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## In Her Best Light

Trisha Yearwood on Her Defiant LGBTQ Support, the Nashville Closet and Lesbian Love



## Julia Music Appointed to Ferndale City Council



# No Backing Down

Attorney General Dana Nessel On Trump, Civil Rights and 2020

Photo: Marcus Thompson

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*Inside p. 4*

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# Entertainment, Prizes, Services and Giveaways: The 2019 Ultimate LGBTQ Wedding, Home & Life Expo Oct. 13 Will Not Dissappoint

Whether planning a wedding, looking to renew vows, thinking about an engagement or seeking out services anywhere in between, the ninth annual Ultimate LGBTQ Wedding, Home & Life Expo has what you're looking for. Held at The Henry on Sunday, Oct. 13, from noon to 4 p.m., you're invited and encouraged to familiarize yourself with the 90-plus LGBTQ-affirming vendors to help plan your perfect event. And even if you're not getting married, event co-founder Susan Horowitz said that the Expo has what you're looking for when it comes to LGBTQ affirming services. BTL caught up with her in advance of the event to get a sense of some of this year's highlights.

## **This year the Expo is featuring some great prizes, could you walk me through some of the highlights?**

First, our vendors, there are close to 90 this year, are to providing great door prizes. So, in your swag bag that we give you, you will be able to find a whole selection of discount coupons and all kinds of special deals. Vendors are going to be giving away stuff at their booths, as well. In addition, we have five great grand prizes that include a theater dinner package in two cases, an overnight stay at MotorCity Casino where you get to see Patti LaBelle and one is a trip to Traverse City. But you have sign up at the Expo to win.

## **The expo is also allowing guests to sample all kinds of food this year. What are some of those options?**

There will be great pastries, there will be great desserts and there will be plenty of other food to taste so come hungry! This year we're adding back a pre-expo complimentary Broadway breakfast with renowned singer Eric Swanson. You will not be disappointed, it starts at 11 a.m. before the expo doors open at noon. So, come early.

**This year we're adding back in the continental breakfast and it's going to be accompanied by a Broadway Brunch. We have Eric Swanson performing. You will not be disappointed. It starts at 11 a.m. and Expo doors open at noon.**

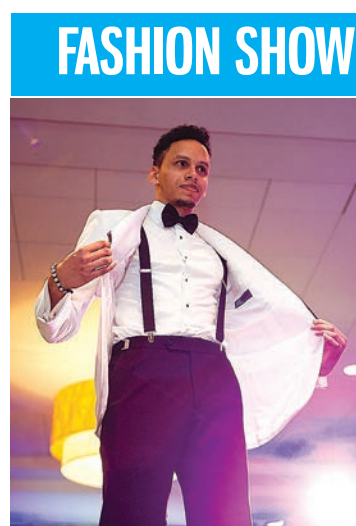
## **Who are some of the entertainers this year?**

Eric Swanson will be performing Broadway tunes during our pre-Expo hour when we are serving a light breakfast. Bands will be playing and working with a dance company that's going to be giving dance lessons live on the spot. Jason Bowen, a member of the PRISM Men's Chorus, will be the emcee and he will perform several numbers throughout the show. We'll also have a fashion show of the latest bridal and tux fashions co-sponsored by B. Ella Bridal and The Tux Shop.

## **I know that there will be an expansion of services this year, too. What are they?**

This year we expanded the Expo so if you're already married there's still good reasons to come down and try to win these prizes and thank these wonderful equality-minded businesses. We have adoption agencies participating, so people thinking about adoption and wanting to learn more about it can meet with LGBTQ-friendly agencies. Also, we'll have services for aging family members too. We'll also have some realtors, lawyers, home services – people who we need not only at weddings but for other gatherings, parties, celebrations and everyday home life.

*The Henry is located at Fairlane Plaza in 300 Town Center Drive in Dearborn. The event has free parking, free brunch (11a.m.) The Expo starts at noon lasting through 4 p.m. To find out more visit [milgbtwedding.com](http://milgbtwedding.com).*



# Dana Nessel Won't Back Down

## The Michigan AG is Making the Fight Against Hatred a Priority

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

To get a sense of the immense progress made by the LGBTQ community over the last several decades it's perhaps best to scale down and examine personal achievement. In Michigan, it's arguable that the person who might best be used as this human metric is Attorney General Dana Nessel. Michigan's first openly lesbian statewide official, Nessel's achievements regarding the LGBTQ community are rivaled by few. It was her case *DeBoer v. Snyder* that was consolidated into the six-case argument *Obergefell v. Hodges* presented to the Supreme Court that won U.S. LGBTQ marriage equality. In addition, she founded the nonprofit Fair Michigan that works to prosecute anti-LGBTQ hate crimes and as attorney general has required all adoption and foster agencies receiving public funding to serve LGBTQ families.

But as instrumental as those achievements have been for LGBTQ people both in the state and nationally, Nessel wasn't always the staunch activist that she is today. She was the keynote speaker at this month's Equality Michigan Fall Reception fundraiser and gave insight into her struggles on her path to political office, at one point believing that "it was not possible in my lifetime for gays to be tolerated much less legally legitimized."

"Being gay was not something to shout from the rooftops or to post on a billboard," Nessel said. "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."

Today, having gotten through that dark period, Nessel's efforts to protect Michigan's LGBTQ community seem to be especially vigorous as she fights threats coming down from the national level. In her EQMI address, she cited more than three dozen examples of the Trump Administration's disregard and active efforts against its LGBTQ citizens. She warned attendees of the real risk of losing the hard-fought gains toward equality like equal marriage and the right to spousal benefits: "we've fallen pretty far, pretty fast."

Those risks are why last month Between The Lines met with Nessel one-on-one for the first time since she took office to get an assessment of her goals as attorney general, her thoughts on the current political situation, where the expansion of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act stands and how she's protecting the most vulnerable groups within Michigan's LGBTQ community.



BTL Photo: Roxanne Frith

**November 2018 marked a huge victory for Michigan Democrats. Since you've taken office, how have you utilized that victory to forge new partnerships across various tiers of government?**

Well, first, my department represents the governor. So, obviously, we have a very close relationship with the governor's office and we work with them all the time. In regard to the Supreme Court, I've developed very close relationships there — especially with Chief Justice Bridget McCormack. And in fact, we are working together on a number of different initiatives. One of them is the elder abuse task force. And so, I actually spent the summer traveling all across the state with Justice Megan Cavanagh and Justice Richard Bernstein, and we have a number of initiatives that we're moving forward on, actually in the next few weeks. But I think we're going to make some much-needed changes to the guardianship system, to the way that law enforcement interacts with seniors and investigates and prosecutes cases of elder abuse and elder neglect and the economic exploitation of seniors.

We have other initiatives that we're working hard with them on as well, one of

them being the Criminal Justice Task Force that I'm on. And I sit on that with Chief Justice McCormack and Garlin Gilchrist, the lieutenant governor, and with the governor and people in widespread agencies, legislators and so forth. What I'm trying to be very proactive in doing is identifying areas where we need changes in the law to best protect people in this state. So, elder abuse, of course, being one of them, but [also] cybersecurity.

**What are some of Michigan's cybersecurity vulnerabilities?**

We, right now, don't have any mechanisms in place where if a corporate entity has a data breach and the private information of potentially tens of thousands, even hundreds of thousands, of Michiganders has been stolen, there's no mechanism in place where those corporations have to even inform the Department of the Attorney General so that we can assist consumers. And we have a number of initiatives that we're moving forward in the next few weeks involving payroll fraud involving folks in the legislature and with a number of unions and are working to protect people's pay. So that they don't have their employers basically steal from

*"And the only thing I can say for the LGBTQ community is that at least the Trump administration is an equal-opportunity discriminator. I mean, this is an administration that hates minorities of every stripe. So, they've rolled back some protections for women, rolled back some protections for the immigrant community, rolled back some protections for people of color. I mean, there's really no end to it. But yes, I will say that there is very little that we can do if we don't make some substantial changes in terms of our federal government"*

them by either fraudulently listing them as a contractor as opposed to an employee and issuing them a 1090 when it's not appropriate to do so. And so, we have a number of different laws that we're moving forward with, that we're proposing and we found people in the legislature to sponsor.

So, we're trying to [work] across the realm of state actors, trying to work with the Department of State, we have a lot of cases with [Secretary of State] Jocelyn Benson. And we're trying to find novel ways to resolve issues that exist between her office, between my office, between the governor's office, so that we can all work together and forge a path forward that protects as many people in this state as possible.

**As someone who was instrumental in securing marriage equality for the LGBTQ community, how do you see religious exemptions, both in the state and out of it, impacting that victory? Are you seeing an erosion of those won protections?**

Absolutely. I think you can look no further than the Texas case where they decided that in terms of government employees that you could deny benefits to same-sex married couples and grant them to opposite-sex

married couples. I mean, what's the point? What did we do all this work for to try to achieve marriage equality if you're going to be able to treat those marriages differently, whether they were a same-sex or an opposite-sex couple? And I don't think that was the intent under Obergefell, I don't think that was the intent when Justice Kennedy penned that very important decision.

**Do you see the attacks on transgender people, especially transgender people of color, as another avenue for chipping away at LGBTQ rights?**

It's devastating for trans women, trans women of color. It's devastating for everybody in the LGBTQ community. You know, I was just taking a look at some of the things — just some of the things — that have occurred during the Trump administration. I mean, starting from the moment that Trump took office the list goes on and on in terms of the types of rollbacks of protections that existed under the Obama administration. And the only thing I can say for the LGBTQ community is that at least the Trump administration is an equal-opportunity discriminator. I mean, this is an administration that hates minorities of every stripe. So, they've rolled back some protections for women, rolled back some protections for the immigrant community, rolled back some protections for people of color. I mean, there's really no end to it. But yes, I will say that there is very little that we can do if we don't make some substantial changes in terms of our federal government. And the biggest reason for that to me is because the Trump administration is making all the federal court appointments. And so many of the gains I know that I personally made in terms of my contributions to the LGBTQ community occurred because of federal courts. Well, when you've lost the federal courts, what do you have left? So, it's incredibly important. And yes, I think that for all people who are in the LGBTQ community need to be very concerned and we need to be very aggressive in terms of being proactive.

**Now that you're an elected official and on the other side of nonprofit work, what do you feel is the best way that LGBTQ organizations can make a positive change?**

Well, on one hand, I'm very proud of the work I know my nonprofit has done and continues to do. And so, Fair Michigan, which is now run by my wife, they're the only task force not just in the state of Michigan, but I think nationally, that tackles hate crimes against the LGBTQ community and they have a 100 percent conviction rate and they're doing an incredible job in that sphere. They have a name-change project for trans people, which I think are a great benefit. So, the work that nonprofits like Fair Michigan do, I think it's essential and it's important.

However, I'm going to say this: without these nonprofits also maybe seeking to maybe have a C4 that allows them to do

political work, it's a drop in the bucket for the needs of the community. And at the end of the day I think it's really important that these nonprofits move forward with trying to encourage the community to become politically active and politically savvy to vote and to tell people what they need to do. Because, ultimately, if we don't have the right actors in place in both state government and in federal government, we're going to lose every right that we've ever gained. And worse, slide very, very far backward. So, I think all of these nonprofits need to become more active in the political sphere.

If that means filing for a 501(C)(4) so they can also do political work, then that's what they need to do, because if you have had people with the kind of animus against the LGBTQ community that I have seen. People who have run this state — not now, fortunately, but previous to this administration and certainly that run the federal government now — there are literally no gains that nonprofits can make. There's so little that a nonprofit can do. The governor, obviously, makes appointments to the state courts — they later have to be elected, but it's a huge help when you have "HON" in front of your name, right? So, who we have in the state courts is hugely impactful, who we have running the state government is hugely impactful, who is in the legislature. I mean, this is everything for us.

**Today there seems to be an air of partnership, but in the past LGBTQ groups have been known to be antagonistic toward one another. How do you see that happening?**

We can't afford to not all work together. All of these groups have to set aside their differences. And, frankly, set aside the competition they sometimes have because they're vying for the same donors — that's a big part of it — and decide to collaborate, come together and be supportive of one another. And also be supportive of people who, whether it's in the judiciary or whether it's in the state executive or what have you, support individuals who they know are going to work with them.

