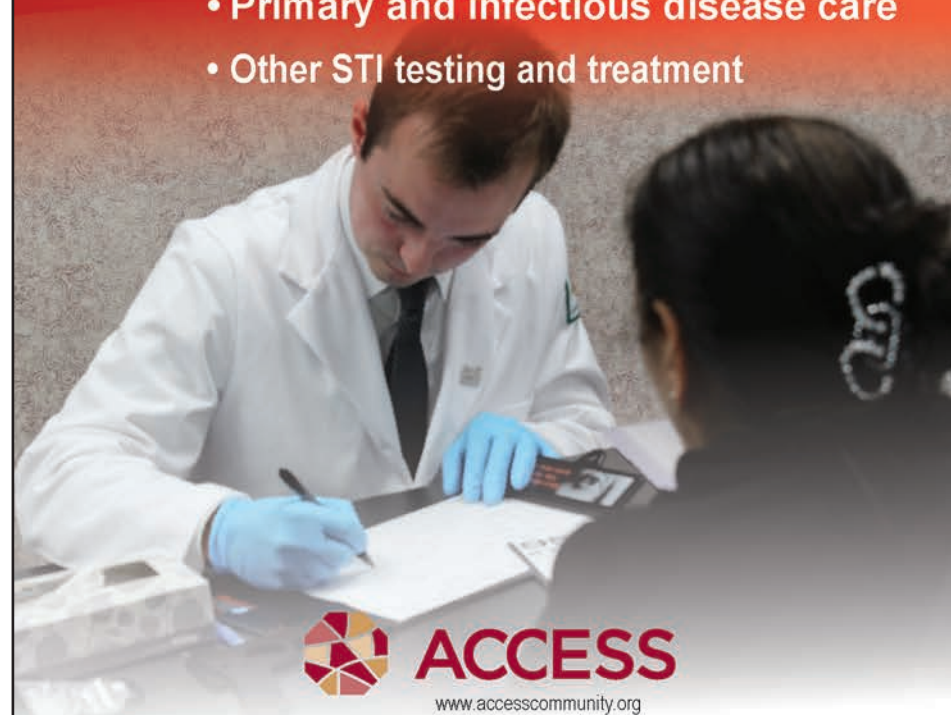


**SEXUALLY
TRANSMITTED
INFECTIONS**
Treatment and Prevention

**GET THE FACTS.
LEARN THE RISKS.
PROTECT YOURSELF.**

SERVICES INCLUDE

- Free same day HIV results
- Free Hepatitis B and C testing
- HIV education and testing
- PrEP education and referral
- Early intervention services
- Medical and non-medical case management
- HIV care for uninsured
- Primary and infectious disease care
- Other STI testing and treatment



Sterling Heights Center

4301 East 14 Mile Rd., Sterling Heights, MI 48310
586.722.6036

Part of the MetroCare Coordination Network



worship with us

ADULT BIBLE STUDY 9:30AM
WORSHIP GATHERING 11:30AM

www.mccdetroit.org

Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit

A diverse, inclusive Christian church serving the LGBTQ and ally community since 1972.

205 N. Main St, Clawson, MI 48017
248.399.7741

Eye on the Sidelines

Just hours ahead of last Thursday's debate:

• **Healey endorses Warren:** Openly gay Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey announced she is endorsing Warren.

"I've been lucky to work with Elizabeth since well before she became our Senator," said Healey, in an email blast to supporters. "What I've come to know is that Elizabeth Warren is laser focused on how we help families in this state and across this country. She also knows that you can't just tell people what you're going to do. Real change happens when you have a plan to get it done, and the resolve and strategy to fight for it."

• **Biden video touts LGBT gains:** Biden's campaign released a new campaign video Thursday, underscoring Biden's time as Vice President to President Barack Obama. Among other things, the video reminds viewers that the Obama administration "led on marriage equality" and "repealed don't ask, don't tell." Biden has often been given credit for persuading President Obama to make a statement in favor of allowing same-sex couples to marry. In May 2012, Biden said he was "absolutely comfortable" with allowing same-sex couples to marry, something that was possible only in a few states at the time. President Obama had been walking a tightrope between support for repealing the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) and support for full legal marriage equality. While President Obama has vigorously supported the repeal of DOMA and had spoken in opposition to bans on same-sex marriage in California and North Carolina, he and his administration had not yet made any explicit statements in support of legal marriage equality in the states. Commentary at the time was split – some saying Biden was paving the way for a supportive statement from President Obama and others saying he had committed a "gaffe" by expressing a view that the president had not yet endorsed.

• **Trump mocks Buttigieg:** In an hour-long rambling speech to Republican U.S. House members Thursday evening, President Trump took several jabs at mocking Buttigieg. Trump said the South Bend mayor was "doing a rotten job running his own city," and he dismissed polls showing Buttigieg could beat Trump by two points in Texas. "I don't think so," said Trump. "I don't worry about that too much." Trump also made fun of Buttigieg's last name, saying "nobody can pronounce this guy's name," and then he repeated "Boot-edge-edge." Trump followed that by pointing to his mid-chest and saying, "I've had him up to here," drawing laughter from the audience. Trump mocked Buttigieg before, including in a North Carolina rally in July. Two national polls in the past month have shown registered voters preferring Buttigieg to Trump by a margin of four to nine points.

Debate 3 Shows Buttigieg Has Staying Power

BY LISA KEEN

No LGBT-specific issues came up during the third national Democratic presidential debate September 12. That, and the fact that LGBT issues have been barely mentioned in the previous two national Democratic debates, is likely to put increased attention on next week's LGBT presidential forum in Iowa, as well as next month's Human Rights Campaign presidential forum on CNN.

The only reference to LGBT issues in last Thursday's debate came near the end of the three-hour event when candidates were asked to describe "the most significant professional setback" they have ever faced and how they recovered or learned from it.

South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, the only openly gay candidate in the field of 10 candidates on the stage in Houston, said his was the decision to come out while serving as mayor and in the military.

"I had to wonder whether just acknowledging who I was was going to be the ultimate career-ending professional setback," said Buttigieg. It was a moment Buttigieg has described publicly before, including in his memoir *Shortest Way Home*.

"I came back from the deployment and realized that you only get to live one life. And I was not interested in not knowing what it was like to be in love any longer, so I just came out. I had no idea what kind of professional setback it would be, especially because, inconveniently, it was an election year in my socially conservative community," said Buttigieg. "What happened was that, when I trusted voters to judge me based on the job that I did for them, they decided to trust me and re-elected me with 80 percent of the vote. And what I learned was that trust can be reciprocated and that part of how you can win and deserve to win is to know what's worth more to you than winning. And I think that's what we need in the presidency right now."

Besides being the only openly gay candidate in the race and the only candidate among the top 10 with military service, Buttigieg is clearly trying to position himself as a moderate among Democrats. In the debate over "Medicare for All" versus the Affordable Care Act, Buttigieg offers "Medicare for All who want it." In the debate over assault weapons –whether to ban them entirely or try to make sure they can't fall into the hands of dangerous killers—Buttigieg told CNN's State of the Union Sunday that candidate Beto O'Rourke was wrong to say he would take away all assault weapons. But then Buttigieg explained, "We have agreement among the American people for not just universal background checks but we have a majority in favor of red flag laws, [bans on] high-capacity magazines, [and] banning the new sale of assault weapons."

Many political pundits said they don't think



much will change in the poll standings as a result of the September 12 debate, but it does seem clear now that Buttigieg has raised enough money and voter interest to remain a viable candidate in the Democratic presidential race through Iowa. His candidacy has drawn repeated comments from incumbent Republican President Trump, has inspired repeated editorial scrutiny from the Wall Street Journal, and scored appearances on two Sunday political talk shows post-debate. And this month, the Buttigieg campaign began opening up 20 offices across the state of Iowa to ramp up support ahead of the February caucuses. The Des Moines Register reported Buttigieg had raised more money from Iowans than had any other candidate.

Buttigieg is in second tier

Polling data has separated the field of viable Democratic candidates into four distinct tiers: double-digits (former Vice President Joe Biden and U.S. Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren), single-digits above the DNC threshold (U.S. Senator Kamala Harris and Buttigieg), single-digits at the DNC threshold (businessman Andrew Yang, U.S. Senator Cory Booker, and former U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke), and single-digits below the threshold (all others). The Democratic National Party has set 2 percent as the threshold of polling support a candidate must have in four national polls in order to participate in the party's nationally televised debates.

Ten candidates met that criteria for the September 12 debate and all have reportedly qualified for the next debate, October 15. So far, only one other Democratic candidate, businessman Tom Steyer, has been added to the roster for the next debate.

Polling has been consistent for weeks now: Biden is in the lead by between six and ten points over the next contender. He is followed by either Sanders or Warren, depending on the poll. The latest CNN poll showed Warren with 18 percent, and Sanders with 17 percent. The latest RealClearPolitics.com averaging of many recent polls showed Biden with 26.8 percent, Sanders with 17.3 percent, and Warren with 16.8 percent.

On the second tier, using RealClearPolitics averaging, Harris has 6.5 percent and Buttigieg has 4.8 percent.

Making up a third tier are Yang with 3 percent, O'Rourke with 2.8 percent, and Booker with 2.3 percent. And the fourth tier includes U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard with 1.3 percent, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar with 1.2 percent, former Housing and Human Services Secretary Julian Castro with 1 percent, and Steyer and U.S. Senator Michael Bennet, with under one percent.

Nate Silver, the openly gay polling data guru at fivethirtyeight.com, recently commented on the odds of winning the nomination, given candidates' placement at this point.

"I'd much rather wager a few shekels on Joe Biden than Pete Buttigieg, for instance. But I don't think there's any hard-and-fast distinction between the top tier and the next-runners-up," said Silver. But he added that candidates in the low single digits have almost no chance now of winning.

Silver doesn't buy into some media speculation that the nomination race is down to just the three double-digit candidates: Biden, Warren, and Sanders. He points to polling in the early primary states as "historically fairly predictive" of who wins the nomination.

Next debate: Friday

The latest poll in Iowa (taken August 28 to September 4) shows Biden with 29 percent support, followed by Sanders with 26 points, Warren with 17, Buttigieg with seven, and Harris with six. (The survey was conducted by CBS News and YouGov.com with 835 registered voters in Iowa who identify as Democrats. Margin of error is 4.3 percent.)

Four out of those five candidates (everyone except Sanders) has confirmed they will participate Friday, September 20, in an LGBT-specific debate sponsored by the Iowa statewide LGBT group One Iowa and three media groups. Six other participants, thus far, are Booker, Castro, Gabbard, Klobuchar, former U.S. Rep. Joe Sestak, and author Marianne Williamson.

The debate will be livestreamed on several internet sites, including TheGazette.com and a youtube site. The forum is slated to run from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Lawsuit Prompts Decision to Repeal NYC Conversion Therapy Ban

BY LOU CHIBBARO JR.

Corey Johnson, the openly gay speaker of the New York City Council, introduced a bill on Thursday to repeal a law the Council passed in 2017 that prohibits mental health professionals from performing so-called conversion therapy on both adults and minors.

Johnson said he remains convinced the practice of attempting change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity is harmful and ineffective based on assessments by virtually all of the nation's mainstream mental health advocacy organizations, which have issued statements opposing conversion therapy.

But he said a lawsuit filed in January of this year challenging the constitutionality of the law could result in court rulings harmful to the effort to ban conversion therapy, including a possible negative ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The lawsuit was filed by the anti-LGBTQ Alliance Defending Freedom on behalf of an Orthodox Jewish psychotherapist from Brooklyn, Dovid Schwartz, who charges that the law violates his and his patients' First Amendment right to therapeutic counseling or "speech" of their own choosing.

"Obviously, I didn't want to repeal this," Johnson told the New York Times. "I don't want to be someone who is giving in to these right-wing groups," the Times quoted him as saying. "But the Supreme Court has become conservative; the 2nd Circuit, which oversees New York, has become more conservative."

"We think this is the most responsible, prudent course," he told the Times.

Ethan Rice, senior staff attorney and Fair Courts Project Director for the LGBT litigation group Lambda Legal, told the Washington Blade in a statement that Lambda Legal believes the New York City ban on conversion therapy is constitutional.

But he said there is "no reason to waste time and money" fighting the lawsuit because an existing New York State law bans conversion therapy for minors. He said another state consumer protection law enables adults to bring consumer fraud cases against therapists engaging in conversion therapy.

