

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Trump Admin to Allow Adoption Agencies to Refuse Placement in LGBTQ Homes

Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter to Run for 4-Year Term in 2020



*John Duff  
Spreads  
His Wings*

*Out Musician on Why 'Iconic' Is  
Overused, Industry Homophobia and  
Finding His Place in the Music Business*

# HAGOPIAN CLEANING SERVICES

## THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING!

*Clean Up Now!*

Don't let the holidays sneak up on you!  
Let Hagopian do the hard work to  
get your home fresh and clean  
for holiday guests.



### RUG CLEANING

**2 FOR 1**

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

*some restrictions apply*

**EXPIRES 11/30/19**

### CARPET CLEANING

**3 ROOMS  
\$99**

*some restrictions apply*

**EXPIRES 11/30/19**

### AIR DUCT CLEANING

**\$100  
OFF**

*must mention coupon when  
scheduling service*

*some restrictions apply*

**EXPIRES 11/30/19**



## 1-800-HAGOPIAN

(424-6742)

**SCHEDULE ONLINE!** [HagopianClean.com](http://HagopianClean.com)

*The Most Trusted Name in Cleaning Since 1939*



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

SHOWROOMS &  
CLEANING DROP-OFF  
BIRMINGHAM • NOVI

ADDITIONAL DROP-OFF LOCATIONS  
ANN ARBOR • CLARKSTON • PLYMOUTH  
UTICA • GRAND RAPIDS



## NEWS

4 Oakland County Executive Dave Couler to Run for 4-Year Term in 2020

4 Affirmations, Corktown Health Center to Announce Partnership With Details to Be Revealed

4 One-Day Community Ed Event on How to Support, Embrace and Celebrate Transgender Youth

4 ACLU Commends Gov. Whitmer, Michigan Lawmakers for Passing Raise the Age Legislation

5 Trump Admin to Allow Adoption Agencies to Refuse Placement in LGBTQ Homes

6 Sen. Moss: A Sign of Change

6 Buttigieg Calls Latest Trump Move Enabling Anti-LGBT Bias a 'Huge Step Backward'

8 Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II: 'It's Time to Do the ACLU'

12 Trump HHS Reverses Obama-Era Non-Discrimination Policy

12 Obit: Frederick William Hoffman

## OPINION

10 Parting Glances

10 Viewpoint

11 Creep of the Week

## LIFE

14 John Duff Spreads His Wings

22 Happenings

23 Windsor Film Fest Celebrates 25th Anniversary of 'Priscilla, Queen of the Desert' With Trixie Mattel

24 Deep Inside Hollywood

25 Puzzle

26 'Drawn to Detroit' Exhibit Friday, Nov. 8 at Blossoming Artists Gallery

26 Queer Fashion Course Draws Students LGBTQ and Straight Alike

## COOL CITIES: ANN ARBOR

20 November LezRead 'The Miseducation of Cameron Post' Nov. 17

20 Theatre NOVA Presents Premiere of 'DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto'



## 14 COVER:

John Duff Spreads His Wings

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

Copyright 2019

www.PrideSource.com

VOL. 2745 • NOV. 7, 2019

ISSUE 1131

### PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone 734.293.7200

### PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

### EDITORIAL

#### Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102  
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

#### Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106  
chrissazzopardi@pridesource.com

#### News & Feature Editor

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105  
eve@pridesource.com

#### News & Feature Writers

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

### CREATIVE

#### Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

### Columnists

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

### Cartoonists

Paul Berg

### Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Andrew Cohen, Roxanne Frith, Tih Penfil

### ADVERTISING & SALES

#### Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101  
jan@pridesource.com

#### Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103  
anncox@pridesource.com

#### National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

### MEMBER OF

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



"Between The Lines Newspaper"



Follow us @YourBTL



Email your op-eds to  
editor@pridesource.com



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

## One-Day Community Ed Event on How to Support, Embrace and Celebrate Transgender Youth

BY BTL STAFF

Two Michigan organizations are holding a free, one-day event, open to the public, to teach parents/caregivers how to become more affirming and supportive of the LGBTQ youth in their lives.

The Michigan Organization for Adolescent Sexual Health and Stand With Trans were awarded a grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan to run the Southeast Michigan Community Education and Engagement project in Wayne County. The SMCEE event will educate adult community members on how to be more supportive, affirming and inclusive for transgender or non-binary youth. It will cover 'introductory' aspects, including vocabulary, understanding gender identity, sexual orientation, and more. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions with experts in the fields of medicine, education, law, and more.

The SMCEE project is free to attend and open to the public. Professionals, parents, caregivers, and community members are encouraged to attend. It is being done in collaboration with Dr. Melissa Farrell, ACLU attorney Jay Kaplan, and others.

*The event takes place on Nov. 9 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Beaumont - Dearborn, Kalman Auditorium, 18101 Oakwood Blvd. in Dearborn. If you would like to attend or have questions, please email Lacey Slay at lacey.slay@moash.org. The link to register is: bit.ly/SMCEE.*

## ACLU Commends Gov. Whitmer, Michigan Lawmakers for Passing Raise the Age Legislation

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan commended the Michigan legislature and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer last week for passing Raise the Age legislation, which raises the age a person is considered an adult from 17 to 18, when charged with a crime. The new law makes Michigan the 47th state to end the practice of charging and punishing children as adults.

Dave Noble, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan said this was a positive move.

"For too long we have treated children as adults and the result has been disastrous. The studies show that minors serving time in adult prisons are five times more likely to be sexually assaulted and 36 times more likely to die by suicide," he said. "Children should not have to face the same legal consequences as adults and raising the age is the right step in protecting them. We are grateful that Michigan lawmakers and Gov. Whitmer are working to reform our criminal legal system."

## Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter to Run for 4-Year Term in 2020

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Dave Coulter, Oakland County Executive, has announced he will seek a full four-year term in 2020. He made the announcement today at Brass Aluminum Enterprises Forging in Ferndale.

Appointed in August following the death of County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Coulter became the first Democrat to hold that position since it was created. And he is only the second openly LGBTQ person to hold countywide office in Oakland, following Circuit Court Judge Jake Cunningham who was elected last year.

"In just a few short months, I have seen the bright possibilities we can create for our county," said Coulter, whose appointment followed a contentious political battle among Democrats and Republicans alike. "As I talk to residents, community leaders and business owners, they are eager for both stability and forward progress. We have a historic opportunity to leverage the tremendous strengths within our



county to create the next and best version of Oakland County. To build on this momentum, I have decided to seek the full term for county executive next year."

A county commissioner from 2002 to 2010, Coulter was the Democratic minority leader for most of that time. He then served as mayor of Ferndale, his home since 1994, from 2011 until this April when he announced that he would not seek another term. Coulter then announced in July a run for representative for Michigan's 27th House District. That

seat is open in 2020 due to term limits and is currently held by Rep. Robert Wittenberg (D-Huntington Woods) who announced a run for county treasurer.

Andy Meisner, the current county treasurer, announced in March his run for county executive and has been campaigning since. The other Democrat in the picture, County Board Chair Dave Woodward, who had announced his own bid for the county executive position, endorsed Coulter and will not seek that office.

## Affirmations, Corktown Health Center Announce Partnership With Details to Be Revealed

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Over the last 30 years Ferndale's Affirmations LGBTQ community center has been focused on providing Southeast Michigan's LGBTQ community with not only social but community support services. Now, the center is set to expand its offerings to include health care. This is made possible because of a joint partnership with Corktown Health Center, which focuses specifically on LGBTQ health services, that will serve to expand the reach of Corktown as well.

Mike Flores, formerly Affirmations' board president, announced at a community event last month that he will be stepping down from his position at the center to oversee this partnership via a new staff position at Corktown.

"I will be focused on this partnership, that will be one of my primary roles, and make sure that we are able to meet milestones, to be able to execute on the plan that we're going to share in the future," he said.

As of right now, the exact nature of the partnership is yet to be revealed but Flores said there are plans for the release



Mike Flores

of a community announcement with more details by the end of 2019. He did say, however, that it won't be long before regulars at Affirmations will start to notice a positive change in the

community center.

"I think the first thing that most visitors to the center will notice is that they will now have direct access to information related to health care, the services that may be available to them in the community, beyond just the [current] resources that we provided at Affirmations," he said.

He said that the idea for the partnership came about last year, when Affirmations was facing financial difficulties and focused on forging stronger community relationships.

"Back in November of last year, the board made a strategic decision that we could not do business as usual and

what that meant was that we really needed to think outside of the box in terms of how we were going to make Affirmations sustainable. And one of the conclusions that we came up with was we needed to have partnerships that allowed us to provide additional service to the community," Flores said. "So, what we've been doing over the last year now is talking to several organizations about potential partnerships and one of the areas that we wanted to focus in on was health care. And it was just a natural progression to start conversations with Corktown, because, obviously, they have a focus in the LGBT community. Obviously, we do as well, and it just made sense for us to do some initial touchpoints with each other to see if there was an opportunity for us to start discussing partnerships."

Affirmations Board Vice President Cheryl Czach will step into the interim president role. This is a developing story.

*To find out more about Corktown Health Center visit [corktownhealth.org](http://corktownhealth.org). To learn more about Affirmations visit [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org).*

# Trump Admin to Allow Adoption Agencies to Refuse Placement in LGBTQ Homes

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The Trump administration is moving forward with a proposed regulation that will allow taxpayer-funded adoption agencies to refuse placement to LGBTQ families over religious objections.

The Department of Health & Human Services went public on Friday with the regulation, which will undo an Obama-era policy implemented in December 2016 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity among federal grantees.

The proposed regulation, which will have far-reaching implications, was immediately criticized by LGBTQ rights supporters.

Julie Kruse, director of federal policy at Family Equality Council, said in a statement the policy was “outrageous,” especially at the start of National Adoption Month.

“The American public overwhelmingly opposes allowing taxpayer-funded adoption and foster care agencies to turn away qualified parents simply because they are in a same-sex relationship,” Kruse said.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said in a statement the regulation would also allow anti-trans discrimination in health care.

“This rule is an abuse of taxpayer dollars in the name of empowering hatred and bigotry towards society’s most vulnerable members,” Keisling said. “Stigma and prejudice are fueling a public health crisis among transgender people across the country, one that manifests itself as suicide, addiction, intimate partner violence and HIV. Enabling providers of life-saving services to worsen these crises by rejecting transgender people is a moral crime and a severe abdication of HHS’s mission to preserve public health.”

According to NCTE, the rule will allow anti-trans discrimination in HIV and STI prevention programs, opioid programs, youth homelessness services, health professional training, substance-use recovery programs and other life-saving services.

The proposal seeks to gut an Obama-era rule that barred entities receiving money under federal contracts, including adoption agencies, from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation.

As the new proposed rule notes, HHS has already granted an exemption from the Obama-era rule to South Carolina, which sought to get out of the regulation on behalf of the Miracle Hill Ministries adoption agency.

The rule seeks to justify itself by saying the Obama-era regulations aren’t based on statutes and religious-affiliated groups have complained and filed lawsuits over meeting those requirements. These groups, HHS noted, assert the policy is unlawful under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act and the

First Amendment.

“The existence of these complaints and legal actions indicates [the Obama-era rule] imposed regulatory burden and created a lack of predictability and stability for the department and stakeholders with respect to these provisions’ viability and enforcement,” the rule says.

