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# BTL's Expo to Showcase Metro Detroit Equality Vendors – and Cake!



BY JAN STEVENSON AND SUSAN HOROWITZ  
PUBLISHERS OF BTL

We are so excited to host the 9th Annual LGBTQ Wedding, Home and Life Expo this Sunday at The Henry, Dearborn's gorgeous hotel and event venue. It will be glamorous, delicious, fun, energetic and entertaining!

It is also important for each of us to meet these vendors who respect us in the LGBTQ community as customers and as full members of our collective society.

As we write this, Aimee Stephens' case is about to be argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. She was fired from a local funeral home after many years of service because she transitioned from male to female, her former employers saying that the funeral home's customers would be unable to deal with a transgender person. The court will decide if trans people are protected under the laws that make it illegal to discriminate on the basis of sex, but we as the collective

LGBTQ community can decide that we don't want to put up with anyone who would discriminate against one of our own. There are other funeral professionals such as Michigan Memorial who welcome us and deserve our business.

Cities, towns and states across the country are trying to enact legislation that allows people to protect their "religious freedoms" by allowing discrimination against and persecution of LGBTQ people, women, immigrants and other less empowered people. Of course we must fight these initiatives in the courts and at the ballot box, but we can stand up for ourselves with our pocketbooks now by supporting the equality-minded vendors who already stand with us against the tide of anti-LGBTQ-ism.

The Expo this Sunday will showcase over 80 vendors who are proactively coming out to meet with LGBTQ people and couples that need wedding services, home improvement, adoption support and a

myriad of other things. We as a community have the opportunity this Sunday to meet face-to-face with dozens of businesses that support us and will not discriminate against us – even if they are granted the legal right to do so.

The day kicks off at 11 a.m. with a pre-Expo complimentary continental breakfast provided by the catering department of The Henry – delicious! Eric Swanson of Broadway Brunch at Pronto! will serenade you as you nosh on the delectables! The Expo doors open at noon in the main Presidential Ballroom. It will be fun, joyous, musical – and there will be a lot of cake! (see page 19 for more details.)

So, we invite you to join us Sunday for a celebration and a huge thank you to businesses that support us. Perhaps now more than ever, it is important for our community to recognize and patronize those who value us. It will send a strong message to those who do not!

*We invite you to join us Sunday for a celebration and a huge thank you to businesses that support us. Perhaps now more than ever, it is important for our community to recognize and patronize those who value us. It will send a strong message to those who do not!*

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# Optimism for Pro-LGBTQ Supporters During Supreme Court Arguments

BY LISA KEEN

WASHINGTON — It was the second day of the court's 2019-20 session, and the two hours of arguments Tuesday, Oct. 8, were split between cases involving discrimination based on sexual orientation and discrimination based on transgender status. But very early on in the discussion around the sexual orientation cases, the justices veered off into territory involving bathrooms and locker rooms and even the court's own dress code.

"The arguments are very similar in both of the cases and the justices themselves seemed a little confused about which case they were discussing," said Jon Davidson, chief counsel at Freedom for All Americans and former legal director of Lambda Legal.

"They kept asking Pamela Karlan [the attorney representing two employees fired for being gay] about transgender people."

They did it so much, Karlan took the liberty of reminding the justices she was there to argue the sexual orientation issue.

But Justice Sonia Sotomayor pushed back, noting that the "big issue right now raging [in] the country is bathroom usage, same-sex bathroom usage."

Ultimately, over the course of the two hours, the justices seemed to meld the different issues, even though they will eventually address them in two different opinions.

The three cases before the court Tuesday are what most Supreme Court observers consider "the most-watched" cases of the session. Regardless of how the justices decide the cases, the consequences will almost certainly be profound for all LGBTQ people.

## Interpreting "Sex"

Only one law is at issue: Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. That section prohibits employers who have more than 15 employees from discriminating "because of sex." The question is how to interpret "sex." Does it encompass sexual orientation and transgender status or does it mean only male or female?

"When an employer fires a male employee for dating men but does not fire a female employee for dating men, he violates Title VII," Karlan said.

He does so, she said, because the employer "treats that man worse than women who do the same thing. And that discrimination is because of sex."

But attorneys on the other side of the issue, including Solicitor General Noel Francisco, said it's not. He argued that the employer who fires someone for being gay would do so regardless of whether that employee was a man or a woman. So it's not sex discrimination, it's sexual orientation discrimination. That's different, he said, and that was not on the minds



of members of Congress when they passed the Civil Rights Act in 1964.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg prompted Karlan to address that argument, noting that, in 1964, same-sex relations were a "criminal offense," that the American Psychiatric Association considered being gay a "mental illness."

"This court has recognized again and again forms of sex discrimination that were not in Congress's contemplation in 1964," responded Karlan. "In 1964, those were the days of 'Mad Men,'" referring to the popular television series about the marketing industry during the 1950s that prompted much discussion around sex-based expectations.

"Most courts didn't find sexual harassment to be actionable" in 1964, she said, until the Supreme Court eventually ruled that Title VII did include sexual harassment.

The two cases involving sexual orientation Tuesday included one from New York and the 2nd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and one from Georgia and the 11th Circuit. Both involved gay men who were fired after acknowledging they were gay. The 2nd Circuit, ruling in *Zarda v. Altitude Express, Inc.*, said the employer's firing of parachute instructor Donald Zarda for acknowledging he was gay did violate Title VII. But the 11th Circuit dismissed Gerald Bostock's lawsuit, *Bostock v. Clayton County*, saying the court was bound to conform to its ruling in an earlier case, a ruling that Title VII does not cover sexual orientation.

The third case, and the subject of the second hour of argument, is *R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes Inc. v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*. It marks the first time the U.S. Supreme Court has taken up the issue of whether a transgender person is protected by Title VII.

The Harris case, from Michigan and the 6th Circuit, involves a funeral director, Aimee Stephens, who presented for years as a man on the job because that was the gender assigned to her on her birth certificate. However, when she got the courage to live true to her gender identity as a woman and came out to her boss, she was fired. Stephens filed a complaint with

the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that ruled that Harris Funeral's action violated Title VII, and the 6th Circuit agreed.

## A First for the Supreme Court

In an opinion piece for *The Washington Post* Oct. 6, attorney Chase Strangio, who is part of Stephens' ACLU legal team, wrote that the Oct. 8 argument in the Harris case would be breaking new ground.

"Tuesday may feature the first time the word 'transgender' is spoken during oral arguments in the highest court in the United States. And when the justices look out from the bench and see my co-counsel and me at counsel table," he wrote, "it may be the first time they have looked at transgender attorneys defending our own existence before their powerful bench."

Interestingly, when ACLU attorney David Cole tried to make the court aware that transgender attorneys were in the courtroom, there was some resistance.

"I say that recognizing that transgender people have a right to exist in the workplace and not be turned away because of who they are does not end [with] dress codes or restrooms," Cole said. "There are transgender lawyers in this courtroom today, and the ..."

"Of course there are," interrupted Justice Neil Gorsuch. "That's not the question, Mr. Cole."

Gorsuch was trying to get Cole to address a specific concern, one voiced by a dissenting judge in the appeals court, that covering transgender status under Title VII would cause a "drastic change in this country," covering things such as bathrooms and dress codes.

"Nobody is questioning ... the legitimacy of the claims [made by the employee] and the importance of them," Gorsuch said. "The question is about judicial interpretation."

Cole said he was "not asking you to apply any meaning of sex other than the one that everybody agrees on as of 1964. ... We're not asking you to rewrite it."

"I agree with that," Gorsuch said. "The question is: When a case is really close, really close, on the textual evidence — and assume

for the moment I'm with you on the textual evidence — it's close, OK? ... At the end of the day, should [the court] take into consideration the massive social upheaval that would be entailed in such a decision and the possibility that Congress didn't think about it and that that is more appropriately a legislative rather than a judicial function?"

Cole said courts have already been venturing into these waters.

"Federal courts of appeals have been recognizing that discrimination against transgender people is sex discrimination for 20 years," he said. "There's been no upheaval."

"As I was saying, there are transgender male lawyers in this courtroom following the [Supreme Court's] male dress code and going to the men's room. And the Court's dress code and sex-segregated restrooms have not fallen. So the notion that this is going to be a huge upheaval," said Cole, "we haven't seen that upheaval for 20 years."

## Optimism Awaits a Decision

Davidson said he found the exchange between Gorsuch and Cole reason for optimism.

"Gorsuch, who could also be the deciding vote here, seemed to say the employees had the better sense of the literal argument — is this because of sex," Davidson said.

And Gorsuch's concern about "massive social upheaval" has a "very easy answer."

"If Congress doesn't like how the court resolves this, Congress can always amend the statute," Davidson said.

"To the extent all these concerns were raised about the bathrooms and the locker rooms and women's sports and dress codes," Davidson said, "Congress could always amend the statute ... and say what they think the rules should be about each of those things and about religious exemptions."

"So, the only question here is: Is it discrimination because of sex to fire someone because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender?" Davidson asked. "We seemed to have a majority that agreed that it is, but some of them were troubled about what that would mean."

It typically takes several months for the Supreme Court to issue an opinion, once a case is argued. Even more typically, with LGBTQ-related matters, the court tends to issue its opinions in late June.

Only 21 states prohibit discrimination in employment based on sexual orientation and transgender identity. Legislation has been pending in Congress for more than four decades, attempting to establish protections nationwide; but, the legislation, which has taken on different forms, has not cleared Congress.





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# 50 Years After Stonewall SAGE Symposium Oct. 19

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

*“We have seen significant cultural change in the past 50 years, particularly for LGB people, which has prompted more support for equal rights in marriage, employment, housing, health care and beyond — if not federally, then at least in a number of states. However, our community still faces significant violence and unequal treatment under the law.”*

- SAGE Metro Detroit Executive Director Angie Perone

The Metro Detroit branch of elder advocacy group Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders, or SAGE as it's better-known, is taking a look back at history. Specifically, it will be hosting a symposium titled 50 Years After Stonewall on Saturday, Oct. 19, to examine how far the LGBTQ community has come since Stonewall and how far it still has to go.

“We have seen significant cultural change in the past 50 years, particularly for LGB people, which has prompted more support for equal rights in marriage, employment, housing, health care and beyond — if not federally, then at least in a number of states,” said SAGE Metro Detroit Executive Director Angie Perone. “However, our community still faces significant violence and unequal treatment under the law, particularly when it comes to gender expression and gender identity, as evidenced by the recent Supreme Court cases argued on Oct. 8. And the increasing violence and harassment toward our transgender community.

“Intersecting issues of racism compound these issues for transgender people of color,” Perone continued. “The Stonewall Rebellion/Riots, and many other similar riots like the Compton's Cafeteria Riot in San Francisco,

were sparked predominantly by transgender community members of color — those who experienced deep marginalization from nearly every sector of life. Yet this community still experiences some of the most vicious attacks from our government and the general public. While we have made significant strides in the past 50 years, we certainly have more to accomplish on our road to full civil rights.”

Beyond the overview of rights violations in the past, SAGE's symposium will also take a look at the needs at what SAGE calls the Stonewall Generation.

“The Stonewall Generation, also called the Pride Generation, refers to the LGBT baby boomers who came of age during the Stonewall Rebellion,” explained Perone. “LGBT people were more visible in the United States. They saw the beginning of decriminalization of homosexuality and the passage of landmark legislation like the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act.”

Before the Stonewall Generation, Perone said, came the Invisible Generation, those that came of age during the Great Depression and World War II, when LGBTQ people were rarely discussed or incorporated into public discourse, and the Silent Generation, those that came of age during McCarthyism and the Lavender Scare, when LGBTQ people were

considered a threat to national security and heavily medicalized and criminalized.

“Likely touching on those generations will be historian Tim Retzlaff, who will provide a local historical perspective on what was happening in Detroit at the same time the Stonewall Riots were happening in New York,” she said.

“Then our plenary speaker Dr. Cassandra Cantave will present research from AARP's Maintaining Dignity Report on some of the largest issues recently identified by LGBT older adults,” Perone said. “Our final panel discussion will pull everything together with a multigenerational discussion about how we can move forward and create a vision for the future. Our goal is to bring diverse groups together for conversation, reflection and connection — specifically as we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Stonewall.”

*The symposium will take place at Wayne State University's Eugene Applebaum School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Building from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It is located at 259 Mack Ave. in Detroit. Those interested in attending the symposium can visit [sagemetrodetroit.org](http://sagemetrodetroit.org) for more information. The event is co-sponsored by AARP. To register visit [aarp.cvent.com/Stonewall50](http://aarp.cvent.com/Stonewall50).*

# The ICON Detroit Leather Weekend Begins Oct. 18

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The ICON Detroit Leather Weekend is a celebration of leather culture and history in the Detroit community and it's back for a fifth installment next week. Three nights of events begin on Friday, Oct. 18, at Menjos nightclub for a meet-and-greet. On Saturday the fun continues with the Mr. ICON Detroit Leather 2020 contest at the Marble Bar. The weekend concludes on Sunday afternoon with a pig tea at the Hayloft Saloon.

The ICON Detroit Leather Club has been around for 26 years and throughout that time has hosted dozens of events to raise money for LGBT and HIV/AIDS causes. To date, ICON Detroit has raised over \$63,000 for agencies such as the Ruth Ellis Center, the Triangle Foundation, Wellness House of Michigan and many others.

Throughout the years, membership in ICON Detroit has fluctuated.

“Six years ago ICON Detroit consisted of six hardworking members, with four being past title holders, three of whom competed



at the International Mr. Leather contest held each year at the end of May in Chicago,” said Steve Teets, a member of ICON Detroit. “We discussed how there used to be so many more contestants from the leather bars and clubs from the Detroit area at IML. We wanted to make Detroit a city that was announced on stage at IML again.”

So, ICON Detroit created the Mr. ICON Detroit Leather contest. The first contest took

place in 2015 and Jason Black took home the title. Tom Batemen is Mr. ICON Detroit Leather 2019 and he will hand over the title to the new winner at Saturday's contest. The winner will be named Mr. ICON Detroit Leather 2020 to represent the year they will compete at IML.

Speaking of titles, Teets was Mr. Michigan Leather 2013. He joined ICON Detroit shortly after being awarded the title.

“I became a full member in April 2013,” Teets

recalled “We were very busy traveling the state doing fundraising events to help local charities and organizations in each city. We have always been very community-minded and service-oriented and want to make a difference in the communities in which we live, work and play.”

After becoming a full member, Teets became the group's pledgemaster.

“I will talk to anyone, so the position was a good fit,” he said. “During my years as pledgemaster we helped the club grow to 13 members.”