New York City became the first known jurisdiction to extend its ban on conversation therapy to adults. Laws banning conversion therapy for minors have been enacted in 18 states, District of Columbia and more than 50 municipalities, according to the Williams Institute, an LGBTQ think tank affiliated with the UCLA School of Law.

"State laws prohibiting licensed therapists from this outrageous and harmful practice are the gold standard for legislation on this issue,"

Rice told the Blade. "There have been a handful of challenges to those laws, but they have all failed," he said.

"It is very well-established that states have the authority — and the responsibility — to regulate mental health treatments to protect patients, especially minor patients, and especially when the potential harms are life-threatening," Rice said.

He was referring to widespread reports by mental health experts that young people who undergo conversion therapy to change their sexual orientation or gender identity, often under pressure from parents, have suffered from depression and attempted, and in some cases committed suicide.

In his lawsuit, Schwartz says many of his patients seeking conversion therapy are members of the Orthodox Jewish community.

"The patient-psychotherapist relationship requires giving patients the ability to express themselves without fear of reprisal and allowing therapists the freedom to respond to that expression with understanding," the lawsuit states. "It is the last possible place where the government should be dictating what topics or ideas are off limits," it says.

"Specifically, if an adult patient is experiencing and does not wish to experience same-sex attractions, or a sense of gender identity that is discordant with his or her biological sex, the [law] threatens fines as high as \$10,000 against a psychotherapist if he or she offers any thoughts or indeed says anything at all to assist the patient in pursuing a personally chosen goal of reducing same-sex attractions, increasing attraction to the opposite sex, or achieving comfort in a gender identity congruent with the patient's physical body and reproductive nature," the lawsuit says.

It says these restrictions violate Schwartz and his patient's First Amendment rights of freedom of speech.

Wayne Besen, executive director of Truth Wins Out, an LGBT Advocacy group that fights conversion therapy, called the arguments in Schwartz's lawsuit "ridiculous and fatally flawed."

"To argue that there should not be government interference in counseling and medicine is preposterous," he told the Blade. "This is precisely the arena where government should be intimately involved to prevent unprincipled and dubious practitioners from harming clients, — we have licensing specifically to prevent quacks, whether religious faith healers or otherwise, from inflicting harm."

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

If you were to die today, who would be in charge of your funeral tomorrow?

Although your partner may be aware of your wishes, they may not be legally entitled to advocate for you. By filling out a **Funeral Representative Declaration Form**, LGBTQ+ individuals can ensure their final wishes are met.

It's *your* life. Call us to take this simple, yet crucial step toward peace of mind today:

734-783-2646

Michigan Memorial
Funeral Home • Park • Crematory

www.MiMemorial.com

Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.; Michigan Memorial Park, Inc.; Michigan Memorial Park Crematory Company, Inc. These companies are separately owned and operated. Daniel P. Dwyer, President / Owner of Michigan Memorial Funeral Home, Inc.

Hodges...

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

2019 SUBARU IMPREZA
2.0i S-DOOR

- Standard Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive + 36 mpg hwy
- EyeSight® Driver Assist Technology available
- Standard SUBARU STARLINK™ Multimedia with Apple CarPlay™ and Android™ Auto integration
- The longest-lasting vehicle in its class

\$249 PER MONTH LEASE/
36 MONTHS / 10,000 MILES PER YEAR

\$0 Security Deposit
\$0 Total Due at Signing

0.9% Financing available on all Impreza models up to 72 months*

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

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

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

EVERYDAY!

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

*Tax, title, license fees extra. \$0 Security deposit. 10K miles/year. Must be approved tier one credit through Subaru Motors Finance. Valid until 9/30/19.



Flagstar Bank SVP Beth Correa shared how she and her department are working to move the bank toward a higher level of corporate responsibility to the community. She talked with DRLGBTCC President Kevin Heard at the monthly On The Menu breakfast speakers series at Affirmations. BTL Photo.

Correa Connects Large and Small Businesses at On The Menu

FERNDALE – An engaged group of corporate executives and LGBTQ business owners met at Affirmations Sept. 12 to hear Beth Correa, Senior Vice President of Flagstar Bank, talk about that organization’s corporate responsibility strategy, philanthropy, employee recruitment and development, and how the bank positions itself within communities in greater Detroit.

“Our recruiting teams work really hard to assemble a diverse pool of talent for our managers to choose from when positions become available,” Correa. “It’s also really important for us from a people standpoint to make sure that we create a space that is safe and supportive [for our employees].”

Correa spoke to the gathering of about 40 people at the inaugural On The Menu, a monthly breakfast speakers’ series produced by the Detroit Regional LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce. Chamber President Kevin Heard moderated the event, and breakfast was catered by LGBTQ-owned Kaleidoscope Catering.

Heard and Correa talked for 20 minutes then fielded questions from the audience, including whether Flagstar recognizes LGBTQ certified business when tabulating their minority procurement figures.

“We certainly do,” Correa said. “And we’ve done a lot of work with our procurement area to think about how to find diverse suppliers. We’ve joined the Michigan Minority Supplier Diversity Council, and we track our purchasing. We’re also thinking about some of our really large suppliers and asking those suppliers when they subcontract work: – who are they subcontracting to? Also, what does their workforce look like? We think it is important to hold our suppliers accountable in that way, and we really look at that.”

Participants said they came away with a better appreciation of how a large company like Flagstar Bank interacts with individuals and small businesses.

“Beth and Kevin’s presentation was extremely interesting and informative. I’m looking forward to coming to the next On The Menu,” said Susan Horowitz, owner of Pride Source Media Group.

OCT. 10 ON THE MENU

Melissa Smiley, Community Foundation Southeast Michigan

On The Menu starts at 7 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Affirmations and includes a full catered breakfast. The next speaker will be Melissa Smiley, special assistant to the president and strategy officer at The Community Foundation For Southeast Michigan. Smiley also is the point person for The HOPE Fund at CFSEM, the largest funder of LGBTQ projects in Southeast Michigan. To Register for the Oct. 10 On The Menu go to detroitlgbtchamber.com

Need Continues to Spike for LGBTQ-Inclusive Elder Housing

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The LGBTQ community is aging and, as a result, its elder care needs are growing. It is estimated that by 2030 there will be over 7 million LGBTQ adults aged 65 or older in the U.S. who will need to find inclusive housing options. Kathleen LaTosch is a consultant who works with SAGE Metro Detroit — a group dedicated to helping the needs of LGBTQ elders. She said that baby boomers will blaze a trail for the rest of the LGBTQ community as they begin their search since prior generations didn’t have nearly as many options.

“Generations before [the Boomers] didn’t really look for them,” LaTosch said. “Perhaps they weren’t out, didn’t ask – all of those things. You know the old saying, ‘The squeaky wheel gets the oil?’ Well, we have to ask for what we need or else it may not come about.”

And that’s what’s happening.

“For the first time, older adults are asking for inclusive options and the existing infrastructure – the aging network – simply hasn’t ever had to offer that,” LaTosch continued. “Now that people are asking, the aging network is taking notice and beginning to offer inclusive options. But it’s still slow and will continue to be for a couple of reasons.”

LaTosch said that that pace is a result of several things, but the physical and mental vulnerability of the group as it ages is chief among them.

“Layer LGBTQ identity on top of that and it exacerbates feelings of vulnerability,” she said. “There are many boomers who still aren’t out and don’t feel comfortable coming out to strangers. Plus, many senior living communities are run by faith-based institutions, which may have a difficult time securing policy change that could contradict existing church doctrine.”

Across the country, there is a growing number of LGBTQ-specific senior communities popping up, but “they are few and far between.”

“And, once built, they fill up quickly and develop waitlists to get in all too soon,” LaTosch said. “Also, few senior living communities are explicitly LGBTQ-inclusive today.” In addition to the lack of availability, there are a number of additional complications for LGBT older adults. For instance, LGBTQ elders are less likely to have adult children to help support them — roughly 3 out of 10 compared to 8 out of 10 straight elders.

“They are more likely to be living in poverty from a lifetime of employment and other financial discriminations,” LaTosch said. “Affordable senior housing is also hard to come by for all older adults. Many of the desirable communities out there cost a premium that may be out of budget for many LGBT older adults. [Then] LGBT older

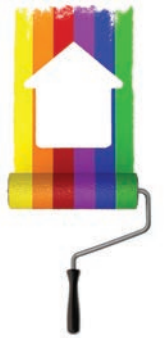
adults worry about how they will be treated not only by staff but also by their neighbors in these communities. Senior bullying is on the rise and it’s difficult to control senior behavior around language use – particularly among those facing early stages of dementia, where behavior is often connected to a progressive health condition.”

Currently, there are no LGBTQ-specific senior communities in Michigan, but senior communities are starting to make strides in promoting themselves as LGBTQ-inclusive.

“At SAGE Metro Detroit, we have worked hard over the last several years to build an LGBTQ-inclusive referral guide to LGBT older adults,” LaTosch said. “But our housing list is still woefully inadequate – and that’s after working hard at it for several years. Our best communities right now are Henry Ford Village of Dearborn and some of the communities developed by Presbyterian Villages of Michigan. Community organizers are looking at the housing issue very intently right now and working on coming up with a better solution for LGBT older adults living in Southeastern Michigan. We hope there is more to come on this in the future.”

SAGE national is also partnering with the Human Rights Campaign Foundation to create and develop LEI, or the Long-Term Care Equality Index. This index is an assessment process similar to existing HRC indices that rate the LGBTQ-inclusiveness of senior living communities.

“Over time, the project aims to build a nationwide list of LGBT-inclusive housing options for older adults. It is a long-range plan with a final index not likely available to the public until next year,” LaTosch said. “We are fortunate to have much input from Michigan on this project. [SAGE Metro Detroit board member] Cornelius Wilson is serving on the National Advisory Council for the LEI, and I am working as a consultant on the project.”



AFFIRMATIONS

FALL *bling* 2019



the Wizard of Wine Party!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019 - 7:00 PM

AFFIRMATIONS COMMUNITY CENTER

Enjoy Food/Drink/Wine/Entertainment and a 50-50 Raffle!

Admission: Two Bottles of Wine.
One to share, one for the wine raffle.

Please RSVP:
Website: GoAffirmations.org/fall-bling-2019
Email: ktaylor@goaffirmations.org
Phone: 248-398-7105

RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS



**Dedicated to make our community brighter
One Smile At A Time**

248-399-4455

Uninsured? No Problem. Significant Savings with our Smile Club

**Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)
Proud participants in the Ryan White Program
No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.**

Care Credit



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

**Find us on
facebook**

Fair Michigan 2019 Justice Reception

*With Special Guests Governor Gretchen Whitmer,
Attorney General Dana Nessel, &
Invited Honorees Prosecutor Kym Worthy & Prosecutor Carol Siemon*

*At the beautiful and historic
Strand Theater
12 N Saginaw Street, Pontiac, MI 48342
September 26, 2019*

*VIP Reception 6 pm
Awards Ceremony & Drag Show ~ Seating 6:30 pm
Afterglow until 9 pm*

*Featuring Emcee Amy Lange of Fox 2 Detroit
& Drag Performance by Jade'n Black of Boylesque*

*Host ~ All Access, Reserved Seating & Valet Parking \$500
Patron ~ Awards Ceremony, Afterglow, & Valet Parking \$150
Friend ~ Awards Ceremony and Drag Show Only \$50*

Complimentary Bar Service and hors d'oeuvres at the VIP Reception and Afterglow

A Special Thank You to our Gold Sponsors:



DTE
Foundation



CHEMICAL
BANK
A Division of TCF National Bank

We also wish to recognize our Allies and Partners:









Let's Talk Women's Health


Do you suffer from painful sex,
vaginal dryness, or urinary incontinence?
We are here to help.





NO DOWNTIME. NO HORMONES. NO SURGERY.


Now offering FemTouch™ Vaginal rejuvenation treatments.

Don't Suffer in Silence!





Fian Clar
MEDICAL SPA
AT PARTRIDGE CREEK OBGYN



*FemTouch Package purchase.