But if you just take Gov. Whitmer and just her policy directives — some of which she initiated within hours of taking office — it's so substantial to say that in state government we're not going to discriminate against people based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Or just even flying a Pride flag outside the Romney Building and the message that that sends. I mean, it's so invaluable to the community and there is nothing that you can do in the nonprofit sphere that can compensate for having bad actors in these positions.

These organizations, we are at a critical time in our nation's history, and we can't afford to work against each other anymore.

See **Dana Nessel**, continued on p. 9



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## Whitmer, 14 Governors Send Bipartisan Letter Addressing PFAS

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, along with 14 governors sent a bipartisan letter to both the U.S. Senate and House Armed Services Committees highlighting several key provisions related to per- and polyfluoralkyl substances or PFAS in the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act and asking for those provisions to be included in the final legislation.

“All Michiganders deserve to know that we are prioritizing their health and are working diligently to protect their drinking water,” Whitmer said. “While Michigan has become a leader when it comes to identifying and cleaning up PFAS contamination, it’s clear that federal action is needed to further address PFAS, including contamination in and around military sites.”

At current and former military bases across the country, firefighting foam containing PFAS has been in use for many years. In many of these locations, PFAS have leached into groundwater, surface water and nearby private wells used for drinking water. According to the Government Accountability Office, there are at least 401 military sites with known or suspected PFAS contamination.

The signing governors are urging the development of legislation that includes the strongest provisions from both the House and Senate bills, including:

- Requiring EPA to set an enforceable, nationwide drinking water standard under the Safe Drinking Water Act for PFOA and PFOS within two years of enactment, while preserving states’ authority to enact their own, more stringent standards.

- Requiring the EPA to revise the list of toxic pollutants under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act) to include PFAS and publish effluent and pretreatment standards.

The governors are evaluating PFAS responses in their own states, including in some cases developing or setting drinking water standards for PFAS and deploying state funds to test, investigate and remediate PFAS contamination caused by government and industrial use.

To view the full letter visit [gaybe.am/IH](http://gaybe.am/IH).



Photo cap: Ferndale City Clerk Marne McGrath administers the oath of office to Julia Music following her unanimous appointment to the city council. (Photo courtesy of Julia Music)

# Julia Music Appointed to Temporary Seat on Ferndale City Council

## The Ferndale Pride ED Distributes Grant Monies Prior to Appointment

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Ferndale Pride Executive Director Julia Music was unanimously appointed to fill a temporary seat on the Ferndale City Council at its meeting Monday night. The seat became vacant when Councilman Dan Martin replaced outgoing Mayor Dave Coulter, who was appointed to the role of Oakland County executive following the death of L. Brooks Patterson. Music will complete Martin’s term on the council and serve until the end of the year.

Music was one of five candidates who submitted their names for consideration. One candidate withdrew before the meeting and another was a no-show. That left three candidates standing.

“Based on everything that I have heard and just based on everything that I know about this person, for this term – even though it’s for the short term that it is, a few months – I believe that my support will go behind somebody that has been just amazing,” said Councilwoman Raylon Leaks-May. “[She is] a good friend, a good leader in many, many ways. I am actually going to throw my support behind Julia Music.”

With that, Leaks-May nominated Music for the post and then Councilman Dennis Whittie and Mayor Pro Tem Greg Pawlica both tried to second the nomination.

“I know Julia’s been in the community for a long time ... and I think she is extremely well qualified for this position,” Whittie said.

Pawlica agreed.

“I have known Julia longer than she has lived here and we became instant friends,” he said. “She is very aware of the work that we are doing up here. There are many times that she does not agree with me. We get into many heated conversations. But we have great respect for each other.”

The final “yes” vote went to Martin.

“Julia is a great candidate for this,” Martin said. “I’ve known Julia a long time as well. I second everything that Pawlica has said. I can’t think of somebody I would be happier to see in one of these seats.”

Following the meeting and appointment, Music released a statement.

“I am humbled and delighted to serve Ferndale as a city councilperson,” she said. “Historically speaking, this is the first time that the Ferndale City Council has had a queer woman/non-binary person serve and the first time that our council has been majority LGBT. It’s fantastic to see how much our segment of the community is doing to continue moving Ferndale in a progressive direction.”

## Ferndale Pride Grants Given to Local Charities

Prior to her appointment to the council, Music spoke at the meeting and disbursed grant monies from Ferndale Pride to five local charities. Ferndale Pride gave \$20,000 to the Ferndale Community Foundation and \$2,000 each to Affirmations, Gender-identity Network Alliance, Matrix MAC Health, Transgender Detroit and Transgender Michigan.

“Today is the second-best day of Ferndale Pride,” Music said. “We get to celebrate in the streets but the real reason we have this event to give back to our community. Today we’re going to be giving away more money than ever before to some very deserving charities.”

Music also took time to recognize Ferndale Pride’s naming sponsor, the Candle Wick Shoppe.

“Because of the contributions of the Candle Wick Shoppe and many other Ferndale businesses, we’ve been able to expand the Pride festival,” she said. “We’re looking forward to creating an even larger Pride festival next year. [There will be] no more space on the street, but more activities, more things to do and some stage innovations as well.”



► **Dana Nessel**

Continued from p. 7

These organizations have to work collaboratively, they have to work together, they have to set their differences aside and they have to have one mission. And that's to do anything and everything they can to protect this very vulnerable community. And I'll say when I look at Fair Michigan — look they do amazing work when it comes to investigating and prosecuting hate crimes against the LGBTQ community. But the fact of the matter is they're overwhelmed because hate crimes have risen so substantially. So, just in the month of June alone, you had five homicides in the city of Detroit. There were, let's see four gay men and one trans woman. In one month! And this wasn't incidental to their sexual orientation or gender identity they were targeted for that reason.

Well, they're doing amazing work. They're out there investigating, they're out there prosecuting and they're getting convictions, but the goals should be fewer LGBTQ people getting murdered. But if you have an administration in power, at least now at the national level, that's out there and is this source of hatred and is out there on a continual basis — not just in terms of promulgating policies that hurt the LGBTQ community, but out there speaking about the community in a way where it basically grants permission for people to commit violent offenses and assaults against this community — you know, that's great that we're investigating these cases, that's great that we're prosecuting them and putting people in prison, but my goal is to see people just not get murdered. And the problem is when you have hatemongers in these important offices, it sends a not-so-discreet signal to people who are bad actors out there that it's OK to target these individuals with violence.

**This year there were neo-Nazis at Pride.**

And you know what? It's great to have somebody like Chief James Craig who cares deeply, I think, about the LGBTQ community and wants to protect the LGBTQ community in Detroit. It's great to have Prosecutor Kym Worthy who cares deeply about the LGBTQ community and wants to protect them, but you know what's better than having James Craig and Kym Worthy there? No Nazis at Pride! That's what's better. But what's inspiring them? Well, it's the president of the United States that's inspiring them. So, we didn't use to have Nazis at Pride. I'm telling you, I've been to my share of Prides over the course of many, many years and Prides were always a place, they were a safe space to have fun. And you enjoyed being with your friends and you enjoyed being with your community and to relax and listen to good music and maybe get some information from

[www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)



people. It shouldn't be a place that you go to be terrified that someone's going to kill you.

**Regarding the expansion of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, LGBTQ and progressive legislators seem to have learned to keep their expectations low. As we move toward the 2020 elections, do you see the expansion occurring?**

I see a 0 percent chance of Elliott-Larsen being amended with the current legislature we have, both between the speaker of the house and the majority leader in the Senate. They have both indicated that they won't even allow it for a vote. And while I think each and every Democrat in both chambers would vote to support — I hope they would anyway. You know, I don't know that you have a single Republican legislator at this point that has indicated that they would intend to vote yes. What can you do? This is why it's so important that we either mount a ballot proposal because we have in the neighborhood of what? Seventy-seven percent of Michiganders who are likely voters in support of an expansion of Elliott-Larsen to include sexual orientation and gender identity. I think either you have to move forward with a ballot proposal, or you have to work like hell to oust these Republicans who don't subscribe to the notion of equality for everyone.

**What's one thing that's surprised you since taking office? Perhaps an unexpected challenge or victory?**

You know, to be really honest with you I'm surprised at the quality of my staff. I spent a lot of years trashing this office (laughs) but I see now that what it was, it's who is the leadership in the office. Who is the attorney general sort of dictates how things move forward and I think I have an amazing staff of people and I'll tell you what, they're always coming up with helpful suggestions, what we can do to expand people's civil rights and protections for all communities of people here in the state of Michigan. I'm incredibly impressed with their dedication to the public and I think sometimes it just means having the right person who is the elected officeholder. Because what I see are dedicated public servants who care about their community and care about all communities in this state. But, sometimes, they just need the right direction and permission to go in the right direction really more than anything.

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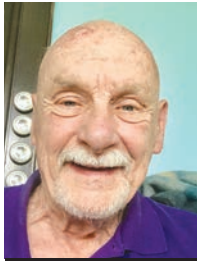
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## Gay History Month #2

# Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

*This column first appeared in BTL Oct. 2012.*

Almost 125 years before the birth of Jesus a handsome youth named Antinous was declared a god by the Roman emperor Publius Aelius Hadrian.

Hadrian fell in love with Antinous when the boy was 13, an age when many post-pubescent males married. They were ruler and consort lovers for six years, touring Greece and Egypt in search of initiation into the Goddess Mysteries of Demeter, Persephone and Isis.

Legend says that an Egyptian priest told Hadrian that unless a special sacrifice was offered on his behalf Hadrian's life would fade "like incense on a starry night." Antinous, in devotion to emperor Hadrian, gave the deep waters of the flooding Nile his youth, beauty and life.

So doing, Antinous joined those pre-Christian gods who provided atonement and resurrected death for humankind: Osiris, Adonis, Attis, Mithra — whose birthdate celebrated by humble shepherds was Dec. 25 — Dionysus, Hermes, and Bacchus.

(Recommended reading: "The Jesus Mysteries: Was the 'original Jesus' A Pagan God?" by Timothy Freke and Peter Gandy; Harmony Books.)

Hadrian glorified his lover/god with statues, coins, temples, paintings and a city bearing his name, Antinopolis. He was worshiped in an ancient world until Constantine in 324 CE mandated Christianity as the state religion of Rome. Hadrian was following in the sandled footsteps of Alexander the Great\* who had his battle-killed lover Hephæstion deified for community adoration.

In the 18th century Cardinal Alessandro Albani and the gay German art historian Johann Joachim Winckelmann joined a secret cult centered in Rome that worshiped Antinous, along with lust-monger gods Pan and ever-erect Priapus added in for good ejaculatory, et-cum-spiritus-a-go-go measure.

Last century Belgian writer Marguerite Yourcenar (1903-1987) devoted 20 years of her life to researching and writing about the lovers. Her novel "Memoirs of Hadrian" was published in 1951.

Yourcenar came to America in 1940 with her partner and translator Grace Frick. She became a U.S. Citizen in 1947. Yourcenar had impeccable sensitivity for writing about homoerotic love. Her other gay-affirming novels are "Alexis" and "Coup de Grace."