*Teets encourages anyone interested in joining the club to speak to a member during any of the weekend's events. A pass for all three events is \$25 or tickets may be purchased to individual events. At Friday's meet-and-greet, all the contestants and judges for the contest will be in attendance. At the contest Saturday, there will be an auction consisting of gift baskets as well as some custom Mr. Friendly leather clothing. Sunday's pig tea is a luncheon event. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit [idlweekend.com](http://idlweekend.com).*





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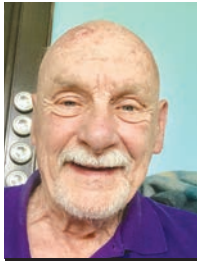
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## Mason/Dixon Cross Dressers

# Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Footnoted in the pages of Civil War history is the intriguing story of a “Mrs. Nash.” First name unrecorded. She’s listed in 1878 U.S. Army military records to have had “a succession of soldier-husbands” (a not unenviable achievement, then as now, I reckon).

Her last, a naive corporal in General George Armstrong Custer’s ill-fated Seventh Cavalry, blew his brains out when his “Mrs,” so-called, upped and died unexpectedly. Undertakers told hubby she was actually a he.

Another deceiving duo got moonshine drunk one night and tumbled amorously interlocked into a nearby river. They almost drowned. Resuscitated by their Army counterparts, it soon became obvious to all concerned that there was something amiss both above and below their conjoined Mason-Dixon line.

A chance happening also exposed two other unknown Civil War Pvt.s with unknown privates of their own. They may likely have been the first dykes in American wartime service. If so, they started a long and time-honored tradition. These bivouac butches get passing mention in Union General Philip Sheridan’s memoirs: “An intimacy had sprung up between them,” he comments succinctly, describing one as “masculine,” the other as “prepossessing”.

Of the thousands of brave women who served as nurses (including Florence Nightingale), some 400 “others” – Northerners, Southerners, free, slave, citizen – also served as combatants or spies. They close-cropped their hair, pledged honest loyalty to serve – no physical required – polished their rifles not their nails, learned to “chaw tuhbacie,” fought like hell, and died in fields where blood ran so deeply and so richly red.

Two well-known cross dressers did received high honors for valor: Dr. Mary Walker, and Flint Michigan’s neglected hero(ine), Sarah Emma Edmonds, aka Frank Thompson. Dr. Walker, a surgeon, lived in drag most of her long life, and spent four months butchly undetected in a Confederate prison. She received a Medal of Honor from President Andrew Johnson.

Once Sarah Emma Edmonds (later Mrs. Seelye) proved – 19 years after the Civil War ended – that she was Pvt. Thompson, she was granted a Congressional Honorable Discharge and a handsome \$12 monthly pension. She became the only female veteran of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Edmonds was born in Canada, fled a brutal father at 19, rafted the Windsor border to settle in Flint. When a call for 2nd Michigan Volunteer enlistment came, she decided to cross dress. She passed muster after four tries and became a male nurse, then a spy (once shadowing General Robert E. Lee).

Pvt. “Frank” spied as “Cuff,” a black man. Silver nitrate darkened her skin. When an observant slave noticed she seemed to be getting lighter, Cuff quipped, “I always suspected I had a white mother.”

Other disguises were Irish peddler Bridget O’Shea and cook Aunt Sunny. It was all very Victor/Victoria, Civil War style. Unfortunately, “Frank” contracted malaria. Fearing army hospital detection, she went AWOL. Sarah Emma Edmonds (Seelye) died in Texas in 1897.

She was Michigan’ first drag king; and, with two years of distinguished Army service, a damn fine soldier to boot.

*This first appeared in BTL in Sept. 2012*



## The Key to a Wild and Precious Life –

BY MICHELLE E. BROWN

It starts as a thread. Some little tidbit of information dangling out there that captures my attention. A conversation, a news article, radio interview, yes, even Facebook posts and the dance begins.

I reach out and, remarkably, the answer is not only yes but often has led to the next conversation.

That was the case with Judith Kasen-Windsor that ultimately led me to talk about Edie.

“Hello Judith, I host a weekly blog radio podcast. I recently interviewed Walter Naegle (partner of Bayard Rustin) who shared how he is preserving Bayard’s legacy not just in papers but by activities he gets involved with that continue Bayard’s work. I was wondering if you would consider being a guest to talk about Edie?”

Edie Windsor had married Judith in September of 2016 and I saw a similar theme in their stories.

And she said “Yes!” Not just yes but that she said that she “would be happy and honored to share Edie’s story.”

That was in July 2019. We planned to do the interview to coincide with the release of Edie’s memoir in October. We corresponded all summer and once the press began about “A Wild and Precious Life” we started looking for dates.

We had a weekend in September planned but life happened. Judith was involved in a project and I was on baby watch awaiting the birth of my first grandchild. I called and it went

to voice mail. The next morning, I reached out again by text.

“Judith, my beautiful granddaughter arrived at 6:25 p.m. I hope your day is going great. Let me know when we might talk this week.”

She replied, “Mazel! I have time for a call right now to schedule the interview.”

As it turns out, she was in their apartment, boxing up Edie’s papers, books and other things to go to New York University to be archived.

There was just something in her voice. We talked for about an hour about the apartment, Edie’s things and how, although sending the boxes to NYU was what Edie wanted, their absence left a hole in her heart.

She arranged for me to receive an advance copy of “A Wild and Precious Life” and we made a date to talk after I had read it.

I read a lot of books, especially when preparing for interviews. I read them quickly and then go back sometimes and revisit. I was ready to speed through “A Wild and Precious Life” but Edie wasn’t having it.

I felt her stretch out her hand and say, “Tell me your name. I’m Edie Windsor.” (I learned this was Edie’s line, before Thea, when meeting a new woman.)

Edie worked on the book with Joshua Lyon until her death. He finished the book using the hundreds of files Edie left behind that included files on all her family members, letters,

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



## ► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 12



photographs, musings and detailed day calendars dating back to 1953 among other things. This allowed him to trace every move of her life and provide details to bring the story to life, but the meat of the book was all Edie.

And she told her story from childhood to the end, “warts and all,” as only she could tell. It wasn’t like reading her diary rather than having Edie tell you her story herself.

The challenges her family faced just trying to make it, summer jobs in Atlantic City, dealing with anti-Semitism, seeing neighborhood friends go to war and some not returning.

She was brilliant. Skipping grades in elementary school, graduating early. She loved math receiving her master’s degree in mathematics from NYU in 1957 and broke ground at IBM at a time when women in tech were even rarer than today. Edie was there doing it!

She talks also about her emerging awareness of her sexuality and living in the closet, about taking the then perilous and risky steps to live authentically including life in New York City before Stonewall — the bars, the parties, the hookups. There were women, oh were there ever women! She was quite the heartbreaker.

And then there was Thea Spyer. Their relationship began in 1963 and lasted until Spyer’s death in 2009, A love that would change the trajectory of Edie’s life forever and ultimately the lives of LGBTQ couples thanks to the “United States v.

Windsor” decision.

I took Edie to lunch, read her words over dinner. We snuggled on the couch, and yes, I took Edie to bed reading before I went to sleep and picking up her book in the morning.

I laughed, I cried and I recognized what really mattered most in her life was LOVE! Her love of life, love of community, love of justice and, most of all, Thea. And how it allowed her to open her heart after Thea’s death to the LGBTQ community and love again!

So real, so touching. I felt Edie. I thought about her life her times and reflected on mine. She’s no longer just a figure in LGBTQ history, a Supreme Court decision, hers truly was a wild and precious life

I contacted Judith when I finished the book and joking told her, “I think I’m in love with Edie.”

She replied, “I warned you, her book really shows who she was. The people in NYC who knew her really feel it. For those who didn’t know Edie, now they do. Welcome to my world, I can’t

stand when people ask me how long we were together I tell them FOREVER (remember, longevity is not an indicator of intensity). She had that special gift, love!”

Preserving Edie’s legacy keeps Judith going these days. Since Edie’s death, Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders, or SAGE, named their drop-in center for Edie Windsor; a cultural medallion from New York’s Historic Preservation Center has been placed on her residence; her hometown Philadelphia named a street “Edie Windsor Way;” and The South Hampton hospital not only named their HIV/AIDS center after her but they plan to expand to two more locations that will also provide services related to women’s health and LGBTQ elders.

This will certainly not be the last book about Edie Windsor. She may be gone but her memory and influence on the lives of many especially within the LGBTQ community continues, reminding us to live, love and carry on our own wild and precious lives.

*Michelle E. Brown is a public speaker, activist and author. Her blog radio podcast “Collections By Michelle Brown” airs every Thursday at 7 p.m. Her interview with Judith Kasen-Windsor will air this mont. Current and archived episodes can be heard on Blog Talk Radio, iTunes, Stitcher or SoundCloud. Follow her on Facebook at facebook.com/CollectionsByMichelleBrown/.*

## Creep Of The Week

### Pat Robertson

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

**OK, OK, OK. Now, I’m no foreign policy expert (and, not incidentally, neither is Trump), but LOSING THE MANDATE OF HEAVEN? Uh, this means that up until this point Robertson believed that Trump HAD the mandate from Heaven.**

I also thought Pat Robertson had died. Or, I should clarify: I think of him as dead, as in dead to me, because he is a hateful bigot and is one of the grossest examples of performative Christianity.

So whenever Robertson is in the news I always think, “Jesus Christ, this guy again? Didn’t he die?”

Alas, he lives and hates. Let’s see, who is he mad at today? Oh, will you look at that. He’s mad at Donald Trump.

Whatever could have Trump done to anger Robertson? Well, Trump declared that we’re going to pull U.S. troops out of northern Syria, basically leaving the Kurds, who’ve been fighting against ISIS with us, to be obliterated by Turkish troops.

In other words, we told the Kurds, “Hey, help us. We’ve got your back.” And now Trump has basically told them to F off and die.

“Ladies and gentlemen I want to say, right now, I am absolutely appalled that the United States is going to betray those Democratic forces in Northern Syria, that we possibly are going to allow the Turkish to come in against the Kurds,” Robertson said on The 700 Club.

You hear that? Robertson is APPALLED. That’s pretty strong language.

“[He] is a thug. He has taken control of his country like a dictator,” Robertson continued. “He is in for himself!”

And while you might think that Robertson was talking about Trump, because Trump is definitely a thuggish dictator in for only himself, Robertson was actually talking about Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who he says is no ally of the U.S.

Oh, but now he definitely IS talking about Trump: “And the president who allowed Khashoggi to be cut in pieces without any repercussions whatsoever is now allowing the Christians and the Kurds to be massacred by the Turks.”

ICYMI: Jamal Khashoggi was an activist and Washington Post writer who was murdered by agents of the Saudi Arabian government. They legit cut his body into pieces with a bone saw and Trump’s response to this horror was to basically shrug. Because he is terrible at his job and at being a human.

So yeah, Robertson’s mad. But just look HOW mad: “I believe, and I want to say this with great solemnity,” he said. “The President of the United States is in danger of losing the mandate of Heaven if he permits this to happen.”

OK, OK, OK. Now, I’m no foreign policy expert (and, not incidentally, neither is Trump), but LOSING THE MANDATE OF HEAVEN? Uh, this means that up until this point Robertson believed that Trump HAD the mandate from

Heaven. That Trump was Heaven-sent. A gift from God, if you will. But I won’t. Not for a second.

Watching right-wing evangelicals hold up Trump as God’s gift to America has been one of the most disgusting things I’ve ever witnessed and is peak performative Christianity. It’s all a goddamn show. It’s been clear to me for years that these so-called Christians value their religion so long as it gives them the power to hurt the people they don’t approve of, like LGBTQ people and women seeking abortions, for example. And man, if the Trump presidency isn’t exposing these folks for the heartless, power-hungry cretins they are.

Robertson isn’t the only person mad at Trump over Syria. Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC). You know, the guy who tweeted on May 3, 2016, “If we nominate Trump, we will get destroyed..... and we will deserve it.”

He’s not happy with Trump, but Graham’s Twitter feed mostly reads as “Trump is my friend and he likes me” fan fiction, so who cares what Graham thinks.

Especially when you consider how Trump clearly sees himself as a God, a delusion that his sycophant supporters no doubt fuel. In response to criticism Trump tweeted, “As I have stated strongly before, and just to reiterate, if Turkey does anything that I, in my great and unmatched wisdom, consider to be off limits, I will totally destroy and obliterate the Economy of Turkey.”

In MY GREAT AND UNMATCHED WISDOM? What in the holy hell? I thought Christians were supposed to, like, turn to God or hit up Jesus for wisdom, or at least pretend they don’t think they themselves are the end all and be all of knowledge?

Then again, if you have Christian luminaries like Robertson declaring that you have the “mandate of Heaven” all while facing absolutely no consequences for anything you do, well, who could really blame you? Except for literally the majority of the world.



# Pope Francis Meets With Pro-LGBTQ Priest

BY LOU CHIBBARO JR.

A decision by Pope Francis to host a private meeting at the Vatican on Monday with an American Catholic priest who has been an outspoken advocate for the church to embrace LGBTQ Catholics is being viewed as yet another signal that Francis may be leaning toward changing the church's long-held position of condemning homosexuality.

Francis' meeting with Father James Martin, author of the book "Building a Bridge: How the Catholic Church and The LGBTQ Community Can Enter into a Relationship of Respect, Compassion, and Sensitivity," came one week after three prominent U.S. bishops criticized Martin for his LGBTQ advocacy efforts.

Among the critics was Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia, who wrote a commentary suggesting Martin's ministry to the LGBTQ community presented "ambiguities" in church teachings.

"This meeting with the pope refutes the unjustified barrage of criticism he has received from a minority of church leaders and other anti-LGBTQ sectors of the church," said Francis DeBernardo, executive director of the LGBTQ-supportive Catholic group New Ways Ministries.

"Even more so, it recognizes that Fr. Martin's approach to LGBTQ pastoral ministry, already praised by bishops, archbishops and cardinals, has won the approval of the highest levels of the church," said DeBernardo in a statement. "It is a clear signal that Pope Francis is calling the church to conversion



Is Pope Francis leaning toward changing the church's long-held position of condemning homosexuality? (Photo by Zebra48bo via Wikimedia Commons)



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away from the negative messages it has sent in the past about LGBTQ people."

Added DeBernardo: "It is a day of celebration for LGBTQ Catholics who have longed for an outstretched hand of welcome from the church that they love."

DeBernardo noted that while Francis's meeting this week with Fr. Martin is another in a long list of LGBTQ-supportive public statements and gestures since becoming pope in 2015, Francis has yet to issue an official doctrinal statement calling for changing the church's teachings condemning homosexuality.