**19991 Hall Road, Suite 105 Macomb, MI 48044
partridgecreekobgyn.com**



Seeking Courteous Home Service

A Look at 3 LGBTQ-Owned Michigan Home Improvement Businesses

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Whether settling down to start a family, putting down roots in a great location or simply expanding one's space, home ownership can be a thrilling part of anyone's life regardless of their reasons. However, it's an unfortunate reality that LGBTQ people often must take extra care to ensure that the place in which they choose to settle down is affirming of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The joint LGBT Real Estate Report done by the federal home loan mortgage corporation Freddie Mac and the National Association of Gay & Lesbian Real Estate Professionals found that despite the fact that 72 percent of LGBTQ renters want to own a home, only 52 percent expect to do so in the next five years.

"Freddie Mac found that 70 percent of LGBT renters cite not having the funds for a down payment as the top reason they have not yet bought a home. NAGLREP members followed with a variety of reasons that LGBT homeownership rates are lower," the report said. "Financial concerns, waiting for the right time, lack of awareness about the home buying/mortgage process and impact of discrimination played a role."

That fear of discrimination manifests in

various forms. The report surveyed almost 650 NAGLREP members who found that 64 percent of those surveyed were concerned about being welcomed into the community and 58 percent feared discrimination during the buying process. Perhaps one of the most striking concerns surrounds caution when hiring the "right professionals" — almost 36 percent worried that they would encounter discrimination if they didn't have an affirming realtor. And even beyond the buying process, that fear can be transferred to other aspects of homeownership like home repair and service. That's why for this year's *Defining our Home* issue, *Between The Lines* reached out to three openly LGBTQ home service providers not only to learn about their businesses but to get their thoughts on why it's important to be inclusive.

Claude Jones – Town & Country Door

Whether one's garage door is a standard white 8-by-8-foot or an extra wide 18-by-8-foot mid-century modern fashion statement, Town & Country Door owner and founder Claude Jones is confident he can help with its installation. That promise extends to entry doors as well. Having started his business in

1996, he said that what's allowed for its longevity is his and his employees' dedication to service.

"Well, whenever I hire anybody, I tell them that, number one, I have never once taken advantage of a customer and I expect the same from them. And number two, I pay more than the other garage door companies, and I expect [my employees] to be the best and we all are here," he said. "And when a customer has a problem, I just don't [escalate it] and my guys aren't allowed to do an argument with them or anything like that. Immediately, if it's something that they can't resolve out there — and 90 percent of the time they can — then I get involved and I will just always do what I can to make them happy."

And at least part of keeping customers happy rests on fostering an inclusive environment for those who are LGBTQ and in search of service. An openly gay man himself, Jones is all too familiar with the pain surrounding a hidden identity. After learning the door installation business from his brother, he made sure to lay the groundwork for a business that ensured customers from all walks of life feel comfortable.

"I'm older, I'm 64 now, and I had to live a lot of my life — I worked in the transportation industry at the Free Press, was a Teamster — really not being who I was in the closet, if

you will. And when things started evolving, I decided and I finally came out when I was 35 and I met my current partner [at 39]," he said. "... I just wanted to support our community and I just wanted to be me, and I have a lot of gay friends and I guess I just wanted to be part of the family in whatever way I could. ... And when you're a business, it's about business of course, but, for me, it's never been about the money. It's always been about being good to people in whatever way I could. That's just how I live my life. It feels good and it works. And I work very hard and work a lot of hours still, but a lot of good things come back to you when you're good to our community, when you're good to other people."

To learn more about the services at Town & Country Door visit townandcountrydoor.net.

Jen Czach – Jen Czach Construction

Jen Czach has always had an interest in every aspect of home improvement, so at 18, just after high school, she began working with home improvement companies. Soon after, she

See **Home Services**, continued on p. 20



BOS
MOVING & SERVICE INC.

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1982

248.360.6644 | www.bosmove.com



FREE
Wardrobe Rental
with this ad

Specializing in
LOCAL MOVING

Don't mess with the middleman, go straight to the Bos!

- One Item or a Truckload
- In-Office and In-House Moving
- Will load or unload your Rental Truck
- Piano and Organ Moving
- Licensed and Insured
- Residential & Commercial Moves

ESSEX HOMES

CUSTOM HOME BUILDING



BUILD-ON-YOUR LOT
PLAN CUSTOMIZATION - OURS OR YOURS

248-770-2614 • WWW.ESSEX-HOMES.COM

THE NOVI HOME SHOW

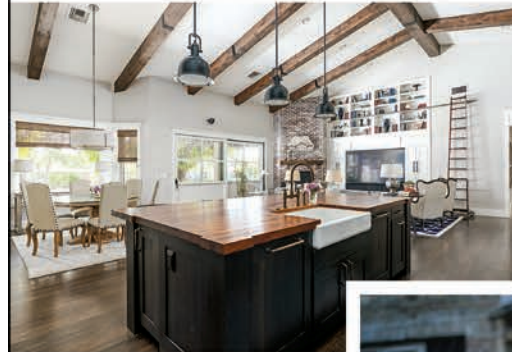
October 11-13, 2019

Home Improvement & Services
Decorating • Landscaping

novihomeshow.com

**SUBURBAN COLLECTION
SHOWPLACE**

In Novi—On Grand River, south of I-96,
between Novi Road and Beck Road



**SAVE
MONEY
TIME
STRESS**

on all types of home
projects, big or small!

5 Manufactured
homes on
display!



GET
design ideas and tips

MEET
local experts

SHOP
compare and
SAVE



DUNKIN'
Great Lakes **ACE** Hardware

\$20 OFF

Adult or Senior Admission
ANY DAY

HBA-Between



Limited to one coupon per person, one discount per coupon.
Coupon may not be combined with any other offers, including
"\$5 after 5" and must be presented at box office (no online
discounts). Expires October 13, 2019.





Joe Tyrrell - Tyrrell Electric



Claude Jones - Town & Country Door



Jen Czach - Jen Czach Construction

► Home Services

Continued from p. 18

enrolled in a school for interior design.

"I graduated in 2000, didn't really like the industry a whole lot. A lot of it was interesting in terms of space planning and of course working on homes and such, but I didn't really enjoy, honestly, the people a whole lot," she said. "I was much more of a hands-on person and I never really liked to dress up, so that was kind of always an issue. But I started working for a high-end kitchen company in Birmingham and I was basically drawing CAD drawings of kitchens and was super bored. So, I quit my job and answered an ad for a drafting person for a home improvement company."

Fast forward to 2006 and due to economic difficulties Czach and many of her co-workers were laid off. However, in Czach's eyes, this was a blessing in disguise.

"A lot of people were very sad, but I was extremely happy because at that point I was sitting on a condo project in Taylor and was not getting to do what I wanted to do, so I was really excited — [it was] scary, but exciting — and that's when I opened my own business," she said.

Known as Jen Czach Construction, that business survived the recession and continues to specialize in remodeling projects. Whether it's a brand-new kitchen or bath installation, a home addition or even a job from the ground up, Czach is able to meet her clients' needs.

However, unlike most quicker home improvement services, the nature of Czach's work requires that she enter the homes of clients for extended periods of time. When asked how she ensures that customers feel more at ease with the length, time and nature of her service, she said it starts first with being empathetic.

"Every time you have to be patient when you are in peoples' homes," she said. "I do realize that it is kind of invasive, so sometimes, so I'll put plastic up that people can't see through."

Beyond that, she encourages new clients to research her work as well as via Angie's List reviews her website. At the end of the day, however, she said that her secret to retaining customers and building her brand is taking personal responsibility for each of her jobs.

"When I worked for a bigger company, basically people had to give written notice that they didn't like something and maybe we would argue with them, but mostly I try to look at it as if it was my own home, and I take a lot of responsibility," she said. "We don't do bad work, so sometimes somebody will call and say, 'Oh, you know the electrician screwed up,' and it's simply a light bulb that's out. You know, nine times out of 10 people will make something seem worse than it is and then we go through the process of why it happened, what our options are now."

But in the cases where it is a blunder of hers, Czach said she does everything in her power to make it right.

"The other day I had somebody who didn't like their hardwood floors because it turned out different than the sample that I showed them," she said. "[It did look different] and it was my responsibility to finish them because it wasn't what they saw on the sample."

She added that she also actively works to dispel the myth that all contractors are looking to scam their clients.

"Yes, people are often defensive initially, and I hear horror stories about companies all the time," she said. "And I can't imagine operating that way; I don't think I would be in business. I just want to be extra good so I don't have to deal with that."

Visit jenczachconstruction.com for samples of her work.

Joe - Tyrrell Electric

If you've been an active member of the LGBTQ community in the Detroit area in the past 30 years or so you've probably not only encountered Joe Tyrrell's work but used it, too. That's because Tyrrell Electric's services have been installed everywhere from the Pride Source offices to Affirmations, the Ruth Ellis Center, the Hayloft Saloon and Menjo's. A family business, Tyrrell Electric can help clients install electrical work who are remodeling their homes, installing generators, service panels and it even extends to commercial buildings.

Joe Tyrrell is now in the process of purchasing the company, formed in 1985, from his father. Though Tyrrell himself didn't kick off his career after earning a bachelor's degree in hotel and restaurant management from Michigan State University in 1988. When asked about his priorities on a job, Tyrrell's educational background shines through.

"Communication, being organized, making sure that as a manager myself, my employees and the customer are all on the same page with all expectations, keeping copious notes, trying to be as organized as possible to not miss an item or step. And kind of being aware of each customer's expectations," he said. "Some are more worried about the price, some are more worried about how clean you keep their building, some are more about making sure every single cent they pay for is something that they're getting value for. Each customer has different expectations and you just have to keep that in the back of your mind and just make sure you're organized and that you pursue each customer the way you prioritize what

... fear of discrimination manifests in various forms. The report surveyed almost 650 NAGLREP members who found that 64 percent of those surveyed were concerned about being welcomed into the community ... striking concerns surrounds caution when hiring the "right professionals ..."

they expect."

A gay man himself, he said he's spent a long time fostering relationships with the LGBTQ community and today gets roughly 20 percent of all jobs from LGBTQ-specific clientele. He said he takes care to ensure that people view him as affirming to all sexual orientations and gender identities because his positive reputation makes people comfortable.

"I think a lot of people start with that [comfort level]," he said. "And then we've got the right service regardless, but a lot of people start with that."

That's also why Tyrrell focuses on ensuring that those people he hires take care to treat clientele with the same courtesies as he does.

"They know who they're working for, number one, and some of it's family, but it just boils down to being respectful regardless, being courteous regardless," he said. "And we just work in such a variety of different customers. I mean, you have to be open to seeing just about anything. We go to so many different peoples' houses and for such a different variety of customers, but again, it goes back to knowing who their boss is. Obviously, that's a prerequisite."

Visit tyrrellelectric.com to see a full list of Tyrrell Electric's services.

MEN ON THE MOVE

(734) 729-6683 michiganmovers.com

THANK YOU FOR VOTING US BEST MOVING COMPANY

- ♥ Professional Service
- ♥ NO Minimums
- ♥ Local & Long Distance
- ♥ Senior Discounts
- ♥ Licensed & Insured
- ♥ Indoor Storage
- ♥ 7 Day Service
- ♥ Veteran Owned

Your Moving Industry Experts

1991 **25 YEARS** 2016

MPSC # L25824 USDOT #62394

NEED TO GET YOUR SPACE
Under Control?

I've gotta
get organized
inc.

Organizing for Home and Office
Bringing order to metro Detroit since 1998
Specializing in downsizing for moves and unpacking in new homes

Contact Debi Weinstein at
248-882-5960
for additional information

Snag the love of your life?

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH TWO HOMES?

GROSSE POINTE APARTMENTS & Property Management

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

A woman owned and operated business since 2006.



Road Trip Ready

Auto loans
as low as

3.25% APR

Upgrade and save on a new or used auto loan with MSUFCU.

Contact us today for approval in as little as 10 minutes!

msufcu.org | 517-333-2424

Annual Percentage Rate (APR) as of 9/1/19 and is subject to change. Rate is for members with high credit scores. Actual rate may be higher and is based on member's credit score. Federally insured by NCUA.



For every "oh no," there's an "oh yeah."



Eric Martin, Agent
1700 W Big Beaver Road, Suite 240
Troy, MI 48084
Bus: 248-712-6555
eric@ericmartinsf.com

Good day, bad day or any day – I'm here for you in all life's moments, backed by the #1* insurance company for auto, home and life.

CALL ME TODAY.

*Based on written premium as reported by SNL Financial 2014.



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company
Bloomington, IL

State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas
Dallas, TX

1606042

Find The Home of Your Dreams.