It’s true the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination in federal programs, has no language against either sex discrimination or anti-LGBTQ discrimination. The Obama-era rule, therefore, is more than an expanded interpretation of discrimination based on sex as defined under the law to include anti-LGBTQ discrimination.

The proposed rule also says religious-affiliated agencies will cease to provide services altogether if forced to comply with the Obama-era rule, which HHS concludes “would likely reduce the effectiveness of programs funded by federal grants by reducing the number of entities available to provide services under these programs.”

In recent years, Catholic adoption agencies have closed in Massachusetts, Illinois and D.C., citing new laws that bar anti-LGBTQ discrimination and allow same-sex couples to marry. Those decisions pre-dated the Obama-era rule, but show the extent these agencies are willing to go to deny placement into LGBT homes.

Religiously-affiliated agencies have also challenged the Obama-era rule in court. Just last month, a federal judge in Michigan ruled in favor of St. Vincent, a Lansing-based adoption agency that sued both the state and federal government to allow it to refuse to certify LGBT homes for adoption.

As a result, the Trump administration proposal seeks an amendment to the Obama-era regulation with the following language to give federal grantees more leeway — including the ability to discriminate against LGBT people — in the services they provide:

“It is a public policy requirement of HHS that no person otherwise eligible will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in the administration of HHS programs and services, to the extent doing so is prohibited by federal statute,” the language says.

The new regulation was expected. In May, Axios reported the Trump administration was planning to implement a rule to allow adoption agencies to reject same-sex parents.

In a speech on the National Day of Prayer in February, President Trump expressed solidarity with religiously affiliated agencies seeking to place children into homes consistent with their religious beliefs, even if that means denying placement into LGBT families.

See **Adoption**, continued on p. 12

4th Annual  
ROYAL OAK MARKET  
ART FAIR EDITION

Featured Artwork: “The Lamplighter” by Tyler Voorhees

November 21 & 22 2019  
60 Artists • Food Trucks  
Beer/Wine • Entertainment  
+ Whiskey Tasting Nov. 21st  
RoyalOakArtFair.com

# A Sign of Change

## Sen. Moss and the State Capitol's Policy of Refusing Signs

BY JONATHAN W. THURSTON

Back in 2012, the Michigan State Capitol saw a number of protests relating to the “right-to-work” law. It seems the State Capitol Commission didn’t take well to that, because in 2013, new rules were enforced: signs were no longer allowed inside the Capitol building.

In an interview with journalist Jonathan Oostling of MLive, the Capitol’s Building Facilities Manager Steve Benkovsky found the new rules “bizarre,” as protestors carrying guns could now freely enter while those with signs were required to drop them first.

“We just worry about damaging the walls, because on the decorative paint, a sign turning the wrong way or even a rifle can gouge the thing.”

Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) has heard the suspicions about the connections between the events of 2012 and 2013. Sen. Moss is not content with the policy, regardless of its origin. He called the current rules an obstacle to hinder community political involvement.

“I’m not sure if [the protests] prompted the change. But that’s the rumor,” he said. “... It’s a way to stop the momentum of someone coming up to the capitol and wanting to be engaged in their state government.”

On Sept. 10 of this year, he introduced a bill

to reconsider these rules governing the Capitol. And this date is a very significant one for the politics involved.

“It was introduced a month and a half ago because it was Open Carry Day. You could open carry anywhere in Michigan including the State Capitol. When you walk in the Capitol building, the only thing explicitly banned is signs,” he said.

For Sen. Moss, the contradiction between open carry and prohibition of signs is what bothers him the most about this situation.

He calls this juxtaposition a “hypocrisy.” This is not the first time he has attempted this bill, but there is always intentionality behind his placement of the date.

“By design we introduce it each year on Open Carry Day to display a bit of the hypocrisy in state government,” Moss said.

He noted that retailers across the country have requested customers not to bring weapons into stores, and federal buildings, too, do not allow open carry. In the same breath, many of these places are perfectly fine with signs being brought in. However, in Michigan, the rules are somehow reversed.

“The only thing we care about in the Capitol,” Sen. Moss said, “is cardboard. I think that that is an imbalance in priorities here in Michigan.”

Ironically, it seems that the Michigan State Capitol Commission put the rules into place

because the commissioners were concerned for the safety of the building. Sen. Moss explained this as being mostly about what would happen if a sign were to fall on the ground or something similar.

“At the time they said they were worried that signs in the Capitol would damage the walls,” he said.

But Sen. Moss is not convinced by this reasoning.

“I’ve been pushing against the logic,” he said, “because a malfunctioning gun does worse for the decor of the Capitol than a sign. This is the people’s building. If they really want to express their grievances, I don’t think banning signs should be used to curb that excitement.”

While Sen. Moss is constantly juxtaposing the freedom to carry with the freedom to protest, his goal is not really to speak out against open carry in general. But he is thinking about smaller ways to deal with issues related to gun violence.

“In years past, we’ve talked about ways to reduce gun violence. And we do have security personnel in both chambers of the Capitol building,” he said. “... However, I don’t see a need for open carry inside the Capitol.”

Currently, Sen. Moss does not anticipate much pushback against the bill, but there is still is not the enthusiasm he hopes for.

“We’re just trying to highlight that the First

“We’re just trying to highlight that the First Amendment protection should be upheld as much as the Second Amendment protection. Procedurally, I’m not sure there’s an appetite to hold this legislation up.”

- Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield)

Amendment protection should be upheld as much as the Second Amendment protection,” Moss said. “Procedurally, I’m not sure there’s an appetite to hold this legislation up.”

While this is just one bill, it connects to many of the changes Sen. Moss is trying to see to fruition in his role of senator for the state of Michigan.

“I’ve been focused primarily on good government reforms like making sure open records are available to the public,” he said, adding that for years he has been “a fierce advocate of freedom of information policies here in Michigan.”

And while he sees this bill to allow freedom of speech in the Capitol as good and important work, he is working on bigger changes in Lansing as well.

## Buttigieg Calls Latest Trump Move Enabling Anti-LGBT Bias a ‘Huge Step Backward’

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

**DECORAH, Iowa** — In the aftermath of the Trump administration unveiling a proposed rule change enabling taxpayer-funded adoption agencies to deny placement in LGBT families, South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg has denounced the move as “a huge step backward.”

The gay 2020 presidential hopeful made the comments on his Iowa campaign bus en route to a rally in Waverly, Iowa, under questioning from the Washington Blade.

“I think it’s a huge step backward,” Buttigieg said. “It’s bad enough that discrimination is taking place across the country, but when discrimination is being supported with federal funds, it takes away, first of all the movement justice and equality, but also an opportunity for the federal government to show leadership in advancing equality.”

The Department of Health & Human Services on Friday announced the proposed rule change, which would reverse an Obama-era regulation implemented in December 2016 to prohibiting recipients of federal grants, most notably

adoption agencies, from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and transgender status.

Buttigieg pointed out reversing of the rule was part and parcel to “a whole bunch of things they’ve done on the administrative side” in the current White House to undermine LGBT rights.

Although Buttigieg said a lot of focus is on the Equality Act, legislation that would categorically ban anti-LGBTQ discrimination under federal law, more attention should be paid to the administrative changes the Trump administration is making against LGBT rights.

“I’m guessing there are some things we haven’t even heard much about yet that are happening across the departments, the way they make changes in practice, the way they set up some of these offices,” Buttigieg said.

The Trump administration has cited complaints from religious organizations that obtain federal grants threatening to end services entirely if forced to comply with LGBT non-discrimination rules. Just last month, a federal judge ruled in favor of St. Vincent, a Lansing,



Pete Buttigieg denounces the Trump rule allowing anti-LGBTQ discrimination (Washington Blade photo by Chris Johnson)

Mich.-based adoption agency, which seeking to get out state and federal non-discrimination requirements on religious grounds.

Asked by the Blade whether it’s right to impose non-discrimination rules unilaterally through regulation on religious organizations, Buttigieg said recipients of federal grants should be held to “the highest standard.”

“Regulations obviously create more of a complex landscape constitutionally, but we

know that we can and should apply non-discrimination [rules],” he said.

Buttigieg also drew a distinction between requiring religious organizations to adhere to rules against LGBT non-discrimination and dictating their religious belief to them.

“That is different from telling religious organizations what their theology ought to be, or invading their practice or religious belief,” Buttigieg said. “We’re talking about social services being offered in partnership with the taxpayer, and that creates an obligation and shared expectation for the United States.”

Asked whether he reinstate the regulations as implemented during the Obama administration, Buttigieg demurred, but signaled his intent to return to that general direction.

“I’d want look at how we might revise it in carrying things forward, so I don’t say that I’d cut and paste, but we’d certainly move back in that direction,” Buttigieg said.

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

# Sweeney Todd

The Demon Barber of Fleet Street – A Musical Thriller  
Music and lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Sat. Nov. 16 at 7:30 PM  
Wed. Nov. 20 at 7:30 PM  
Fri. Nov. 22 at 7:30 PM  
Sun. Nov. 24 at 2:30 PM  
At the Detroit Opera House

Featuring the MOT  
Orchestra and Chorus

 2019 Fall Opera  
Season Sponsor

MICHIGAN  
OPERA  
THEATRE

TICKETS:  
MichiganOpera.org  
or 313.237.7464

**NOW OPEN!**





## Senior Health Clinic

for LGBTQ+ adults 55 and older

Primary and Specialty Care  
Preventive and Support Services


Wednesdays from 10 AM - 2 PM  
Call for an appointment

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

Age with respect, dignity and pride at Corktown Health Center

THEATRE  
& DANCE  
at WAYNE presents



Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-Winning Play

# SWEAT

November 1 to 17, 2019  
Hilberry Theatre

"Surprisingly funny—but ultimately heartbreaking"  
— The New York Times

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

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

Sweat is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York  
Photo by Chuk Nowak Photography

# Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II: 'It's Time to Do the ACLU'

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

## Our Movement, Our Moment

At the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn before a sold-out crowd that included Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Congresswomen Rashida Tlaib and Debbie Dingell as well as numerous state legislators, the ACLU of Michigan Board of Directors President Dan Varner welcomed supporters to this year's annual dinner, titled "Our Movement, Our Moment."

"It's been another incredible year as we take on some of the biggest challenges facing our state and nation," Varner said. "But thanks to the commitment of everyone in this room and supporters throughout the state, together we're making strides to ensure that the civil rights and the civil liberties of all are protected."

New Executive Director Dave Noble knows that commitment well. He shared the experience of being on a plane returning from Florida in December of 2000, following the Supreme Court ruling that called off the recount of the presidential election. For that, Noble had, among other things, inspected those now-famous hanging chads. Surveying the rows of passengers, some quick math led him to realize the equivalent of just two more plane-loads of voters would have made the difference in the outcome of the election — "even with everything wrong with the system," Noble said.

"Considering what a different course our country might have taken with an alternative outcome of the election," Noble declared, "I've been pissed off about voter suppression ever since."

To follow that up, Noble spoke next of last year's passage of Proposal 3, the greatest expansion of voting rights in Michigan.

"With your help, we made one of the worst voting systems in the country one of the best," he said.

He went on to speak with pride about the ACLU's national efforts.

"Back in 2016, we put [Trump] on notice," he said. "That if elected, we would see him in court based on his promises to violate the Constitution. Guess what? We have sued his administration more than 200 times, with extraordinary success," he said, to a round of applause.