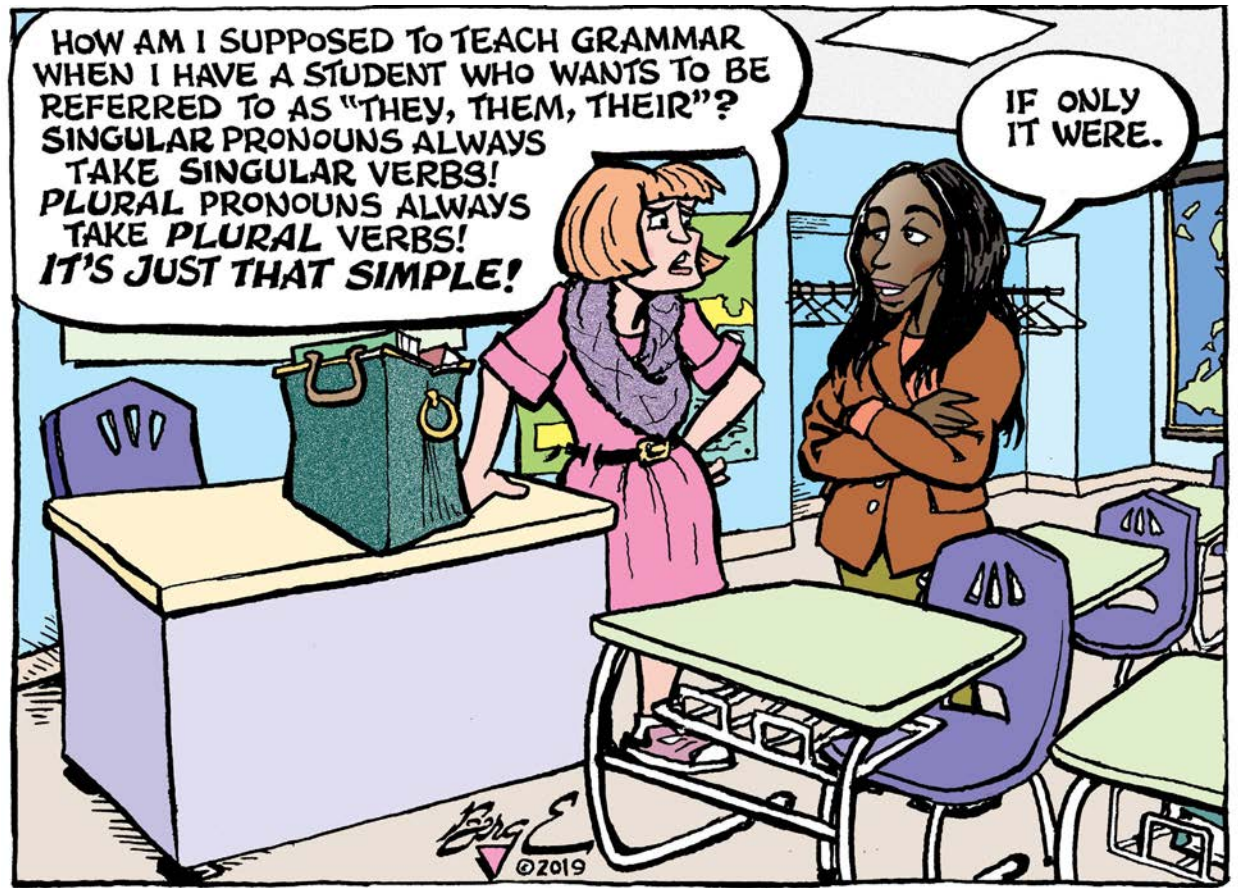
"The books I like best are those where there is intelligence, goodness and no injustice," she said. "They are very rare. I never write anything I have not chosen myself."

Yourcenar's 40-year relationship with Grace Frick ended with Grace's death in 1979. In 1981 Yourcenar was elected to the French Academy, the first woman so honored in the society's 350-year history.

"I am rootless," Yourcenar summed up her life. "To quote Hadrian, 'I am at home everywhere and nowhere.'" But like the fair Antinous she too dwells among those poetic gods of gifted gender and two-spirited persuasion.

\*RE ALEXANDER, ABOVE: No relationship to present PG writer. None that I can vouch for credibly. Also: there are 24 photos of Antinous available for viewing on Wikipedia. Two

See next page



BY DANA RUDOLPH

## Mombian

# Bringing LGBTQ-Inclusive Books – and Hope – to Rural Schools

LGBTQ students in rural schools are more likely to face bias and discrimination than those in urban and suburban ones, but their schools are also less likely to have LGBTQ-inclusive resources to support them. That's why several recent college graduates launched Hope in a Box last year. The nonprofit donates boxes of LGBTQ-inclusive books to rural public middle and high schools, along with coaching and curriculum guides to help educators use them effectively.

Between 2.9 and 3.8 million LGBTQ people live in rural areas across the country, according to recent estimates from the Movement Advancement Project. Furthermore, LGBTQ students in rural and small-town schools face more hostile school climates than those elsewhere, including biased language, victimization and anti-LGBTQ school policies and practices, according to GLSEN's latest 2017 National School Climate Survey. They were also less likely to have LGBTQ-related school resources or supports.

Joe English, founder of Hope in a Box and a 2017 graduate of Yale University, said in a statement about the project's launch, "I know that feeling of isolation and invisibility personally, having grown up in a small, rural town. After college, I returned to my high school to share my experience with my teachers and see how we could make the next generation of students feel more supported."

While his teachers saw the need for diverse books and

materials to support their LGBTQ students, they felt they didn't have sufficient familiarity with the subject matter or resources to acquire them.

English and his team thus designed a bibliography of 50 books covering a range of time periods, formats and identities for students ages 12 to 18. This spring, they partnered with 25 rural public schools to pilot "Starter Boxes" of 20 to 30 books from this list, along with supporting multimedia and curriculum guides. The pilot schools are diverse, including a traditional Mormon school in Washington state, low-income schools in rural Vermont and New Jersey, and conservative Southern schools in Tennessee and Alabama, among others.

All the educators they've worked with say they feel better equipped to reach and support LGBTQ students because of Hope in a Box. Almost all, 90 percent, believed the project noticeably improved LGBTQ students' emotional well-being within one semester of receiving materials, and 80 percent plan to formally incorporate the materials into their curricula this academic year.

One middle school English teacher who was part of the pilot told them, "Having a character in literature to connect to can make all the difference for some kids who feel alone."

And a librarian who serves grades 7 to 12, said, "I see these books constantly checked in and out sort of silently by my students. ... By the nature of where a lot of students are in their journey, there hasn't been a lot of open discussion yet,

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

## ► Mombian

Continued from p. 10

but these books signal to my students that they are safe with me.”

GLSEN Founder Kevin Jennings, assistant deputy secretary for the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools at the U.S. Department of Education under President Obama, was even more blunt, asserting in a statement, “Hope in a Box’s work is literally saving lives. When young LGBTQ people see themselves reflected in school curricula, their sense of self and well-being goes up dramatically, and rates of bullying and harassment drop just as dramatically. By providing these resources to schools with little access to them, Hope in a Box is making a life-saving difference for many young people.”

The value is for all students, LGBTQ and not. Another high school English teacher told Hope in a Box, “Our small rural district isn’t very diverse; it’s been incredibly important for us to find creative ways to help students be open-minded and empathetic. I’m so grateful for the guidance and generosity of the Hope In A Box program because it sends our students such an important message: we recognize LGBTQ students and we appreciate them.”

One creative writing teacher added, “This library is what lets my students feel comfortable writing about LGBTQ issues and characters in their creative and personal writing.”

By the end of the 2019 school year, Hope in a Box aims to support hundreds of rural schools in all 50 states; nearly 200 schools across 35 states have already joined a waitlist for the project. The nonprofit’s goal is to help at least half of these schools incorporate the materials into curricula.

## ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

of them do bear an uncanny resemblance to me. Worshipers welcome!

## 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

A growing number of states including California, Colorado, Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey and Oregon are now requiring public school curricula to include information about the history, writings and contributions of LGBTQ people. Having materials to support that goal accurately and effectively is vital. In states without such requirements, too, the need for guidance and resources is perhaps greater, since there’s less motivation for schools to incorporate such works in the curriculum. Either way, Hope in a Box is targeting the schools that have the greatest need — those in under-resourced rural areas.

A similar initiative, the Make It Safe Project ([makeitsafeproject.org](http://makeitsafeproject.org)), was founded in 2011 by then-14-year-old Amelia Roskin-Fraze, an out lesbian student from California. Make It Safe gives free packages of LGBTQ-inclusive books to schools, youth homeless shelters and other youth-serving institutions. It has distributed them to more than 60 schools and 25 shelters, with more on the way. Roskin-Fraze is currently an undergraduate at Columbia University, and the project is also now offering a writing scholarship to LGBTQ teens.

Projects like these, with the energy of young, queer activists behind them, can make a real difference for other young people. Visit their websites to find out more and learn how you can help, no matter your age.

*Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian ([mombian.com](http://mombian.com)), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory for LGBTQ parents.*

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

## Dave Daubenmire

Let’s go on a journey to hell, shall we? I’ve found a portal that can take us directly there. Hat tip to Dave Daubenmire, former



high school football coach and self-proclaimed “defender of the Christian faith,” for showing the way.

The way to hell, it turns out, is through Billie Eilish.

Now, I’m no longer in my 20s. Or my 30s for that matter. So I am not super familiar with Billie Eilish. In fact, when I saw that

the cover of one of her records depicted a red ladder and Eilish wearing a red jumpsuit below said ladder with multiple chains around her neck, my first guess was that the album had a workplace safety theme.

But I know now that Eilish’s theme is the devil. Specifically, bringing children to the devil through her videos, which have millions of views on YouTube.

“[The devil] is out of the bottle and our children are watching it. You with me?” Daubenmire said during his Sept. 20 webcast. “The devil is stealing our children.”

The song and video “all the good girls go to hell” seems to have set off the alarm on Daubenmire’s Devil Detector.

“Do you think Billie Eilish came up with this idea on her own?” he asked. “Do you think this imagery and these songs and these videos, do you think she just kinda did it on her own in her basement, like me?”

A good question. Though Daubenmire’s webcast is done against a backdrop that looks like a full sports stadium so I am shocked, SHOCKED, to hear that he’s actually webcasting in his basement.

And, no, I don’t think that Eilish made these songs and videos in her basement, but hey, kids and technology these days, amirite? Anything is possible.

But back to the devil stuff. Daubenmire has some very, well, interesting theories about the souls of our children.

“There are forces of dark beyond what we can even imagine that is full bore after our children,” he said. “If they can’t abort ‘em, they’re going to drug ‘em. If they can’t drug ‘em, they’re gonna vaccinate ‘em. If they can’t vaccinate ‘em, they’re gonna indoctrinate them in school. If they can’t indoctrinate ‘em in school, they’re going to indoctrinate ‘em through the media. If they can’t indoctrinate ‘em through the media,

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

The song and video “all the good girls go to hell” seems to have set off the alarm on Daubenmire’s Devil Detector.

they’re going to take them to the libraries and talk about homo sex.”

Woah. He got all of this from a Billie Eilish video? Also, Daubenmire says he’s pro-life but Jesus, dude: vaccinations are a GOOD THING that SAVE PEOPLE’S LIVES.

Then I watched the video for “all the good girls go to hell.” It begins with the image of Eilish’s bare back being stabbed with maybe a dozen syringes, after which she sprouts wings and falls from the sky and hits the ground really hard. If that’s what Daubenmire thinks vaccines do, well, no wonder he’s against them.

I watched the rest of the video, which consists of a weak and stumbling Eilish drenched in what looks like oil, dragging her wings behind her. Around her everything catches fire. Because, you know, hell.

I also watched the video for “when the party’s over” (she has plenty of others, but I don’t have time to sit around and watch music videos all day unlike some people), in which Eilish, dressed in white, consumes a glass of dark liquid that then pours out of her eyes like tears.

I’m not sure where this video fits into Daubenmire’s abort/drug/vaccinate/indoctrinate/library scenario.

What I do know is that I was promised a visit with the devil him/her/their self and instead what I got were some songs and videos by what is clearly a very talented young woman who likely doesn’t GAF what people like Daubenmire think about her.

“Folks, the assault on the American child is at an all-time fever pitch and those of us who carry the name of Christ, we are asleep in the light, baby,” Daubenmire warns.

I would agree that the “assault on the American child” is at an all-time high considering that just about every child in America just began yet another school year where active shooter drills are now considered business as usual in a country that has mass shooting after mass shooting and does absolutely fucking nothing to stop the next one.

Perhaps Eilish’s raw imagery and sorrowful lyrics are a response to growing up and living in these very times and so many young Americans are drawn to her art because it helps them make sense of a seemingly senseless world?