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



Lynn L. Stange
Realtor Associate

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



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

NOW IT THE TIME TO BUY, CALL US TODAY FOR INCREDIBLE SAVINGS!



CUSTOM DESIGNED TO FIT YOUR HOME AND YOUR BUDGET

- TOP QUALITY PRODUCTS • IMPECCABLE REPUTATION • EXCELLENT CUSTOM SERVICE • LIFETIME TRANSFERABLE WARRANTY

BUILD the BEST
FOUR SEASONS
SUNROOMS
 KITCHEN and BATH
INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED IN ANN ARBOR
 6055 Jackson Road Ann Arbor, MI 48103

734-769-9700

www.sunrooms-mi.com
 FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATES
 Call for a FREE CATALOG

WE BUILD ALL YEAR

Get on our winter schedule to have your sunroom by spring and save up to 35%!

We are an Honest & Friendly Family Owned Business - Fair Prices Always!



NEW ENTRY DOORS • MANY STYLES • GARAGE DOORS & OPENERS TOO!

SERVING WAYNE, OAKLAND, MACOMB & WASHTENAW COUNTIES

- Residential Experts ■ We Sell New Doors
- Cable & Roller Replacement ■ Openers Repaired & Installed
- All Types Of Garage Door & Opener Repairs ■ Spring Replacement



We Service All Makes & Models

NO
 Extra Service Charge For Evenings & Weekends

We Fix Broken Springs

✓ Check Our Prices On Broken Spring Replacement



FAST 24 Hr Emergency Service



TOWN & COUNTRY DOOR LLC
 Over 450 Five Star Reviews



If We Can't Fix It... Our Service Call Is Free

All Work Warranted In Writing
248-600-4683
 WWW.TOWNANDCOUNTRYDOOR.NET

Walter Services
ESTABLISHED 2004

Taking care of your cleaning needs
for your residence and business.

CELL
248-242-0717
BUSINESS
248-560-7140

Contact Walter Zubal
walterservices2017@gmail.com



Linda Lom Team
AT TRILLIUM

Linda Helps People
Make Good Decisions.

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

Thrice.



734-302-3600
www.LindaLom.com

323 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor
Linda@LindaLom.com

TRILLIUM
REAL ESTATE

Patch
Work
Collective



WORK THE WAY YOU WANT

- Open Coworking
- Private Offices
- Conference Rooms
- Permanent Spaces
- Special Event Hosting

FIND OUT MORE

PatchWorkCollective.net • 248-850-2525
22007 Woodward Ave. • Ferndale, MI 48220

Gayborhoods May have Shaped Our Country, but Are They a Dying Breed?

BY JEFF HAMMERBERG

Finding the right home in the right neighborhood can be difficult, especially if you're hoping to find a progressive and safe space that is accepting of anything that isn't white and heteronormative in nature. This leads many in the LGBTQ community to seek out those larger-than-life communities that have traditionally been centered around queer culture and entertainment. These so-called "gayborhoods" have achieved an almost reverential status for many, especially for individuals hoping to find acceptance and a place to belong.

From Chicago's Boystown neighborhood to New York's West Village or even Denver's Cheesman Park, there are a few illustrious and well-known meccas for LGBTQ folk. But are gayborhoods still thriving social spaces viable for long-term living?

The Origin of the Gayborhood

Generally speaking, gayborhoods are spaces that grew organically out of both necessity and desire. Even just a few decades ago, the status of equal rights in the LGBTQ community was very different from how things are today, even in their still limited state. Being gay – or anything other than heteronormative – wasn't acceptable, and people found themselves lost and seeking understanding, acceptance and love as they moved through their lives.

In response to the rejection posed by the mainstream, communities consisting of LGBTQ members and businesses that catered to them began to spring up in large cities across the nation. Eventually termed "gayborhoods," these neighborhoods tended to take root in affordable, less desirable locations that made them affordable despite big city pricing, and offered inhabitants a host of opportunities to shape the space to their needs and wants.

In time, gayborhoods became vibrant communities full of diverse businesses and improved economic growth. Businesses designed around the LGBTQ community began to spring up in the area, improving the economic success of the neighborhood and offering its inhabitants even more places in which to exist separately from the less-accepting existence mainstream society afforded. From renovating old buildings to building new ones, gayborhoods truly underwent a transformative process from the run-down enclaves they once were to the dynamic neighborhoods they became. Unfortunately, this improvement might have spelled the doom of these special spaces.

Skyrocketing Prices and Gentrification

A decade or two ago, things began changing in even the most established of gayborhoods. The improvements brought about by the dedication of the LGBTQ communities in these spaces caught the attention of wealthy investors interested in now living and developing these new nicer areas of the city. A far cry from the "gay ghettos" that they once were, gayborhoods were exciting, progressive areas with thriving businesses and great real estate – they were, in short, exactly what those investors were seeking. As wealthy and straight people poured into these neighborhoods, however, they began to undergo significant transformations.

Instead of reveling in the existing community, newcomers

demanded that the neighborhoods accommodate more traditional schedules and families. Gay businesses, particularly gay bars, gay nightclubs, and even adult theaters, began to close en masse in response to growing pressure. By that point, however, the real estate prices in the area had already skyrocketed well beyond what most people could afford to pay, driving out many of the same people who dedicated their time and money to fixing up the neighborhood in the first place. The communities were no longer affordable to young LGBTQ people seeking to forge their own path in the world after leaving their parents' home, often not by choice. They became spaces the wealthy and established called home.

Ironically, gayborhoods became too desirable – a bit too economically successful – for everyone else to resist.

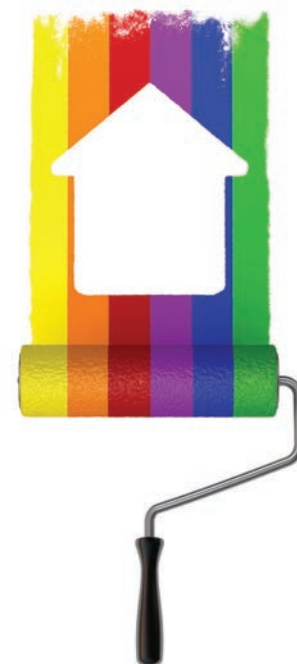
Increasing Social Acceptance of the LGBTQ Community

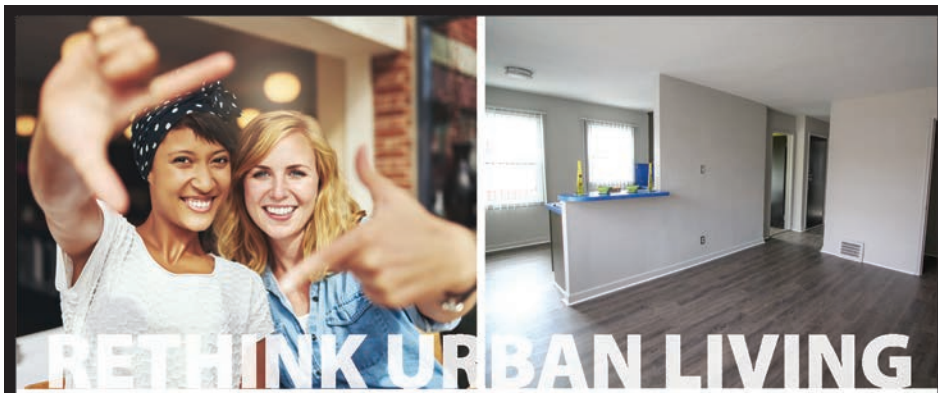
The return of wealthy, white, heteronormative individuals isn't the only reason gayborhoods have become scarce, of course. There is a plethora of additional factors. Chief among them is the sweeping reform in social perception and acceptance of gay culture and the LGBTQ community. As mentioned above, gayborhoods formed because the people within them were seeking the acceptance they couldn't find elsewhere. It makes sense, then, that as that acceptance becomes more common, the need for separate communities has begun to become a bit less critical than it was in the '70s, '80s and '90s.

As knowledge and increasing integration becomes more mainstream, the gayborhoods of yore have become somewhat of a dying breed. They might not be completely gone, of course, and there are certainly still historically gay neighborhoods in existence. But they are no longer quickly-growing spaces that serve as a sanctuary for the LGBTQ community – they've become a bit more diverse and a bit less "gay," with some long-time inhabitants finding real estate in outside communities even as more traditional families move in.

Are gayborhoods dead? No, not truly – not yet. But they aren't exactly thriving, either, and it's probably not the best idea to seek these spaces out when you're looking for real estate if your sole purpose is to live in an accepting neighborhood. There are now many different spaces where LGBTQ folk can find acceptance and a safe home.

Individuals in the LGBTQ community should consider working with a lesbian or gay real estate agent to help find a neighborhood within which they can set down roots and thrive. You can check www.GayRealEstate.com or check online at pridesource.com where there are Michigan LGBTQ agents listed as well.





RETHINK URBAN LIVING

Welcome Home to Urbane on Manderson in historic Palmer Park. Our newly renovated, pet-friendly, **1 and 2 bedroom** apartment homes **from \$750** offer an extensive array of amenities.

We're less than five miles away from Wayne State University, The Detroit Medical Center, and are close to excellent shopping, dining and entertainment options. What are you waiting for? Call to see how you can become a part of Detroit's historic Palmer Park neighborhood.

248-988-7125

17435 Manderson Road, Detroit, MI 48203

URBANEAPTS.COM/PALMERPARK



Don Chisholm, REALTOR®

(248) 425-4366

DChisholm@RealEstateOne.com

www.DonChisholmRealtor.com



Your Personal Advocate



- Friendly, Professional Service
- Empowering You Through Education
- Serving the Woodward Corridor and Beyond!

(248) 425-4366

DonChisholmRealtor@gmail.com

www.DonChisholmRealtor.com

Real Estate One

26236 Woodward Ave.

Royal Oak, MI 48067



Michigan's Largest Real Estate Company

LOOKING TO BUY OR SELL?

We've Got You Covered

CENTURY 21

Curran & Oberski

Serving our community in *Metro Detroit & MI's West Shore*

CALL OR TEXT

Mark
313.402.8478

Meg

Keith
313.919.5999

Century 21 - Curran & Oberski
24711 Michigan Ave. Dearborn, MI 48124

42949 W. Seven Mile Northville, MI 48167

ROCK SHOPPE

- Since 1979 -

6275 Gottfredson Road
Plymouth MI, 48170
(Just off M-14)

734-455-5560

www.Rock-Shoppe.com

Rock

- Aggregates
- Artificial rocks
- Boulders
- Decorative stone
- Flagstone
- Rocks, gems and fossils
- Veneer stone siding
- Wallstone and steps

Retaining Walls & Patios

- Boulders
- Fire Place & landscaping kits
- Flagstone
- Manufactured brick pavers
- Manufactured walls and steps
- Wall stone and steps

"Say it in Stone" Gifts and Signs

- Gateway estate boulders
- Laser etching
- Rocks, gems and fossils
- Sand-carved rocks

Statuary

- Bird baths
- Fountains
- Garden benches
- Planters, Pots & Urns
- Statuary

Landscape Supplies

- Artificial rocks
- Fire place & landscaping kits
- Mulches
- Patio blocks
- Ponds
- Topsoil, peat and compost
- Waterfalls



Lesbian-Owned Ann Arbor Real Estate Investment Company Blends Tech With Tradition

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Though real estate can make for a great investment, it's not always easy to start building a robust portfolio. Like many other real estate investment firms, Jeddo Corp seeks to help clients develop one, however, its methodology is unique: artificial intelligence. A wife and wife team based out of both Ann Arbor and the San Francisco Bay Area, Nada and Sabra Djomehri saw an opportunity for their business to blend both of their specialties.

"It came about when I became a licensed real estate practitioner in the area. So, after a year, Sabra, witnessing what we were doing — she comes from a heavily influenced tech background coming from the Silicon Valley area in California — looked at ways we could combine our mutual interests in real estate, combining them with tech, since that is something that the real estate landscape is embarking on as of late, especially," Nada Djomehri said.

"I'm currently developing software. It's an AI platform that uses machine learning in my sphere already. I'm hoping to implement that in real estate by taking the client's data for each different real estate investment and then taking this data and seeing what worked and what didn't and all the data points about their entire real estate project and then tailoring it toward future projects to enhance the efficiency of their overall goals to optimize their portfolio," Sabra Djomehri said.