Perhaps most poignantly, Noble spoke of Aimee Stephens, who was in the room that evening. Despite previous court rulings to the contrary, "the Trump Administration argued that it should be legal to fire Aimee and other transgender people and gay people like me," Noble said. "No matter what the court decides, her case, her courage, has changed this nation."

Following his description of the ACLU's efforts to fight back against child separation,



ballot initiatives to deny access to abortion and what he characterized as our racist criminal justice system, Noble made the following pledge:

"My commitment to you, is that we will stay vigilant and we will stay bold. We will stay in this light. With those in power trying to take rights away, the ACLU of Michigan will be there. With you by our side, we'll keep fighting, and we'll keep winning. We are up to the challenge."

## 2019 Honorees

A lifelong advocate for, and supporter of, abortion rights, Vicki Moore was the evening's first honoree. Her clinics in mid-Michigan, the Women's Health Centers, are the only ones between Saginaw and Traverse City that provide abortion care. The inspiration behind opening the clinics was the work of her parents in the years before abortion was legal. However, by 2011, new restrictive laws were being enacted that were designed to shut her down.

"With the ACLU's unwavering dedication, incredible legal prowess and belief in me, we were able to team up and prevail," Moore said.

The other honoree of the evening was Lamonte Card, who was released from 25 years in prison after being sentenced when he was a juvenile to life without the possibility of parole. Grateful for the efforts of the ACLU on his behalf, Card wished to be involved with the organization in whatever capacity he could. Just five days following his release, Card joined the ACLU to fight for voting reform as part of the Promote the Vote campaign, or Proposal 3. And as someone who had lacked the right to vote for so many years, Card had a unique ability and passion to change hearts and minds.

"I didn't have a job. I didn't have anything. All I had was a desire to make a difference and contribute to society," Card said.

Later, speaking of his experience working with the ACLU, he said, "It enhanced my life." As he stood before the crowd that evening he

*"We need to act. We need to challenge. We need to love. And we need to unite. We need to put down our petty differences between organizations and understand that there are forces out there trying to hurt us all."*

- Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II

was emotional, stating more than once that it was like a dream to be there after his decades in prison.



workforce. It was also a time of unrest among immigrants. Government leaders sowed fear that returning soldiers were bringing back socialism and communism from overseas. Civil rights activist James Weldon Johnson coined the term Red Summer to describe the widespread white supremacist attacks that plagued the U.S. in 1919.

"And then America elected a racist," Barber said. "He was a racist. He was a narcissist." Without mentioning President Woodrow Wilson by name, Barber quoted him as saying, "The American Negro returning from abroad would be our greatest medium in conveying Bolshevism to America."

"In other words," Barber said, "fear the returning American soldier, because they are the conduit of socialism and communism."

Barber went on to talk about how, 100 years later, this country is faced with racist voter suppression laws that predate the current president's election. Echoing what others have

*"Considering what a different course our country might have taken with an alternative outcome of the election," Noble declared, "I've been pissed off about voter suppression ever since."*

- ACLU Executive Director Dave Noble

## Act. Challenge. Love. Unite.

Keynote speaker the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II exhorted the crowd to act, challenge, love and unite throughout his remarks. Barber leads the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, that is described as uniting people across the country to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality.

Two things that bother him the most, Barber said, are people who say, "We've never seen anything like this before," and, "This is the era of Donald Trump." Thus, Barber provided a history lesson.

He described how 100 years ago racial riots were breaking out against blacks due to post-World War II tensions. With America in an economic slump, there was increased competition for jobs because the leaders of industry were greedy, and preferred to make their goods cheaply instead of expanding the

put forth, Barber stated, "Trump is not the problem. He is the symptom."

"A hundred years later ... we need to do the ACLU," Barber said. "We need to act. We need to challenge. We need to love. And we need to unite. We need to put down our petty differences between organizations and understand that there are forces out there trying to hurt us all."

The same politicians that support voter suppression are the same ones denying health care, said Barber. And they are the same ones opposing a living wage, harming the LGBTQ community, refusing to take measures against climate change, supporting mass incarceration and so on.

"And if they are cynical enough to be together, we ought to be smart enough to come together," Barber said. "It's time to do the ACLU."



**CAGE FREE 24 / 7** **HAPPY HOUNDS** 

**BOARDING IN COMFORT** *Day & Overnight Care!*

# FOR DOGS

**WHO DON'T LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE ANIMALS**

GROOMING *pet care extraordinaire* BOARDING

A SECOND HOME FOR YOUR FURRY FRIEND **1** ACCOMMODATIONS



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

*Call* (734) 459-3647 or visit [www.HappyHoundsDayCare.com](http://www.HappyHoundsDayCare.com)  673 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan

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

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

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

**734-783-2646**

**Michigan Memorial™**  
Funeral Home • Park • Crematory  
[www.MiMemorial.com](http://www.MiMemorial.com)


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

**EVENT**

## Southeast Michigan Community Education and Engagement Day Presented by MOASH and Stand with Trans

**November 9, 2019**  
**Location:**  
Beaumont Dearborn  
Kalman Auditorium  
18101 Oakwood, Dearborn, MI 48124



**Speakers:**

  
Melissa Farrell, Psy.D.  
Dr. Farrell is a psychologist, ACT trainer and international presenter. She is a former co-chair for the gender and sexual minorities special interest group for the Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (ACBS). She specializes in working with gender and sexual minorities, particularly youth and their families.

- **10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Transgender 101 for parents/caregivers of trans/gender diverse youth** (open to everyone in the community)
- **12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. – LUNCH** (provided)
- **1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Roundtable discussion** (legal, education, mental health, medical, & youth tables)

This event is made possible by a generous grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the HOPE fund.


**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Lacey Slay at [lacey.slay@moash.org](mailto:lacey.slay@moash.org)

**Beaumont**   ADVOCATE CELEBRATE EDUCATE

To register, use this link: <https://bit.ly/2kk7mTb>

**DATE, LOCATION and SPEAKERS**

**PROGRAM**

*at Hodges...*

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

**OUTBACK**   **SUBARU.**

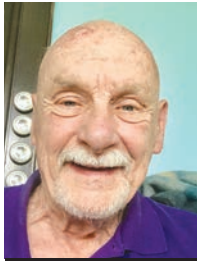
**HODGES SUBARU**  
Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

21205 Woodward Ave • Ferndale • MI • 48220  
248.547.8800 • [www.hodgessubaru.com](http://www.hodgessubaru.com)

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

**EVERYDAY!**

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



## Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### Gaydar Goes Half App'd

This column first appeared in BTL Nov. 2012

I've been told by a high techie source – but perhaps it's just wishful thinking “queersay” – that there's a new app on the market called Gaydetection.

Its purpose is to determine at a glance just who might be gay. Correction. Who is gay.

(For some reason of digital failure at manipulation of internal incorporated judgmental criteria, the app does not work in the detection of dykes. I'm told that Gaydetection app developers feel that it's not necessary to determine what, to them, is already perceived as obvious.)

Interestingly enough, Gaydetection is a big hit with straights who, now that gays have seemingly made such great equality strides, feel its most politically correct and unhesitatingly expedient to tell at a glance who's queer, who's not, who's just pretending.

I don't plan to purchase or – if you'll pardon the expression – download the app. I've been using my God-given gaydar for so long now that I can tell who's gay in a nanosecond, and have received many straight requests to perform this service free of charge in the interest of ecumenical and spiritual considerations (say, to answer questions like, “Is our choir director a fag? Is father so-and-so really celibate?”)

Of course what happens whenever social assimilation occurs is that the majority wants in on the action of what's perceived as an up-and-coming, enviable popularity plus on the part of the heretofore marginalized minority. (NOTE: I have a B.A. minor in sociology.)

According to a recent article in Psychology Today (“Gaydar: The Dorian Gray Effect”), fancied cellphone sensors like Gaydetection are not necessary. Apparently, straights are now tapping into their own media-acquired gaydar to determine who is and who isn't gay. Safe bet: Adam Lambert. Another: Jim Parsons.

As reported by PT, two psychologists, Nalini Ambady, Tufts University, and Nicholas Rule, University of Toronto, have teamed up to do research on just how much is revealed by ones facial expressions.

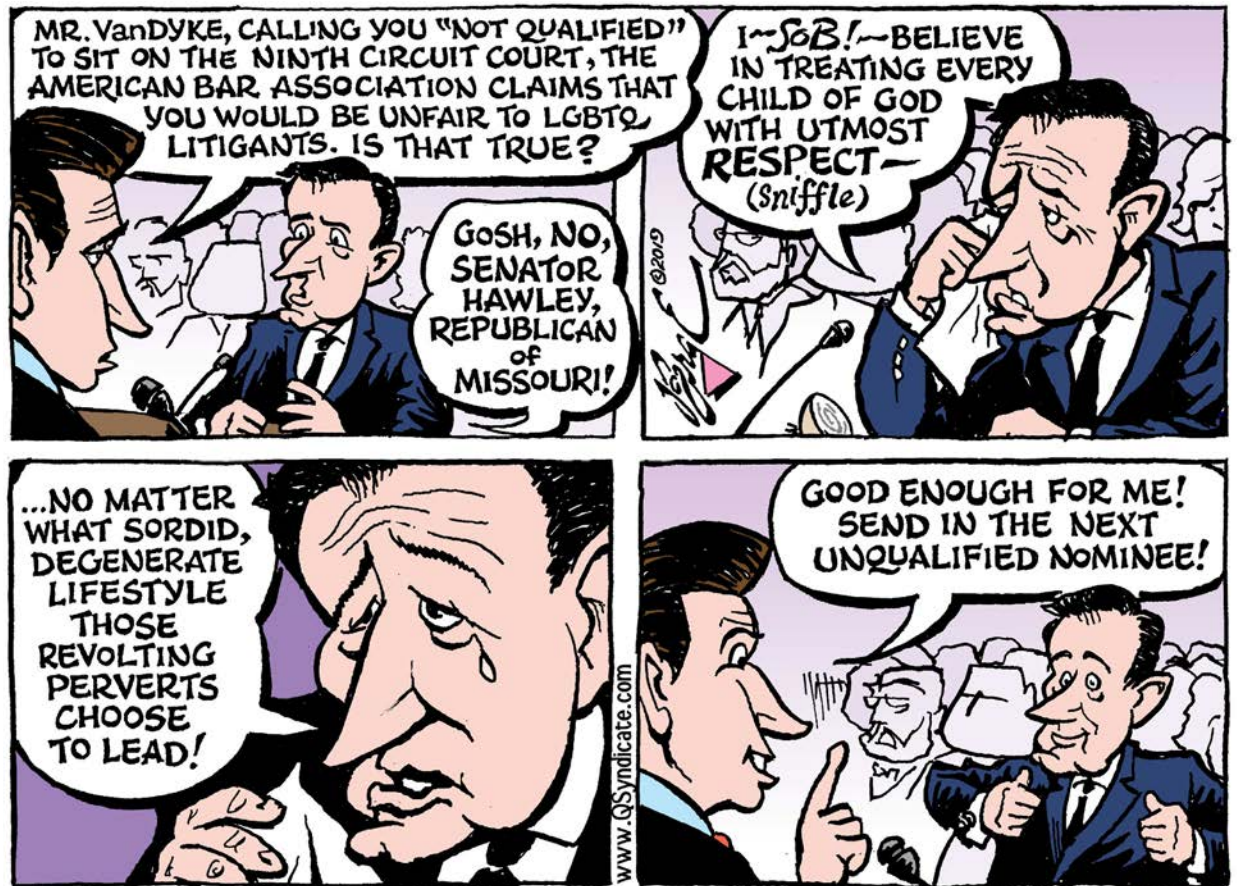
Their finding for LGBTs: “The more motivated you are to know someone's orientation, the better your intuition. People who have the sharpest gaydar are gay men and lesbians, naturally, and” – cocktail party tidbit - “ovulating women.”