Or, you know, it could just be the devil beckoning kids to the nearest public library to be vaccinated with homo sex.

I guess we’ll never know.

# 28 Years and Counting

## A Look at the Dedication of Affirmations Volunteer Vy Reed

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Though Affirmations has been helped by many dedicated volunteers over the years, ones like Vy Reed are few and far between. Started in 1989, the Ferndale-based LGBTQ community center first connected with Reed in 1991. Since then, she has, in one form or another, maintained a relationship with the center as either a group facilitator or participant. And she's got the awards to show for it, too. To transport the dozens of plaques and certificates she's received over the years, Reed has to travel with a suitcase filled to its bursting point.

"I pulled these all out of a drawer and I told this gal at church about it and she says, 'Well, you've got to tell somebody about this,'" Reed said with a laugh.

When asked if volunteering at the center has enriched her life her answer was "definitely."

"I met more people than I would have ever met, and wherever I go I know somebody. So, it's a very, very nice thing and a great relief from the bars," she said. "... I know it allowed me to open up. I was kind of shy to begin with and even though I was a counselor at a school in the community, it gave me my voice to talk a little bit more."

These days at 81, Reed is involved mostly with the Senior Koffee Klatch, but she got her start facilitating groups when Affirmations' then-Executive Director Jan Stevenson swung by Reed's home for a party.

"She was trying to influence us to come, but nobody would come to Affirmations at that time. And so, I came and I did facilitator training," Reed said.

It was then that The Silver Foxes was born — an all-women's group targeted at connecting women who were 45 years old and up. Reed said that there's a drastic difference when comparing that original group to those that meet at the center today: in 2019 people are a lot more open.

"I had to find topics for us to talk about in each group, because if I went in unprepared without a topic, nobody knew what to say and nobody knew what to talk about. And at that time, anything sexual was taboo to talk



*"It's a place that you can go and help people and help yourself at the same time. I encourage people to volunteer and come in. And you meet different people and you also find out things that you may have never known about your community."*

- Vy Reed

about," she said, referencing the fact that today most groups don't require any prompting for lively discussion. "So, we'd talk about women's problems, but they didn't want to talk about that. Then I let them pick the topics, but as the years went on the group grew, until we really had almost 50 women."

That growth was good, and Reed said that eventually participants did seem to become more comfortable sharing with other group members. However, this did have an unintended side-effect: the more comfortable participants became with being open about their sexual orientation, the more likely they were to form groups of their own outside of the center.

"I started going to some of those groups to try and find out why," Reed said. "A lot of them thought that at that point people didn't want to be identified, so they thought if they came to a place that was identified as gay that it would be a problem."

As time went on, the stigma surrounding an LGBTQ community center began to dissipate and participants began to realize the value of

being in a trained facilitator's group. It wasn't long before Reed was facilitating different kinds of meetings like GLAMOR — the center's first-ever all gender-inclusive group — and at one time the Senior Koffee Klatch. A qualified student counselor by trade, Reed said she brought elements from her work life to the group and vice versa.

"Counseling helped me a whole lot, although counseling is different than facilitating. A facilitator actually doesn't need to do a whole lot of talking and neither does a counselor; listening is the big thing. So, counseling trained me for that right away. And then facilitating, I found that I've been to some other groups where facilitators talk too much," she said with a laugh. "And so, I tried not to do that. And Rosemary [Ruppert] does a really nice job here now, too, [at the Senior Koffee Klatch]."

In her professional life, Reed recalled a time when her connections at Affirmations allowed her to help a young gay student who was having a hard time at school. This was despite her own difficulties at the time being open about her

sexuality outside of the center.

"I knew he was gay and I couldn't say anything to him. I just couldn't because I was afraid," Reed said. "His mother was the issue and I was afraid it would somehow get back to her. So I made him an office kid and he came in and he was doing my filing for me and I had a file on Affirmations, and he was brave enough to come in and ask me about it. I said, 'Oh, yeah, that's a place where people can go to [for help]'. So that's sort of deceptively how I [told him]. He did come here and I guess he got the help he needed."

Now retired and many years removed from teaching in a district where Reed felt the need to hide her sexuality, she said that had she known about Affirmations earlier she would have wanted to participate in a heartbeat.

"It's a place that you can go and help people and help yourself at the same time," she said. "I encourage people to volunteer and come in. And you meet different people and you also find out things that you may have never known about your community."



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## Trump Brings up Global Initiative to Decriminalize Homosexuality at UN

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

In a surprise move, President Trump included in his speech before the United Nations on Tuesday his administration's global initiative to decriminalize homosexuality in the more than 70 countries where it remains illegal.

"My administration is working with other nations to stop criminalizing of homosexuality," Trump said. "And we stand in solidarity with LGBT people who live in countries that punish, jail and execute people based upon sexual orientation."

The remarks mark the first time ever outside of Twitter Trump has acknowledged the global initiative, which is being spearheaded by U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell, the highest-ranking openly gay person in the Trump administration.

The Washington Blade has placed a request in with the White House and Grenell seeking background on the decision-making that led to the inclusion of those words in Trump's speech.

The inclusion of the LGBT initiative was one component of more than 30-minute speech before the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, which heavily focused on nationalism, denouncing socialism and criticizing Iran and China.

Charles Moran, managing director of Log Cabin Republicans, heaped praise on Trump for including the global initiative in his speech.

"President Trump is fulfilling on his initiative to decriminalize homosexuality across the globe," Moran said. "We are thankful that he will use this moment while addressing the world to call for the end of senseless persecution of LGBTQ individuals. President Trump is keeping his promises to the LGBTQ community, and for standing up for American

See UN, continued on p. 17

# Arizona Decision on Religious Exemption Seen as Narrow but 'Dangerous'

BY LISA KEEN

In a decision that LGBTQ legal activists call "dangerous" and "troubling," the Arizona Supreme Court on Sept. 16 ruled that a business can — under certain circumstances — cite the business owner's religious beliefs to claim an exemption from a city human rights ordinance and that the business can "post a statement" announcing its intentions to refuse service.

The ordinance in this case was the city of Phoenix's human rights law, prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations. It also prohibits companies from making public declarations that a customer is "unwelcome, objectionable, unacceptable, undesirable or not solicited" based on the customer's status.

Interestingly, Phoenix had not found the business, Brush & Nib Studio, to be in violation of its ordinance. And no same-sex couple had filed a complaint against the business. The case arose when the business owners, represented by the anti-LGBTQ Alliance Defending Freedom, initiated a lawsuit to challenge application of the ordinance to their business. The lawsuit also asked that the court rule that the business had a right to post a public statement to say it would refuse to create custom invitations for weddings of same-sex couples.

Brush & Nib owners Joanna Duka and Breanna Koski said that because they are Christians and believe the Bible says only male-female marriages are acceptable and that creating a custom wedding invitation for a same-sex couple's wedding infringes upon their right to freedom of religion. Their lawsuit was similar to other ADF lawsuits that have sought to undermine local and state ordinances prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The lower state courts in Arizona upheld the constitutionality of the Phoenix ordinance but struck down the provision against a business publicly declaring some customers to be unwelcome.

But the Arizona Supreme Court, in a 4-3 vote, said Brush & Nib's refusal to create custom wedding invitations for same-sex couples amounted to "pure speech" and is protected by the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment.

"[T]he First Amendment does not protect all of Plaintiffs' business activities or products simply because they operate Brush & Nib as an 'art studio,'" said the majority. "However, Plaintiffs' custom wedding invitations, and the process of creating them, are protected by the First Amendment because they are pure speech."

The majority rejected the city's argument that refusing only same-sex couples is a proxy



for discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"The fact that Plaintiffs' message-based refusal primarily impacts customers with certain sexual orientations does not deprive Plaintiffs of First Amendment protection," wrote the majority.

"The City's concern that our decision will undermine the anti-discrimination purpose of the Ordinance, or that it will encourage other businesses to use free speech as a pretext to discriminate against protected groups, is unwarranted," said the majority. "... Nothing in our holding today allows a business to deny access to goods or services to customers based on their sexual orientation or other protected status."

The majority also stated that a business owner "need not prove that a belief is a central tenet of her faith" but simply prove that it is "based on a religious belief." And while the Brush & Nib Studio was established to profit, said the majority, "this does not mean that they cannot, like a religious organization or church, also further their 'religious objectives as well.'"

"This ruling is dramatically at odds with decisions by courts across the country that have instead refused to create a religious license for businesses to exempt themselves from civil rights laws, and to pick and choose their customers according to their own religious criteria," said Jennifer Pizer, senior counsel for LGBTQ impact law firm Lambda Legal. Pizer said the decision was "troubling" because it grants business owners a "license to discriminate" at least when they are creating custom designs and artwork. Pizer said other business owners hoping to skirt the non-discrimination law would "probably have to initiate their own case if they want to know whether they are free" to do so.

"So the city probably is weighing the unfortunate likelihood that there will be more litigation challenging the ordinance," Pizer said.

No word yet on whether the city is considering such an appeal, and Pizer said the city may "want to see what briefing is filed"

in the U.S. Supreme Court on another ADF case, Arlene's Flowers v. Washington. ADF announced in June it would appeal that case to the U.S. Supreme Court. It filed the appeal Sept. 11.

"Only the future will tell how broadly damaging this decision may turn out to be," said Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "The facts here are unusual."

He noted that Brush & Nib asserts that it "creates" the "artistic ideas" for their custom wedding invitations and its contract with clients stipulates that Brush & Nib "retains complete artistic freedom with respect to every aspect of the design's and artwork's creation."

"If the decision is confined to such businesses, it is not likely to have much effect. Most customers don't want to pay for the privilege of having their wedding be a vehicle for sending a business owner's message and not many businesses are likely to set themselves up in that way," Minter said. "That said, the reasoning in the decision goes farther and at least appears to open the door to potentially sweeping new exemptions to anti-discrimination laws that might be invoked by any kind of business in order to justify discrimination on just about any basis."

"We can hope that the lower Arizona courts will interpret this dangerous decision narrowly, as they should," Minter continued. "Rather than allowing it to usher in an unprecedented era of court-approved discrimination."

The 52-page decision in Brush & Nib Studio v. Phoenix was penned by Justice Andrew Gould and joined by Justices Clint Bolick, John Lopez and John Pelander, all Republican appointees.

The dissent included Vice Chief Justice Ann Timmer (a Republican appointee) and Justices Scott Bales (a Democratic appointee) and Judge Christopher Starling (a Republican appointee).

Chief Justice Robert Brutinel (a Republican appointee) recused himself from the case, without comment.

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# 2020 Hopefuls Gather for LGBT Forum, but Biden has Tense Moment

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

**CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa** — Democratic presidential hopefuls came together Friday night at an LGBT candidate forum to lay out their vision for LGBT rights, but the evening yielded to a tense moment when Joseph Biden was defensive on stage about blemishes on his record.

Lyz Lenz, a columnist with the Cedar Rapids Gazette brought up Biden's past votes in the 1990s for the crime bill, a military spending bill that instituted "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibited the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriage.

When Lenz lumped that together with contemporaneous remarks from Biden in which he called Vice President Mike Pence, who's notorious for his anti-LGBT record, a "decent guy," the audience booed.

"You're a lovely person," Biden replied, generating applause from the audience that was hard to read.

"Just asking the questions people want to know," Lenz said, which in turn generated a roar of applause.

Asked by Lenz what assurances he could make he wouldn't compromise on LGBT rights, Biden made the (untrue) assertion in the wake of that record he "didn't have to go through any period of adjustment."

"I came out on 'Meet the Press' before anyone else did nationally," Biden said. "It was honestly, No. 1, and the reason I did, I had to evolve."

Biden was also indignant about criticism about calling Pence "decent," saying it's just a way to speak "when you try to get things." Biden added he doesn't think Trump is decent, but would still call him president.

"I think it's just an issue because he has not been decent to a whole swath of Americans," Lenz responded to audience applause.