She added that she first got the idea to blend her work with her wife's when she joined the bioinformatics team at the University of Michigan.

"[I had] been exploring on the tech side some artificial intelligence platforms that we were using for cancer research and that's how I was thinking how to implement that into the real estate side," she said.

Nada Djomehri said that when completed, the program will function similarly to a site like Redfin or Zillow — sites that allow users to compare prices and estimates to meet their needs, among other features — but with a more customized twist.

"It's like an all-in-one platform where if you take data from each, for example, financing information connected with the real estate aspect, also about the specific property, and you can also implement their specific needs and target their growth throughout a specific amount of time," Sabra Djomehri said. "And it can put this all together in one software algorithm and come up with the best strategy personalized for them. And AI platforms, they're very much in their infancy, even in our biological, biology/pathology realm. And in real estate it's not used that much either, so we're really hoping to implement those in the coming year."

Also a member of the National Association of Gay & Lesbian Real Estate Professionals, Nada Djomehri said that beyond gearing Jeddo Corp to be a technologically innovative company, she's interested in making the process of finding a home more inclusive.

"We're all about including and supporting all in their pursuits as homeowners — that's one thing," she said. "Another thing is that real estate has been fairly dominated by males so as women we're pioneering this platform going forward. We'd like other women who may have not felt so comfortable previously about investing in real estate, and we'd really like to empower women with this."

To find out more about Jeddo Corp and its offerings visit jeddo.co.



Nada Djomehri

Products

- ✓ Carpet
- ✓ Harwood
- ✓ Vinyl
- ✓ Laminate
- ✓ Tile & Natural Stone
- ✓ Waterproof Flooring

Services

- ✓ Flooring Sales
- ✓ Flooring Installation
- ✓ Hardwood Refinishing
- ✓ Kitchen Remodeling
- ✓ Bathroom Remodeling
- ✓ Design Services

QUALITY YOU CAN STAND ON
UF
URBAN FLOORS

Free Estimates! Call (248) 607-7363
www.myurbanfloors.com

Sylvan Lake, MI | Walled Lake, MI | Plymouth, MI





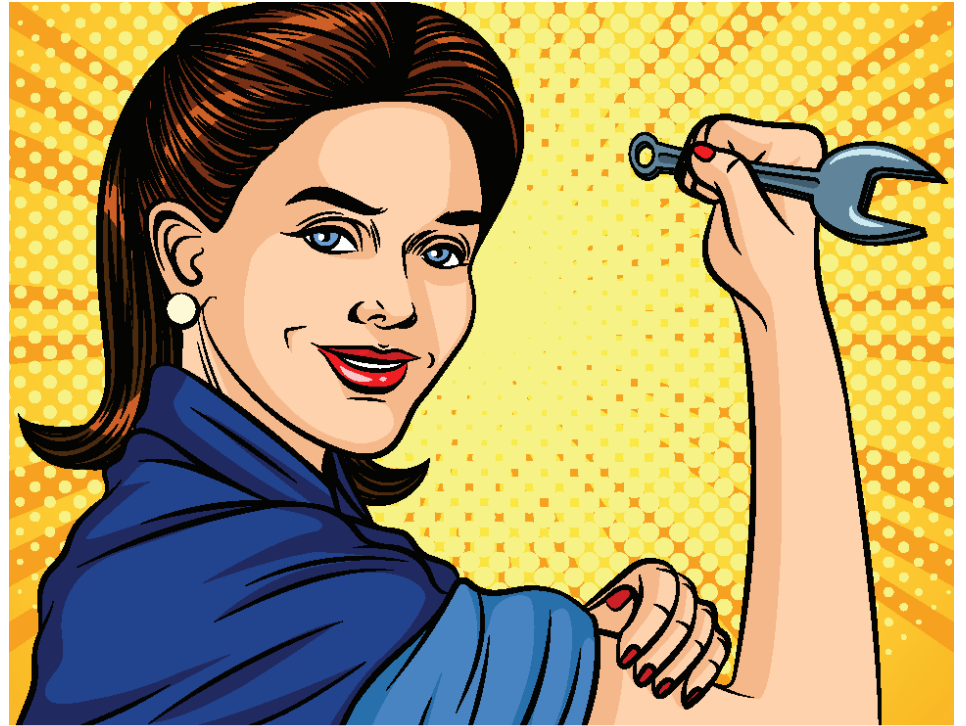
**Remodeling?
Let's relook at
your insurance.**

Joan M Warner Ins Agcy Inc
Joan Warner, Agent
joan@warneragency.com
Bus: 248-474-8020 Toll Free: 888-298-8020

If you've done any home renovations, it's time to review your coverage and make sure you've got the protection you need.
LET'S TALK TODAY.



State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL
State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX
1708139



FULL SERVICE Plumbing • Electrical • Heating & Cooling

WOMAN-OWNED, SERVING SE MICHIGAN

Experienced, Fully Licensed, Bonded and Insured

Call Lara Edwards



CAGE FREE 24 / 7

HAPPY HOUNDS

BOARDING IN COMFORT

Day & Overnight Care!



FOR DOGS

WHO DON'T LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE ANIMALS

GROOMING

pet care extraordinaire

BOARDING

A SECOND HOME FOR YOUR FURRY FRIEND

1

ACCOMMODATIONS



Happy Hounds®



Dog Day Care & Lodging

24/HR SUPERVISION



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



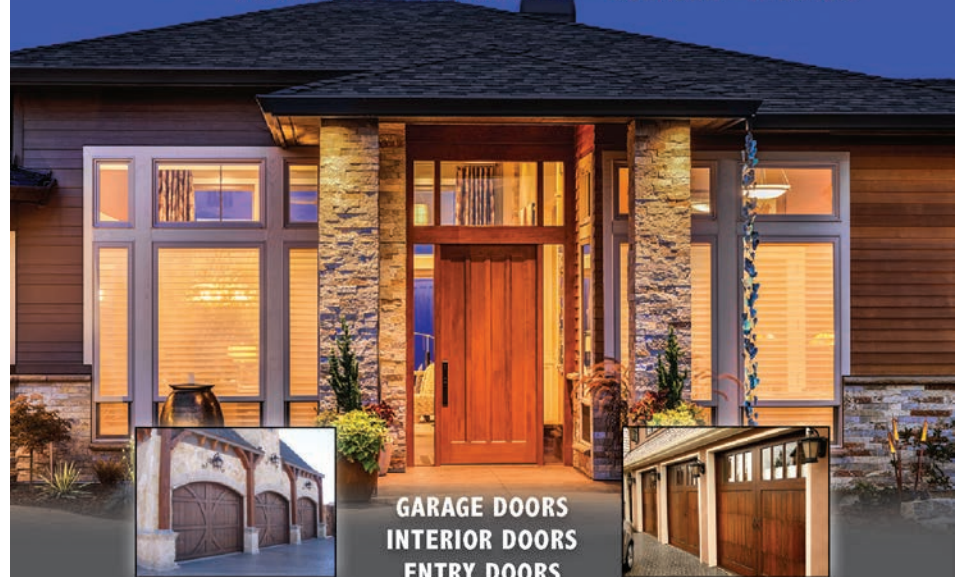
673 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan

Birmingham Door Service

Doors So Beautiful they Challenge the Imagination

SINCE 1947 | CELEBRATING 70 YEARS | 248-642-7761

RESIDENTIAL – COMMERCIAL – LICENSED – INSURED



**GARAGE DOORS
INTERIOR DOORS
ENTRY DOORS**

**EXPERIENCE PROFESSIONAL QUALITY SERVICE
WE SERVE ALL GARAGE DOORS & OPENERS
CLASSIC STEEL TO BEAUTIFUL WOOD GARAGE DOORS
STOREFRONT & OVERHEAD DOORS
FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATES**

DEXTER
CABINET & COUNTERTOP

1084 Baker Road
 Dexter MI 48130
 734-426-5035
 www.dextercabinet.com

Choose the REALTOR® who has the experience of more than 600 personal closings.



Gerry Banister
 REALTOR®
 248.521.4407
 gerrybanister@aol.com
 gerrybanister.com
RE/MAX NEXUS
 248.541.4900
 Each office independently owned & operated.

DESIGN • BUILD



TRI-PUPS, INC.

A working dog is a happy dog!

Remodeling & Maintenance
 Commercial & Residential • Design Services
 Handicap Alterations • Kitchens & Baths
 Basement Finishing

TriPups@Comcast.net Tri-Pups.com

Fully Insured Lic. #2102139126 **248-597-2929** 

Michigan Approves Nation's First LGBTQ Credit Union

BTL STAFF REPORT

LANSING – The State of Michigan Department of Insurance and Financial Services approved the formation of Superbia Credit Union, defined as the nation's first credit union by and for the benefit of the LGBTQ community. Gov. Whitmer and State Sen. Jeremy Moss attended the new organization's charter signing at the State Capital Sept. 9.

"State law doesn't protect Michigan's LGBTQ community from discrimination in the workplace and public accommodations," Moss said. "Fortunately, many LGBTQ business owners and entrepreneurs have stepped up to specifically cater to the needs of our community and I'm especially excited to welcome in Superbia Credit Union to Michigan as a safe space to bank and obtain lines of credit without fear of discrimination."

According to a statement from Superbia's management, the new entity is a cause-driven not-for-profit entity owned and guided by its members, and dedicated to advancing the financial security of its members. This includes using its profits to fund direct benefits to its members and grants made to LGBTQ



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, State Sen. Jeremy Moss and Director Anita Fox (seated) hosted the signing of the executive order to form Superbia Credit Union. Superbia Credit Union's Linda Bodie and Myles Meyers are on right. Photo courtesy of Superbia Credit Union

organizations and projects.

Myles Meyers, an openly gay financial professional in New York City, is the founder of Superbia. He said the LGBTQ community is underserved by the financial services industry, a notable gap given that the LGBTQ community has an estimated \$1.7 trillion in economic buying power, according to a recent study by Community Marketing Inc.

"With the operation of Superbia Credit Union, we are unifying the community's economic strength to benefit all our members, and ensuring an experience free from discrimination," Meyers said.

Plans are for Suburbia Credit Union to launch virtual operations in early 2020. For more information go to superbiaservices.com.



BASSETT LAW

Legal Services for Life's Changes

Elder Law - Adoptions
 LGB & Transgender Law
 Assisted Reproduction Law - Estate Planning

www.bassettlaw.com 734-930-9200

TRIANGLE CHIROPRACTIC



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

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

JOHN TSAKOS, DC
 MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

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

Let Tyrrell Electric

Power Your Pride

Tyrrell

ELECTRIC CO.

GENERAC

-Generator Systems
 -Lighting and Service Upgrades
 -Remodels and Dedicated Circuits

248-767-5238 – jttyrrell@yahoo.com – www.tyrrellelectric.com

So Much More than Draperies & Blinds!



Free Design Services!
IN OUR HUNTER DOUGLAS SHOWROOM
OR IN YOUR HOME

THANK YOU
TO ALL OUR
LOYAL CUSTOMERS.



Skylines® Gliding Window Panels

- Hunter Douglas Window Coverings
- Multi-Purpose Fabrics
- Cornices • Draperies • Valances
- Custom Furniture
- Custom Bedding • Custom Accent Pillows
- Area's Largest Selection of Wallpaper



Luminette® Piracy Sheers, Silhouette® Window Shades



Custom Furniture, Area Rugs & Home Decor Items

2215 West Stadium Boulevard, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 • M-F: 9-5:30 | Sat: 9-2
(734) 662-6524 • deluxdrapery.com

Alexander Zachary

Realtor

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

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



Your Home Buy or Re-fi Team



JULI SIAGKRIS-SEYMOUR
Myrina Mortgage Group LLC
Broker, Owner
248-980-3604
Julinoe930@gmail.com
www.myrinamortgage.com
Royal Oak, MI

kw METRO
KELLERWILLIAMS
NATALIE
SIAGKRIS-SEYMOUR
Johnstone and Johnstone Realtors
248-506-6046
Grosse Point Farms, MI 48236
Cell: 248-506-6046
Office: 313-884-0600
NSiagkris@jjrealtors.com
ASL FLUENT

**Keeping It
"Family"**

ROAD
CLOSED

THE ROAD IS CLOSED BUT WE'RE STILL OPEN!
Moving Sale Discounts up to 80% Off!