In fact, according to DeBernardo, the one official statement Francis has made on LGBTQ matters reaffirmed the church's opposition to same-sex unions and adoptions by same-sex couples.

Nevertheless, DeBernardo and LGBTQ Catholic activists point out that Francis' outspoken expressions of support for LGBTQ people to be welcomed by the church have been unprecedented and are viewed by some church observers as a possible first step toward changing official church doctrine on homosexuality.

"This is the enigma maybe of Pope Francis," DeBernardo told the Blade on Monday. "It's that he has not supported same-sex unions. He's come out against them in many ways. But he strongly signals and supports LGBTQ inclusion in the pastoral life of the church. Now that might not seem significant and it certainly isn't the ideal that we would hope and would like."

"But it is a step that the church takes on its way to changes. Often the change happens first in pastoral practice and that after a period of indeterminate time the effects of that pastoral practice often call for a change in church teaching and will bring about a change in the church teaching."

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





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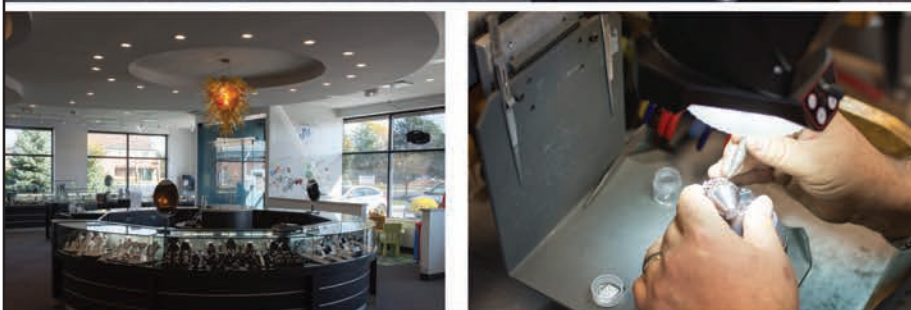
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# Stonewall 50 Finally Gets Our History Right

BY MARK SEGAL

Something very strange happened during June's celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. The LGBTQ community, especially those of us from Gay Liberation Front in New York realized how the history we created from 1969 to 1971 was being distorted by those who had recorded it. Even LGBTQ organizations, whose mission is to give resources and information to media, fell short and had to be corrected by the mainstream media it was supposed to assist.

On an anniversary of this scope, communities begin to both look back at their history and think critically about where they are at present. Right now, our community is struggling with issues of privilege and identity, specifically white male privilege and class-based identity. It's often been said that history is written by the powerful, and that sometimes those in power embellish or minimize historical facts, or they distort history to purposely maintain a misinterpretation.

Stonewall was and remains the starting point of a contemporary LGBTQ movement for equality. Stonewall is our 1776. There were other demonstrations and disturbances before Stonewall, like the Compton's Cafeteria Riot in San Francisco in 1965, a sit-in at Dewey's restaurant in Philadelphia, even organized demonstrations, but none of them created a sustainable inclusive movement. They all failed to gain momentum. The most famous of them were the marches every July 4th at Independence Hall in Philadelphia from 1965 to 1969, which some historians mistakenly connect to Stonewall and the first Gay Pride March in 1970.

## The Start of a Movement

Stonewall and the year that followed up to the first gay Pride, then called Christopher Street Gay Liberation Day, changed everything and everyone in the LGBTQ community. It was not simply a revolt against mainstream society but also against an LGBTQ leadership that was tone-deaf to the counter-cultural and political atmosphere of the 1960s. The marches in Philadelphia were the prime example of that deafness. Those of us from Stonewall and Gay Liberation Front were rebelling not only against mainstream society but those people who marched in Philadelphia because we felt they had all lost touch with our community. A similar occurrence had happened in the black community in the late '60s as well. More radical organizations wanted a new approach to the civil rights movement. They thought of Martin Luther King Jr. as a throwback, and as detailed in "Death of a King" by Tavis Smiley, it made his last year on earth a sad one.

Historians who do not make the point that Stonewall was a rebellion against the prim



A Gay Liberation Front meeting.

and proper LGBTQ movement to that point in time are committing a serious distortion of our history. In doing so they skip what was most likely the most pivotal year of change in our community. They minimize what was the Mount Vesuvius of change in LGBTQ History: the radicalization of the LGBTQ movement.

Stonewall did not happen in isolation. The country was ripe with change, especially among LGBTQ youth that found itself left completely out due a lack of leadership among the existing organizations — the same organizations which created those Philadelphia marches that looked more like 1950s black and white television America than anti-war, radical 1969 America. Stonewall gave LGBTQ youth a voice. Gay Liberation Front, born from the ashes of Stonewall, gave the movement organization in the form of radicalism.

While the old leadership wanted to portray the community as women in dresses and men in suits and ties, those at Stonewall and the founders of Gay Liberation Front dressed in jeans and T-shirts, and in drag or what soon would be considered "gender fuck." While the old leadership disdained any public association with trans people, Gay Liberation Front welcomed them as it did youth and people of color. While those at the Philadelphia marches wanted to fit in with middle class America, those in Gay Liberation Front wanted to work alongside other marginalized groups fighting for social justice. While those at the Philadelphia marches were polite, those in Gay Liberation front were out, loud and in-your-face. The two groups could not have been more different.

## The First Gay Pride

The first gay Pride was literally and

figuratively a break from those Philadelphia marches. It was a celebration of what we had created from the riots one year before. To be very clear: historians have attempted to group those Philadelphia marches with Stonewall and the first gay Pride, and that is an absolute misrepresentation of history. That first gay Pride, created by Craig Rodwell and Ellen Broidy, was about what we of Gay Liberation Front created from the ashes of Stonewall.

And that first year, create we did. The first Gay Youth organization, GYNY, the first trans organization, STAR, the first LGBTQ Community Center, on west 3rd Street, the first demonstrations against media and police, and a continual public presence as we took back our streets. We appeared on TV and spoke on radio and Gay Youth even spoke in High Schools. We attended anti-war marches and leafleted almost every night. We held public meetings. And we held dances in a time when it was illegal to do so, and we advertised them to show our resistance and to dare the police, the politicians and organized crime to stop us. This was not simply a movement; it was an entire community being created. And that is what we celebrated on that first anniversary: resistance and building community where there was none before. While those people who marched in Philadelphia were brave to do so, they failed in creating a movement, an identity or an inclusive community. Gay liberation Front did.

Even though we didn't know it at the time, Stonewall was the start of Gay Liberation Front. The people who wrote on the streets and walls that first night, the people who created the second, third and fourth nights, were the founders of Gay Liberation Front. The people who spoke from the steps of Stonewall were the founders of Gay Liberation Front. The people who did the leafleting and that first

march 3 weeks later were the founders of Gay Liberation Front.

Stonewall was not one night, or two or six. Stonewall was one year, a year of building a community and a sustainable movement. There were people at Stonewall who passed by, people who craned their necks from around the corner watching, people who tossed a stone and ran since the police chased people up and down the street, but the spirit of resistance that gave birth to the new movement was all Gay Liberation front. We didn't leave Stonewall after one night.

## Organizing Change

It's often stated that we were so radical that we were dysfunctional. That statement couldn't be more true. Gay Liberation Front had no permanent chairperson. A stick was tossed at the beginning of the meeting and whoever caught it was the chair. We had no Robert's Rules of Order and no officers. Everything had to be decided by consensus, and we debated every issue passionately in order to define ourselves because we refused to allow society to define us any longer. We debated everything, including masculinity and white privilege — though that wasn't the term used at the time. We fought hard amongst ourselves. We even took in stride the ever present shadow of the FBI and NYPD undercover agents. You often heard one member say to another, "Speak into the coffee can," since we knew we were bugged or had informants, and it turns out we were correct.

So who threw that first brick at Stonewall? The idea that whoever threw the first brick started the movement is a strong one, and if that is the criteria, then the person who threw the first brick was a trans person at the Compton's Cafeteria Riot in San Francisco. In the case of Stonewall, popular culture wants to believe it was either Sylvia Rivera or Marsha P. Johnson throwing the brick. Marsha has stated on the record that she didn't arrive until 2 a.m.; long after the rioting had started. Sylvia has also jokingly said, "Maybe I threw the second brick."

But what people don't realize is that Sylvia and Marsha did something much more important than simply toss a brick and be part of a crowd in a riot. They created a sustainable organization where there had been none before, the worlds first trans organization, Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries, which was a committee of Gay Liberation Front, formed during the GLF occupation of NYU's Weinstein Hall. It was Gay Liberation Front's LGBTQ Community Center that became STAR's first home for homeless trans people. And Marsha and Sylvia did it without public funds, training or programs. They created Star House, funded by contributions from GLF and GY, and with GLF members doing carpentry and electric work to make their new home habitable. In doing so, GLF began to create and shape a community that would offer resources for its



most disenfranchised.

There was no segment of society that didn't feel GLF's presence that first year after Stonewall. With demonstrations, disruptions and sit-ins, we fought back against media silence, police oppression and the disdain of universities. We did so by creating a grassroots inclusive and community-wide campaign. We would no longer accept a segregated or isolated movement, so we joined forces and marched to free Angela Davis, a black activist, we marched with the Young Lords, who fought against oppression of the Latino community, and the women of Gay Liberation Front were major voices in the women's movement. We made sure to speak to the straight community as often as we could, and allied with as many who would have us. One of my fondest memories as a member of Gay Youth was going to speak at Oceanside Senior High School with Tony Russomanno and Doug Carver. The school newspaper, The Spider Press (a copy of which is now among the Smithsonian's papers) wrote the front page headline: "Gay Activist Lecture: They are not Neurotic."

## Challenging Tradition

In 1970, the people who had marched in Philadelphia from 1965 to 1969 wanted to do the same old thing again. But those of us in New York wanted no part of it. We didn't want the status quo. We wanted to resist the status quo, and that is what we marched for. This was a gay liberation march, not a plea for acceptance. The title said it all: "Christopher Street Gay Liberation Day March." That proposal was presented by Ellen Broidy a member of Gay Liberation Front along with Craig Rodwell and Fred Sargeant. Gay Pride was born.

With the close of that first year between Stonewall and CSGLD, there was now a community in place. And it wasn't just in New York. Chapters of the Gay Liberation Front popped up in most major cities, as did Gay Youth organizations. In Los Angeles they created a west coast version of the CSGLD march committee, and as far as London the new movement was felt. That break from those Philadelphia marches was now complete and a new movement had been born. From less than 100 marching in Philadelphia in 1969, Gay Liberation Front had inspired a national movement now in the tens of thousands across the country in just one year.

During the life of Gay Liberation Front, we fought the former leadership of our community. The closeted LGBTQ middle class wanted nothing to do with us since our motto, as the famous poster stated, was "COME OUT." At that time, 99 percent of our community was not ready to come out. We were. But we had our disagreements. Infighting in the organization caused a split and created Gay Activists Alliance, which became popular with historians since it went back to those respectable-looking homosexuals that they preferred to represent our community and

who were overwhelmingly white men. They didn't want those of us in Gay Liberation Front who were in drag, youth, street kids and every shade of radicalism. Want to see the difference between Gay Liberation Front and Gay Activists Alliance? Simply Google a photo of Gay Activist Alliance meetings and note the ocean of cisgender white men. Sadly, Gay Liberation Front's inclusive community was not to be seen again for a long time. Our community returned once again to assimilation.

## Building Blocks of Change

But here is the simple fact: Gay Liberation Front built the community and equality movement we have today. From its earliest achievements from creating the nation's first gay youth organization, trans organizations and the first Gay Pride, GLF members went on to become the founders of PFLAG and Lambda Legal. They founded the Callen-Lorde Clinic, an episodic care program housing the nation's first community-based HIV clinic, and The Rainbow Book Fair, the longest-running LGBTQ book fair and largest LGBTQ book event in the country. They founded the Gay Press Association, the nation's first LGBTQ media organization. They were builders of the first official federally funded affordable housing for LGBTQ seniors and the first to work with elected officials to create LGBTQ liaison commissions in state and city government. Our members stormed live TV shows to end our community's invisibility long before Ellen DeGeneres or "Will & Grace."

We went on to organize the first international Gay Youth Conference, the first national LGBT University Student Conference. Members of Gay Youth went on to be founding members of the House of Extravaganza. Identity House, one of the first LGBTQ peer-counseling organizations, counts among its co-founders a GLF member. Identity House and debates on Phil Donahue by GLF members were a major factor that led to the American Psychological Association changing its nomenclature. Others in GLF were and still are the leading writers on sexual politics. And another member was a leader of The Advocate and Out for 33 years.

There is one thing stands above all else: All of us were out. All of us were unafraid to be brave and defined ourselves how we wanted. All of us were steadfast in wading through the unknown and piecing together what we felt we deserved as a community. Gay Liberation Front laid the foundation for what we as a community are today. There has never been another organization in the LGBTQ community that has successfully met its core goals so well. We created a community where there was none before. We showed the world that LGBT people get to tell our own story. And this year the members of Gay Liberation Front claimed their rightful place in the story of our community.



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# 3 Perspectives on Marriage (In)Equality Today

## Why Equality-Minded Vendors are a Necessity

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Securing a cake, arranging a florist, booking a venue and tailoring day-of wedding outfits are all vital, if stressful, steps in the process to a wedding celebration. Now, layer an LGBTQ identity on top of that and the process becomes even trickier. Because even though marriage equality was secured by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015 and thousands of LGBTQ couples have gotten married since, it'd be wrong to think that the fight for equality for the LGBTQ community is over. In fact, LGBTQ people across all walks of life are still fighting for protections regarding sexual orientation and gender identity across the nation; just this week the Supreme Court heard arguments for several landmark cases that will attempt to secure those rights.

With those protections in the air, more than ever, couples need to ensure that their celebrations of love won't be put at risk because of the bigoted views of a vendor. To help combat that, Between The Lines' 2019

Wedding, Home and Life Expo will feature more than 80 equality-minded vendors who are dedicated, whatever one's sexuality or gender identity, to providing top-notch service.

This year, to draw attention to the necessity of securing those rights and the value of LGBTQ and allied service providers, BTL has compiled three varying perspectives on the process of LGBTQ marriage in 2019.

### The Husband-to-Be

Like many wedding stories, Jack Collins' has a romantic beginning: his fiancé, Gerardo, proposed at Machu Picchu on New Year's Eve, during their trip to Peru. Now, having booked a venue and an officiant, plans are well underway for the June 2020 ceremony. Securing a DJ and a photographer remains on their to-do list.

Cognizant of situations where same-sex couples were denied service, such as in the Masterpiece Cakeshop case that made it to

the U.S. Supreme Court, Collins said they've intentionally sought out LGBTQ-friendly service providers for their wedding.