In terms of promoting LGBT rights, Biden laid out a plan that included the Equality Act, undoing the Trump administration's reversal of Obama's LGBT administrative actions and a ban on "the conversion therapy, nationally."

The LGBT candidate forum at Coe College's Sinclair Auditorium marked the first time in the 2020 election Democratic candidates gathered for an event dedicated to LGBT issues and the first time for such an event in 11 years, when the 2008 candidates addressed LGBT issues in a similar forum.

Ten of the Democratic candidates made an appearance during the LGBT forum — which was orchestrated by the LGBT media watchdog GLAAD — to lay out their vision for LGBT rights, but Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren and

Pete Buttigieg were at their peak performance.

Booker said after years of the Trump administration and its anti-LGBT policies, the time has come for a president who will bring a comprehensive approach to bettering the lives of marginalized people, including the LGBT community.

"It's about time that we have a woke president on these issues and every day is using their platforms to inspire and ignite justice, compassion, a more courageous empathy, a revival of civic grace so that everyone for the equal dignity and equal citizenship that we all have," Booker said.

Among the LGBT agenda items Booker said he plans is appointing a U.S. attorney general "who will fight to protect the rights and safety of LGBTQ Americans" and an education secretary who "actually was in public schools and will stand up and protect every single one of our children."

Elizabeth Warren took the opportunity of her opening statement when asked about her plan on LGBT rights for her first 100 days to read the name of the transgender women who were killed so far this year.

"It's time for a president of the United States of America to say their names," Warren said. "Equality is far off for many people in this country, but the cost of inequality for trans people, particularly trans women of color has now reached a moment of crisis, and it is time for everyone in America to speak out on this issue."

Warren also incorporated LGBT rights into her anti-corporatism messaging, saying Trump-appointed "corporate lawyers" have been appointed at a time it's set to consider whether federal civil rights law as it stands prohibits anti-LGBT discrimination.

"I hope we don't lose this case," Warren said. "I will stay on top of this, but remember: we also have a Congress that we can hold accountable, and our Congress can decide that we all are equal in this country and that is the fight I am ready to lead."

Further, Warren invoked a parable from the Bible to make a point about LGBT equality, a risky decision before an LGBT audience who may have felt harmed by religion.

Buttigieg, who had the distinction of being an openly gay candidate at the forum, emphasized the LGBT community has the unique distinction of being able to cut across wide swaths of groups in America.

"We have the power to reach into our own spirit, belonging to a part of America that also cuts across all other different categories," Buttigieg said. "I can only assume we're the only minority that exists in equal proportion across



Former Vice President Joe Biden (Screen capture via YouTube).

every ethnicity and family income."

Zach Stafford, the editor-in-chief of The Advocate, asked Buttigieg a question about the Food & Drug Administration policy prohibiting men from donating blood if they've had sex with another man within the past year.

As a result of that policy, Stafford noted, Buttigieg would face discrimination as a gay man even as U.S. president.

Buttigieg recognized the gay blood ban continues and said its discriminatory impact affected him when he organized a blood drive as South Bend mayor.

"And it's a great thing that we do," Buttigieg said. "And I realized I can't, I can't be part of it. We still do it. It's still a good thing. But it's an example, one of the many examples of the exclusions that continue in this country."

Questions about came up for candidates who have records against granting gender reassignment surgery for transgender inmates in prison.

When Lenz confront Kamala Harris about her litigation position as California attorney general representing the California Department of Corrections against the procedure for a transgender inmate, Harris said she defended the state, but also acted to correct the policy.

"When I learned about what they were doing, but behind the scenes I got them to change the policy, and I commit to you, that always in these systems, there are going to be these things that these agencies do and I will commit, as I always do, to deal with it," Harris said.

Lenz also questioned Warren, who previously was against the surgery for inmates before reversing her position in 2017, asking her how to get others to evolve.

"The way I think about this, in America, equal means equal," Warren said. "And that is true everywhere, it's true in the workplace, it's true in marriage and it's true in health care."

While Lenz asked Harris to defend her record, she asked Warren how she can help others evolve, a distinction noticed online by media critics. To be fair, Warren signaled support for gender reassignment surgery for all inmates, a position Harris hasn't articulated in so many words.

Other candidates weren't as stellar in their delivery and seemed to take the opportunity of the audience to address other issues.

Tulsi Gabbard, who has come under criticism for comments in the 2000s disparaging LGBT rights activists, said she'd work to ban anti-LGBT discrimination in all areas of life, but didn't exactly assuage concerns by making "the cost of war" a central point at an LGBT forum.

"There's one issue that is central to all the rest, to our ability to serve all of these needs, and that issue is the cost of war," Gabbard said. "I want to talk about this because not very many people do, but it is central for our ability to deliver and serve the needs of the America people."

Gabbard said since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists attacks the U.S. has spent \$6 trillion "to go and pay for wasteful regime wars in other countries," which she added cost the United States dearly in terms of treasury and blood.

The news item on LGBT issues that obtained the most attention during the forum was a recent Washington Post report Secretary of Housing & Urban Development Ben Carson disparagingly referred to transgender women as "big, hairy men" at a San Francisco facility.

Among the candidates referencing the news development was former Secretary of Housing & Urban Development Julian Castro, who implemented a rule during the Obama administration assuring transgender people access to federally funded homeless shelters without fear of discrimination.

See **Biden**, continued on p. 17



## ► Biden

Continued from p. 16

“What was reportedly said was disgusting,” Castro said. “We need a secretary of housing that can represent everybody and make sure that everybody is treated fairly. And if he can’t do that, he should step down as secretary of housing and urban development.”

Under Carson’s leadership, HUD is seeking to implement a rule change that would gut with the Obama-era non-discrimination rule for at homeless shelters with a religious exemption.

Buttigieg also condemned Carson for the remarks, pointing out an estimated 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBT.

“Let me tell you, if anyone, let alone a Cabinet member in my administration spoke the way that the secretary of housing and urban development spoke yesterday about trans people, that would be their last day in federal service on my watch,” Buttigieg said.

Self-help guru Marianne Williamson also seized Carson’s comments after lamenting ongoing discrimination against LGBT people.

“I’ll tell you something else, if I had a Cabinet secretary who made comments about

LGBTQIA+ people ... that person would be fired the next day,” Williamson said.

While on stage, Williamson faced tough questioning about her past as a self-help guru during the AIDS crisis, when she promoted the power of positive thinking to gay men dying of the disease, and was asked whether her views have changed.

“My thoughts haven’t changed over the years because there’s nothing in what I said that was anything to indicate anything such that if somebody had positive thoughts, they would [be cured of AIDS],” Williamson said. “I never said anything like that. There’s nothing in my books like that. There’s nothing in my experience.”

Making celebrity appearances at the event were Angelica Ross, a transgender actress on “Pose,” and Karamo Brown of “Queer Eye” on Netflix. (Brown’s appearance after defending former White House press secretary Sean Spicer and fellow “Dancing with the Stars” celebrity as a “good guy,” however, was criticized on social media.)

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



## ► UN

Continued from p. 14

values.”

Echoing that praise at Log Cabin, which endorsed Trump last month, was board chair Bob Kabel, who said Trump “challenged the world to do better concerning LGBTQ protections.”

“In over 71 countries, it is still illegal to be gay. President Trump’s leadership on this issue is heartening during a time when our LGBTQ brothers and sisters abroad still face life-threatening discrimination,” Kabel said. “We are looking forward to working with the Administration to promote policies that will project America’s leadership on this issue.”

Trump includes the remarks in speech as LGBT groups have criticizing him building an anti-LGBT record. Among other things, the Trump administration has implemented a transgender military ban, excluded LGBT people from enforcement of civil rights

laws and sought to enable anti-LGBT discrimination in the name of religious freedom.

Just last month, the Trump administration submitted legal briefs before the Supreme Court arguing Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bans discrimination on the basis of sex, doesn’t apply to cases of anti-LGBT discrimination. The Supreme Court is set to hear oral argument in the landmark on Oct. 8.

Moreover, a growing number of Democrats are calling for the impeachment of Trump over recent reporting that suggests he threatened to withhold aid to Ukraine unless the country investigated Democratic presidential candidate Joseph Biden, Trump’s potential opponent in the 2020 election.

More to come.

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

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## Trisha Yearwood on Her Defiant LGBTQ Support, the Nashville Closet and Lesbian Love

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**T**risha Yearwood has never cared what the country community thought of her LGBTQ allyship, so why start now? The country music icon, who has lent her robust and emotionally resonant mezzo-soprano to hit songs like “She’s in Love With the Boy,” “How Do I Live,” “Walkaway Joe” and “XXX’s and OOO’s (An American Girl),” sang at a Nashville gay bar two years after Ellen DeGeneres’s sexuality destroyed her sitcom and not long

before the Dixie Chicks got Dixie Chick’d.

So imagine country music and the associated conservative values of 1999, when Yearwood performed for gay clubgoers at The Connection during the height of her crossover success, showing her true colors by headlining an event to raise money for her cancer-stricken gay friend. Yearwood was already a major star, having soared to music stardom when “She’s in Love With the Boy,” the lead single from her 1991 self-titled debut album, reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot Country Songs.

In 2012, Billboard named Yearwood and her husband Garth Brooks the “Most Powerful Celebrity Couple in Music,” based on their combined album sales. (At the time, the couple, who’ve been married since 2005, edged out Beyoncé and Jay-Z.)

With “Every Girl,” the 55-year-old, three-time Grammy winner and host of her own Food Network show, “Trisha’s Southern Kitchen,” returns with her first studio album of new material in 12 years and a corresponding nationwide tour. In a recent conversation,

Yearwood spoke about getting a kick out of why some lesbians are relating to her new single, marrying Garth because he’s open-minded, how her concerts are a “safe place” for LGBTQ fans, and the Nashville closet.

**Let’s start with the album’s lead single “Every Girl in This Town,” which I’ve renamed “Every Gay in This Town.” I hope you don’t mind.**

(Laughs.) That works for me!

**You sing “We keep kissin’ boys, trying to figure**

**it out” and, I mean, story of my life. Know any single gay cowboys who are handsome, employed and emotionally available?**

(Laughs.) It’s funny that you say that because we did it live the other night and one of my guys who works with me – he’s my social media guy – is gay and I saw him in the crowd and he loves the song so much and I sang that right to him. He was just laughing. And then I had a couple of girls who came up to me when we did an album signing recently, and a girl introduced me to her wife and said, “That song speaks to me. It’s like you keep kissing boys trying to figure it out. I finally figured it out.” (Laughs.) It was pretty great. The song works for everyone!

**Is it true you were the first major country artist to play a gay venue in Nashville?**

I’m not sure if it’s true or not, but it was a benefit for a friend of mine who’s a hairdresser who had cancer. And he’s a friend of mine, gay or straight. So it’s like, I’m there. I didn’t even give it a thought. I’m sure there were people who thought it was great, and I’m sure there were people who thought it wasn’t great and I don’t care.

**What kind of reaction did you get from the country music community and fans for performing at a gay bar?**

I don’t know. I feel strangely lucky, I guess. People don’t tend to, especially during that time, tell you things to your face. You know, we’re still that way. We talk about each other behind our backs, but nobody’s gonna come up to you and say, “Hey, I think what you did was wrong,” because what do they think I’m gonna say? They know they’re wrong for even thinking that. Somewhere deep down they know they’re wrong. But I didn’t get any flak. I’m sure there were people who, again, talked about me behind my back, but it was the right thing to do.

**Was your appearance at The Connection your first time at a gay club?**

No. (Laughs.)

**Oh? Tell me more.**

(Laughs.) Another hairdresser friend of mine asked me to come to his birthday party and I went. I can’t remember the name of the place here at the time. It was on 8th Avenue. I think it’s gone. I’m sure everything’s gone now since I’m old. (Laughs.) But it was the first time I saw a drag queen impersonating me singing “She’s in Love With the Boy,” and I was like, “I’ve made it now. I’m famous now. That’s happened.”

**And you tipped her \$5.**

I did! You know that story! And I did because why wouldn’t you?

**So she made a good Trisha?**

She did, she did! You know, I can look like a pretty good drag queen myself.