MOVING SALE!

AMERICAN
MATTRESS
GALLERY

43235 12 Mile Rd. at Novi Rd.
Novi MI. 48377
248-349-2000

Open Daily: 10-9 Saturday: 10-8
Sunday: 12-6

www.americammattressgallery.com
In the Hagopian Building

MICHIGAN'S LARGEST MATTRESS SHOWROOM



icomfort From **\$199.00**
Sleep System by Serta®

SYNCHRONY 0% FINANCE 12-24-36 MONTHS



From **\$199.00**

SAMPLE SALE ALL MUST GO!
Come Early For Best Selection!

Bed Frames From \$19.95 Headboards From \$29.95
Sheet Sets From \$9.95



Writing the Unwritten

Photo: Kenneth Cappello

Natasha Bedingfield on the LGBTQ Community's Strength and How the 'Nameless' Should Be Famous'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

When Natasha Bedingfield found fame in 2004, what would become of the world was, as she sings on the hit song that established her pop-star status, "still unwritten." Now if only it could be rewritten, because our dire, disharmonious reality is weighing even on Bedingfield, who can't exactly chirp about sunshine in her pockets – at least not when she's experienced the rain and the clouds too. Nine years after her last album, "Strip Me," Bedingfield, 37, returns with "Roll With Me," a collection of socially conscious songs meant to empower and uplift.

In 2017, you wrote a Facebook post celebrating Pride and said, "I have learned so much about love and self-acceptance from my gay friends." How have you learned to accept yourself because of the LGBTQ community?

That is such a beautiful question. OK, let me just first say, I do shows all over the world, but when I sing at a gay club or at a Pride, I just feel such a strong connection. I feel like my gay audience understands my lyrics more than anybody.

Pop songs, they're easy to sing, they're entertainment, but when I sing for an LGBTQ crowd, there's this understanding because I think that (laughs) ... sorry, my brain. You know when you sing your brain is on the left brain, and when you're talking it's on the right? It's insane, man. Words just don't come. I'm not really a big talker. Even in my shows, I don't talk much.

Take your time.

I feel like the strength it takes to tell your parents that you're gay despite rejection takes such a strong character, and I feel so inspired because it helps me

INFO

Natasha Bedingfield

7 p.m. Oct. 19
Majestic Theatre
4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit
majesticdetroit.com

realize that the things that I'm afraid people might not like about me, I can stand those. I just feel inspired by the bravery.

When did you first feel connected to that community? Did you have many gay friends growing up?

I was brought up in church. I was brought up with faith and a belief in God. There was just a lot of things about it that were quite restricting, and my parents wanted to protect me. But sometimes that was harmful. However well-meaning, it can kind of cause a belief that the world is evil. I guess you call it repressed. So, for me, I think I relate because some of my sexual feelings were quite repressed growing up, feeling that something is bad, like the female body is bad, sinful.

How has the way you grew up influenced how you raise your son, Solomon?

I want my son to be kind, and I want him to see the world and to love people. He has his gay uncles and Linda Perry (Bedingfield's sole producer and co-writer on "Roll With Me") is one of his godparents, and she's a lesbian. I'm so happy that he has such good influences in his life. What I've found from the LGBTQ crowd is they're definitely a very self-aware group of people. A lot of people I know have been to therapy and have had reasons in their life to really know themselves and I love that.

Why is it important to you to write about and for the underdog?

Well, I write from my own life. I wasn't a star growing up. My brother (pop artist Daniel Bedingfield) was a star, and I was the younger sister. I don't think people saw my potential. I was very loved, but I don't think I was the main attraction (laughs). So maybe it's that. But also, I just think I put an antenna up when I write; I'm just a conduit, and I hear things and I see things and that flows into what I write. And I like to write about things that matter.

On "No Man I See," you sing, "The nameless should be famous." Who did you have on your mind when you wrote that lyric?

We're obsessed with fame in our culture. And everyone's famous for 15 minutes now. Everyone gets to be. But I think for me, when I'm thinking of the nameless, I'm thinking about the people who are voiceless and making all the products that we use who are enslaved or who've had their power taken away. We should be talking about that more

and that should be more important than all this other stuff that we give so much attention to.

Was that ever a source of frustration when you first became famous?

Yeah, I went to India one time early on in my career and met these children at orphanages. They had survived terrible sexual abuse and were put in an orphanage. They were so amazing and beautiful and shining. I just couldn't believe it. I was so shocked by their stories and just the power of their strength and will to survive and recover. Then, in the middle of that experience, I had a phone interview with an English magazine and it was the most shallow interview I've ever done, where they're like, "What is your favorite makeup product?"

So, "the nameless should be famous" is just what's important in life and let's talk about that stuff. And what does famous mean? What is it, actually? It's a currency. I've experienced fame. My songs have taken a life of their own in the world and it just makes you go, "What do I want to say?" I better say some stuff that really matters.

Are empowering anthems more important now than ever?

Yes, definitely. Look at Netflix comedy: it's on the rise. There's so much comedy because people need to laugh. People need reasons to feel good. I feel like people are overwhelmed by a sea of negative stuff and need things that lift them up. When I'm getting inspired, that's the kind of stuff that I'm hearing. When someone comes to my show, I want them to come away with some kind of solution or a release of some kind.

What was on your mind while you were recording these songs?

My album is about movements. That was one of my main themes. Movements are what are going to change the world – people getting together and actually doing something, like getting angry enough. Not just complaining, and not just thinking about it, but finding your power and actually doing something about it. Not just festering, not just boiling. Not losing your hope. Actually being active. And anger has a purpose and a place, and a lot of times, especially women, we're not allowed to be angry; it's not feminine and it's been demonized to be angry. The angry woman is just a stereotype.

You've been in the business for nearly two decades. How has pop music evolved in the way it approaches politics and social issues? I mean, even Taylor Swift is making political statements about the LGBTQ community and gender equality now. Do you see a shift?

When I started out, people would say, "You're just here to entertain. Don't make waves." People say that to women a lot too, but

See **Natasha**, continued on p. 32

COME FROM AWAY

A NEW MUSICAL

OCT. 1-13
FISHER THEATRE

BroadwayInDetroit.com, ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office 313-872-1000
Groups (12+) Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com (subject: Come From Away) or 313-871-1132
OC AD — Oct. 6

OCT 5-6

ums
BE PRESENT

Bach & Gira
Grupo Corpo

Sat
10/5
8 pm

Sun
10/6
4 pm

Paulo Pederneiras, artistic director
Rodrigo Pederneiras, choreographer

The Brazilian dance company Grupo Corpo performs two spectacular works, *Bach* and *Gira*, in a dazzling celebration of Brazil in all its diversity. "It is the sheer physical virtuosity of the company that is so impressive — the sinuous, athletic bodies seemingly inexhaustible." (*The Guardian*, London)

734.764.2538
— UMS.ORG

Power Center

Funded in part by: Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund
Media Partner: Michigan Radio 91.7 FM

M
MICHIGAN RADIO

FREEDOM HOUSE
DETROIT



Celebrating 36 YEARS of
welcoming those
'yearning to breathe free'

at

VOICES OF FREEDOM

Friday, October 11, 2019 | 6:00pm

Grand Ballroom, MotorCity Casino Hotel

Individual Guest: \$125 | Patron Sponsor (10 people): \$2,000

SPONSORED BY



Between the Lines
Domino's
PALMER REY,
Immigration Attorneys

Tickets & More: bit.ly/FHD-voices
Questions? info@freedomhousedetroit.org



► Natasha

Continued from p. 31

especially in pop music there's a lot of control. The gatekeepers aren't there anymore. Anyone can release an (album). But how do you get heard above all the noise? Say something that means something.

I'm guessing at the start of your career you couldn't have recorded a song like "Hey Papa," which addresses America's gun problem.

I mean, I did. I recorded lots of songs like that, but my label didn't like them. I write like three times as many songs as what gets on an album. When there's an album, I write almost 150 or 200 songs per album.

What's an unreleased song you wrote at the beginning of your career that you wished people could hear?

I don't know, but it's really hard because you get put into a box. I wrote a lot of songs that were more sad, but people always liked my happy songs. My husband, when he married me, was quite surprised that I'm so pessimistic (laughs). A challenge for all creators is that we get instant feedback and there are things people like, so then you end up doing more of what they like.

As a musician, is it frustrating to be put in a box?

It's difficult when you are a people-pleaser. For example, Amy Winehouse: her song was about people telling her to go to rehab. She says "no." She was an addict and she couldn't get the help she needed because she got positive affirmation; she was rewarded for saying she didn't want to go to rehab. So when you sing a song like that again and again, there's no way you can ever get help. You positively reinforce an idea that you can't get healthy.

Do you feel like at this stage in your career you no longer have to be a people-pleaser?

It's hard. I love pleasing a crowd. I will run around like a headless chicken if it means people will clap. I just love it. I want people to sing along with me. The thing I find the hardest is when people don't sing along. If people are just sitting when I sing, for me I'm like, "What's wrong? Get up!" I don't get it. My music is a conversation and I live to see people join in. It's about the experience.

For "The Hills: New Beginnings," the reboot of "The Hills," you said that you re-recorded "Unwritten," the original show's theme song, with a new frame of mind. How has your perspective on that song shifted?

I wrote the song for my own brother when he was 14. It really was specifically for him. But as I've sung it around the world, and as I've lived life, the song has become more for me, as well. Things I needed to hear. Even right now, as I'm releasing an album, I'm remembering how it's all about enjoying yourself and taking risks. Sometimes we'll be on vacation and someone will jump off a rock and I'm like, "Eh, I'll sit that one out." Then I remember my song and I'm like, "Ah, it's about living life to the fullest," and I have to get off my butt and join in.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBTQ wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Cher, Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. His work has also appeared in The New York Times, Vanity Fair, GQ and Billboard. Reach him via Twitter @chrisazzopardi.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE *Fallen Soufflé*

A WORLD PREMIERE BY DAVID MACGREGOR
DIRECTED BY MICHELLE MOUNTAIN

SEPT. 19 - DEC. 21, 2019

the PurpleRose theatre company
PurpleRoseTheatre.org

FANCY PANTS ARTS INC. PRESENT *7th Annual*

Michigan BURLESQUE Festival

Featuring:
TIGGER!, REDBONE,
MISS PUSSYKATT
KITTEN VON MITTEN,
& BURLESQUE LEGEND
Tiffany Carter

18+
\$25 IN ADVANCE
\$35 AT THE DOOR

SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2019 • 7PM
Tangerine Gallery • Hastings Street Ballroom
715 E. MILWAUKEE, DETROIT

MICHIGANBURLESQUEFESTIVAL.COM

THEATRE & DANCE at WAYNE presents

NOËL COWARD'S HAUNTINGLY HILARIOUS COMEDY

BLITHE SPIRIT

Sept. 20 to Oct. 6, 2019
Hilberry Theatre

A skeptical writer. A *spirited* ex-wife.
And an eccentric but very real medium.
You just might die laughing!

Between the Lines readers **SAVE \$5**
on each adult ticket using code **LGBTQ5**

Order now at
theatreanddanceatwayne.com | 313-577-2972

Blithe Spirit is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

The Ark

where music lives

Sunday, 9/22, 7:30 pm

Chris Pureka w/sg The Harmaleighs

Portland songwriting with
bold vulnerability



Friday, 9/27, 8 pm

Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds

Positive, richly rhythmic,
globally oriented sounds



Thursday, 10/3, 8 pm

Radney Foster & Kim Richey Lyrics & Harmony

Two of country's most perceptive
songwriters



Tickets at MUTO at the
Michigan League
Underground,
The Ark Box Office, or
theark.org.

734.763.TKTS

316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, MI

www.theark.org



LOVE
Wins

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

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

Between THE Lines™



Divine Peace
Metropolitan Community Church



6650 Elizabeth Lake Road
Waterford, Michigan 48327

Phone: 248.332.1186
www.dpmcc.net

Sunday Worship time is 9:30 A.M.

Happenings



MICHIGAN REAL ESTATE CONVENTION OCT. 25

Real Estate professionals from across the state will come together on Friday, Oct. 25, to hear top real estate executives to learn more about the business. This event is hosted by the Michigan Real Estate Club and located at the Stephen M. Ross School of Business at 701 Tappan Ave. in Ann Arbor. Find out more information about the event online at gaybe.am/Mu.