"That was the first step for me," Collins said. "OK, we're doing this. Let's find LGBTQ-friendly vendors. That was the first qualification. I was not going to start calling around, saying, 'Hey do you do LGBTQ weddings?'"

Collins said he doesn't understand how LGBTQ rights infringe on the rights of others.

"I just think it fits in the same category as other marginalized folks are faced with," Collins said. "Maybe you don't get that nice venue because your family's from a certain country or your skin's a certain color."

The couple are planning to adopt children, and Collins is well aware of the currently shifting ground in Michigan when it comes to adoption agencies that contract with the state being permitted to discriminate against LGBTQ couples — or any couples, for that matter — on religious grounds.

"In my mind, it goes farther than finding the right adoption agency," Collins said. "I

have friends who grew up having parents in a same-sex marriage. In middle school I had a friend whose dad married a man and she was bullied for that."

For that reason, they're carefully considering where to live. Collins said they'd like to live in a more progressive area. And while he grew up in Novi, where he said he was impressed with the great foreign education program he received and that has the advantage of being ethnically diverse, the city also leans conservative.

In the end, Collins believes the ability to legally marry and enjoy all the benefits that go along with that is "so, so huge," yet "the Equality Act isn't even passed yet. We need legal, federal protection," he said.

But for the most part, he considers himself lucky. In particular, he noted his supportive employer who "cracked a bottle of champagne when I got engaged."



## The Legal Expert

“The government has an interest in redressing and preventing discrimination in public accommodation. And when you do hold your business out to the public ... you can't pick and choose who you're going to serve,” including LGBTQ people, said Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan, explaining the Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado ruling.

In this case, the baker had claimed designing a wedding cake for a same-sex couple violated his religious beliefs.

“Obviously, freedom of religion is a very important right and gets the strictest constitutional scrutiny from a court. And yet, they found in the balancing test that the government has a compelling interest, in the least restrictive way, to remedy discrimination by enforcing these civil rights laws,” Kaplan said.

However, Justice Kennedy, who authored that 5-4 decision, is no longer on the court, while Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh are. Similar legal challenges have been made, and Kaplan warns that more may be on the way. In addition, an unprecedented number of judges hostile to LGBTQ rights have been appointed to the federal bench.

**Attorney Jay Kaplan believes religious exemptions are the greatest threat to the LGBTQ community today; marriage is just one area of LGBTQ life affected. In recent years, some who oppose LGBTQ rights began employing this new tactic, after other attempts to demonize LGBTQ people had become less effective.**

Kaplan and others have likened the manner in which religious exemptions are being used to carve out civil rights to a “sword” used to harm people. Faith-based adoption agencies that contract with the state that discriminate against, or carve out the rights of, LGBTQ couples are another such example. Using religion, one could claim exemption from any law, and, “We would pretty much gut whatever regulations that we have,” Kaplan said.

He compared this to some restaurant owners in the south following the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 who, citing religious belief, refused to serve African-Americans.

While Kaplan said that he doesn't see a threat to the marriage equality ruling per se, there have been attempts to water it down. For example, it's been claimed that the marriage ruling sanctions marriage only, but not its benefits — which is false, Kaplan points out.

Kaplan believes religious exemptions are the greatest threat to the LGBTQ community today; marriage is just one area of LGBTQ life affected. In recent years, some who oppose LGBTQ rights began employing this tactic, after other attempts to demonize LGBTQ people had become less effective.

“And they have a willing partner in this current administration, from the top on down, proposing these

*“We have to continue to make sure the laws of our land reflect our community and the members who live within them.”*

- The Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow

types of exemptions,” Kaplan said. “We've never allowed religious beliefs to justify discrimination on the basis of race, on the basis of other religions. This idea that we can carve out exemptions when it comes to LGBTQ people — that's so constitutionally flawed, so wrong. But this isn't going away anytime soon.”

## The Religious Leader

As pastor to an LGBTQ-affirming church, the Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow has a predicament when it comes to performing wedding ceremonies for his LGBTQ congregants: they cannot occur in the sanctuary where the church members worship. That's because the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit currently shares space with a congregation in the United Methodist faith, and that church's governing body recently ruled against affirming same-sex marriages. As a “reconciling” church, they can celebrate LGBTQ couples but not permit marriage within the church itself.

“Our choice to be in this United Methodist Church has solely been economical,” Stringfellow explained. “That has not stopped me from marrying couples within our church,” said the pastor, who has married dozens LGBTQ couples since 2005 when it was first legal in California. These days they find another space, such as a park or a congregation, that is affirming and welcoming.

When it comes to being denied wedding-related services, Stringfellow said he was only aware of that happening locally in terms of clergy refusing to perform weddings of LGBTQ people.

“I had a couple come to me because their pastor would not marry them,” he said. “So they're not members of my community, but they said, ‘OK, well, then fine, we'll take our business elsewhere.’ And so they left that congregation because it was not affirming who they were.”

Even before marriage equality, “We have been a resourceful community,” Stringfellow said. “And we're going to have our ceremonies whether the state recognizes it or not.”

Yet even now that the unions are recognized, he believes the fight for true marriage equality isn't over.

“While you can find a florist, you can find someone to do your cake, you can find a clergyperson ... there are legal benefits at stake here. And thus, this challenge continues on. We have to continue to make sure the laws of our land reflect our community and the members who live within them. Because otherwise, we're going to continue to have a two-tiered society, where some are welcomed and others still live in the shadows.”

“It is imperative for all of us, whether you are a same-sex couple who wants to get married or is married — it doesn't matter who you are,” he continued. “This talks about the quality of our community — that we're going to have people hiding in the shadows, and that should never be.”

## EXPO HIGHLIGHTS



### What's Happening at Sunday's Expo

**11 a.m. Pre-Expo complimentary continental breakfast** provided by the catering department at The Henry – yum! With live performance by Eric Swanson of Broadway Brunch at Pronto! fame.

**Noon – Doors open to The Expo!** Kickoff performance by Jason Bowen. This year over 80 vendors are participating

**1:15 p.m. – First Prizes Announced – Continuing all afternoon. See p. 26**

**1:30 p.m. – Music by Bluewater Kings Band**

**2 p.m. - The Fashion Show** with gowns and dresses from B. Ella Bridal in Plymouth and tuxedos from the Tux Shop on Woodward in Birmingham

**3 p.m. – Premium Prizes Announced**

## EXPO LOCATION

### The Henry, Autograph Collection

300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn  
313-441-2000 • behenry.com



# BTL's 2019 Wedding, Home & Life Expo Venue Highlight: The Henry, Autograph Collection

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

From the moment that wedding planning starts, securing the perfect venue should be at the top of the list. In fact, finding the location of the ceremony and reception is so important that in the Brides.com “Ultimate Wedding-Planning Checklist and Timeline” it’s ranked as something that should be secured at least a year in advance. But getting a spot early isn’t the only thing to worry about, couples have to be sure that wherever they choose to get married or host their reception will be accommodating to their needs. And for LGBTQ couples it’s vital that whatever venue they pick it’s an accepting one.

This year, Between The Lines is hosting the 9th annual Wedding, Home and Life Expo on Sunday, Oct. 13. At the event will be over 80 equality-minded vendors and venues eager to assist all couples, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, in their hunt for the perfect wedding celebration. The event will be held at The Henry, Autograph Collection hotel in Dearborn that not only serves as the expo’s venue but also as a viable option for couples interested in tying the knot in the Metro Detroit area. This year, The Henry is also BTL’s highlighted venue.

Kari Honomichl is The Henry’s social catering manager. In her role she creates contracts for every couple interested in doing a wedding or large event at The Henry, and she walked BTL through the process of preparing for the big day. First, couples meet with her to decide on the specifics for their event, and at The Henry customization is key.

“I think any venue has their ‘standard package’ that they start with. So, I always run them through our base package and any enhancements that we generally have are in there as well. But I always tell groups, ‘If there’s something that’s not in here that you were wanting to do let me know, because 99 percent of the time we can do it,’” Honomichl said. “So, for example, we just had a wedding



a couple of weekends ago that instead of wedding cake, because any wedding would have to bring in their own cake here, they wanted a fun cake shooter dessert. So we customized and created a mini-mousse shooter and it had a slice of cake on the side of what looked like a shot glass. And depending on what different groups want we can put a price on it and generally do it.”

That personalization is what Honomichl said sets The Henry apart from most venues in the Metro Detroit area. Couples looking for a large celebration have their choice of The Plaza Ballroom, which can hold up to 250 guests, The Presidential Ballroom, which can hold 750, and The Gallery, a more intimate setting, that can accommodate events with 40 to 60 guests. The Henry is also familiar with doing uniquely structured events that can last multiple days or accommodate for weddings outside the “standard” bride and groom structure. For a gay wedding last year Honomichl said that both grooms didn’t host their main reception or wedding ceremony at The Henry, but they did have several smaller events at the hotel that were coordinated for the immediate family of the couple.

“We’ve also done fusion weddings where maybe the bride is Indian and the groom is Christian and they’ll have two ceremonies here,” Honomichl said. “They’ll have an Indian wedding in the morning and a Catholic one in the afternoon — we’ve done it and seen it all.”

Once couples decide on the specifics of

their event and contracts are done and signed, Honomichl then takes them to meet with an event manager who is the second stage of planning. The manager will help couples do everything from organizing vendors ahead of time and menu planning to day-of coordination — a service included in any wedding package.

“I think most people are surprised that we have that event manager that they’re going to build a relationship with and they’re going to care so much that their day goes smoothly,” she said. “And some people stress about having to set up their reception hall, so I help them understand that our goal is so that you don’t have to do anything on your wedding day but ... celebrate. We’ll handle all the small stuff like if you have favors to put on each plate, a photo table, name cards — we’re there and can help you set up those items, too.”

*To find out more about The Henry, Autograph Collection visit [behenry.com](http://behenry.com).*

## Wedding Venues

See the 2019 Expo Vendor resources beginning on page 24 for all Wedding Venues exhibiting at this year’s event.



## EXPO LOCATION

### The Henry, Autograph Collection

300 Town Center Drive, Dearborn  
313-441-2000  
[behenry.com](http://behenry.com)  
[info@behenry.com](mailto:info@behenry.com)



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## The Sound of Love

### The Bluewater Kings Band Shares How Wedding Performances Are Some of the Best

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The Bluewater Kings Band, one of the most popular wedding bands in the Midwest, will return for the fifth time to the Ultimate LGBTQ Wedding, Home & Life Expo on Sunday, Oct. 13. While the band is fully customizable – from three to 14 pieces – it will be a quartet who will perform at the expo.

"We customize band size, we customize vibe depending on what our clients desire," said Tasha Lord, a vocalist with the band and also one of its producers. She was also quick to point out that the band doesn't only do weddings.

"Recently, about three weeks ago, we just backed about five different Motown acts,"

Lord said. "That was a private event, but we've done it publicly as well. So, we do a lot of stuff. Probably about 70 percent of our work is weddings though. We're hopeless romantics and we love weddings."

Founded in 2012, the band is composed of a variety of musicians, including many well-known local session artists and several members who perform regularly with big-name acts.

"We do work with a lot of touring artists, so we'll block out time if someone is going on tour," Lord said. "We have people working in our bands that go on big national tours. We communicate with them year-round, 'This is your touring schedule, and this is when

See **The Sound of Love**, continued on p. 30

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## Accommodations

*See Also Venues*

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17100 N. Laurel Park Dr.  
Livonia, MI 48152  
734-953-7362

Embassy Suites Livonia  
19525 Victor Parkway  
Livonia, MI 48152  
734-855-8891

Embassy Suites Troy  
850 Tower Dr.  
Troy, MI 48098  
248-879-7500

The Hyatt  
Suburban Collection Showplace  
46100 Grand River Ave.  
Novi, MI 48374  
248-348-5600

MotorCity Casino Hotel  
2901 Grand River Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48201  
313-237-6744

Otsego Resort  
696 M-32 E, POB 556  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
989-732-5181

Shanty Creek Resort  
5780 Shanty Creek Rd.  
Bellaire, MI 49615  
231-533-3092

The Henry - An Autograph Collection  
300 Town Center Dr.  
Dearborn, MI 48126  
313-253-4338

## Apparel Printing

Cotton Concept Printing & Photo Booth  
1220 Longfellow  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-444-3857

## Attorneys

Iglesia Martell Law Firm  
Angie Martell  
117 N First St Ste. 111  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-369-2331

Shelton & Deon Law Group  
612 East 4th St.  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248-494-7445

## Bakeries

Sweet Dreams Bakery  
3848 E 13 Mile Rd  
Warren, MI 48092  
586-393-0124

The Home Bakery  
300 S Main St.  
Rochester, MI 48307  
248-651-4830

## Banks

Comerica Bank  
[www.comerica.com](http://www.comerica.com)

Flagstar Bank  
[www.flagstar.com](http://www.flagstar.com)

PNC Bank  
[www.PNC.com](http://www.PNC.com)

## Banquet Halls

Italian/American Cultural Society  
& Banquet Center  
43843 Romeo Plank  
Clinton Township, MI 48038  
586-421-5155

Laurel Manor  
39000 Schoolcraft  
Livonia, MI 48150  
734-779-4524

Sloan Museum & Longway Plantetarium  
4190 E. Court St.  
Burton, MI 48529  
810-237-3427

Sycamore Hills Golf Club  
48787 North Ave.  
Macomb, MI 48042  
586-598-9500

## Bridal Wear

B. Ella Bridal  
570 S. Main St.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-459-0000

The Wedding Shoppe  
2186 Coolidge Hwy.  
Berkley, MI 48072  
248-541-1988

## Caterers

Chive Kitchen  
33043 Grand River Ave.  
Farmington, MI 48336  
248-516-7144

Joe's Gourmet Catering  
33152 Seven Mile Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48152  
248-477-2133

Mongers' Provisions  
4240 Cass Ave. #111  
Detroit, MI 48201  
504-421-1062

Zuccaro Banquets & Catering  
46601 Gratiot  
Chesterfield, MI 48051  
586-949-4110

## Chocolates

AG Chocolates  
1920 West North St  
Jackson, MI 49202  
517-917-2285

Champagne Chocolates  
US Macomb Place Ste. E  
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043  
586-468-1170

La Fontaine de Chocolat  
54483 Myrica Dr.  
Macomb, MI 48042  
586-992-2689

## Churches

Metropolitan Community  
Church of Detroit  
205 N. Main St.  
Clawson, MI 48017  
248-399-7741

## DJ/Entertainment

Blewater Kings Band  
734-673-7368

JD Entertainment  
38763 Byriver  
Clinton Twp., MI 48036  
586-468-9560

Super Dave DJ/Photo Booth  
51045 Kingswood Dr.  
Shelby Twp., MI 48316  
248-730-2327