**Wait, you’ve done drag?**

I do drag well. Yes, I do a good Trisha Yearwood impersonation.

**It helps that you are her, so I feel like you have a slight advantage. What was the LGBTQ community like where you grew up in Georgia?**

Nonexistent. Well, probably there, but I was born in ’64, so during my teenager years, the ’70s, early ’80s, like most kids in the South, I didn’t really have an encounter with anyone who was openly gay until I was in college. I know there were gay people in my hometown, but it was just one of those things that people didn’t talk about.

I’m so lucky to be in an industry that’s really open. I was raised by a family who never made me feel like I shouldn’t be an open person, so I’m lucky in that way too. The other day we were just talking about how hard it must be to live a life where you can’t really be yourself. So I like where we are. I know it’s still not easy in certain circles, but I like where we are and where we’re going. We preach “love one another” and that’s what we’re supposed to do.

**Do you think today’s country music community is more open to the LGBTQ community?**

I think the community here as a whole has always been very open. It’s the public community, you know? So coming out and being an openly gay artist is happening, but it’s still not probably easy, but because there are more people who have come out, it’s gonna be easier. But this community as a whole, as far as the town and the industry that works here, it seems very open. Nashville seems very open and progressive. But I still think the artists probably have a difficult time. But now that there are people who have come out and said they’re openly gay, somebody’s gotta start that and pave the way, and so they have the hardest time. It’s kind of the best kept secret in Nashville that when people come out as gay, no one’s surprised. (Laughs.)

**Are there still closeted country stars that you know of?**

I don’t know for sure. I’m sure there are.

**In 1993, Garth released “We Shall Be Free,” which stirred controversy with the line, “When we’re free to love anyone we choose.” I remember how big of a deal that was.**

Yeah. I live in a house that is about tolerance and love. I wouldn’t be married to a guy who didn’t feel that way, and he’s been public about that too. Like you said, it’s in that song. You just speak your truth.

**Country artist Chely Wright acknowledged that you were one of very few country stars to offer your support when she came out in 2010. What kind of support did you offer her?**

I think it’s one thing to say, “Oh, I’m fine with that,” and another thing to show up and be

See **Trisha**, continued on p. 20

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### ▶ Trisha

Continued from p. 19

a friend. And she had a benefit party every year. I had gone the year before, and that year was the year right after the (coming out) announcement that she had that party. I just went. It was kind of like going to the benefit for the hairdresser: I didn't think about it. She's my friend, I've been before, she asked me to go and I'm going. And so I don't ever set out to make some sort of strong statement. I'm just friends with who I'm friends with, and if somebody wants to comment about that, that's fine.

#### **Why do you think more country artists weren't showing their support for the LGBTQ community like you were early on in your career?**

I don't want to give myself this positive, like, "Oh my gosh, you're so amazing because you did that" because I don't really look at it that way at all. I think if I was making a statement, it's just that you should be there for your friends. And that's not just a gay or straight statement; that's a "just how I was raised" statement.

#### **Are you inspired by artists like Brandi Carlile, who is infiltrating the country arena as an out lesbian?**

I'm inspired by her as a person in music. For me, it's really about the music. I was on a label with a diverse bunch of artists, and I don't know how k.d. lang made it work in the late '80s, early '90s, because she had enormous success. But I tend to just look at it like when I heard Brandi for the first time – and actually

her voice reminds me a little bit of k.d.'s – my first thought wasn't "she's gay"; it was, "I like her voice." Maybe that's why I am the way I am, because it's just not my first thought. We all want to be accepted for who we are inside and what we do. Even if people like our music, what I do in my personal life is 100 percent secondary.

#### **You courted a wildly passionate lesbian following at the beginning of your career. Why do you think lesbians gravitated toward you?**

I have no idea! I really don't know what it is. It's also, you know, you guys. Maybe because I do "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" in concert. (Laughs.)

#### **That can't hurt.**

(Laughs.) Maybe it's inclusion. The questions you're asking me are not questions I obviously get asked in a typical interview and I haven't ever thought about it in that way, but just your questions make me feel like maybe people realize it's a safe place. You're not gonna be judged.

#### **Covering Melissa Etheridge's "You Can Sleep While I Drive" in 1995 might have had something to do with building your lesbian following. You must've forgotten all about that.**

I did forget about that. I love that song so much. The other song of hers that I just love is "Bring Me Some Water." I think that was the first thing I heard (of hers). I remember hearing that on the radio going, "Oh my god, who is that?" Just powerful.

#### **As for your gay male fans: How many times have they expressed their gratitude to you for the "Walkaway Joe" video and the fact that without**

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**it we may not have been able to experience a 23-year-old Matthew McConaughey in a field without his shirt? Because thank you for that.**

Well, you're welcome. (Laughs.) Yes, I'm totally responsible for his career and he just never calls, he never writes. I finally got a chance to thank him. When I did that video, the b-roll was shot in Austin, Texas; I wasn't even there. He was an aspiring actor who just came in for casting. People still don't realize it. They'll see the video on YouTube and be like, "Oh my god, that looks like Matthew McConaughey, but he looks 12!" And I'm like, "It is him!"

**You got him when he was a baby.**

Total baby.

**"Every Girl" is your first solo studio album in 12 years. Why not release more music more regularly?**

I will, I will. I think what happened was I was on an almost-four-year tour with my husband and that was a lot of dates. When I wasn't touring, I was filming the cooking show and I do a lot of other things, but music is what feeds my soul. I didn't really intend for that much time to pass, and I think if I'd made a record during that time it might have been frantic and just thrown together because there was so much going on.

So in 2018, when the tour had ended in December the year before, I knew I had time and that's when I sat down and made both albums, the "Let's Be Frank" album and the country album. I really was able to just concentrate on that, which made it fun because I could really just pour myself into really digging and finding those songs. And the result of this album – I don't know if I've been happier with an album. The song choices and really getting to spend time with them and just listen and listen and listen and not settle has been good.

The luxury of making this album (was) almost in the way I made the first album, where you just listen to songs and nobody is really paying attention because you've slipped under the radar and you have all the time in the world, and once an album takes off then it's hard to find that time. So I felt that I had that luxury last year of just really focusing on the music, which was really a gift.

**You recently acknowledged that you're a big Lizzo fan. When's the Trisha-Lizzo duet happening?**

I would really have to up my game to sing with Lizzo, but I would totally be up for it. When I went to see her we were doing the cooking show, and what I do in the mornings when I'm sitting in the makeup chair for 90 minutes is, I'm listening to stuff that pumps me up for the day. Usually it's Bruno Mars or Beyoncé. I had it on the Bruno Mars channel

and (Lizzo's) "Juice" came on and I'm a huge Prince fan and I was like, "I love this girl, who is this?"

She'd been around for five years, but this was right before things started to really jump for her and she happened to be playing a small club here in Nashville. So I went and stood in the crowd with 200 people, mostly a bunch of white girls and a bunch of gay boys, and just loved it. I only knew that one song; now I know them all, so I can't wait to go see her again. But it was so cool. And what I loved about her was just – she's a movement. For everybody. She is an icon for all of us in that she's about accepting yourself and loving yourself the way you are. And that's a message that is universal. That's a message I need to hear for myself.

**What about incorporating a "Good as Hell" or "Juice" cover into your upcoming tour setlist?**

I try to stick to things I know I can do well. I could really screw that up!

**I think a Trisha Yearwood rap is what the world might need right now.**

I don't think so! I'm gonna disagree with you on that one. (Laughs.)

**Let's talk food. Is there a dish your queer friends request when they come over for dinner? I'm good with anything low carb.**

(Laughs.) No, there's no specific dish. I'm the person whose house you come to when you want comfort food, so if you're going to boot camp and you wanna take a day off, that's when you come to my house. (Laughs.) You don't come to my house for low carb. Your cheat day? Come to my house.

**Wendy Williams went on your show and said your set had the best lighting. Just how magical is this "Trisha's Southern Kitchen" lighting?**

When we started doing a cooking show, the lighting was about the food. I was like, "I understand that, but I have this whole other career and I really wanna look pretty, OK? Can we light the host a little bit?" (Laughs.) So I kind of pushed the barrier a little bit because I really did want it to be pretty. I'm like, "I want this to be beautiful so that it's a thing in my world."

**So are you feeling pretty on set?**

Yeah. If I could take a guy with a key light everywhere I go, I'd take him to the grocery store.

*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.*



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# Sip, Swish and Stroke at Five15

BY BTL STAFF

Guests are invited to bring their creativity and to buy a drink at Five15's Sip, Swish and Stroke painting event on Sunday, Oct. 13. A Halloween-themed event, "Hocus Pocus" will be subject for the day's painting.

"Bring your friends and join us as our instructor, the fabulous Peaches LeFleur takes you through the step by step process of bringing a beautiful picture to life on your canvas. All supplies are provided," write event organizers. "Seating is assigned, so please let us know if you have any special requests."



Five15 Media, Mojo & More is located at 600 Washington Ave. in Royal Oak. Tickets are \$25 per person and must be paid in advance on [five15.net](http://five15.net). Doors open at 1:30 p.m. and painting begins at 2 p.m. Find out more online.

## Put the Joy Back in Your Holiday Women's Health Event

Attendees are invited to stop by and learn more about women's intimate health issues and various treatments for health conditions on Thursday, Oct. 10 at Comprehensive Women's Health in Birmingham. Event those who are not patients at the office are welcome to attend.

"Choose between our 'Put The Joy Back In Your Holiday' event on Oct. 10 at our Birmingham location or on Oct. 12 at our Oxford location and celebrate Feminine Health with Dr. Powell and Dr. Lee of Comprehensive Women's Health," wrote event organizers. "Our expert staff and doctors will be on hand to



answer all of your questions about women's intimate health, safe and effective treatments for feminine issues and more!"

To find out more about the event visit [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). Comprehensive Women's Health is located at 1157 South Adams Road in Birmingham.

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# UK Designer Carmen Liu is Empowering Trans Women One Pair of Panties at a Time

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Picking out an outfit for the day can be a highlight, a dreaded ritual, or a dealt-with-and-forgotten routine. Whatever one's relationship with clothes, however, that morning decision is a necessity. And perhaps the last thing on anyone's mind when choosing their clothes for the day is the fit of their underwear — or at least that's what London-based clothing designer Carmen Liu felt should be the case.

She is the founder of the GI Collection, a first-of-its-kind line of lingerie for transgender women that ships around the world and is designed specifically to aid in the process of concealing one's genitals. As a transgender woman herself, she told BTL via phone that it was a priority to make the process as hassle-free and as stylish as possible.

"I mean, for me, it's just nice to wake up in the morning and just put them on; I don't have to think about anything anymore, you know? So, a lot of the time I wouldn't buy certain clothes because I'd be worried that maybe the tuck wouldn't hold in," she said. "Whereas now, I just wake up and put my underwear on and that's it."

## Creating the Perfect Design

But it wasn't always so simple. Before she created her own line of lingerie, Liu said she struggled for a long time with using solutions like gaff underwear that wasn't made out of

comfortable material and often made her self-conscious. It did, however, provide a great template for what not to do in her design.

"Wearing transgender gaff previously for just over two years, you sort of know what is wrong with it and what you would have to do to make it better," she said. "And because when you're wearing it and you can feel the pain and things like that, you start to think of, 'How would I improve it?' And, 'What needs changing to make it more comfortable and more sexy?'"

Eventually, those thoughts culminated into a full-time project that kicked off in July of 2018 when Liu decided to create a solution to the issue. She got the help of an investor, started creating drawings, buying fabric and testing out various shapes and designs she had from existing pairs of underwear that she already owned.

"We had around 20 different designs originally that we were testing with different fabrics, different widths, different stretches and things like this until we managed to get the final piece," she said.

Eventually, those designs resulted in a fully functional pair of panties that became the debut product for the GI Collection. And it was barely half a year before they debuted in a runway show and, subsequently, to the rest of the fashion world.

"So, it's a very quick turnaround from July to January for a brand-new product that is launching, and I was working very long hours at the beginning; some days it was like 20 hours a day."