PT continues, “Subjects identify lesbians accurately between 64 and 70 percent of the time; gay men are correctly identified with slightly less reliability in the 60 to 65 percent range.”

Tested subjects are shown pictures of gays, lesbians, straights to guess who is homosexual and who isn't. Those who respond with a spontaneous gut reaction are more frequently on the mark, in contrast to those who hesitate in forming a judgment.

So-called straight-acquired gaydar doesn't work in certain instances, instances that are often confusing for gays and

See next page



## Transmissions



### Revealing, But Not What You Think

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

In 2008, a woman named Jenna Karvunidis sliced open a cake, revealing pink frosting within the layers. With her, the “gender reveal party” entered the popular lexicon. A decade or so later, the gender reveal has gone a long way from those humble beginnings becoming something far different from that cake.

I feel that the gender reveal has become the polar opposite of the classic baby shower, an event that has become an event focused around the trappings of toxic masculinity. While cakes and balloons still certainly exist, one hears far more about far more hypermasculine ways to reveal a pink or blue cloud of smoke.

Of these, an exploding rifle target marketed as the “Tannerite Gender Reveal Boom Box” seems a common choice. Last year, a Tannerite device led to the Sawmill Fire, burning roughly 47,000 acres in Arizona. That gender reveal blaze ended up costing \$8 million dollars in damage, far above the \$99.00 list price of a “Boom Box”

In Australia, a 2018 reveal using a car ended up destroying the vehicle after the blue smoke that heralded a baby boy burst

into flames. The driver and passengers were able to escape the burning car with their lives.

Last month, however, a 56-year-old Iowa woman was killed when shrapnel from a presumably home-made “gender reveal” device struck and killed her. Police described the device as functioning much like a pipe bomb.

Days after this, within the same state, a “Boom Box” caused an explosion that was felt more than two miles away.

When one examines so many videos taken at these parties, a pattern emerges: blue smoke is treated as a success all around, while pink smoke can lead men to sorrow or anger. It is as if a male was the only “winning” solution, and being revealed as the father of a little girl is viewed as some sort of personal failure.

This view is hardly new. The notion of a son “carrying on the family name” is embedded deeply into popular culture, while a daughter is seen as a sign of weakness, not only for her, but also for her father. Among some men, that is viewed as a sign that the father's own sperm is inferior somehow.

Only one thing seems to be viewed as an even worse sin:

See Transmissions, continued on p. 11

## ► Transmissions

Continued from p. 10

having a child who homo- or bisexual or, one step even further down the scale, transgender.

This is how it was in my own family. While my father was, perhaps, not outwardly upset when an ultrasound revealed that the second child he would have with his wife was a daughter, he likely felt fortunate that he had already preserved his legacy with his first-born.

In Texas, there is a 7-year-old named Luna Younger. At age 3, she had her own gender reveal of her own, declaring even then that she was a girl.

Her mother, Anne Georgulas, has accepted her new daughter — but not so for Luna's father, Jeffrey Younger.

Jeffrey Younger — who lived a life formed around a series of lies around military service serving with the Marines in Iraq, having never been previously wed, and having a Ph.D. from the University of Dallas — is unwilling to accept Luna's reality.

After his divorce from Georgulas, according to the Dallas Morning News, Georgulas received, "the right to make decisions about the children's medical and psychological treatment, among other issues, provided she notified Younger."

Younger fought back, creating a website — since removed — that showed his daughter wearing boys clothing and sporting a buzz cut that he gave his daughter. It's worth noting he didn't give his Luna's twin brother the same cut.

He claimed that the treatment that Luna would undergo would be irreversible, even though at her age she would only be allowed to socially transition, and any medical intervention would start with reversible puberty

blockers. Of course, he also had a GoFundMe, raising more than \$42,000 for his court fight.

Initially, Younger's push to gain custody over Luna failed before a jury in Dallas, but that was before the governor of Texas, as well as Sen. Ted Cruz and other lawmakers, chimed in. Cowed, Judge Kim Cooks, overturned the jury, offering joint custody and likely causing untold harm to Luna. The father will therefore still be allowed to terrorize his daughter, forcing her to live a life in a gender she does not want, and in a way that may unduly harm her.

No amount of gunpowder or colored smoke will reveal a gender. All it can do is reveal what genitals your baby has, based on a fairly grainy picture and the best guess of the technician looking at the image.

Gender isn't that easy to pin down, and doesn't care what you see in an ultrasound. For Luna, she did reveal her gender, telling her truth — but her father, like so many glum-faced fathers lumbering awkwardly away from gender reveal results not to their liking — is unwilling to accept it.

Now, the courts will allow him to continue to cause harm to his child for years to prevent her from living her truth. This is a tragedy, and one that reveals far more than any gender. It reveals how much our society is willing to fail kids like Luna to preserve a harmful patriarchal system gone mad.

Oh, and one more thing: Jenna Karvunidis, whose pink icing started all this? They're repudiated the concept, and now celebrate their child's own self-expression as, "a girl who wears suits."

*Gwen Smith revealed her gender in 1993. You can find her at [gwensmith.com](http://gwensmith.com)*

may express themselves more like straight men."

Given all the celebs now jumping on the rainbow bandwagon, the simplest thing to do socially is just ask, "What took you so long, Mary?"

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

## ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

lesbians as well. "Metrosexuals trigger false alarms; lesbian femmes and gay Marlboro men often ride under the gaydar."

As for judging a book by its cover, Ambady and Rule conclude, "Stereotypically, gay men are more emotionally expressive than straight guys, adopting more female-typical facial movements, and some lesbians

# Creep Of The Week

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

## Alex Azar



It was only months ago when the Log Cabin Republicans announced that they were endorsing Donald Trump's 2020 reelection bid in a Washington Post opinion piece titled something like, "Well, at Least We're Not iIn Camps!" And ever since

Trump has been going out of his way to treat LCR like he does everyone who has ever believed in him: like garbage. It's as if he's daring them to take back their endorsement. (Spoiler alert: they won't.)

The latest "kick me" signed Trump has taped to the backs of LGBTQ Americans comes courtesy of Trump's Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar who has proposed a new rule that would scrap protections against discrimination for LGBTQ people from its grant programs.

What does that mean? Well, according to the Washington Post, the federal government spends \$7 billion dollars on "child-welfare system, including foster care and adoption programs."

Under Obama, protections were put in place that said, essentially, "Hey, if you want these sweet federal dollars, you can't discriminate against people, including LGBTQ people."

But some so-called "faith based" agencies don't want to deal with LGBTQ people, especially not when it comes to having LGBTQ people taking care of children. Never mind the fact that having same-sex parents is fine and maybe even better than fine according to Serious Research.

Unfortunately research doesn't mean much to organizations who believe that God hates... well, you know.

And so, Azar wants to scrap protections for LGBTQ people so he can protect the "religious freedom" to discriminate against people based on sexual orientation and gender identity all while giving these religious groups taxpayer dollars to do it. Cool cool.

Oh, and did you know that November is National Adoption Month? What auspicious timing.

"It is outrageous that the Trump administration would mark the start of National Adoption Month by announcing a rule to further limit the pool of loving homes available to America's 440,000 foster children," Julie Kruse, director of federal policy at Family Equality, said in a statement.

Denise Brogan-Kator, chief policy officer at Family Equality, added, "Changing federal non-discrimination rules to allow child-placing agencies to reduce the pool of qualified potential foster and adoptive parents runs counter to the cardinal rule of child welfare: that the best interests of children in care must come first."

But then, this is the Trump Administration we're talking about. The administration that tore thousands of families apart at the border with absolutely no plan or intention of reuniting them and who literally put kids in cages for the crime of having brown skin and being the children of immigrants and asylum seekers.

The administration that pulled out of the Paris Climate agreement while children across the country and across the world literally beg adults to stop destroying the Earth so that they might have a chance at a future. The administration that has fought against a woman's right to reproductive freedom both here and abroad. The administration that thinks public education should be made into a for-profit business to enrich its Education Secretary, Betsy DeVos.

Honestly, when has this administration done anything that put children first?

In addition to discrimination when it comes to adoption, the rule also threatens the health care rights and needs of transgender people.

"Stigma and prejudice are fueling a public health crisis among transgender people across the country, one that manifests itself as suicide, addiction, intimate partner violence and HIV," Mara Keisling, executive director for the National Center for Transgender Equality, said in a statement. "Enabling providers of life-saving services to worsen these crises by rejecting transgender people is a moral crime and a severe abdication of HHS's mission to preserve public health."

Democrats were quick to condemn Azar's decision.

Elizabeth Warren called the move "disgraceful."

"We must do everything we can to block this rule — and we must pass the Equality Act to ensure that LGBTQ+ people's rights are explicitly protected by law," she tweeted.

Kamala Harris also responded to the news.

"Let's call this out for what it is: taxpayer-funded discrimination," she wrote in a Tweet. "I've spent my career fighting on behalf of LGBTQ+ people. As president, I will sign the Equality Act into law to ensure the federal government has their back."

It's worth noting that the Democrat controlled U.S. House passed the Equality Act but it cannot get past the Republican controlled Senate. So vote for Democrats, damn it.

You can share your opposition to the proposed regulation by leaving a comment via Family Equality's Every Child Deserves a Family Campaign site: [everychilddeservesafamily.com/hhs-comment](http://everychilddeservesafamily.com/hhs-comment)

Will your comment change hearts and minds in the Trump administration? Well, no. After all, having either a heart or a mind automatically disqualifies someone from being part of the administration. But it's still important to loudly declare that what is happening is not happening in your name. Because history is not going to judge Trump or his administration kindly. So raise some hell.

## OBITUARY

# Frederick William Hoffman

May 18, 1951 – Oct. 26, 2019

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

**A**uto industry supporter and former honorary consul for the Federal

Republic of Germany, Fred Hoffman died last month after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 68.

Hoffman lived for most of his life in

Dearborn. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and his law degree from Michigan State University. He also had advanced business studies at INSEAD University and the National Development Finance Council.

Hoffman's laundry list of professional accomplishments is more than impressive. From 1967-77, he worked as a columnist and editor for the Dearborn Guide Newspapers and the Times Herald publications. Hoffman loved Dearborn and would serve for a time as the city's deputy mayor under Mayor John O'Reilly. He worked as an executive for Chrysler for 20 years, including during the Daimler Chrysler merger. Following his retirement from Chrysler, Hoffman would go on to serve as Gov. Jennifer Granholm's advisor on auto restructuring and economic development during the auto industry crisis.

Hoffman served on consul with the highly respected Clark Hill law firm for eight years. He was also appointed the first honorary consul for the Federal Republic of Germany following the closing of the Detroit consulate office in 1999. Hoffman served as honorary consul from 2002-2018.

Additional appointments, awards and recognitions are too numerous to mention, but it's clear that Hoffman was a very busy man. Hoffman is survived by his husband of 36 years, Jim Stokes. Funeral services for Hoffman have already taken place. Donations can be made in Hoffman's name to The Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph.