## Financial Services

*See Also Banks*

Mass Mutual Michigan Metro  
33533 W 12 Mile Rd #100  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331  
248-324-9323

## Florists

Belissario Florist  
23420 Gratiot Ave.  
East Pointe, MI 48021  
586-773-7070

Michael B. Anthony Florist  
313-215-7251

## Foster/Adoption

Wolverine Services  
15100 Mack  
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48320  
313-530-4063

## Garage Doors/Entry Doors

Town & Country Door  
1987 Orchard Lake Rd.  
Sylvan Lake, MI 48320  
248-338-9461



## Jewelers

4Ever2 Jewel Stone Bands  
Coughlin Jewelers  
516 S. Riverside Ave.  
St. Clair, MI 48079  
810-329-0810

Jacob Matthews Jewelers  
6673 N. Canton Center Rd.  
Canton, MI 48187  
734-207-1906

Miner's Den Jewelers  
3417 Rochester Rd.  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
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Orin Jewelers  
29317 Ford Rd.  
Garden City, MI 48135  
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## Limousine Service

Satisfaction Limousines  
5820 County Line Rd.  
Lenox, MI 48084  
586-725-7799

## Men's Wear

See Also *Tuxedos*

Chelsea Men's Wear & Tuxedos  
2944 Biddle Ave.  
Wyandotte, MI 48192  
734-282-7755

Todd's Menswear  
520 W. 11 Mile Rd.  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248-865-9963

## Photo Booth

Cotton Concept Printing & Photo Booth  
1220 Longfellow  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-444-3857

Derek Cookson Photography  
1211 E Lincoln  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
248-224-7423

Super Dave DJ/Photo Booth  
51045 Kingswood Dr.  
Shelby Twp., MI 48316  
248-730-2327

## Photographers

Girl With the Tattoos  
51275 Seven Mile Rd.  
Northville, MI 48167  
517-798-7407

Jay Dreifus Photography  
1946 Shore Hill Dr.  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-613-1109

Mary Anastasia Photo  
24859 Bereman Ave.  
Warren, MI 48091  
586-651-5095

## Real Estate

Expert Realty Solutions  
Tricia Kortez  
901 Tower Dr. #301  
Troy, MI 48098  
248-709-7774

Real Estate One  
Don Chisholm  
26236 Woodward Ave.  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
248-425-4366

Trillium Real Estate  
Christine Hubert and Lauren Corneliusen  
323 Braun Ct.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-302-3011

## Registry

Williams-Sonoma  
248-637-0672  
williams-sonoma.com

## Rentals

C & N Party Rentals  
5140 Meijer Dr.  
Royal Oak, MI 48073  
248-435-3580

## Salon

Charmed Salon & Boutique  
1049 S. Main St.  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-416-0400

## Senior Living

Henry Ford Village Senior Living  
15101 Ford Rd.  
Dearborn, MI 48126  
313-584-1000

## Specialty Weddings

Michigan Renaissance Festival  
12600 Dixie Hwy.  
Holly, MI 48442  
248-634-5552

## Travel

Kortez Travel  
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Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302  
248-709-7774

Wave Goodbye Vacations and  
Honeymoons  
106 Boblink St.  
Rochester Hills, MI 48309  
248-794-0477

## Tuxedos

See Also *Men's Wear*

Chelsea Men's Wear & Tuxedos  
2944 Biddle Ave.  
Wyandotte, MI 48192  
734-282-7755

The Tux Shop on Woodward  
33437 Woodward Ave.  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
248-644-5055

## Wedding Venues

See Also *Accommodations*

Boyne Mountain  
1 Boyne Mountain Rd.  
Boyne Falls, MI 49713  
231-549-6831

Continental Services  
400 Maple Park Blvd #404  
St Clair Shores, MI 48081  
586-778-7030

See **Expo Vendors**, continued on p. 26

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# EQUALITY VENDORS

## ► Expo Vendors

Continued from p. 25

## Wedding Venues

**Detroit Marriott Livonia**  
17100 N. Laurel Park Dr.  
Livonia, MI 48152  
734-953-7362

**Destination Ann Arbor**  
315 W Huron St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-794-9895

**Detroit Opera House**  
1526 Broadway St.  
Detroit, MI 48226  
313-395-0206

**Diamond Enter at Suburban  
Collection Showplace**  
46100 Grand River Ave.  
Novi, MI 48374  
248-348-5600

**Embassy Suites Livonia**  
19525 Victor Parkway  
Livonia, MI 48152  
734-855-8891

**Embassy Suites Troy**  
850 Tower Dr.  
Troy, MI 48098  
248-879-7500

**Mint at Michigan First Conference  
Center**  
2700 Evergreen Rd.  
Lathrup village, MI 48076  
248-443-3166

**MotorCity Casino Hotel**  
2901 Grand River Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48201  
313-237-6744

**Otsego Resort**  
696 M-32 E, POB 556  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
989-732-5181

**Peninsula Room at Bowers  
Harbor Estates**  
13512 Peninsula Dr.  
Traverse City, MI 49686  
231-944-6984



**Shanty Creek Resort**  
5780 Shanty Creek Rd.  
Bellaire, MI 49615  
231-533-3092

**The Henry - An Autograph Collection**  
300 Town Center Dr.  
Dearborn, MI 48126  
313-253-4338

**Waldenwoods**  
2975 Old US 23  
Howell, MI 48855  
810-632-6401

**Zuccaro Banquets & Catering**  
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Chesterfield, MI 48051  
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# Win Prizes, Gifts Galore!



Here are just some of the fabulous prizes the lucky winners will take home from the LGBTQ Wedding, Home and Life Expo this Sunday:

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**Theater Lover's Package** including two tickets to the Nov. 19 performance of "Hello, Dolly!" at The Fisher Theatre, plus dinner for two at The Whitney Restaurant on Woodward in Detroit.

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**Patti LaBelle VIP package** - One-night stay at the MotorCity Casino Hotel in Detroit plus two tickets to see Patti LaBelle Oct. 20 at Sound Board Theater.

**Bluewater Kings Band** at your next event! Upgrade to a five-seven-or-nine piece band for your special event or wedding.

**Premium Theater Package** - Two tickets to the Feb. 4 performance of "Jesus Christ Superstar" at The Detroit Opera House plus dinner for two at The Whitney Restaurant on Woodward in Detroit.

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- Tickets to "Taylor Mac's Holiday Sauce" in Ann Arbor
- Dinner at Otus Supply restaurant and club in Ferndale
- Tickets "White Feminist" at Duderstadt Center in Ann Arbor
- One Night Stay in a Romantic King Suite at Embassy Suites Livonia
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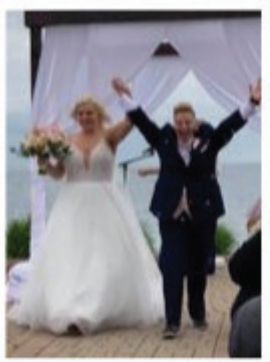


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# 6 Trendy Wedding Ideas for a Unique Celebration

BY BTL STAFF

Whether one has just proposed marriage or accepted a proposal, planning for a wedding ceremony can be just as exciting. But between choosing a wedding venue, picking an outfit and arranging for a cake the process of preparing for the big day can become an overwhelming one. That's why, for this year's wedding issue, BTL has compiled a list of six creative 2019 wedding trends to make planning for that special day a little easier.

## 1 Bold Color Palettes

Blush and bashful might have once been the colors of choice, but in 2019 couples are ditching pastels: bold and moody is in. According to [theknot.com](http://theknot.com) color combinations like emerald green and blue; cranberry and sage green; and squid ink and midnight blue are the way to go. Fans of metallics can also celebrate, as shiny elements are making their way into everything from wedding cake accents to china and invitations.



## 2 Statement Wedding Cake

Couples getting hitched in 2018 favored an assortment of desserts but 2019 has brought the focus back on the wedding cake as a centerpiece. In fact, Martha Stewart Weddings says that this year statement tiers are the way to make a wedding day highlight pop even more.

"There's something so iconic about a wedding cake, so why not go big and bold?" said Amber Karson of Karson Butler Events.

Many couples are now opting to create full-color confections that align with the wedding's color palette or theme.

## 3 Build-Your-Own Welcome Bag

Thanking and greeting each individual wedding guest is often a couple's goal, but it can be difficult to do under a tight schedule, especially if the wedding party numbers in the hundreds. Thankfully, a build-your-own welcome bag station at the reception can be a great way to ensure each guest gets a thank-you they'll love from the couple on their special day. And pairing that gift with a personalized note to each guest and the package is a sure way to please.

## 4 Bringing Inside Out

As ever, outdoor weddings and receptions can be a popular option for couples who want more versatility and space than a traditional venue might allow. However, just because a wedding is held outside is no reason that it can't feel just as cozy and homey as the most intimate venue. Lauren Fremont of Loli Events said that "bringing the inside out" has been an immensely



popular 2019 trend.

"Couples love outdoor weddings, but to make them feel more like a fabulous dining or living room, we are bringing typical indoor pieces to the outdoors," she said. That can involve everything from coffee tables to cozy recliners.

## 5 Smoke Bomb Exits

At any wedding all eyes are on the couple as soon as they make their entrance, but what about their exit? Couples getting married in 2019 are opting for smoke bombs. According to [theknot.com](http://theknot.com) "these fun props leave a cloud of dreamy pigment in their wake, which makes for otherworldly photos (and very impressed guests)."

Matching the color of the smoke to the chosen wedding colors is another way to end the night or simply make the hop from ceremony to reception an exciting one.

## 6 Lighting

At a wedding ambience is everything, and what better way to brighten up a venue — or tone it down — than to control the lights? Rental lights can serve to upgrade a venue's existing light fixtures or to relay a custom message to guests.





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## ► The Sound of Love

Continued from p. 22

you're in town.' So, it works for them because when they're off the road they play with the best people in the state, playing awesome events, and we get to offer awesome talent."

Lord explained that while band size can vary significantly, the band actually has a pool of vocalists they work with that far exceeds its maximum of 14 performers.

"We have about 22 singers here in the Detroit area that we work with, and we're known for our horn section. We actually book multiple events per night, so we have a huge musical family. But in peak season in June, and September was crazy too, we book multiple events per night. So, we get a lot of people

working. People do different things."

Since the band will be performing at the LGBTQ Wedding Expo for the fifth time, it's clear that inclusivity is certainly a goal of the band's creators. Lord said that almost since the band's inception, they've been playing LGBTQ weddings as well as straight.

"A couple's a couple," Lord said. "The Bluewater Kings is all about inclusiveness in general. That's part of our ethos. As soon we started that's kind of been our thing. The LGBTQ community, that's something that I've felt very strongly about since I was born. We've been doing it since we started, and when we saw the opportunity to be a part of the expo we said yes and knew it would be fun."

Enquiring minds want to know: Is there any difference between playing an LGBTQ-inclusive wedding and a straight one?

"Honestly, I mean straight weddings are very fun, too. But LGBTQ weddings? I've never done one that wasn't fun. I have done straight weddings that weren't fun sometimes. ... I think when you're forced to think outside the box your whole life you become a more creative individual in all that you do. And every LGBTQ wedding we've done has had a cool twist to it."

"When you overcome adversity, there's this inspirational aspect to it that you don't get at straight weddings," Lord continued. "Every wedding is beautiful because love is beautiful, but there's something about LGBTQ weddings that is special. Their creativity is wonderful. A couple is a couple and a market is a market, but there are just cool, creative things about LGBTQ weddings that I love to be a part of personally."

And The Bluewater Kings go beyond simply performing at weddings, they've developed a reputation for working closely with couples and adding their own special touches.

"I work with the couples, typically, for a whole year," Lord said. "I give them a couple pages of info or sometimes I meet them at a showcase or a bridal show, and we talk about their taste in music, the vibe, all the family traditions they have, how they met each other, etc."

And whether LGBTQ or straight, Lord said every wedding contains within it a portion of joy.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing," she said. "It's a high. It's a beautiful, magical, hopeful place to be. There's so much hope and love in the air. Families come together and seeing all this realness, that's what makes weddings great. There's all this joy and realness happening in one place. I love the décor, the decorations ... it's like Cinderella's ball. It's wonderful and it's not the worst job I've ever had for sure."

For more information about the Bluewater Kings Band, come see them perform live at the Ultimate LGBT Home Life and Wedding Expo or visit [bluewaterkingsband.com](http://bluewaterkingsband.com).

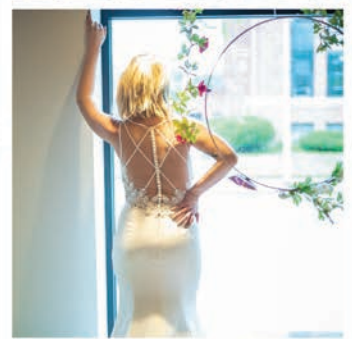
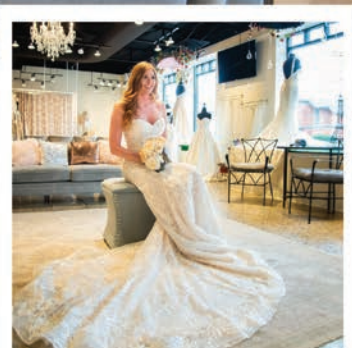


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## Also Performing at the Expo

Eric Swanson, co-founder and artistic director of The Detroit Actor's Theatre Company, received his bachelor's degree in music education from Adrian College in 2007, after a term at Oxford (England) studying Shakespeare and evensong. He taught choir at the prestigious Roeper School from 2007-

2012. His many professional performing credits include "The Power of One" (Role of Man, National Tour), "Simply Gershwin" (Greenfield Village Company, Frank Holiday), "Hairspray" (Edna Turnblad), "La Cage aux Folles" (Albin), and "The Producers" (Roger Elizabeth DeBris). He is one half of the Dynamic Duo which tours nationally.

Jason Bowen is a nationally known singer, entertainer and actor. He was a cruise director on Norwegian Cruise Line and was a production manager at Northwestern University. He has a degree in theater from Indiana State University. Lately he has been super busy doing corporate entertainment and numerous acting engagements. This is his fourth year emceeding The Expo!