OUTINGS

Saturday, September 21

Queer Conversations 11 a.m. Saturday LGBT Chat is an ongoing social discussion group that meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. Saturdays at 11 am. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105

Monday, September 23

LGBT Game Night 6 p.m. An opportunity for all LGBT people and allies to come play a board game, drink coffee, bring your own drinks and socialize with other LGBT individuals. All are welcomed. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105

Tuesday, September 24

Stand with Trans Support Groups – Ann Arbor – Washtenaw 7:30 p.m. Meeting the 4th Tuesday of each month @ Journey of Faith Christian Church. Parent Support Group Facilitator – Yma Johnson, ymaj1968@gmail.com or 734-780-4092. Trans Youth Support Group Facilitator – Joy Cavanaugh, LPC. Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. www.standwithtrans.org

Wednesday, September 25

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
www.goaffirmations.org

Thursday, September 26

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County 8 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month @ Orchard United Methodist Church.

Tuesday, October 1

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Lake Orion / Oakland County 7 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month @ St. Mary's In-the-Hills Episcopal Church. 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663
www.standwithtrans.org

Thursday, October 3

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. Thunderbowl Arena, 4200 Allen Road, Allen Park. 313-928-4688 www.thunderbowl.org

Saturday, October 5

Grupo Corpo 8 p.m. The phenomenal Brazilian dance company Grupo Corpo makes its third UMS appearance with a double bill of Bach and Gira, two wildly different works that showcase the

21-member group's extraordinary range. Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327 <http://ums.org/performance/grupo-corpo/>

Wednesday, October 9

Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genessee 7:30 p.m. 2nd Wednesday of each month @ Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023 uflint.org

Friday, October 11

Voices of Freedom Annual Gala 6 p.m. MotorCity Casino Grand Ballroom, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 248-803-0645
www.freedomhousedetroit.org

Sunday, October 13

BTL's Ultimate Wedding, Home & Life Expo 12 p.m. Between The Lines once again presents the Expo. Free continental breakfast while it lasts starts at 11 a.m. Doors open at noon. Great program and 5 fabulous vacation giveaways. This year, the annual event moves to The Henry in Dearborn. The Henry, Fairlane Plaza, 300 Town Center Dr., Dearborn. <http://MILGBTWedding.com> 734-293-7200 x 101

MUSIC & MORE

K. Flay September 20, 7 p.m. Singer, songwriter, rapper, and musician was nominated for two awards at the 60th annual Grammy Awards. The Crofoot, 1 s. Sagina, Pontiac. 248-850-9333
www.thecrofoot.com

All About Eve – National Theatre Live in HD Sept. 22, 7 p.m. Gillian Anderson (X-Files) and Lily James (Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again!) star in All About Eve, the story of Margo Channing. Michigan Theatre, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397

Come From Away Starts October 1, Broadway's COME FROM AWAY is a Best Musical winner all across North America! Written by Tony® nominees Irene Sankoff and David Hein, and helmed by this year's Tony-winning Best Director, Christopher Ashley. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000

Sara Bareilles Oct. 5, 8 p.m. Sara Bareilles is a Grammy, Tony and Emmy Award-nominated singer, songwriter, actress and author at Detroit's Fox Theatre with Emily King. gaybe.am/ls Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

Dionne Warwick Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, Oct. 6, Dionne Warwick will come to the Sound Board at MotorCity Casino

Editor's Pick

KELLER WILLIAMS HOW TO BECOME A LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENT EVENT

On Thursday, Sept. 26, Keller Williams Realty is hosting an event for anyone interested in becoming a realtor. This seminar aims to provide attendees with a better understanding of the industry and the tools needed for success. Find out more online at gaybe.am/yH.



Hotel. Online at gaybe.am/TM
Motor City Casino Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 313-309-4700

Robyn Oct. 8, 6:30 p.m. The Swedish pop singer will perform at Detroit's Masonic Temple as part of her Honey Tour with special guests ESG. Detroit Masonic Temple, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., #1100, Detroit. 800-854-2196 templedetroit.com

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center Oct. 11, 8 p.m. This concert celebrates the intrepid American spirit by featuring two pairs of composers that shaped the course of American music. Harry T. Burleigh was Dvořák's star student at the National Conservatory in New York. A Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. (734) 764-8572

Rent 20th Anniversary Tour The Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning musical "Rent" will play at the Fox Theatre on Friday, Oct. 11, and Saturday, Oct. 12. Relive the 1996 classic production by Jonathan Larson. Tickets start at \$35.

BTL's Ultimate Wedding Home & Life Expo October 13, 12 p.m. Between The Lines once again presents the Ultimate Wedding Home & Life Expo. This year, the annual event moves to The Henry in Dearborn. The Henry, Fairlane Plaza, 300 Town Center Dr., Dearborn. MilGBTWedding.com 734-293-7200

National Theatre Live in HD: The Lehman Trilogy October 13, 7 p.m. Academy Award-winner Sam Mendes directs Simon Russell Beale, Adam Godley, and Ben Miles, who play the Lehman Brothers, their sons, and their grandsons. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397

Isango Ensemble – The Magic Flute October 16, 7:30 p.m. is a South African theater company that draws its artists

from the townships surrounding Cape Town. The company reimagines classics from the Western theater canon while finding new context for the stories within Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327

Isango Ensemble – A Man of Good Hope October 18, 8 p.m. Experience the riveting true story of a Somali refugee with a painful past, miraculous good luck, and a brilliant head for business, told through roof-lifting songs and dance accompanied on marimbas. Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327

Dennis Matsuev October 18, 8 p.m. After his triumph at the 11th International Tchaikovsky Competition in 1998, Denis Matsuev has become a virtuoso in the grandest of Russian pianistic traditions and has established himself as one of the most prominent pianists Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. <http://ums.org/performance/denis-matsuev-piano-2019/>

50 Years After Stonewall Symposium October 19, 9:30 a.m. Join AARP and SAGE Metro Detroit in celebration and reflection of the 50th anniversary of Stonewall at the 50 Years After Stonewall Symposium. For free lunch reception, registration is required. WSU Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, 259 Mack Ave., Detroit. info@sagemetrodetroit.org

Chick Corea Trio with Christian McBride and Brian Blade October 19, 8 p.m. American jazz legend Chick Corea brings together bass powerhouse Christian McBride and drum master Brian Blade for this special concert. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. <http://ums.org/performance/chick-corea-trilogy/>

Patti LaBelle October 20, 7:30 p.m. Singer, actress and entrepreneur Patti LaBelle is making her way to Detroit this October for a live performance at the MotorCity Casino Sound Board stage. 21+. Tickets start at \$80. gaybe.am/ne Motor City Casino Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 313-309-4700 www.motorcitycasino.com/soundboard.aspx <http://gaybe.am/ne>

Ray Lamontagne October 23, 7:30 p.m. Ray Lamontagne will be "Just Passing Through" the Fox Theatre on his tour of the same name on Oct. 23. Joined by Canadian folk duo Kacy & Clayton, Lamontagne will perform acoustics "filled with raw Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. <http://gaybe.am/PG>

David Sedaris October 23, 7:30 p.m. With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, David Sedaris has become one of America's preeminent humor writers. The great skill with which he slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness proves that Sedaris is a Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000 <http://broadwayindetroit.com/shows/david-sedaris>

ZauberLand (Music Land) – An Encounter with Schumann's Dichterliebe October 24, 7:30 p.m. A quintessential work of European Romanticism, Schumann's Dichterliebe is infused with yearning for love and landscapes that no longer exist. Composer Bernard Foccroulle and writer Martin Crimp created 16 new songs to be performed seamlessly alongside Schumann's One event on October 25 at 8:00pm Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University, Ann Arbor. 734-763-3333 <http://ums.org/performance/zauberland-magic-land/>

MARC ALMOND performing *SOFT CELL*

HERCULES & LOVE AFFAIR DJ Set

PLACK BLAGUE // LOOKY LOOKY // MATTHEW PERNICANO // DANNY LETHAL

HOSTED BY COLE DAVIS, LOU RAMO AND JEZEBEL

WED. OCTOBER 30 TICKETS AT THECROFOOT.COM

GARDEN THEATER
3929 WOODWARD AVE., DETROIT, MI

THECROFOOT

DETROIT REGIONAL LGBT CHAMBER'S ON THE MENU: *The HOPE Fund* BREAKFAST SERIES



FEATURING: MELISSA SMILEY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR
SE MICHIGAN: HOPE FUND

- GROWING NEEDS IN THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY
- LEARN ABOUT NON PROFIT INITIATIVES HAPPENING IN MICHIGAN
- IMPORTANCE OF EQUITY IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

RSVP: DETROITLGBTCHAMBER.COM/ONTHEMENU

AFFIRMATIONS
THURSDAY, OCT 10TH
7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.

DETROIT
REGIONAL
lgbt
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VENUE PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNER

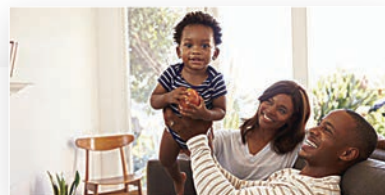


CATERING BY

Kaleidoscope Catering
see the possibilities. taste the difference.

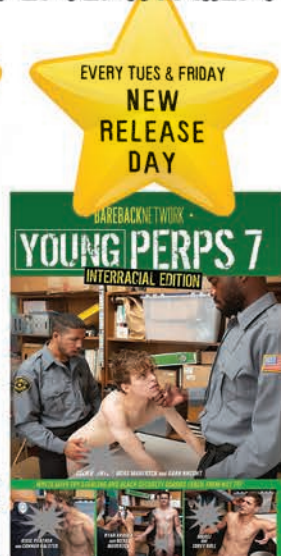
Editor's Pick

MSHDA DETROIT WAYNE COUNTY HOUSING AND RESOURCE FAIR



Those looking to buy their first home, fix up an existing one or move out of their existing housing arrangement are encouraged to attend the MSHDA Detroit Wayne County Housing and Resource Fair. This event will go over "all things housing and money" and be held on Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Find out more online at gaybe.am/Sr.

THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!



FREE 5.95 XXX DVD

WITH EACH \$25 PURCHASE OF REGULAR PRICED MERCHANDISE

DOES NOT INCLUDE "SALE MERCHANDISE"

SEPTEMBER 11-20, 2019

UPTOWN SALE

\$10 OFF

any \$50 purchase

\$20 OFF

any \$100 purchase

REGULAR PRICED MERCHANDISE ONLY!

SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 3, 2019



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

UPTOWN BOOKSTORES ADULT VIDEO

2 LOCATIONS

WWW.UPTOWNADULT.COM

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

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

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

The Frivolist: 6 Tips For Staying Motivated at Work When Nothing's Going Right

BY MIKEY ROX

Staying motivated at work when the chips are down isn't easy. You feel deflated, like a failure, maybe even afraid you'll lose your job. The first thing to remember, however, is that none of us are perfect and all of us make mistakes. The second thing is that you can turn the situation around. Take a look at these eight ways to keep moving ahead when nothing seems to go right to get back on the path to success.

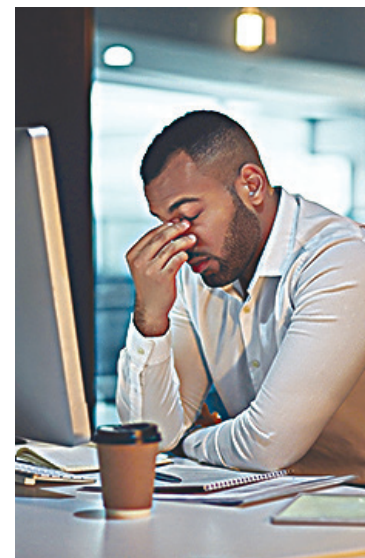
1. Read Some of the Hardship Stories of Successful People

One of my favorite TV shows is ABC's *Shark Tank*. As an entrepreneur myself I'm drawn to other entrepreneurs, and I'm often in awe of the brilliant businessmen and -women who enter the tank hoping for a deal. I enjoy hearing about the journey that led them to the biggest meeting of their lives, many of which, as they relay it to the sharks, veer off the course they set for themselves. Yet there they are, standing in front of dealmakers, heads held high, eagerly anticipating a partner that could one day make them rich.