Fred Hoffman

# Trump HHS Reverses Obama-Era Non-Discrimination Policy

BY LISA KEEN

**T**he Department of Health and Human Services' press release announcing a change in the administration of its grants had an innocuous-sounding title, one that said its purpose was to ensure that HHS regulations do not "impose specific public policy requirements beyond U.S. statutory requirements."

But for many LGBTQ legal activists, the announcement was a clear dog whistle, signaling that the federal government would do nothing to stop or discourage discrimination against LGBTQ people.

Sharon McGowan, legal director for Lambda Legal, said the proposed rule "rolls back critical protections against discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and religion. And in doing so, puts at risk some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, including LGBT people who are poor or experiencing homelessness; LGBT seniors and LGBT youth in out-of-home care, including foster children in need of loving families, people living with HIV, and many others."

"Furthermore," McGowan said, "HHS's announcement that it will immediately cease enforcement of existing non-discrimination protections, rather than adhering to the established procedures for changing regulations such as these, once again demonstrates the Trump administration's utter disregard for the rule of law."

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, said the change is a "moral crime and a severe abdication of HHS's mission to preserve public health."

The news is the latest volley between partisan-driven occupants of the White House. And the impact is expected to have far-reaching negative consequences for LGBTQ people in a wide variety of arenas — from programs addressing homeless youth and suicide prevention to sex education and who

can serve as adoptive or foster parents.

The proposed change puts the Trump administration on the side of anti-LGBTQQ organizations in a long-standing conflict with the LGBTQ community. The conflict has played out in numerous areas, with many individuals and groups arguing that they should be able to discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity because their religious beliefs compel them to do so. LGBTQ legal activists counter that anti-LGBTQQ entities are using religious beliefs as an excuse to discriminate against them and circumvent state laws and federal regulations.

The Obama administration sided with LGBTQ groups and issued regulation changes that said that federal laws prohibiting discrimination because of sex also prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Obama rule changes covered HHS and the departments of education and justice and essentially erased rules adopted late in the second term of President George W. Bush that enabled doctors to refuse to treat an LGBTQ person by citing religious beliefs.

Now, the Trump administration seeks to undo the Obama rules.

The HHS press release said the Trump administration had "serious concerns" about implementation of the regulations under the "prior administration." This Trump change would enforce only "non-discrimination provisions passed by Congress and signed into law" and those required by "applicable Supreme Court decisions."

Currently, no federal law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and the U.S. Supreme Court has not yet said whether it believes such discrimination is implicitly covered by federal laws that do prohibit discrimination because of "sex." A ruling is expected in the next several months on cases involving that issue, but prospects for enactment of a federal law explicitly banning discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity is not expected to move in the current Republican-

dominated Senate.

"The proposed rule represents the Trump Administration's strong commitment to the rule of law — the Constitution, federal statutes, and Supreme Court decisions. These require that the federal government not infringe on religious freedom in its operation of HHS grant programs and address the impact of regulatory actions on small entities," said the HHS press release. "... The proposed rule would better align [HHS] grants regulations with federal statutes, eliminating regulatory burden, including burden on the free exercise of religion."

## Two-Pronged Attack

In its announcement Nov. 1, HHS issued two notices: one announcing that it would no longer enforce the existing Obama-era rules and another announcing its proposed change in the rules governing federal grants.

The rule being changed is the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards, also known as the UAR, which went into effect in January 2017.

HHS is required to accept public comments on the proposed change for the next 30 days. Such comments can be submitted at regulations.gov website and following "Submit a comment."

HHS said it was concerned that a "substantial number of small entities" were suffering "significant economic impact" as a result of enforcement of the Obama-era UAR. It cited several lawsuits, including one in Michigan, which challenge the existing rule as violating the religious and free speech rights of an adoption agency that bars LGBTQ people from serving as parents. Those lawsuits, HHS says, impose a "regulatory burden" on the department and discourage certain religious entities from applying for grants.

"As a result, the Department is choosing not to enforce the provisions" of that rule and replace it with a "new and amended" rule.

## ► Adoption

Continued from p. 5

"My administration is working to ensure that faith-based adoption agencies are able to help vulnerable children find their forever families while following their deeply held beliefs," Trump said.

White House Deputy Press Secretary Judd Deere denied the proposed rule was in violation of Trump's promise to protect LGBT people.

"The President is in no way undermining his promise or preventing LGBT people from adopting. LGBT people can still adopt and that will not change. The Administration

is rolling back an Obama-era rule that was proposed in the 12 o' clock hour of the last administration that jeopardizes the ability of faith-based providers to continue serving their communities. The federal government should not be in the business of forcing child welfare providers to choose between helping children and their faith," Deere said.

An HHS spokesperson referred the Blade to a news statement summarizing the proposed rule in response to an inquiry on why it's necessary and its potential negative impact on LGBT people.

Tony Perkins, president of the anti-LGBTQ Family Research Council, applauded the Trump administration in a statement for moving

forward with the anti-LGBTQ regulation.

"Thanks to President Trump, charities will be free to care for needy children and operate according to their religious beliefs and the reality that children do best in a home with a married mom and dad," Perkins said.

An estimated 440,000 children are currently in the foster care system in the U.S., and more than 123,000 kids are now available for adoption.

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

# STD/HIV CLINIC



Health Department

"The Risk is Not Knowing,  
Know Your Status! Get Educated! Get Tested!"

## Services Provided:

- Risk Assessment Counseling
- Free Condoms
- Rapid HIV Testing/Counseling



## Testing and Treatment:

Confidential, Appointment Only, persons 12 and older

- Syphilis
- Gonorrhea/ Chlamydia
- Trichomoniasis
- Non-gonococcal urethritis (NGU)
- Prep Referrals
- HIV Linkage to Care Services
- Scabies
- Pubic lice
- HEPC
- Free Hep A Vaccinations (limited time)

**"We take pride in taking care of our residents"**

To schedule an appointment  
CALL 586-465-9217 at the time listed below

Monday 10:00 a.m. | Tuesday 9:00 a.m. | Thursday 9:00 a.m.  
Staff is available Monday-Friday to answer any questions

# RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS



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

**Uninsured?  
No Problem.  
Significant Savings  
with our Smile Club**

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

Care Credit



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

Find us on  
**facebook**

# #TIME2KNOW GET TESTED

NOW OFFERING INTEGRATED TESTING



- Rapid HIV
- Gonorrhea
- Chlamydia

## CONVENIENT METRO DETROIT LOCATIONS

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

ALSO TESTING IN BARS, CLUBS AND  
OTHER METRO AREA LOCATIONS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Matrix MAC Health  
**FERNDALE**  
**9AM-4:30PM**  
*Walk-in or by Appointment*

Matrix MAC Health  
**FERNDALE**  
**9AM-4:30PM**  
*Walk-in or by Appointment*

Affirmations  
**FERNDALE**  
**5:30PM-8:30PM**  
*Walk-in or by Appointment*

Affirmations  
Matrix MAC Health  
**FERNDALE**  
**9AM-4:30PM**  
*Walk-in or by Appointment*

Matrix MAC Health  
**FERNDALE**  
**9AM-4:30PM**  
*Walk-in or by Appointment*

Affirmations  
**FERNDALE**  
**1PM-3PM**  
*Walk-In*  
**1ST & 3RD SATURDAYS**  
*12:30-3pm*

NO  
SUNDAY  
TESTING

Call 1.888.226.6366 or visit  
TimeToKnowDetroit.com to  
make an appointment and for  
information.

# 1 (888) A CONDOM



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



# John Duff Spreads His Wings

Out Performer on Why 'Iconic' Is Overused, Industry Homophobia and Finding His Place in the Music Business

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

In his 2018 debut music video “Girly,” singer-songwriter-director John Duff is seen imitating some of music’s biggest pop icons, replicating the shot-by-shot choreography of Madonna’s “Hung Up” video and Mariah

Carey’s gesticulations and eyelash-batting in “Heartbreaker.” It was impressive, like Duff had been practicing his whole life. And, well, basically he had been. In the case of Britney Spears’ “Stronger,” he’d been mirroring Spears’ choreo since grade-school summer camp.

For the hip-pop mid-tempo “Rich,” his

September follow-up to “Girly,” the 30-year-old performer created a satirical and celebratory commentary on pop culture’s love-hate obsession with the rich and famous, in part by impersonating Kim Kardashian’s internet-breaking, butt-exposed cover shoot. Duff, who graduated with a B.F.A. in

musical theater from Syracuse University, also currently stars in “Cubby,” his film debut that its director, Michael Blane, describes as a story about “three different generations of men looking for acceptance and love.”

When I connected with Duff recently, he had just gotten acrylic nails and was feeling

“very Marilyn Monroe-Mariah Carey, like helpless, like I can’t pick things up with this hand.” He clanked his nails on a table for me to hear over the phone while we talked about making a place for himself in the music industry after believing there wasn’t one for him, experiencing homophobia from Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul on “The X Factor,” and being understood.

**How did you end up here? Is this what little John Duff envisioned for himself?**

I started as a talent show kid because there aren’t really outlets for an artist when you’re in third grade, but I think my idea was to always be a performer. Growing up in a suburb of Baltimore, there weren’t many opportunities to really be on a stage, so I did get into public speaking, I did get into musical theater, and those became my main outlets. Then, of course, I went to college for musical theater, graduated, did shows in New York for years and then found my way to Los Angeles to write music. The rest just made sense to me. I like the big imagery of the old days, and people who really were doing something, not just ... well, I don’t know what the other people are doing, honestly. (Laughs.)

**Who are the other people?**

(Laughs.) Just, you know, all the other artists that I’ve kind of been a little bewildered by. For the generation that uses the word “iconic” more than anything, I think we have some of the *least* iconic imagery that’s existed in pop music in the last couple of years.

**Growing up, you were a Janet, Madonna and Mariah fan, and so you do seem to have an appreciation for an era when real artistry flourished.**

Well, it’s not just real artistry, it’s also budget that they put into everything. My sisters are 43 and 45, so I had them in high school driving me around when I was in first grade, second grade. And my sister had (Mariah Carey’s) “Fantasy” CD single and I stole it from her.

**Did you start imitating Mariah and other pop icons in your youth?**

Yeah. I spent most of my time in my basement, and I had Janet Jackson’s video collections and Michael Jackson’s “HIStory” video collection, and I had Mariah’s live Thanksgiving special and I was an “American Idol” kid, so I had all these things on tape and I would just watch and watch and imitate. When it came to starting to perform in talent shows, I think I wanted to do Britney Spears just because I could really dance then, but my parents were very insistent that I stick to the classics, so I did Elvis and Frank Sinatra. Michael Jackson was the first time I was allowed to bend a little. I mean, I didn’t have friends until junior year of high school – that was the first time I had any semblance of a social life – so it was just me, by myself. So I know the words to every song. I’m like a

savant.

**In 2018, you posted a video of you singing a song you wrote called “Thoughts and Prayers” to YouTube, and I think I was surprised to find out that you can actually sing, only because I don’t expect much from gay Instagram.**

Oh yeah. I kind of had fun with that when “Girly” was just coming out by letting people think I was going to do something stupid and then once it came out I think a lot of people wrote it off as a fluke, which is like, go off. You can totally do that. Because I know what I am. With “Rich,” we’d done the video a while back and the song is like – god, my manager’s gonna kill me for saying all of this, but it was never my favorite song, but the imagery made such sense to me. So it was sort of supposed to follow up “Girly” right away, but we were having some issues with the original producers of the song because not everyone in Hollywood is nice. I don’t know if you knew that.