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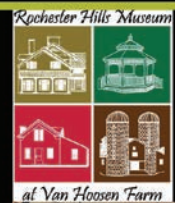


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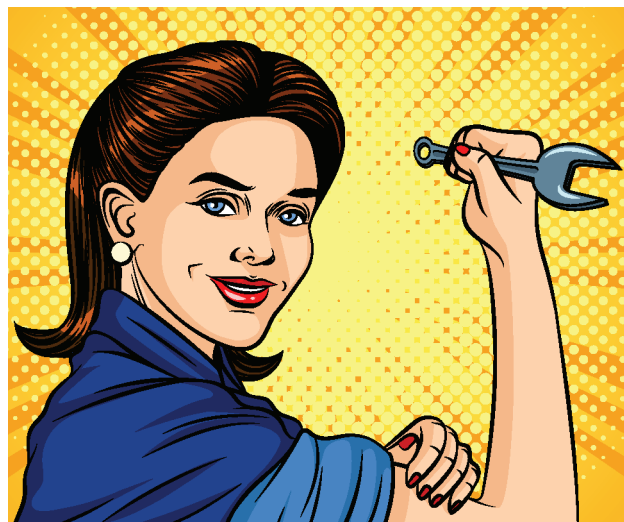




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# Planet Ant Celebrates 2nd Annual Live Out Fest for LGBTQ+ Freedom, Identity

Hamtramck Nonprofit Spotlights Local Queer Artists, Honors National Coming Out Day

BY BTL STAFF

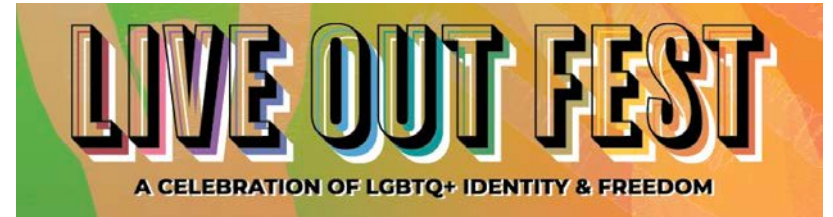
**HAMTRAMCK** — For the second year in a row, Planet Ant Theatre will recognize National Coming Out Day with the Second Annual Live Out Fest: A Celebration of LGBTQ+ Identity & Freedom. The four-day festival takes place Oct. 10 through 13 across Planet Ant's performance venues in Hamtramck: The Planet Ant Black Box Theater, Ant Hall and Ghost Light Bar.

The first of its kind in Hamtramck, Live Out Fest spotlights local queer artists and performers to showcase the profound presence and impact of their contributions to their creative communities and beyond. The festival features the return of "Not In My House" from Kristi Faulkner Dance and The "Gender Bender" Drag Marathon; a world premiere play, "As They Like It," adapted from the Shakespearean classic and directed by Jared Scott Morin; "Quix, Women & Queers" comedy showcase hosted by Kai Quix; Detroit musical artist and performer DUANE; dance party with DJs Auntie Chanel and Ariel Sports; "Haireoke" hosted by Cole Davis; and the introduction of Drag Bingo & Brunch, Queer Market, Queer Open Mic and much more throughout the weekend.

"After an uplifting and inspiring first year in 2018, we are excited to expand this year's festival to include more artists and performers, representing a broader range of creative mediums throughout even more queer communities," said Live Out Fest producer, Kaitlyn Valor Bourque. "We hope to see the vast and varied identities who make up these communities turn up in all of their glory to support their fellow artists and makers throughout this jam-packed weekend!"

## Here's the schedule at a glance:

- **Live Out Fest 2019** kicks off on Thursday, Oct. 10th with a special edition of Planet Ant's weekly comedy variety show: "ThursGay Night Live," in the Ant Hall. This will be followed by "Haireoke" with Cole Davis: a wig-centric karaoke takeover at Ghost Light bar.



- **Friday, Oct. 11**, marks the World Premiere Opening Night of "As They Like It" in the Planet Ant Black Box Theater, as well as the "Not In My House" dance performance in the Ant Hall. Late-night entertainment features the "Quix, Women & Queers" Comedy Showcase in the Ant Hall and live music from DUANE and special guests First Responders at Ghost Light.

- **On Saturday, Oct. 12**, the first Queer Market fills the Ant Hall with vendors selling and presenting a wide variety of goods (interested vendors are invited to register at planetant.com/queermarket). A Queer Open Mic in Ghost Light begins the evening, including second-night performances of As They Like It and Not In My House, followed by GenderBender in the Ant Hall and a closing night dance party in Ghost Light with DJ's Auntie Chanel & Ariel Sports.

- **Sunday, Oct. 13**, Planet Ant launches its first official Drag Bingo & Sunday Brunch at Ghost Light, followed by a premiere screening of the "Not In My House" documentary in the Ant Hall. The festival closes with a twilight matinee performance of "As They Like It" in the Black Box.

Earlybird All-Access festival passes are on sale now through October 1. A la carte tickets are also available. All tickets and passes can be purchased at planetant.com/liveout. Individuals interested in volunteering during the festival can reach out to festival producers, Kaitlyn Valor Bourque and Kristi Faulkner, by emailing liveoutfest@gmail.com.



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## Artist Peter Sparling Partners With Equality Michigan for Upcoming Exhibit

Peter Sparling is a known Michigan dancer, choreographer and visual artist who is partnering with not only a venue to put on his next exhibit but nonprofit Equality Michigan. Debuting on Friday, Nov. 1, with an opening reception and lasting throughout the month, attendees will be able to view Sparling's paintings and videos at Ypsilanti's Gallery 22 North. Half of all proceeds from the month-long show will go to Equality Michigan.

The reception will be held to "celebrate the show with members of Equality Michigan and the Southwest Michigan community," write event organizers. "There will be a private showing for Equality Michigan guests only with artist's talk from 5 to 7 p.m."

A recipient of the 1998 Governor's Michigan Artist Award, Sparling is Rudolf Arnheim Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Dance and an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emeritus at the University of Michigan. A graduate of Interlochen Arts Academy and The Juilliard School, Sparling was a member of the José Limón Dance Company and principal dancer with Martha Graham Dance Company. He also directed Michigan's own Peter Sparling Dance Company from 1993 to 2008 among many other achievements.

"As a solo dancer/choreographer, video artist and painter, I work to translate my own moving body into diverse media, to capture the one or a series of images that hold power and communicate how it feels to live in that instant. For my paintings, I begin by staging photo sessions in which I perform for the camera then curate from the resulting images those that most speak to me," Sparling writes of his work. "But the photo is merely a portal, an invitation or contour map for further excavations and reenactments of the often nude human form. Acrylic paint and the stroke of the brush allow me to reanimate the photographed figure as I return to it my own body memories and sensations and invest in the painted image its lived, kinesthetic presence."

*Gallery 22 North is located at 22 N. Huron in Ypsilanti. To sign up for reception, contact Erin Knott at Equality Michigan: [eknott@equalitymi.org](mailto:eknott@equalitymi.org).*

## October LezRead: 'Mostly Dead Things'

Hosted by the Jim Toy Community Center, LezRead is a book club for queer women that meets on the fourth Sunday of each month. In the group's next meeting on Sunday, Oct. 27, from 4 to 6 p.m., the group will be reading "Mostly Dead Things" by Kristen Arnett.

The book tells the story of Jessa-Lynn Morton who one day discovers that her father has committed suicide in the family taxidermy business. Despite her grief, Morton does her best to keep the business afloat while "the rest of the family crumbles."

"Her mother starts sneaking into the shop to make aggressively lewd art with the taxidermied animals. Her brother Milo withdraws, struggling to function. And Brynn, Milo's wife and the only person Jessa's ever been in love with, walks out without a word. As Jessa seeks out less-than-legal ways of generating income, her mother's art escalates — picture a figure of her dead husband and a stuffed buffalo in an uncomfortably sexual pose — and the Mortons reach a tipping point," says the book's description. "For the first time, Jessa has no choice but to learn who these people truly are, and ultimately how she fits alongside them. Kristen Arnett's debut novel is a darkly funny, heart-wrenching and eccentric look at loss and love."



*LezRead is held at the Jim Toy Center located at 319 Braun Court in Ann Arbor. New members are welcome and encouraged to email [kerene.moore@gmail.com](mailto:kerene.moore@gmail.com) to join the private Facebook group.*



## Ypsi Glow Light Show Friday, Oct. 25

Dance, art and, of course, lights across downtown Ypsilanti make up Ypsi Glow, the city's all-ages glowing celebration. Held on Friday, Oct. 25, from 7 to 9:30 p.m., people in Ypsilanti can walk across the city and take in not only the lights but interactive outdoor exhibits, too.

"Local artists also activate downtown storefronts with installations, showing just how vibrant downtown Ypsilanti can be," wrote event organizers. "Several of these windows come to life during the event, along with over a dozen other multi-media projects, like video projections, giant luminaries, performance art, live painting, shadow puppets, chalk muralists and laser shows."

*To find out how to participate or more information about the event visit [wonderfoolproductions.org/ypsiglow/](http://wonderfoolproductions.org/ypsiglow/).*





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# BORN IN A GRAVEYARD

Photo: Julian Broad

## Mika on Finding Himself in His Family History, Duet Double Standards and Writing His New Album on a POS Piano

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

It's 8:30 in Italy, and maybe if Mika didn't feel so deeply connected to his new album he'd just want to go to bed. But the sparky glam-pop performer doesn't mind my before-bed call; in fact, he's thrilled to be talking about "My Name Is Michael Holbrook" because "this phase is actually more engaging and interesting, and generally I am enjoying it way more than any other album I've had to promote."

Mika's past work, of course, famously includes his 2007 debut "Life in Cartoon Motion," wherein he emerged an exuberant-sounding human cartoon, with songs like "Grace Kelly" and "Lollipop." This album, his first in more than four years, is different in that its core was created after discovering

his family's history. And though it's been exhilarating to promote, it's also "ironic considering it's not the simplest time in my life," the 36-year-old Beirut-born performer, whose birth name is Michael Holbrook Penniman Jr., says.

Mika spoke about how coming out in 2012 may have affected his career, the "shitty" white piano he wrote "My Name Is Michael Holbrook" on and why he won't be singing with his romantic partner anytime soon. Despite his admitted tiredness, Mika was introspective – even rollicking – when we finally connected, once he'd won his battle against rush-hour traffic.

**What is not simple about life for you right now?**

Well, it all started when I had this premonition

about three-and-a-half years ago: I felt like I thought I had grown up 10, 11 years ago and I was like, "You know, I'm an adult." And nothing appeared to change. Sure enough, as I started writing the record so much change happened in my private life and my personal life, losing five people close to me, including my grandmother.

**I'm sorry to hear that.**

Well, it's OK. Thank you. But it happens to all of us. But then on the day I wrote "Tiny Love," the same day, I get a phone call saying, "You gotta get on a plane 'cause your mom's sick," and then that became this running thing throughout the writing of this record. My mom got more and more and more sick with different diseases that got worse and worse,

and you know my mom and I have this very strong link. I was thrown out of school at the age of 8 and she looked at me and instead of being nice to me she just said, "People like you end up in prison or they end up successful, and over my dead body will I have a son who ends up in prison." (Laughs.)

**You definitely chose the right path, didn't you?**

I didn't really have a choice, trust me, if you knew my mom. (Laughs.) And she trained me three to four hours a day at the age of 8, and I cried every day 'cause I didn't want to do it. Then, within four months, I was singing at the Royal Opera House in London, and within six months I was a soloist at the Royal Opera House. So, from that point on, my life changed.



You know, she worked with me up until this record. So this album was kind of made in the midst of a lot of that, and instead of retreating and taking a step back – it interfaced with that darkness from multiple sides – I actually went toward life. I said, “I’m gonna go toward what makes me, *me*. I’m gonna take my colors – the ones from when I was 17 – and make them shine even brighter. I’m not gonna care about commercial circumstances or the climate of the music industry or that all storytelling seems to be happening mostly in R&B and hip-hop, which is something I just can’t do because it’s not my musical culture. I’m just gonna go for it. I’m gonna put together a romantic, emotionally driven, heartfelt record and try and make it at the service of emotion and hopefully it’ll be bold enough to stand on its own two legs.” That’s how the album came about and how it was written.

#### Has this album been cathartic for you?

It’s an extremely cathartic piece of work for me. And it’s also a kind of provocation to myself where I realize that this idea that we spend most of our lives building our foundations on people that we love and we rely on, there comes a point when that version of your foundation starts to change or shift or disappear, and you have to do it in a different way and the only way you can do it is by knowing where you come from, by being at peace with yourself and celebrating, also, all the people around you who you love. Feeling that sense of self-worth is the only way you can have a chance of figuring out where the hell you’re going to end up. We don’t really know who we are, and anyone who says, “I know who I am” ... you’re never gonna fucking know really who you are.

#### But we think we’ll figure it out when we’re older.

Then we fall in love, we get our heart broken, and we start again.

#### It’s a lot of distractions.

A lot. But that’s OK. I don’t mind that. That’s also one of the main motivations for writing for me, so I’ll take it.

#### Which motivation are you referring to?

Trying to figure out who we are and that changing all the time.

#### Can you tell me about the first song that you wrote for the album and why you decided to start there?

It was born in a graveyard. (Laughs.) In a place that I had never been to, that I had completely disassociated from my identity, and that was Atlanta, Georgia.

#### Right, you went to see your family plot.

Yeah, exactly. I went to see my family plot, and you know I’ve always said, “I’m half Lebanese, I grew up in lots of different countries, I’m an immigrant. A homosexual!” So I’m the furthest thing from a person from Atlanta, Georgia whose family had cotton fields. I mean, that is the weirdest part. I just don’t

know what that is.

#### But you knew about this family history?

Hardly.

#### In discovering this part of your family history, were new parts of yourself revealed?

I didn’t know about it that much, I really didn’t. My legal name is my father’s name, and he actually had his own crazy journey because he was born in Jerusalem and then grew up in Cairo, and then grew up in Washington, then grew up in Italy, then grew up in London, then grew up in Rome. So during my entire life, it was so hard to understand who he was or where he came from, so it’s just so strange for me to have delved into that, but I just felt like I knew so much about my mom’s side of the family, and I wanted to know everything he hadn’t told me about his family’s family. So I delved into it. I went and saw this Penniman plot at Bonaventure Cemetery, and I saw part of my name on a tombstone, half corroded by time. Just had this weird reaction to it. Like, “Wow, I’ve always rejected my legal name,” because my mom called me Mika from the time I was born, but it is my name and it’s also my father’s and I know fuck-all about it.

The only way I can describe that feeling is: Have you ever had that kind of feeling that there’s another part of your house that you just hadn’t noticed? Another part of your apartment that just wasn’t there? Then one day after four years you might discover it. It’s weird. I didn’t really like it, but I found it fascinating and it was this weird Tim Burton moment, seeing your name on a tombstone. I went back home and I wrote this song called “Tiny Love.” It sums up the project in a good way. It’s like, I might be Michael Holbrook, born in 1983, but I can be so much more when I allow myself to be, and if I allow myself to dream to be whatever I want to be.