Their stories are a dime a dozen. Every person has their own tale of hardship at some point in their life, and it can be helpful when you're feeling down to tap into those anecdotes not only for comfort but also perhaps solutions to your problems. You may not find an answer per se, but it's certainly comforting to know that you're not alone – and that things will get better. If you don't have entrepreneurs in your circle that can offer their advice, the internet is full of from-the-bottom-up stories to help get your head back in the game.

2. Adjust Your Goals to Put Achievement Within Reach

I write about goal-setting on a regular basis, and the biggest hurdle I see among people who fail frequently or who feel like failures often is that they've set their bars of achievement so high that it's nearly impossible to reach them. You'll end up disappointed more often than not if your goals are too lofty, which may mean that you need to reflect on them and adjust as necessary. Furthermore, it's been proven time again that by setting small, achievable goals opposed to wide-ranging ones of-ten leads to success and increased motivation. Who doesn't like ticking off a box on their to-do list? Break your goals down so they're humanly possible to achieve, and you'll start to see the positive results almost immediately.



3. Step Away From the Stress to Clear Your Head

You can't run when things go wrong, but there are plenty of other ways you can effectively set whatever's weighing on your mind to the side so you can refresh. For some that may be exercise; for others it may be after work drinks with friends. Wherever your safe space is located, go to it, de-stress, and revisit your issue with a rational point of view to get back on the straight and narrow.

4. Recognize That You Can't Control Everything – And That's OK

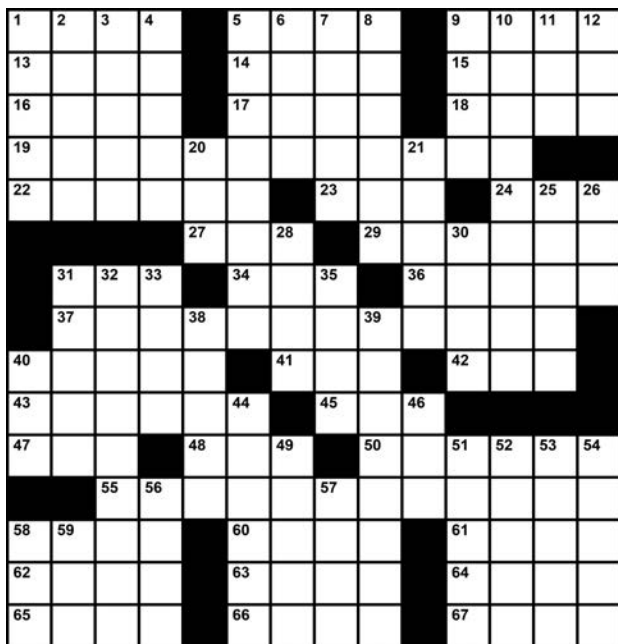
I'm a perfectionist and a control freak, which can wreak havoc on my motivation when life goes wrong. I want to lie in bed, pull the covers over my head, and pre-tend that none of the problems exist. Meanwhile, the truth of the matter is, they're continuing to pile up as I ignore them, exacerbating the problem further. So I have remind myself every now and then that I can't be the master of all things. Some things are out of my control – and that's all right.

5. Don't Be Too Proud to Ask for Help

I prefer to work alone. Not so I can take all the glory, but rather so others don't slow me down. I work at my own pace, which is rather quick sometimes, and I don't like having to accommodate someone else's speed. Of course, there are times when I need help with something, and I'm not too proud to ask for it. One's preference to avoid asking for help probably stems back to those childhood vacations in the car when your family got lost and your dad absolutely was not asking anybody for directions, ever, no matter what. But if you're in a bind that requires a second set of eyes or hands, ask for the help. Recognizing that you can't do it all isn't a sign of failure, but rather success – especially when the alternative without the help might be failure anyway.

6. Keep Your Head Up and Look Toward the Future

It's hard to keep your eyes on the prize when a setback derails your progress, but don't let it zap your motivation completely. Remember why it is you're doing what-ever you're doing and remind yourself that it's worthwhile, even through the hard times. Maybe you can revisit the beginning of the project when things were going according to plan, or perhaps check into your vision board for that extra oomph. However you want to do it, find the positive in what you're doing and refocus your sights on the outcome.



- 31 B&O stop
 34 Drink served with fruitcake
 36 Goofed up
 37 Title for Trump in a Randy Rainbow satire
 40 De ___ (actual)
 41 Michelangelo's threesome
 42 Palm Pilot, e.g.
 43 Stuff in the closet
 45 Vegas opening
 47 A woman named Arthur
 48 Mr. Williams, as Doubtfire
 50 Dick
 55 "___ Stupid Czar" (title of a Randy Rainbow satire of "Superstar")
 58 What computers spit out
 60 Nightclub in a Manilow song
 61 "Arizona" Memorial site
 62 Club for Sheehan
 63 Mistake for Fosse
 64 Pansy supporter
 65 Title document
 66 Nemesis of Tinkerbell
 67 Lawman Wyatt
- Down**
- 1 Dishes, to Debussy
 2 "You ___ to know better!"
 3 Biathlete, for one
 4 From this place, to King James
 5 Golden stallion
 6 "Breaking ___ Hard to Do"
 7 Master
 8 Hester of the A-list?
- 9 Click it to go to PlanetOut
 10 Like a fading erection?
 11 Spreading tree
 12 Ball holder
 20 Witch, to Shakespeare
 21 Team bigwig
 25 Train that comes quickly
 26 ___ death (loss of interest)
 28 Needing Cialis?
 30 Cop flirting in a tearoom
 31 Imitate Brian Orser
 32 "Hollywood Squares" basis
 33 Person in opposition
 35 Angelina Jolie's "___ Interrupted"
 38 Bossa Nova "blamer" Eydie
 39 Albee Pulitzer Prize work
 40 British sitcom "Ab ___"
 44 Becomes hard
 46 Gag order?
 49 Seattle's WNBA team
 51 End of a Stein quote
 52 Sporty Mazda
 53 "My Boo" singer
 54 Result of excessive circumcision?
 56 Alternate date?
 57 Photographer Catherine
 58 Had sex with, in slang
 59 "We ___ Family"

Rainbow Connection

Across

- 1 Top-drawer
 5 Drag queen's shoe
 9 "Yeah, sure" in Las Vegas
 13 Leia's brother
 14 On ___ with (equal to)
 15 "You're the Top" songwriter Porter
 16 Opposed to, to Gomer

QPuzzle

- 17 Roman historian
 18 Round-buyer's words
 19 Title for Trump in a Randy Rainbow satire
 22 Way to watch "Moonlight"
 23 U-turn from SSE
 24 '50s idol Hunter
 27 Bunkmates on base
 29 Seduce

Toyota
PAGE TOYOTA
CALL DEAN
 21262 TELEGRAPH RD
 SOUTHFIELD, MI 48033
 DEANJ@PAGETOYOTA.COM
 248-352 8580 X1110

2019 RAV 4 HYBRID

\$289 per month
 for 36 Months, \$2,999.00 due at signing.



Includes down payment, no security deposit required, excludes tax, title, license and dealer fees. For well-qualified customers. 10,000 miles. Offer only valid 9/04/2019 through 10/31/2019

OR

2019 Accord Sedan

Continuously Variable Transmission LX
 Manufacturer Offers

\$249 per month
 for 36 Months, \$1,499.00 cash due at signing.



Includes down payment, no security deposit required, excludes tax, title, license and dealer fees. For well-qualified customers. 10,000 miles. Offer only valid 9/04/2019 through 10/31/2019

Find solution on page 38 and at www.pridesource.com

#TIME2KNOW GET TESTED
 NOW OFFERING INTEGRATED TESTING

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

CONVENIENT METRO DETROIT LOCATIONS
 Matrix MAC Health in Ferndale & MidTown Detroit • Affirmations in Ferndale

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

Call 1.888.226.6366 to make an appointment or for information.

1 (888) A CONDOM

MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES

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

PrEP Clinic


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

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

UNIFIED
My Health and Beyond
LIFE CONTINUES. LIVE HEALTHY.
In partnership with
Sinai Grace Hospital

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

WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG


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

DID YOU KNOW?
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.

Community Connections



The 12th Annual DIY Street Fair

BY BTL STAFF

Coupling fine art with contemporary, folk and graffiti is a DIY Street Fair staple, but just a part of its many offerings. Returning on Sept. 20 through 22 for its 12th year, attendees can expect to see their share of home goods, ceramics, glass work and much more when they walk through more than 150 vendors from across the state in Ferndale. DIY is more than just an art show, however, it is a fundraising opportunity for local nonprofit organizations like The Ferndale Public Library, Suck It Suicide, Detroit Together Men's Chorus and more.

"Volunteers have been the backbone of DIY since the very beginning, and we are thrilled to continue the community-driven tradition each year," event organizers say.

Organizers also remind attendees to tip their bartenders when attending the event.

"All of the pouring locations at the DIY Street Fair are operated by nonprofit volunteers," she said. "All of your tips go directly to their organization. Help make a difference one beer at a time."

To find out more about the DIY Street fair visit ferndalediy.com.

The Reading Rainbow: LGBTQ+ Youth Book Club

BY BTL STAFF

Held at the Affirmations LGBTQ community center, The Reading Rainbow: LGBTQ+ Youth Book Club is put on in partnership with the Ferndale Area District Library. This is a social-justice focused club that targets young adults aged 13 to 22 whose first meeting will be on Friday, Sept. 27, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Though the voting period has ended for the first book to be read at the club, it is still possible to join.

"Youth who participate in the voting form will be

contacted with instructions on how to grab a copy of the chosen book prior to the start of the club," write event organizers.

Some of the available books to vote on are "Blue is the Warmest Color," "The Secret Ingredient," "Just Between Us," "What if It's Us" and "The Great American Whatever."



To find out more about this event visit the Affirmations

Facebook page or contact Ian Unger at iunger@goaffirmations.org or call 248-398-7105.

Bi-Weekly Femme Trans Women (FTW) Bike Ride

BY BTL STAFF

Held through Halloween, all femme, trans, genderqueer folk and womyn are invited to a biweekly bike ride through Detroit. Intended to be an inclusive event, the biking pace is slow and the distance is relatively short, lasting six miles at a recent event. Biking buddies will meet next at Back Alley Bikes at 3611 Cass Ave. in Detroit on Thursday, Sept. 19, at 6:30 p.m.

Find out more online on the group's Facebook page: [gaybe.am/YQ](https://www.facebook.com/gaybe.am/YQ).



Solution to Q Puzzle p. 37

Prism of Possibilities Psychotherapy

Christine Cantrell, PhD
Fully Licensed Psychologist

Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

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

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



CALL NOW! 248-591-2888



Crown Pharmacy

Specializing in providing world class HIV pharmaceutical care

866-575-3784 (toll free)
www.crownpharmacy.com

24401 Plymouth Rd., Redford, MI 48239
313-532-DRUG (3784) 313-532-3718 (fax)
crownpharmacy1@aol.com
OWNER: Val Randall
HOURS: M-F 10 am - 6 pm Weds 10am-5pm
Closed Weekends and Holidays




Low Cost Pet Prescriptions

NOW OPEN!


Senior Health Clinic

for LGBTQ+ adults 55 and older


Primary and Specialty Care Preventive and Support Services

Wednesdays from 10 AM - 2 PM
Call for an appointment

(313) 832-3300
1726 Howard Street
Detroit, MI 48216
www.corktownhealth.org



Age with respect, dignity and pride at Corktown Health Center



Therapists
Caring for Our
Community Since 2001

248.259.1991 Royal Oak • Livonia • Grosse Pointe
LGBTQIA, Individual, Couples, HIV+, Depression, Anxiety, Trauma, Grief
BCBS • Medicare • Medicaid • Sliding Scale • Out of Network

Stephanie Williams, Ph.D, Licensed Psychologist
tbhpsychologists.com



OVER 9000 LIKES & COUNTING

JOIN THE CONVERSATION.

LIVING WITH HIV? WE CAN HELP!




FREE, comprehensive services designed to assist those living with HIV/AIDS.






(248) 266-5545 | MetroCareNetwork.org | (877) 931-3248

Your Best Choice in Healthcare For All the Right Reasons

Dr. Paul Benson's

Be Well
Medical Center

1964 Eleven Mile Rd
Berkley, MI 40872
(248) 544-9300
doctorbewell.com



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.

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:

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!)



Caleb Youngblood, PA-C, AAHIV-S



Mark Rosen, PA-C



Leon Bullough, NP-F



Keyuna Nance, MSW