**So I’ve heard.**

(Laughs.) They’re not all in it for the art of it, that’s for damn sure. And so we had a lot of issues, and it took some time, but I ended up getting to work with Alex Delicata, who’s a great producer and has created songs that are some of my favorite songs, and he really turned that one around. So in terms of production, I love it. Very happy. But I’m really happy for everything that’s to come.

**What’s to come? Is there a full album on the way?**

At this point I would say that I can genuinely look at my playlist of songs that I’ve created and we have about 30 that I think are good enough to stand in their respective realm. We’re trying to hone in on what exactly the introductory sound is, and “Girly” and “Rich” have kind of set that up. But I think the next moves get a little more specific with who I am and what my inspirations are and what I want to be.

**Are you still figuring that out? And as a pop artist, is authenticity important to you?**

Well, that’s the thing: I’m a very, very layered human being like everybody else is. I guess I am actually a very deep-feeling and -thinking person, so that’s kind of a hard thing to cover off the bat. I think I’m being very authentic to my ideas, my wit and parts of myself in terms of the next couple of things we’re putting out, and there is sincerity there. But it’ll be a minute before I get to really give you some of the depth of my humanity.

**Well, it took seven years before we got Mariah’s “Butterfly” album, where she went the deepest musically.**

Sure, yeah, and we know that some of Mariah’s really great, serious, deep works were written long before they came out or

See **John Duff**, continued on p. 16

ORCHESTRA HALL 100

**DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
LEONARD SLATKIN *Music Director Laureate*

A COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED ORCHESTRA

CLASSICAL SERIES

## PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

Leonard Slatkin, *conductor*  
Miles Mykkanen, *tenor*

Fri., Nov. 15 at 10:45 a.m. 📺  
Sat., Nov. 16 at 8 p.m. 📺  
Sun., Nov. 17 at 3 p.m. 📺

SPONSORED BY  
 PNC Chemicals, Inc.

BERLIOZ *Roman Carnival Overture* ★  
MOHAMMED FAIROUZ *Another Time (World Premiere)*  
MUSSORGSKY/ARR. RAVEL *Pictures at an Exhibition*

CLASSICAL  
TICKETS  
START AT  
**\$15**

SLATKIN

DSO PRESENTS

## THE SWINGLES: WINTER TALES

Sat., Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. \*

A banquet of folk- and jazz-inspired original songs served alongside classic carols, and more. The seven young London-based singers that make up today’s Swingles are driven by the same innovative spirit that has defined the five-time Grammy® winners since they first made waves as The Swingle Singers in the 1960s.

The DSO does not appear on this program.

PNC POPS SERIES

## LEGENDS

### THE PAUL SIMON SONGBOOK

Jeff Tyzik, *conductor*  
Paul Loren, *vocalist*

TITLE SPONSOR: PNC BANK

Fri., Nov. 22 at 10:45 a.m. & 8 p.m. 📺  
Sat., Nov. 23 at 8 p.m. 📺  
Sun., Nov. 24 at 3 p.m. 📺

Paul Simon has distinguished himself as a unique songwriter, crafting songs that have become themes for love, family, and social commentary. Hear hits like “Bridge Over Troubled Water,” “Me and Julio Down By The Schoolyard,” and “The Sound of Silence,” fully orchestrated for the DSO by Jeff Tyzik.

CLASSICAL SERIES

## MENDELSSOHN VIOLIN CONCERTO

Juanjo Mena, *conductor* • James Ehnes, *violin*

Thu., Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. 📺  
Fri., Dec. 6 at 10:45 a.m. 📺  
Sat., Dec. 7 at 8 p.m. 📺

HAYDN *Symphony No. 44, “Trauersinfonie”*  
MENDELSSOHN *Violin Concerto* ★  
SCHUBERT *Symphony No. 9, “The Great”* ★

EHNES

SPONSORED BY  
 PNC Chemicals, Inc.

ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW!

# dso.org or 313.576.5111

GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE CALL 313.576.5130

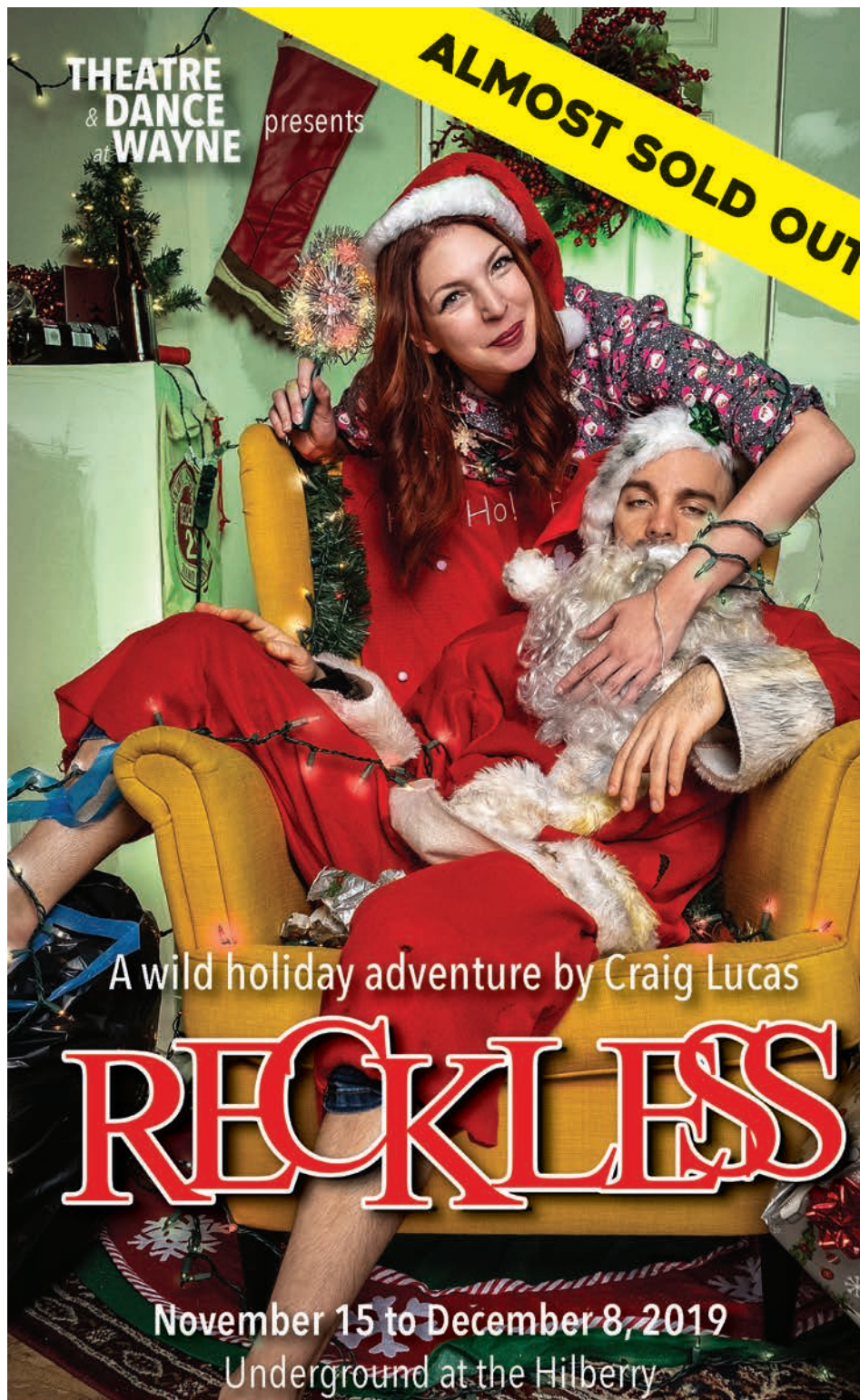
ORCHESTRA HALL • MAX M. & MARJORIE S. FISHER MUSIC CENTER  
3711 WOODWARD AVE. • MIDTOWN DETROIT

\* PERFORMED DURING ORCHESTRA HALL’S FIRST SEASON IN 1919-1920.

LIVE WEBCASTS AT DSO.ORG/LIVE

\$10 TICKETS FOR VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY, VISIT DSO.ORG/MILITARY

PROGRAMS, PRICES, AND ARTISTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.



## ► John Duff

Continued from p. 15

had been in the works for years, and so I've got three songs on here that I'm like, "Oh my god, these are game-changers." They're so important, but they're not for right now. It doesn't make sense to lead with them. And my parents really don't understand that. Because they heard all of my music and they're like, "What about this one?" There's this ballad that they just – it's about death and I'm like, "How the hell am I gonna put out a song about death after 'Girly' and 'Rich'?" It's just not gonna happen.

### What does your mom and dad think about the video for "Rich"?

My dad told me this: "We like the video." They prefer "Girly," though. "Rich" is melodically cocky and hip-hop-y and their generation just doesn't understand that at all. Like, swag doesn't process for them and that's fine.

### You've expressed some frustration with the industry. Is it hard to convince these industry heads which songs you think should be out at this current moment in time?

Absolutely. I say it all the time and we know this is common talk around town: Nobody knows what is going to work now. Now, 10 years ago? Sure, they knew. Twenty years ago? They definitely knew. But no one could've ever predicted (Lil Nas X's) "Old Town Road" would've been the biggest hit of all time. So there's a lot of people whose literal job it is to try to predict what's gonna happen.

### Does being an out gay artist add to the challenge?

It's really weird. It's weird because we just all get compared to each other. We're looking to get on the same public interviews and the same whatever and that's probably how you end up getting compared; it's the same people promoting you. So being an out gay artist, I don't personally think it helps or hurts *me*. I don't know about everybody else. And I don't even know what I mean by that (laughs). I can only speak for myself, I guess, is what I mean.

### Have you ever experienced any kind of homophobia in the industry?

Absolutely. Look, in 2011, I was on "The X Factor," Simon Cowell's show. And of course this was not aired on television, but within three seconds of being on stage he asked if I would've preferred to have been born into a female's body. This was 2011, so there was no representation. I think Sam Smith had just come out with a single, and I don't think he was gay. It was super hard for me to go on a show that's run by the same people who are selling those records and have no comment on my talent whatsoever. Paula Abdul called me "strange." What was strange about me? That I was gay.

### Did you challenge her on that?

No, I didn't because I had just graduated from musical-theater school, so the whole training is, "OK, thank you," "OK, thank you." Looking back, I would've been like, "You know what, Paula, this is a singing competition. Why don't you come up here and we can sing 'Straight Up' and we can see who's better, me or you? Because you calling me strange is a high compliment, because if I'm strange to your whack-ass..." I mean, the strange thing is that she sang flat on her records. (Laughs.)

### Being a Paula fan, this seems like something that must've been difficult for you to hear.

Especially standing on stage in front of an audience of 4,000 with your family watching. Everything about it was mortifying.

### I've read that you were told that you would fare better in this industry if you played up your masculinity. At what point did that happen?