#### And you bought a white piano because that’s what you were playing when you were 16.

Yeah. Superstition. (Laughs.)

#### You were being superstitious?

I don’t think it’s superstition. I don’t like looking at a black piano, and I don’t know why I don’t like looking at a brown piano. For some reason this idea of a white piano I got used to when I was a kid and so that’s all I really want to see.

#### What does the white represent to you?

Non-institutional education. (Laughs.) I was going to music college, I was going to rehearsal. Even when I was at conservatory at the Royal College of Music, as an adult I was studying as a baritone and all of the pianos were black pianos – academic, institutional lessons on black pianos – and then the white piano was something you’d see on the cover of a Barry Gibb album. I had a white piano and actually, to tell the full story, I had a black

See *Mika*, continued on p. 38

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► **Mika**

Continued from p. 37

piano when I was a child and that piano I decided, with a friend of mine, to paint it white when I was six years old. Ever since then it stayed white, and it's this kind of really tacky house paint. Terrible finish. It's a piece of crap kind of paint job. But I've used that. So for me I was going to write on a white piano all the stuff I wanted to do – all of my music – and then I would go and sing, like, (John) Braham and Italian songs that were written 100 years ago on the black piano, so I associated the two with that.

So when it came to actually coming back to writing in my home studio I wanted to write on a white piano. So I went out and bought a white piano and it turned out to be the worst piano that they had in the entire piano warehouse. I was like, "Why don't you have a better piano?" He was like, "Cause no one wants a fucking white piano, so we give them to people who don't give a shit about piano playing." He was such an asshole. People who work at music stores are famously rude. So anyway, I bought the shitty white piano that sounds like a piece of crap and I wrote the entire album on it.

**You've acknowledged disappointment in the commercial aspects of the industry. Do you**

**think coming out ever had any effect on your career?**

I don't know. I'd like to think no. I think that the commercial consequences of my sexuality were more to do with what was indelibly written into my music, by me, and inevitably immiscible when you listen to it from before I was even signed. That aspect did have consequences, especially in the United States. But it's OK. It's not OK now, but back then I made peace with the fact that I was considered a little bit less than and when I asked why they'd be like, "Well..." I would never get a clear answer. But I always felt like it kind of was there.

Times have changed. That's not the case anymore, and thank god. But I do think, if anything, that kind of frustration that I felt, and some of the limitations, some of the commercial consequences of my sexuality, actually provoked me to come out. If I think about it honestly, that frustration actually riled me so much that it encouraged me to come out publicly. You're like, "What's the point of being in a pigeonhole? What is wrong with you?" There's no difference. Music is music. It exists beyond anything. And in the end, I was just quite roused, so it encouraged me to come out. I think that's a good reaction to have, rather than going the other way.

**As much progress as we've made, your song with Italian singer Jack Savoretti, called "Ready to Call This Love," is still a rare thing.**



Well, let me tell you: He's a really good looking guy. (Laughs.) He's charming. He's like an old-fashioned movie star, but in a 30-something-year-old body.

**Is that what appealed to you about him when you chose your male duet partner?**

His voice. Firstly, the fact that he didn't even bat an eyelid at the fact that it was a love song and it didn't even come up in conversation. He was just like, "It's really beautiful." That was it. "I'd love to do this, it's really beautiful, full stop." And then the fact that his voice is such a contrast to mine and all that, and when you consider that he's a married guy and he's got a kid, it was just a no-brainer for him.

**People are gonna say, "Why didn't Mika pick a gay duet partner?"**

And I'm gonna say, "Well, why not?" That's it. That's really all I can say. Because it's beautiful. And I was asked this, actually, in an interview a week ago for a major gay website in Europe and I said, "Have you done interviews with heterosexual couples who have done duets? Girl and guy?" He said, "Yeah." I said, "Did you ever ask them if they were ever actually in a relationship or if they actually wanted to be in a relationship with each other? If they actually found each other attractive?" So I said, "What's the difference between two guys?" He said, "Oh yeah, you've got a good

point." I said, "Considering you're coming from a gay website, don't you think you should've thought about that beforehand?"

**There's a real push for LGBTQ roles to go to LGBTQ actors, and some people feel the same when it comes to music, especially since duets between two men happen so infrequently.**

And I completely respect that. If anything, I really like and I respect that opinion, and I love the fact that a song like this can even provoke a question like that. I think that's a good thing. It's a good conversation to have. It's not like, "Oh, is the song cool or not?" It's nothing to do with that. It's, "Should I have had a

gay guy or not with me?" I think that's a really good dialogue to provoke.

**Could you have even released a song like this at the beginning of your career? Would that have been allowed?**

Allowed? I don't know. I would like to say that it would've been allowed. But it's hard to imagine it would've happened. That's the most diplomatic answer I can come up with. And you know what, besides, I would've given songs to my partner to sing, but the truth is that Andy sings like a donkey so it would've sounded like shit. The only thing he knows how to sing are Morrissey songs because there's only one or two notes in them! (Wickedly, playfully laughs.)

**And on that note, I'll let you go to bed.**

(Laughs.) And on that note, he's gonna kill me.

*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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Stage direction by **Katie Mitchell**  
**Julia Bullock**, soprano  
**Cédric Tiberghien**, piano

As violence blazes, a young woman waits at the border of Zauberland — a magical world of security and peace. Composer Bernard Foccroulle seamlessly interweaves 16 new songs with Schumann's *Dichterliebe*, as a backdrop to this new theater piece that explores the relationship between a 19th century romantic sensibility and world view and our 20th century reality of mass migration and violence.

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# Happenings

## **SLEATER-KINNEY WITH SHAMIR AT THE MAJESTIC THEATRE**

On Monday, Nov. 4, fans can gear up to hear Carrie Brownstein and Corin Tucker of Sleater-Kinney play new sounds from their latest album "The Center Won't Hold," released four years since the band's critically acclaimed "No Cities To Love." They'll be joined by Shamir who is famous for his genre-bending style that blends elements of indie rock, electronic, disco and house. Tickets start at \$37.50 and doors open at 7 p.m. Find out more online at [majesticdetroit.com](http://majesticdetroit.com).

**Frankenstein**  
by A. S. Peterson  
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tickets \$20 at [stagecrafters.org](http://stagecrafters.org)

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## **OUTINGS**

### **Saturday, October 12**

**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. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [redbellysenegal90@gmail.com](mailto:redbellysenegal90@gmail.com).

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

### **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. [donelle@ridesource.com](mailto:donelle@ridesource.com). [jan@pridesource.com](mailto:jan@pridesource.com). [behenry.com](mailto:behenry.com). [MILGBTWedding.com](http://MILGBTWedding.com).

### **Monday, October 14**

**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. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [redbellysenegal90@gmail.com](mailto:redbellysenegal90@gmail.com).

### **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**

**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. 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. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. [smt.umich.edu](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).

### **Sunday, October 20**

**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. This group meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St., Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

### **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).

### **Friday, October 25**

**CUBE Poetry Slam – UNPLUGGED** 8 p.m. Spoken word artist La Shaun Phoenix Moore hosts an evening featuring Detroit's finest poets and DJ Stacey J, plus an acoustic set by R&B singer and WDET's Tiny Desk Fan Favorite Johnyce. The Cube, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. [dso.org](http://dso.org).

### **Saturday, October 26**

**Affirmations Fall Fling 2019** 7 p.m. Affirmations presents their annual fundraising event Fall Fling. 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. <http://gaybe.am/OT>.

### **Sunday, November 3**

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County** 6:30 p.m. Free and open to the community. For Trans Youth Support Group information, contact facilitator Socorro Sevilla, MSW: [socorro@hilltopcounseling.org](mailto:socorro@hilltopcounseling.org). Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408.



## Editor's Pick

### NATASHA BEDINGFIELD AT THE MAJESTIC

British pop singer Natasha Bedingfield first arrived on the international music scene with the release of her debut album "Unwritten." Since then, she's gained a massive fanbase across the world and is now debuting her latest record "Roll With Me." See her perform live on Saturday, Oct. 19. Find out more information online at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).



[standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org), [hilltopcounseling.org](http://hilltopcounseling.org).

#### Tuesday, November 5

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups** – Lake Orion / Oakland County 7 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663. [stmarysinthehills.org](http://stmarysinthehills.org), [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

#### Thursday, November 7

**Pride Night at Thunderbowl!** 7 p.m. Meet & Greet First Thursday of every month, unlimited bowling, shoe rental, private room, private bar area, drink specials, billiard room, 250-foot video wall. Thunderbowl! Arena, 4200 Allen Road, Allen Park. 313-928-4688. [thunderbowl.org](http://thunderbowl.org).

#### Wednesday, November 13

**Stand with Trans Youth Support Group** – Flint – Genessee 6:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023. [uuffint.org](http://uuffint.org), [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

## MUSIC & MORE

**WEAPONIZED WHITENESS: AMERICAN GUN VIOLENCE** This is not an anti-gun or pro-gun control lecture but a history lesson of America Your Emerging Space, 7 N Saginaw St., #3A, Pontiac. 248-231-7296. [grinblatmedia@gmail.com](mailto:grinblatmedia@gmail.com), [meetup.com](http://meetup.com/meetup.com).

**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. On a cold September morning in 1844, a young man from Bavaria 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 Matsuev has become a virtuoso in the grandest of Russian pianistic traditions and has established himself as one of the most prominent pianists in the world. 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).

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

**Ray Lamontagne** October 23, 7:30 p.m. Ray Lamontagne will be "Just Passing Through" the Fox Theatre on his tour of the same name on Oct. 23. Joined by Canadian folk duo Kacy & Clayton. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611. [gaybe.am/PG](http://gaybe.am/PG).

**Laura Mendoza Live in Concert** October 24, 7 p.m. Detroit musician Laura Mendoza live in a 2-hour concert at SpreadArt Gallery. Art show and flea market onsite. SpreadArt Gallery, 5141 Rosa Parks Blvd., Detroit. 586-806-9343.

**ZauberLand (Music Land) – An Encounter with Schumann's Dichterliebe** October 24, 7:30 p.m. A quintessential work of European Romanticism, Schumann's Dichterliebe is infused with yearning for love and landscapes that no longer exist. Composer Bernard Foccroulle and writer Martin Crimp created 16 new songs to be performed

seamlessly alongside Schumann's Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University, Ann Arbor. 734-763-3333. [ums.org](http://ums.org).

**Sankai Juku – Meguri: Teeming Sea, Tranquil Land** October 25, 8 p.m. Over the course of the past 40 years, the work of Ushio Amagatsu and Sankai Juku has become known worldwide for its elegance, refinement, technical precision and emotional depth. His contemporary Butoh creations are sublime. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. [smttd.umich.edu](http://smttd.umich.edu).

**CUBE Poetry Slam – UNPLUGGED** October 25, 8 p.m. Spoken word artist La Shaun Phoenix Moore hosts an evening featuring Detroit's finest poets and DJ Stacye J, plus an acoustic set by R&B singer and WDET's Tiny Desk Fan Favorite Johnyce. The Cube, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. [dso.org](http://dso.org).

**A Fun Conversation with Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin** October 30, 7:30 p.m. Come hear the stars of Grace & Frankie share their insights on life, politics, feminism, the planet and the secrets to their long-lasting friendship. A moderated evening with wit, laughs and fun. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611. [313presents.com](http://313presents.com).

**Carrie Underwood** October 31, 7 p.m. Seven-time Grammy Award-winner Carrie Underwood is coming to Little Caesars Arena this Halloween on her new "Cry Pretty Tour 360." She'll be joined by Maddie & Tae and Runaway Jane. Little Caesars Arena, 2645 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-349-5777. <http://gaybe.am/Km>.

**yMusic** November 1, 8 p.m. Founded in New York City in 2008, yMusic uses its unique configuration to "playfully overstep the boundaries of musical genres." Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. (734) 764-8572. [rackham.umich.edu](http://rackham.umich.edu). [ums.org](http://ums.org).

## Editor's Pick

### CREEPY CHEAPY DOUBLE FEATURE AT THE CROFOOT

Music and Halloween spookiness collide at The Crofoot in Pontiac during the Creepy Cheapy Double Feature. Starting on Friday, Oct. 15, attendees can expect "a meticulously curated lineup of live bands (that) will take over three stages and perform full-costumed covers of your favorite bands and artists!" Find out more information online at [thecrofoot.com](http://thecrofoot.com).



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Tickets may be purchased at  
[TheForumFoundation.BrownPaperTickets.com](http://TheForumFoundation.BrownPaperTickets.com)



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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Cynthia Nixon joins cast of 'The Gilded Age'

Now that you've seen the "Downton Abbey" movie are you ready for the prequel? Because "DA" creator Julian Fellowes is moving to HBO to tell the story of 19th-century American millionaires and their eventual marriages to broke British aristocrats (the initial premise of "Downton Abbey," by the way, for the rest of you just now joining us). "Gilded Age" will revolve around a young woman, the orphaned daughter of a Southern general who moves into the high society home of her aunts in New York City. Much like on "DA," wealthy hijinks and intrigue will ensue, and the servants will probably have the most compelling story lines. So far the cast includes "Sex and the City" icon and progressive queer activist Cynthia Nixon, Christine Baranski and Amanda Peet. And with no more "Downton" on the horizon (for now), we'll be ready for every bit of this one's certain lavish period detail. More as it develops.



Photo: Cynthia Nixon

Zaillian ("Schindler's List"). Based on Patricia Highsmith's bestselling Tom Ripley novels, the series will be something of an origin story, with young grifter Ripley, living in 1960s New York, finding himself employed by a wealthy man and given the task of traveling to Italy to retrieve the man's aimless son. In Italy, Ripley begins his career of befriendng the moneyed and then murdering them, and the rest is queer vengeance history. Look for this one sometime in 2020, and, in the meantime, get on the "Fleabag" train because it really is as good as all your annoying TV addict friends are telling you, for once.

## Award-winning queer prison drama 'The Prince' coming soon

Each year at the Venice Film Festival, one LGBTQ-themed film is awarded the top prize, known as The Queer Lion, and this year's recipient was the Chilean film, "El principe (The Prince)." Riding a wave of acclaimed Chilean cinema - last year "A Fantastic Woman" took home the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film - "The Prince" is a throwback of sorts to an earlier genre of queer cinema, the homoerotic men's prison drama. Based on a 1970s pulp novel, Sebastian Munoz's debut narrative feature concerns a young beautiful man (Juan Carlos Maldonado) thrust into a steamy lockdown where the rules of survival involve scenarios that contemporary queer media has mostly discarded, relegated to the realm of trite porn fantasy. But it's the castoffs of culture that new generations of filmmakers often find fascinating, and so here we are with a movie featuring a powerful prison-daddy character known as "The Stallion," and you'll probably want to watch. It begins its theatrical life in early 2020, and will without a doubt winds it way through the queer film festival circuit here before an arthouse rollout.