But those long hours paid off, and now, just over a year since the company's official debut, GI Collection is rolling out new styles like the Girl Flower Collection, a "100 percent first in the world" underwear designed especially for transgender children and plans for a new panty design.

"There's a physics behind how our panties work and hold everything in and the new design isn't the same as these [original] panties, it's actually a different style," Liu said. "And it has in fact worked sooner than I thought it would, which I know will be [good] for a lot of the women, because a lot of the women have requested that. And we do have a new bra product releasing."

## A Necessity

For cisgender people, a lingerie brand like this one might seem unnecessary with the advent of medical procedures like the vaginoplasty and orchiectomy, but statistics tell a different story. In the National Center for Transgender Equality's 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey, of the more than 9,000 transgender

women surveyed only 10 percent had undergone a vaginoplasty and/or labiaplasty and 9 percent had an orchiectomy. Those low numbers reflect the fact that many transgender people have difficulties accessing general health care, let alone surgical procedures that may or may not be covered by various insurance plans.

Of the almost 28,000 transgender people surveyed in this study total, a quarter of respondents said that they had experienced a problem with their insurance relating directly to them being transgender, 55 percent had been denied coverage for transition-related surgery in the past year and one third reported a negative experience related to their gender identity at a health care provider.

This lack of access and other barriers, like the fact that one-third of respondents live in poverty, make products like Liu's a much more viable option for most transgender women who have not yet had bottom surgery or have chosen to forgo it altogether. Liu said that GI Collection gets messages daily from women who are able to use her products and feel more comfortable in their own skin.

"Two days ago a woman had said how much it's changed her life just having the lingerie," Liu told BTL. "So I know it's helping everyone and doing what I want it to do."

## Discreet Delivery and Other Services

Liu's company goes beyond making transgender-specific clothing. She said that they take extra steps to ensure that customers are fully satisfied with the labeling on their packages.

"For me, it was important that the name of the company didn't have the word 'trans' in it, because a lot of companies out there [do]," Liu said. "And, for me, I don't like that because, for example, when I go to my clinic here, it has the title 'trans' in it and in the taxi on the way back it'll say that on the [driver's] screen that that's where you're going."

That's where the "GI" in the name, which stands for "get it," was born.

"I did spend a very long time trying to get the correct name and I just thought it was important; the main reason for the company being created is so that women can get the things they want and the things they need," Liu said. "I do just want trans women like myself to get there and it doesn't matter if it's a job, just going out for dinner — anything they want, I want to make sure they can get it. That's the whole story behind me calling it GI. I just thought it was an empowering name."



UK Designer Carmen Liu

That concept of empowerment goes hand-in-hand with some of GI's other offerings, too. The business has provided a variety of workshops in the London area to help transgender women from around the country learn how to style their hair, makeup, nails and clothes.

"When you're transitioning you have so many things that you have to do and figure out living as the opposite gender. You've got to figure out how women's clothing works, how to do makeup, how to do hair, how to act as a woman and mannerisms, and then you have to figure out how you change your name, how to get onto hormones, how to get surgery and all these things," she said. "It was important to create these types of events where we could help other trans women with a few elements of their transition."

And for those not in the London area, GI offers their free Phone a Friend service that allows customers to reach out to staff and talk about anything on their mind "via phone, text, email, Skype or in person."

"Anything from celebrating getting your first job as your true self or how to change your gender on your legal documents. We must stress that this isn't counseling or any sort of therapy. We're not medical professionals," the website reads. "We just know that it's helpful to chat to someone that understands you on a regular basis. Even if you only chat to us once, we know it makes a huge difference to know that if you ever need someone to talk to, you can always talk to us."

Liu said that she's eager to share similar workshops and services with her American customers, too.

"I do love helping trans women with their journeys," Liu said. "And it's especially nice for me to hear from them because I've learned things from them, too, which helped me. It's nice to know that I'm not alone as well. I'd love to do it and I can't wait to get it to America."





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# Happenings



## TEGAN AND SARA AT ROYAL OAK MUSIC THEATRE

This fall, twin musicians Tegan and Sara are not only releasing their ninth studio album “HEY, I’M JUST LIKE YOU,” they’ll be releasing their memoir “HIGH SCHOOL.” The book will fill readers in on their teenage years growing up in the grunge and rave scenes of their native Calgary, Alberta, while the album will take inspiration from songs they wrote during that time in their lives. The duo is coming to the Royal Oak Music Theatre on Thursday, Oct. 17, at 7:30. Tickets start at \$45. Find out more online at [royaloakmusictheatre.com](http://royaloakmusictheatre.com).

## OUTINGS

### Friday, September 27

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

### Saturday, September 28

**Queer Conversations** 11 a.m. Saturday LGBT Chat is an on going social discussion group meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. Coming out, dating and much more. Come join us every Saturday at 11 a.m. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [redbellysenegal90@gmail.com](mailto:redbellysenegal90@gmail.com).

### Monday, September 30

**LGBT Game Night** 6 p.m. LGBT Game Night is 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. [redbellysenegal90@gmail.com](mailto:redbellysenegal90@gmail.com).

### 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. Come as you are! Thunderbowl Arena, 4200 Allen Road, Allen Park. 313-928-4688. [thunderbowl.org](http://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 St., Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327. [smt.d.umich.edu](http://smt.d.umich.edu).

### Sunday, October 6

**Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals** 5 p.m. There is no fee to attend the groups. For Parent Support Group information, contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St.,

Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

### Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups

– **Adrian-Lenawee County** 6:30 p.m. Free and open to the community. Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org). [hilltopcounseling.org](http://hilltopcounseling.org).

### Thursday, October 10

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County** 8 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend

this free group. Oakland United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Road, Farmington. 248-626-3620. [oaklandumc.org](http://oaklandumc.org). [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

### Friday, October 11

**Voices of Freedom Annual Gala** 6 p.m. MotorCity Casino Grand Ballroom, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 248-803-0645. [freedomhousedetroit.org](http://freedomhousedetroit.org).

### Freedom House’s Voices of Freedom

6 p.m. Freedom House celebrates 36 years at its Voice of Freedom reception.

MotorCity Casino Grand Ballroom, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 248-803-0645. [freedomhousedetroit.org](http://freedomhousedetroit.org).

### Sunday, October 13

**BTL’s Ultimate Wedding & Anniversary Expo** 12 p.m. Between The Lines once again presents the Ultimate Wedding & Anniversary Expo. This year, the annual event moves to The Henry in Dearborn. The Henry, Fairlane Plaza, 300 Town Center Dr., Dearborn. 313-441-2000.

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## Editor’s Pick

### BLACK GIRLS CODE DETROIT EVENT

Black Girls CODE Detroit is hosting a Learn to Code a Robot with SmartGurlz event on May 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Wayne State University. During this workshop participants will explore all coding fundamentals, learn why it’s important and jump into their own projects. Find out more on [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). The event is located at WSU’s State Hall at 5182 Cass Ave. in Detroit.



# Editor's Pick



## DONUT FEST DETROIT

Eastern Market Brewing Company is calling all donut fans with samples, beer, coffee and more at Donut Fest Detroit on Sunday, Oct. 6. Find out more about the event online at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). The Eastern Market Brewing Company is located at 2515 Riopelle St. in Detroit.

[ann@pridesource.com](mailto:ann@pridesource.com), [behenry.com](mailto:behenry.com),  
[MILGBTWedding.com](mailto:MILGBTWedding.com)

### Monday, October 14

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

### Wednesday, October 16

**Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County** 7:30 p.m. Free to all, group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Parent Support Group facilitators Karen Sessler, [kssessle@yahoo.com](mailto:kssessle@yahoo.com) or 734-673-3590 and Scott Sessler, [pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org](mailto:pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org) or 734-673-2485. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

**Isango Ensemble – The Magic Flute** 7:30 p.m. Isango Ensemble 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 St., Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327. [smt.umich.edu](http://smt.umich.edu).

### Friday, October 18

**Isango Ensemble – A Man of Good Hope** 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. Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327. <http://smt.umich.edu>.

### Saturday, October 19

**50 Years After Stonewall Symposium** 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](mailto:info@sagemetrodetroit.org), [facebook.com](https://facebook.com).

### Tuesday, October 22

**Strand with Trans Support Groups – Ann Arbor – Washtenaw** 7:30 p.m. Trans Support Group meeting the 4th Tuesday of each month. Journey of Faith Christian Church, 1900 Manchester Road, Ann Arbor. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

### Wednesday, October 23

**David Sedaris** 7:30 p.m. With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, David Sedaris has become one of America's preeminent humor writers. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. [broadwayindetroit.com](http://broadwayindetroit.com).

### Saturday, October 26

**Affirmations Fall Fling 2019** 7 p.m. Affirmations presents their annual fundraising event Fall Fling. Themed the Wizard of Wine Part, come enjoy food, drink, wine, entertainment and a 50/50 raffle. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org).

### Wednesday, October 30

**'A Fun Conversation With Jane Fonda & Lily Tomlin' Moderated by Mitch Albom** 7:30 p.m. Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda are stopping by the Fox Theatre to share their insights on life, politics, feminism, their friendship and much more. The event will be moderated by Mitch Albom. Tickets start at Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611. [gaybe.am/OT](http://gaybe.am/OT).

## MUSIC & MORE

**Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds** September 27, 8 p.m. All is new and everything is evolving this year for the infectious global groove group known as The Ragbirds. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 734-763-8587. [theark.org](http://theark.org).

**Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Souffle** September 27, 7 p.m. A world premier by David MacGregor and directed by Michelle Mountain, it's Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Souffle. Purple Rose Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. 734-433-7673. [purplerosetheatre.org](http://purplerosetheatre.org).

**Blithe Spirit** September 27, 7 p.m. Wayne State University presents Noel Coward's hauntingly hilarious comedy, Hillberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. [theatreanddanceatwayne.com](http://theatreanddanceatwayne.com).

**Come From Away** October 1, 8 p.m. 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. [broadwayindetroit.com](http://broadwayindetroit.com).

**Radney Foster & Kim Richey** October 3, 8 p.m. Kim co-wrote Radney Foster's #1 "Nobody Wins," and tonight she's featured

with Radney on a double bill! Radney has written seven number one hits in addition to "Nobody Wins." The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 734-763-TKTS. [theark.org](http://theark.org).

**Sara Bareilles** October 5, 8 p.m. Sara Bareilles is a Grammy, Tony and Emmy Award-nominated singer, songwriter, actress and author. On Saturday, Oct. 5, she'll be visiting Detroit's Fox Theatre with Emily King. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611. <http://gaybe.am/ls>.

**Dionne Warwick** October 6, 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, Oct. 6, Dionne Warwick will come to the Sound Board at MotorCity Casino Hotel. Find out more online at [gaybe.am/TM](http://gaybe.am/TM) Motor City Casino Sound Board, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 313-309-4700. [motorcitycasino.com](http://motorcitycasino.com).

**Robyn** October 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](http://templedetroit.com).

**Rent 20th Anniversary Tour** October 11, 8 p.m. 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.

**Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center** October 11, 8 p.m. This concert celebrates the intrepid American spirit by featuring two pairs of composers that shaped the course of American music. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. (734) 764-8572. [rackham.umich.edu](http://rackham.umich.edu). [ums.org](http://ums.org).

**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. [ums.org](http://ums.org).

**Dennis Matsev** October 18, 8 p.m. After his triumph at the 11th International Tchaikovsky Competition in 1998, Denis Matsev has become a virtuoso in the grandest of Russian pianistic traditions. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-3464. [ums.org](http://ums.org).