We shot this music video that's about to come out, and I'm not playing a girl in it but I'm very androgynously behaved. I don't know, it's just the mannerisms I wanna give. It's a little diva energy. And we went back and added another scene to play up masculine whatever because I think the song is the most mainstream I've done, but is it just so we can make it easier for other people to digest? Sure. Sometimes it's like, "Oh, you're handsome so you should be doing it this way." I've been told by other people, "I see you being like a Sam Smith," and it's funny because they bring up a gay person. Well, Sam Smith is already doing Sam Smith.

There are also a lot of people who say I shouldn't be playing up my gayness in my videos. I view it like drag, sort of. It's just who I am when I'm performing. Not that there's not elements of it in my life. Like, I'm standing next to a giant Mariah Carey portrait in my living room; I'm not pretending that I'm a jock when I'm off the field. I'm the one walking around with acrylics. Had 'em for two weeks. So all the other girls using their press-ons can have fun, but, you know, I'm committing to this.

### Also, we can't be more complex than just one thing now?

What it is, and I've talked to my therapist about this: There's this desperation currently to find identity within separation rather than within what makes us similar. People are desperately clinging to anything that keeps them misunderstood, and for me, I would be happy to be understood. I'm happy for people to see me and say, "Yes, I relate to that." For me, it's been the most rewarding part of being who I am. And some days I wanna put on a pink shirt. That I wanna do the Mariah Carey "Heartbreaker" video doesn't mean anything more than I wanna do the Mariah Carey "Heartbreaker" video.

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

Order now at  
[theatreanddanceatwayne.com](http://theatreanddanceatwayne.com) | 313-577-2972

Reckless is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York  
Photo by Chuk Nowak Photography



**DETROIT REGIONAL LGBT CHAMBER'S**  
**ON THE MENU:** *Business and the Brain*  
**BREAKFAST SERIES**



**FEATURING: JOE KORT, Ph.D**  
 Center for Relationship and  
 Sexual Health

- LEARN HOW HE GREW HIS PRACTICE
- LEARN HOW TO STAY SANE AS YOU START YOUR BUSINESS
- LEARN TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

**RSVP: DETROITLGBTCHAMBER.COM/ONTHEMENU**

**AFFIRMATIONS**  
**THURSDAY, NOV 14TH**  
**7:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.**

DETROIT **lgbt**  
 REGIONAL  
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VENUE PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNER



CATERING BY



**4 WINNER**  
**TONY AWARDS®**

INCLUDING  
**BEST REVIVAL**  
 OF A MUSICAL

**HELLO,  
 DOLLY!**  
 STARRING  
**CAROLEE  
 CARMELLO**

BROADWAY'S GREATEST MUSICAL

**“WOW, WOW, WOW,  
 INDEED.”**

ROLLING STONE PETER TRAVERS

**ON SALE NOW**

**NOV 19 - DEC 1 • FISHER THEATRE**

BroadwayInDetroit.com, ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office 313.872.1000;  
 Groups (12+) Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com (subject: Hello Dolly) or 313.871.1132;  
 OC AD Nov. 24

**NOISES OFF**

by MICHAEL FRAYN

**NOVEMBER 8 – 24, 2019**

TICKETS AT STAGECRAFTERS.ORG



# BTL Cool Cities Ann Arbor

## YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ♦ YOUR MARKET

Pinpoint your ad dollars where they will do the most good . . .  
 Advertise in the next Cool Cities  
 TO PLACE AN AD CALL 734.293.7200



## BASSETT LAW

### Legal Services for Life's Changes

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

[www.bassettlaw.com](http://www.bassettlaw.com) 734-930-9200

### Ann Arbor Advertisers

- Abracadabra Jewelry & Gem Gallery ..... 1
- Anderson, PLLC, Mary K. .... 2
- Ann Arbor City Club.....19
- Ann Arbor Civic Theatre..... 3
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra..... 4
- The Ark..... 5
- /aut/ Bar ..... 6

- Brookside Veterinary Hospital\* ..... 10
- Bassett & Associates..... \*
- Common Language..... 6
- Delux Drapery ..... \*
- Dependable Collision Center. \* ..... 16
- Esquire Interiors..... \*
- First Unitarian Church of Ann Arbor..... \*
- Gail van Langen Ph.d. .... 9
- Greene, LMSW, ACSW, Marge.....10

- HIV/AIDS Resource Center (Harc)..... \*
- Humane Society of Huron Valley..... \*
- Iglesia Martell Law .....11
- Jim Toy Resource Center ..... 6
- Lewis Jewelers.....12
- Lord of Light Lutheran Church\* ..... 2
- Merkel Carpet One ..... \*
- Michigan Theater .....12
- Necto .....15

- People's Food Coop.....16
- PFLAG Ann Arbor..... \*
- Rock Shoppe ..... \*
- Spectrum Center .....19
- Three Chairs Co..... 20
- Tios Mexican Cafe.....21
- Trillium Real Estate..... 6
- UMHS Comprehensive Gender Services Program ... \*
- University Musical Society...22
- \* Not shown on map



## Castle Remedies

Homeopathy • Herbs • Quality Nutritional Supplements  
 Essential Oils • Flower Essences • Books • Gifts • Jewelry

[www.CastleRemedies.com](http://www.CastleRemedies.com) | Ann Arbor, MI | 734-973-8990

We value diversity in the City of Ann Arbor, and take pride in being **different** from the rest.



### The City of Ann Arbor is an Equal Opportunity Employer

We are proud of our diverse workforce and our commitment to equal opportunity. We do not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived age, arrest record, color, disability, educational association, familial status, family responsibilities, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, height, HIV status, marital status, national origin, political beliefs, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, source of income, veteran status, victim of domestic violence or stalking, or weight in any aspect of our hiring or employment process. The City of Ann Arbor has earned a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Municipal Equality Index (MEI), which assesses lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer equality in more than 500 cities across the nation.

[a2gov.org/jobs](http://a2gov.org/jobs)

JOIN US FOR THIS CULT CLASSIC!

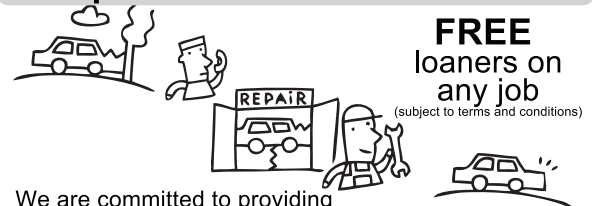
# HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH

PLAYS NOV. 8 & 9 AT 10 PM



STATE THEATRE 233 S. STATE ST. DOWNTOWN ANN ARBOR • BUY TICKETS AT [STATETHEATREA2.ORG/LATE](http://STATETHEATREA2.ORG/LATE)

### Dependable Collision Center



**FREE** loaners on any job  
(subject to terms and conditions)

We are committed to providing the highest quality precision service.



5133 Carpenter Road, Suite A  
 Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
 Phone (734) 528-9581  
 Fax (734) 528-9593  
[www.dependablecc.com](http://www.dependablecc.com)

**We work with all insurance companies!**



# LAFONTAINE KIA OF ANN ARBOR

## 2019 KIA NIRO LX

"HIGHEST RANKED BRAND IN INITIAL QUALITY 4 YEARS IN A ROW"



LEASE FOR **\$325** PER MONTH



*The Family Deal; It's not just what you GET, it's how you FEEL.*

**SCOTT MORRISON**  
GENERAL SALES MANAGER

734-249-7714

smorrison@lafontaine.com



Lease for \$325/mo. for 36 months w/ \$0 due at signing. 10,000 miles per year. Excludes \$350 disposition fee due at lease end. Lessee pays maintenance, excess wear and tear, \$650 acquisition fee, plus tax, title, license and registration fees. No security deposit required. Lessee is responsible for insurance, maintenance, repairs, \$15 per mile over 10,000 miles/year, excess wear, and a \$400 termination fee. Actual prices set by dealer. Subject to credit approval. Offer expires 10/31/2019.



**SERVING WASHTENAW AND  
WESTERN WAYNE COUNTIES**

Largest Florist Serving All of Washtenaw and Western Wayne Counties · One of America's Top 100 Florists · Let our talented, experienced staff design the perfect arrangements for your weddings and special events. We're equally ready to help you make everyday occasions extra special with our flowers, plants, gifts, cards, keepsakes, chocolates and unique home decor items.

Established in 1892. We Deliver the WOW!  
Visit or call us at one of our three locations:



**YPSILANTI STORE**  
Open 7 Days a Week!  
2900 Washtenaw Ave.,  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
734-434-2700

**ANN ARBOR - WEST SIDE**  
2558 W. Stadium Blvd.,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-769-9100

**ANN ARBOR - DOWNTOWN**  
Chelsea Flower Shop  
203 E. Liberty St.,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-662-5616

**800-682-8667 - WWW.NORTONSFLOWERS.COM**

# Supporting the Community Since Before it was Cool.

100% Local Agents. 100% Client Focused.  
Trillium Real Estate Helps People  
Make Good Decisions.



**Sandi & Linda**  
www.trilliumrealtors.com

323 Braun Ct. Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-302-3011



**TRILLIUM  
REAL ESTATE**

## MASSAGE MECHANICS

Accessible. Inclusive. Exceptional.  
with love.



734.408.1648

7 S. WASHINGTON, YPSILANTI  
YPSIMASSAGEMECHANICS.COM

## Brookeside Veterinary Hospital 10% off ENTIRE BILL

(734) 761-7523

3010 Warren Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

www.BrookesideVet.net



Like us on Facebook!

## IGLESIA MARTELL Law Firm, PLLC

Holistic Law - Practicing From The Heart.

Angie Martell, Partner

Experienced attorney and mediator with  
over 23 years of legal experience.

Specializes in:

Divorce & Family Law • Criminal Defense  
Estate Planning & Elder Law  
LGBT Issues • Mediation • Civil Litigation  
Civil Rights • Business Law • Litigation  
Employee Rights



117 N. First St., Suite 111, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
www.Iglesiamartell.com | 734-369-2331

## BTL Cool Cities Ann Arbor



### November LezRead 'The Miseducation of Cameron Post' Nov. 17

Combining lesbians and avid readers into a single club, The Jim Toy Community Center's LezRead book club is specially designed for queer women. Meeting once monthly, group members meet to discuss reading material. This month's book is "The Miseducation of Cameron Post" by Emily Danforth.

"The kids are alright, right? We don't know. We have to read this book to be sure. Per Goodreads, 'The Miseducation of Cameron Post' is a stunning and unforgettable literary debut about discovering who you are and finding the courage to

live life according to your own rules," write event organizers.

The book follows Cameron Post who must both deal with the sudden death of her parents and her newly discovered queer sexual identity.

"Cam is soon forced to move in with her conservative aunt Ruth and her well-intentioned but hopelessly old-fashioned grandmother. She knows that from this point on, her life will forever be different. Survival in Miles City, Montana, means blending in and leaving well enough alone (as her grandmother might say), and Cam becomes an expert at both," organizers wrote. "Then Coley Taylor moves to town. Beautiful, pickup-driving Coley is a perfect cowgirl with the perfect boyfriend to match. She and Cam forge an unexpected and intense friendship — one that seems to leave room for something more to emerge. But just as that starts to seem like a real possibility, ultrareligious Aunt Ruth takes drastic action to 'fix' her niece, bringing Cam face-to-face with the cost of denying her true self — even if she's not exactly sure who that is."

New members are welcome and encouraged to email [kerene.moore@gmail.com](mailto:kerene.moore@gmail.com) to find out more about the club and to join the private Facebook group.