## Andra Day sings the blues in 'The United States vs. Billie Holiday'

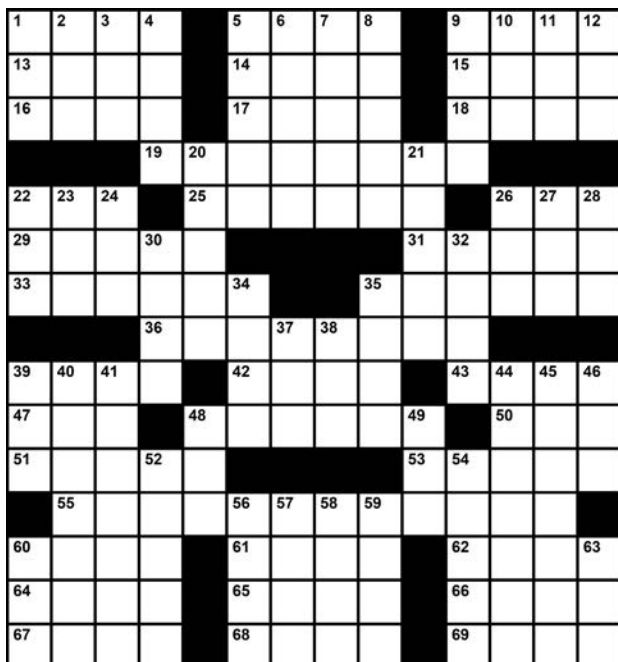
Lee Daniels, the one-gay entertainment production machine who seems allergic to not having a dozen projects in development at the same time, is about to shoot his next film. He'll go into production next month in Canada on "The United States vs. Billie Holiday." With a screenplay by Suzan-Lori Parks - the first African-American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for her play "Topdog/Underdog" - and inspired by Johann Hari's book "Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs," the film will star singer-songwriter Andra Day as the legendary Holiday. The story will be less biopic and more narrowly focused on the time in Holiday's career when she was strategically targeted by the U.S. government in a narcotics sting operation and involved in an affair with the operation's black undercover agent. Joining Day are Trevante Rhodes ("Moonlight"), Garrett Hedlund ("Mudbound"), and "Russian Doll"'s Natasha Lyonne. No word on release dates yet but this feels like a late 2020 award contender to us.

## Hot 'Fleabag' priest is now the rebooted Mr. Ripley

They're bringing back Mr. Ripley and this time he's being played by "Fleabag"'s Hot Priest Andrew Scott. Scott will step into the role made famous by Matt Damon in the film "The Talented Mr. Ripley" for Showtime's new eight-episode series "Ripley," from Oscar and Golden Globe winner Steven

Romeo San Vicente wants you to read Jean Genet.





- 36 More of the dis  
 39 Sitcom radio station  
 42 They're tiny but attractive  
 43 "Phantom" scar source  
 47 Singer DiFranco  
 48 "Keep your pants on!"  
 50 "\_\_\_ the Band Played On"  
 51 Blazing stars  
 53 Big name in beer  
 55 End of the dis  
 60 With 62-Across, TV series of the dis  
 61 By mouth  
 62 See 60-Across  
 64 "You've Got Mail" female  
 65 They get laid only once  
 66 Concerning  
 67 "Jabberwocky" starter  
 68 Amount of AZT, e.g.  
 69 Knock off

**Down**

- 1 Figured out  
 2 Follower of Jim Buchanan  
 3 Chaz to Cher  
 4 Engages in foreplay  
 5 Anesthesia of old  
 6 "My Fair Lady" composer  
 7 Cold shower  
 8 Islam's deity  
 9 Chews the fat  
 10 Home of T. Bankhead  
 11 Risk rust, for the Tin Man  
 12 Part of a giggle  
 20 Nonoral Marx  
 21 Boca \_\_\_  
 22 Direction away from NNE  
 23 Ordinal for John Nash  
 24 Tony Randall's "7 Faces of Dr. \_\_\_"  
 26 Canon camera  
 27 E. Wolfson or R. Cohn  
 28 Second pitches for Bernstein  
 30 Gambol  
 32 Sally Ride's org.  
 34 Top's betting phrase?  
 35 Job for Burr's Mason  
 37 Broadway director Mantello  
 38 Printer's measures  
 39 Obi-\_\_\_ Kenobi  
 40 Technical skill  
 41 Danny Kaye's "On the \_\_\_"  
 44 Bottom  
 45 Tongues to mouths, and more  
 46 Banned bug killer  
 48 Prefix in a kids' clothing line  
 49 Rank of cross-dresser M. Klinger  
 52 Charles, who could make you a man  
 54 Really fighting  
 56 Drag queen in a men's dorm?  
 57 Jason went cruising in this  
 58 "Out" and "Curve"  
 59 "Showboat"'s "Nobody \_\_\_ But Me"  
 60 Explosive stick  
 63 Point between "gay" and "com"

Find solution on page 44 and at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

**TV Quote**

**Across**

- 1 Suck air  
 5 "Frozen" queen  
 9 Vagina, in slang  
 13 Penetrating reed  
 14 Turnpike fee  
 15 Soothing agent for skin  
 16 Big top, e.g.  
 17 Asshole

**QPuzzle**

- 18 Sonny and Cher's "I Got You \_\_\_"  
 19 Start of a dis from a TV series  
 22 NBC sketch source  
 25 "Queen of Soul" Franklin  
 26 Stud site  
 29 Rocker Ringo  
 31 Govt. obligation  
 33 "The View" moderator Goldberg  
 35 Goes down on a hill

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# Community Connections Dynamo Marketing Generates Buzz for Detroit's LGBTQ-Owned Businesses

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Similar to the machine for which it is named, the Dynamo digital marketing company is helping businesses across the Metro Detroit area generate energy around their products and services by both better-utilizing and properly curating their digital footprints. And since it's gay-owned, it's all being done with a focus on inclusivity. In fact, that's something that owner and founder Ryan Redoute said he's passionate about doing.

"Half of my clients right now are part of the LGBTQ+ community and I love that, that's just so great. ... I'm finding that a lot of business owners are in the LGBTQ+ [community and I keep] finding owners," Redoute said. "Just like in the advertising world when I was working with businesses that were saying, 'We're female-owned,' 'We're owned by people of color,' I love that being a part of the LGBTQ+ community is becoming part of that as well."

Redoute's business offers services like paid advertising management, business strategy development, social media management, graphic design, videography and more. And with the existence of a music production arm called Sound Dynamo, creating tailor-made advertising in-house is easily done. But it's not enough that a business simply has ties to the LGBTQ+ community or provides interesting products or services, Redoute said he looks for two main qualities when forming new professional relationships: passion and kindness.

"In clients I look for, honestly, just someone I feel I can work well with," he said. "... Because a lot of people go after the money and they say, 'Forget about it. I don't care what the people are like, I will go after it because of the job or the position.' But I've honestly turned down partnerships or jobs even in the past because I didn't feel it was a good matchup — and that's not to say that they're bad and I'm good, it simply just felt like it wasn't right."

Perhaps it was one of Redoute's first clients that helped instill that frame of mind: his mother, who is the head of the Clinton Township chapter of PFLAG. Redoute aids her in curating the group's social media, monitoring



this super-saturated world we live in of online businesses — the last thing brick and mortar business owners need is to feel like they can't be themselves," he said. "And if I can be the source in Metro Detroit for people to go to, [for] owners that are in the LGBTQ+ community to not be afraid that they can't be themselves ... then I can feel more than satisfied that I have become that."

And though this local, family-run PFLAG chapter might be his first direct tie to LGBTQ+ activism, Redoute's experience extends far beyond family. A graduate of Michigan State University, Redoute has worked in a variety of marketing capacities with companies like Zephyr Media Group, Carat and Pandora throughout his career around the greater Chicago and

Detroit areas.

"I worked in analytics, the planning side, the strategy side — everything. And I really loved it, because I'm a jack of many skills, so in my head I was thinking, 'I've got to try all these out to make sure that I like all of them and see which one I end up liking the most.' But I ended up liking all of them, anyway," he said with a laugh.

Still, despite being pulled in many directions, Detroit seemed to be the biggest draw.

"I knew I wanted to be back in Detroit. I saw that Detroit was on this Renaissance, I really wanted to get my foot in the door in terms of making connections while the city is kind of in this developmental stage," he said. "... I'm excited that I have noticed I've gotten a lot of clients that are a part of the LGBTQ+ community and I foresee myself getting more in that space as well — just through even referrals, anything like that — and I'm just excited to establish my mark even more. I'm excited to keep going, keep doing work and really being that source for small businesses in the Metro Detroit area and even in Detroit to use the power of digital marketing to promote their business but also just help people out."

Find out more about Dynamo's services at [dynamodigitalmarketing.com](http://dynamodigitalmarketing.com).

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## 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/yellow](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)  
[www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit](https://www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit)  
[@LGBTDetroit](https://twitter.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/stonewall4revolution](https://www.facebook.com/stonewall4revolution)

## 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

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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)



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### 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  
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  
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Seniors  
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Sports  
Substance Abuse  
Transgender Groups/Services  
Women's Health  
Youth Services



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



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

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

**RSVP: DETROITLGBTCHAMBER.COM/ONTHEMENU**

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



**VENUE PARTNER**

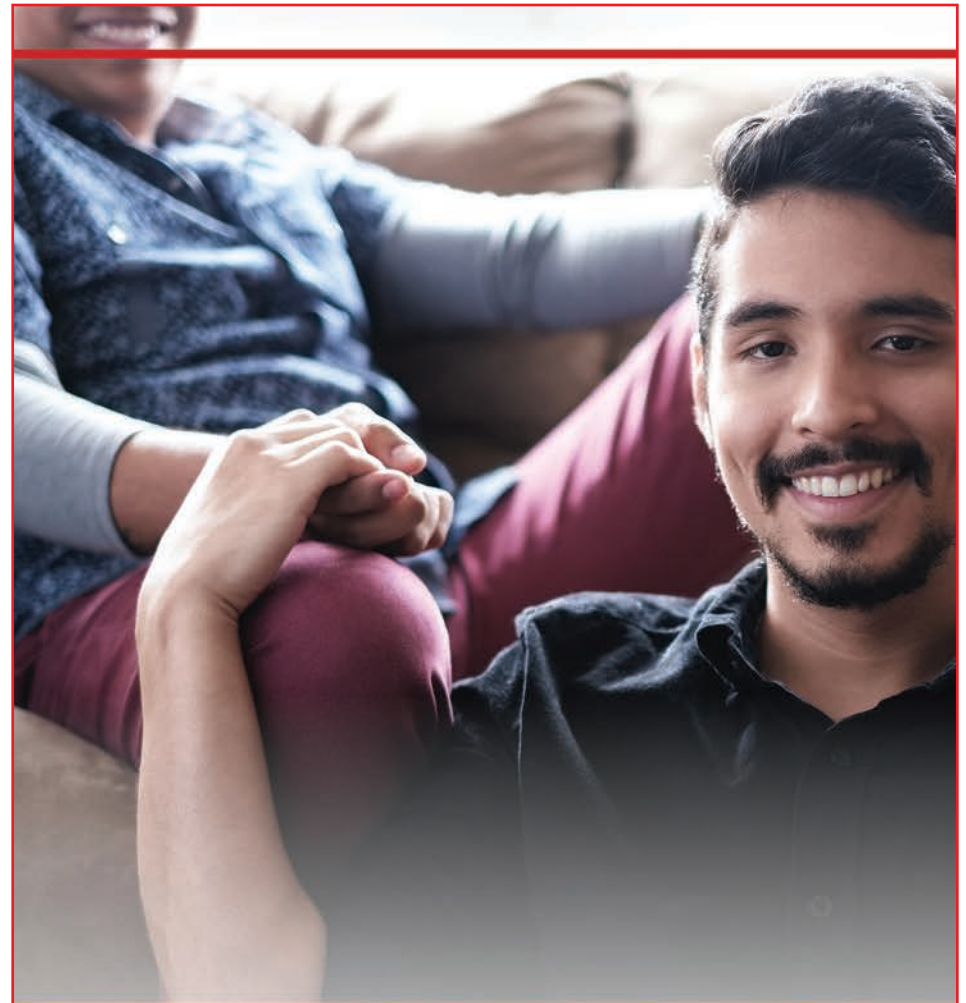


**MEDIA PARTNER**



**CATERING BY**

Kaleidoscope Catering  
see the possibilities. taste the difference.



**NATIONAL LATINX  
AIDS AWARENESS  
DAY, OCTOBER 15TH.**

**Get Tested.  
Prevent.  
Find Information.  
Get Care.**



**TimeToKnowDetroit.org  
(888)226-6366**



**AFFIRMATIONS**  
**FALL *bling* 2019**

**the  
Wizard  
of Wine  
Party!**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019 - 7:00 PM**  
**AFFIRMATIONS COMMUNITY CENTER**  
Enjoy Food/Drink/Wine/Entertainment and a 50-50 Raffle!

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

**Please RSVP:**  
Website: [GoAffirmations.org/fall-fling-2019](http://GoAffirmations.org/fall-fling-2019)  
Email: [ktaylor@goaffirmations.org](mailto:ktaylor@goaffirmations.org)  
Phone: 248-398-7105



# Your Best Choice in Healthcare For All the Right Reasons

Dr. Paul Benson's

**Be Well**  
**Medical Center**

1964 Eleven Mile Rd  
Berkley, MI 40872

**(248) 544-9300**

**doctorbewell.com**



## Most Experienced and Knowledgeable

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

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

by Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Center of Excellence.

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

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

## Extensive Network of Sensitive Specialists

with an ongoing relationship to refer as necessary.

**Dr. Benson** is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University providing training to our next generation of physicians.

## He leads our team of professional and talented Providers:

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

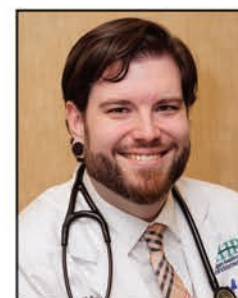
- HIV Prevention (PrEP), Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), STI testing & treatment
- Hormone Affirming Therapy for HIV positive and negative transgender individuals
- Evening Clinic Hours Monday-Thursday, most Saturdays, and Same Day Appointments
- Full-time Patient Navigator/Advocate Social Worker on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



Caleb Youngblood, PA-C, AAHIV-S



Mark Rosen, PA-C



Leon Bullough, NP-F



Keyuna Nance, MSW