**Chick Corea Trilogy 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. 734-764-3464. [ums.org](http://ums.org).

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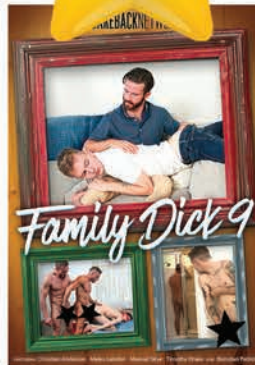


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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Jane Lynch and Cyndi Lauper really want a 'Golden Girls' reboot

You've seen "Shark Tank," so you know what a "pitch" is. No? OK, it's when you're a screenwriter and your agent gets you a meeting at a studio to tell somebody in a suit that you have an idea for a show and will they please give you money. It helps if you're already famous and successful, such as Jane Lynch, who just won an Emmy for her semi-recurring "guest star" role on "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." And backstage at those awards she spilled the beans on a project she's pitching around Hollywood with Cyndi Lauper for a sitcom that will be inspired by "The Golden Girls." Now, attention-paying readers will feel a sense of déjà vu over that one, and with good reason: everybody wants to do some kind of "Golden Girls"-inspired show; this idea keeps getting pitched and then sometimes even announced as green-lit. But so far none of them have really gotten off the ground. Will this one work? We hope. We love Lynch and Lauper and we really want to see them convince Madonna to join the cast. They could even let her direct sometimes. It's a good idea and you know it.

## Michael Urie and Becki Newton just wanna have 'Fun'

Did you see "Fun Home"? The stage musical based on Alison Bechdel's award-winning graphic novel about her childhood growing up in a funeral home was one of the most innovative and moving queer theater experiences of the past decade. And that's probably why the idea of a sitcom that has absolutely no connection to this material except for its setting and a somewhat appropriated title - in this case, simply "Fun" - seemed like such a cool idea to "2 Broke Girls" co-creator Michael Patrick King and his co-producers Tracy Poust and Jon Kinnally. They'll bring "Fun" to CBS with stars Michael Urie and Becki Newton, both so much fun themselves on "Ugly Betty," and reunited here as a brother and sister who manage their family's funeral home in Pennsylvania. It could be cute, and we'll probably give it a chance when it finally hits the small screen. But we'll always be wishing someone would break into "Ring of Keys."

## Dustin Lance Black: 'Mama's Boy'

Laurent Bouzereau, the director of Netflix's great Hollywood-meets-World War II documentary "Five Came Back," as well as



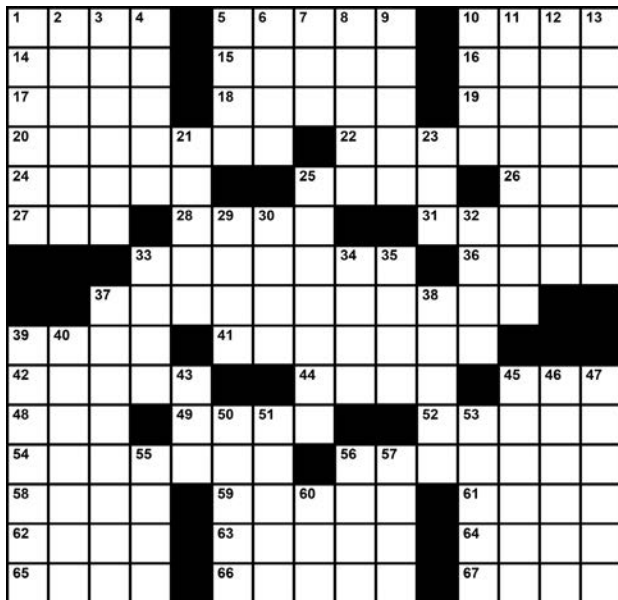
Cyndi Lauper. Photo: Debby Wong

of the upcoming HBO doc "Natalie Wood: What Remains Behind," has a new project. He'll be turning Dustin Lance Black's memoir, "Mama's Boy: A Story From Our Americas," into a feature-length documentary. It's Black's story, but very much centered on his relationship with his mother, who grew up disabled but possessed a steadfast optimism and strong will. Beyond that we don't know much, only that Black says that his relationship with her helped bridge unnamed political divides. If you can't wait for the doc, the book is out now so you can read all the film's spoilers - here's one: Black won an Academy Award for writing "Milk," so you could say his Mom raised a strong-willed person of her own - and if you can wait, then it's scheduled to arrive sometime in late 2020.

## 'Gay Chorus Deep South' joins hands with MTV

Coming soon this fall to an arthouse theater near you: "Gay Chorus Deep South," a moving documentary from filmmaker David Charles Rodrigues that's been rolling through the queer film festival circuit, and now picked up by distributor MTV Documentary Films. It's about the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and their 2016 tour of America's southern states, places where anti-queer discrimination still runs the gamut from polite disapproval to openly and murderously hostile, with more than enough Republican legislators trying to turn back the tide of progress for the LGBTQ community. On this journey the chorus was led by their director, Dr. Tim Seelig, and joined by the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, which made them nearly 300 strong as they sang their way through the Deep South in the middle of a rancorous election year. Obviously, you'll need some Kleenex when you go, and you might want to refresh your memory of the lyrics to "Into The Woods" "No One Is Alone" or "Wicked"'s "Defying Gravity," in case there's a sing-along screening.

Romeo San Vicente slays all Sondheim at Broadway karaoke.



## The Songs of the Gay 'A League of Their Own'

### QPuzzle

#### Across

- 1 Line in a Rita Mae Brown novel?
- 5 No longer jail bait
- 10 Straddling
- 14 Tow job
- 15 St. Teresa's town
- 16 Half of "Lois and Clark"
- 17 Where to find hot buns
- 18 Music genre of Roddy Bottum
- 19 Become frayed

- 20 "Hazy Shade of Winter" cover band, with "The" (from the gay "A League of Their Own")
- 22 "Like a Virgin" singer (from the gay "ALOTO")
- 24 Big name in China
- 25 "The Music Man" setting
- 26 Star's rep
- 27 Porking place?
- 28 Home st. of Maupin
- 31 Janis Joplin's Bobby
- 33 Most straight, at a bar?

- 36 Big name in oil
- 37 "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" singer (from the gay "ALOTO")
- 39 Some G.M. cars
- 41 W.H. Auden's wrench
- 42 Guys who use come-on lines
- 44 Not even once, to Dickinson
- 45 Physique, informally
- 48 Colette's Mrs.
- 49 Queen, to a dealer
- 52 "We'll see"
- 54 "Livin' on a Prayer" band (from the gay "ALOTO")
- 56 "Blackbird" band (from the gay "ALOTO")
- 58 "Tell me \_\_\_ haven't heard!"
- 59 Landau's "Ed Wood" award
- 61 Put on the staff
- 62 "Kinsey" title role portrayer Neeson
- 63 Michael of "Jeffrey"
- 64 \_\_\_ about (roughly)
- 65 Lesbian juggler Felder
- 66 Hisser shaped like a pisser
- 67 Put out

#### Down

- 1 Vehicles for exploring Uranus
- 2 Pianist Oscar
- 3 How many gay people live
- 4 South Pacific kingdom
- 5 Liberace fabric
- 6 Eater of forbidden fruit, and others
- 7 "Scram!" to Gomer
- 8 You must remember this
- 9 Bochco TV drama
- 10 Words used in setting the tempo
- 11 Justin Suarez of "Ugly Betty," for one
- 12 Juicy fruits
- 13 Jolly Roger fliers
- 21 Stuff in a closet
- 23 Dyke's latex
- 25 Wilde country
- 29 Assholes
- 30 What you can take from me
- 32 Mother of Chaz
- 33 NASDAQ rival
- 34 Not nutty as a fruitcake
- 35 Dancer Tommy
- 37 Have an orgasm in the vicinity of?
- 38 Frost starter
- 39 Frolics about the streets of Vegas?
- 40 Sculptor Lewis
- 43 USMC barracks boss
- 45 Name in the "Southern Voice"
- 46 The king of fairies
- 47 " \_\_\_ Hearts"
- 50 Admits openly
- 51 Out of bed
- 53 Threesome member for Dumas
- 55 Iwo \_\_\_
- 56 Tan at South Beach
- 57 Language of 25-Down
- 60 Org. in many spy movies

Find solution on page 26 and at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

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

## AIDS/HIV

There are dozens of AIDS/HIV organizations and resources listed at [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com). Here are just three of them:

### Metro Care Coordination Network

Free, comprehensive services for those living with HIV/AIDS.  
877-931-3248  
248-266-5545  
[Metrocarenetwork.org](http://Metrocarenetwork.org)

### UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond

3968 Mt. Elliott St.  
Detroit MI 48207-1841  
313-446-9800  
[www.miunified.org](http://www.miunified.org)  
Michigan HIV/STED Hotline  
800-872-2437

### Matrix MAC Health

429 Livernois St.  
Ferndale, MI 48220  
888-226-6366  
248-545-1435  
<http://www.matrixhumanservices.org/programs/matrix-mac-health/>

### Macomb County STD Clinic

27690 Van Dyke  
Warren, MI 48093  
586-465-8440  
<http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDSCounselingTesting>

### Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA)

196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.  
Pontiac, MI 48343  
248-209-2647  
[www.olhsa.org](http://www.olhsa.org)

### Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service (ACCESS)

Sterling Heights Center  
4301 East 14 Mile Rd.  
Sterling Hts., MI 48310  
586-722-6036  
[www.accesscommunity.org](http://www.accesscommunity.org)

## Advocacy

### Equality Michigan

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

## Campus

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

### U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center  
[Spectrumcenter@umich.edu](mailto:Spectrumcenter@umich.edu)  
<http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu>  
734-763-4186

### Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

[gsc@oakland.edu](mailto:gsc@oakland.edu)  
[www.oakland.edu/gsc](http://www.oakland.edu/gsc)  
248-370-4336

### Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center  
[emich.edu/lgbtrc](http://emich.edu/lgbtrc)  
734-487-4149

### The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

[ltu.edu/student\\_affairs/lgbt.asp](http://ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp)  
**Wayne State JIGSAW**  
[Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW)  
[wsujigsaw@gmail.com](mailto:wsujigsaw@gmail.com)

## Community Centers

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

### Jim Toy Community Center

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

### LGBT Detroit

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

### Affirmations

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

248-398-7105

## Legal

### American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project  
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI  
[www.aclumich.org](http://www.aclumich.org)  
313-578-6800

### Fair Michigan

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

### Know Your Rights Project

Outlaws U-M student group  
[outlawslegal@gmail.com](mailto:outlawslegal@gmail.com)  
734-995-9867

## Older Adults

### SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI  
313-578-6812  
[sagemetrodetroit.org](http://sagemetrodetroit.org)  
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

## Political

### The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

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

## Professional Groups

### Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 32446  
Detroit, MI 48232  
[detroitlgbtchamber.com](http://detroitlgbtchamber.com)  
1-800-DET-LGBT

### Ties Like Me

Professional networking events  
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.  
[TiesLikeMe.org](http://TiesLikeMe.org)  
Suits And The City  
Lansing, MI  
[suitsandthecity@gmail.com](mailto:suitsandthecity@gmail.com)  
[www.suitsandthecity.org](http://www.suitsandthecity.org)

## Transgender

### FtM Detroit

<https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/>  
[ftmdetroit@gmail.com](mailto:ftmdetroit@gmail.com).

## Get Listed, Promote Your Events

You can add or update any listing by going to [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com) and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information.

You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com) and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to [editor@pridesource.com](mailto:editor@pridesource.com)



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

### FtM A2 Ypsi

[ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com](mailto:ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/>

### Transgender Michigan

23211 Woodward Ave.  
Ferndale, MI  
[info@transgendermichigan.org](mailto:info@transgendermichigan.org)  
[www.transgendermichigan.org](http://www.transgendermichigan.org)  
800-842-2954

### Trans Sistas of Color Project

19641 W. 7 Mile Rd. in Detroit  
313-537-7000 Ext 107  
[info@tscopdetroit.org](mailto:info@tscopdetroit.org)  
[www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/](https://www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/)

## Youth

### Ruth Ellis Center

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

### Ozone House

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

### Stand With Trans

Farmington, MI  
[www.standwithtrans.org](http://www.standwithtrans.org)  
248-739-9254

## Find these resources online

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

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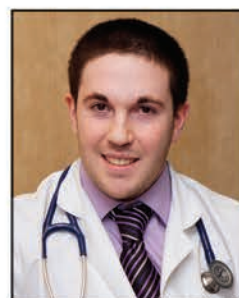
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