### Theatre NOVA Presents Premiere of 'DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto'

Theatre NOVA, Ann Arbor's professional theatre with an exclusive focus on new plays and playwrights, presents the world premiere of "DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto" by Carla Milarch and R. MacKenzie Lewis. All the holiday hilarity and happiness fans have come to love returns in this hip-hop twist on a seasonal favorite. Kids ages 2 to 102 will enjoy this rollicking family entertainment, complete with heroes, villains, original tunes and parodies of popular songs, physical comedy and fun — not to mention candy.

Directed by Jennifer Felts, with musical direction by R. MacKenzie Lewis, "DJ Whittington's Kool Kat" features Asia Marie Hicks, Alaina Kerr and Mike Sandusky. The production and design team includes scenic design by Monica Spencer, lighting design by Daniel C. Walker, costume design by Angeline Fox Maniglia, properties by Becky Fox and stage management by Briana O'Neal.

"Follies in Concert" will run from Nov. 29 through Dec. 29, 2019, at Theatre NOVA, a downtown performance space.

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Fridays, 3 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Theatre NOVA is located at 410 W. Huron in Ann Arbor. It features free parking for patrons, as well as quick access to the city's restaurants, bars, bakeries and coffee shops. Tickets are \$25 and \$10 for kids 16 years and under. Theatre NOVA continues to making theater accessible by offering pay-what-you-can tickets for those who need them. For tickets, visit [TheatreNOVA.org](http://TheatreNOVA.org), call 734-635-8450 or buy them in person at the box office one hour before showtime.

IT'S ABOUT CONNECTING  
YOUR LIVES TOGETHER...

THE LARGEST SELECTION  
OF CUSTOM RINGS

LASHBROOK

**LEWIS JEWELERS**  
SINCE 1921 "YOUR DIAMOND STORE"

2000 W. Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor  
734.994.5111 [www.lewisjewelers.com](http://www.lewisjewelers.com)



“Hedwig and the Angry Inch” creator John Cameron Mitchell (right) spoke on his life and career, along with his Catholic upbringing, on Friday, Nov. 1 at the Bethlehem United Church of Christ in Ann Arbor. BTL entertainment editor Chris Azzopardi led the discussion. The presentation was hosted by the Penny Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series the night before Mitchell performed his autobiographical show, “The Origin of Love,” at Hill Auditorium. Photo: Doug Coombe

**BLACK FRIDAY DEALS**  
Start Now at Varsity!

All-New 2020 Ford Escape

Ford Employees don't forget same-sex domestic partners & immediate family members can share your A/Z Plan savings also!

**Varsity FORD**

Get the BEST!  
Move Up to Varsity.

OPEN SATURDAY  
9am - 5pm

Easy Access Off I-94  
3480 Jackson Road • Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
VarsityFord.com • (800) 954-0312

Wolverine Human Services  
Helping Children to be Victors

**ANY CHILD, ANY PARENT, ANY TIME.**

FOSTER OR ADOPT WITH WOLVERINE HUMAN SERVICES  
TEXT "PRIDE" TO 51555 FOR MORE INFORMATION

**TIOS TEQUILLA BAR!**

**THURSDAY LATE NIGHT SPECIAL**

**1/2 OFF**  
ALL TEQUILLAS - 10PM-2AM

**HAND-CRAFTED MEXICAN FOOD & DRINKS IN ANN ARBOR**

You can now enjoy one of our Classic Margaritas or Sangria Especial along with your scrumptious Mexican meal. Taste the difference!

HOME OF ADAM RICHMAN'S MT. NACHEESMO CHALLENGE!

open Mon-Sat 10 am - 2 am

401 E. LIBERTY • ANN ARBOR MI  
761-6650 • WWW.TIOSMEXICANCAFE.COM

## OUTINGS

### Friday, November 8

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

### Saturday, November 9

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

### Monday, November 11

**LGBT Game Night** 6 p.m. LGBT Game Night is an opportunity for all LGBT people and allies to come play a board game, drink coffee, bring your own drinks and socialize with other LGBT individuals. All are welcomed. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105 redbellysenegal90@gmail.com redbellysenegal90@gmail.com

### Sunday, November 24

**National Theatre Live in HD: A Midsummer Night's Dream** 7 p.m. Shakespeare's most famous romantic comedy, produced by the Bridge Theatre in London, features Gwendoline Christie ("Game of Thrones"), Oliver Chris, David Moorst, and Hammed Animashau as Titania, Oberon, Puck and Bottom. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. ums.org.

### Tuesday, November 26

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

### Sunday, December 1

**Big Band Holidays – Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis** 4 p.m. The holiday season at UMS kicks off extra early this year, with a Thanksgiving weekend holiday-themed concert by Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave, Ann Arbor. 734-764-3464. ums.org.

### Thursday, December 5

**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.

### Saturday, December 7

**Handel's Messiah** 8 p.m. Music director Scott Hanoian conducts the UMS Choral Union and the Ann Arbor Symphony in this annual community tradition. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave, Ann Arbor. 734-764-3464. ums.org.

### Tuesday, December 10

**Shaku Kanneh-Mason, cello** 7:30 p.m. One of the brightest young stars on the classical music scene, Sheku Kanneh-Mason became a household name worldwide in May 2018 after performing at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at Windsor Castle. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. 734-764-8572. rackham.umich.edu. ums.org.

## MUSIC & MORE

**Alec Baldwin: A Hilarious Uncensored Conversation** November 14, 7 p.m. Alec Baldwin brings his show A Hilarious Uncensored Conversation to the fabulous Fox Theatre in downtown Detroit Thursday, Nov. 14. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611.

**Teac Damsa – Loch na hEala (Swan Lake)** November 15, 8 p.m. Rooted in a place where ancient Irish mythology and modern Ireland meet, Loch na hEala (Swan Lake) is a Swan Lake for our time. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. smtd.umich.edu. ums.org.

**Vivaldi's Four Seasons – Max Richter's Vivaldi Recomposed** November 16, 8 p.m. Experience back-to-back versions of Vivaldi's timelessly thrilling masterpiece, The Four Seasons, including Max Richter's modern "recomposition" that topped classical album charts in 22 countries. Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor. 734-764-8572. rackham.umich.edu. ums.org.

**Orchestre Metropolitain de Montreal with Yannick Nezet-Séguin and Joyce DiDonato** November 20, 7:30 p.m. After last season's stunning performance of Schubert's Winterreise, Joyce DiDonato and Yannick Nézet-Séguin join forces once again. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-3464. ums.org.

**Stew & the Negro Problem – Notes of a Native Song** November 22,



## 'HELLO, DOLLY!' AT FISHER THEATRE

From Tuesday, Nov. 19, through Sunday, Dec. 1, The Fisher Theatre will present the quadruple Tony Award-winner "Hello, Dolly!" NPR has called it "the best show of the year" and it broke box office records for weeks after its Broadway debut. This edition of the musical pays tribute to the original work of director and choreographer Gower Champion. To find out more about the show and to get tickets visit [broadwayindetroit.com/shows/hello-dolly](http://broadwayindetroit.com/shows/hello-dolly)

8 p.m. "A celebration of Baldwin's legacy as an inspiration for artists to create their own work that, like his, defies genres and expectations." (New York Times) Tony Award-winning playwright and singer Stew, alongside his longtime, Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University, Ann Arbor. 734-763-3333. ums.org.

**Laura Mendoza Live in Concert** December 5, 7 p.m. Detroit musician Laura Mendoza live in a 2-hour concert at SpreadArt Gallery. Art show and flea market onsite. 5141 Rosa Parks Blvd., Detroit. 586-806-9343.

## THEATER

**FOLLIES IN CONCERT** by Stephen Sondheim and James Goldman November 7, 8 p.m. A fundraiser for Theatre NOVA and presented in concert, Follies is a glamorous and fascinating peek into a bygone era, and a clear-eyed look at the transformation of relationships over time. Theatre NOVA,

410 w Huron, Ann Arbor. 734-635-8450. AZTheatreNOVA@gmail.com.

**Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Souffle** November 8, 7 p.m. A world premier by David MacGregor and directed by Michelle Mountain, it's Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Souffle. Purple Rose Theater, 137 Park St., Chelsea. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org.

**Natalia Zukerman at Women in the Arts Festival** November 8, 7:30 p.m. We are thrilled to present Natalia Zukerman's multimedia one-woman show, "The Women Who Rode Away," which tells the stories via song and projected drawings and paintings of both famous women and women from Zukerman's Edgewood United Church, 469 North Hagadorn, East Lansing. 517-484-1712. producer@witafestival.com. witafestival.com.

**August Wilson's Jitney** November 12, 8 p.m. Winner of the 2017 Tony Award for Best Revival of Play, August Wilson's Jitney is directed by one of Wilson's foremost interpreters, Ruben Santiago-Hudson. Detroit Music Hall, 350 Madison St., Detroit. 313-887-8501. music hall.org.

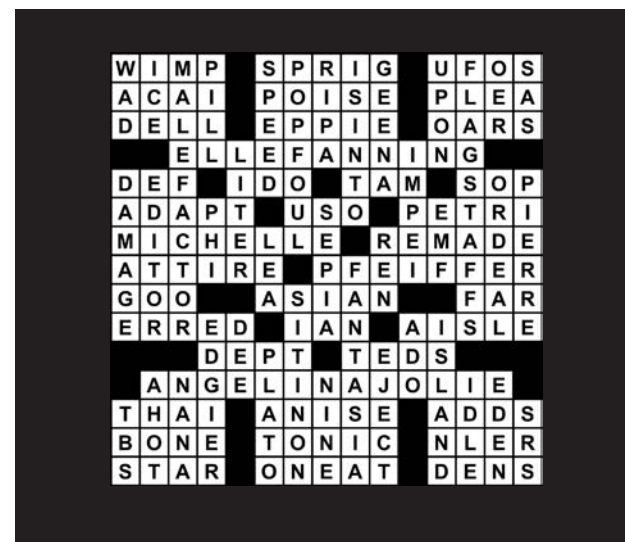
**Teac Damsa – Loch na hEala (Swan Lake)** November 15, 8 p.m. Rooted in a place where ancient Irish mythology and modern Ireland meet, Loch na hEala (Swan Lake) is a Swan Lake for our time. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327 <http://smt.umich.edu>. ums.org.

**Hello, Dolly!** November 19, 8 p.m. Winner of four Tony Awards including Best Musical Revival, "Hello, Dolly!" is the universally acclaimed smash that NPR calls "the best show of the year!" and the Los Angeles Times says "distills the mood-elevating properties of the American musical. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. [broadwayindetroit.com](http://broadwayindetroit.com).

## Editor's Pick

### CITY AND COLOUR NOV. 20 AT CAESARS WINDSOR

Award-winning Canadian artist City and Colour is known for a variety of hits like "Save Your Scissors," "Sleeping Sickness" and "The Girl." Now, he's coming to Caesars Windsor on Nov. 20 to The Colosseum stage. Tickets start at \$33.88 Canadian. Find out more online at [caesars.com](http://caesars.com).



Find QPuzzle on page 25.

# Windsor Film Fest Celebrates 25th Anniversary of 'Priscilla, Queen of the Desert' With Trixie Mattel

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Filled with ball gowns, makeup, an alcohol-stocked minifridge and three queens with a dream, Stephan Elliott's 1994 movie "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" took audiences on an Aussie road trip for the ages. Though the story begins as a comedy, "Priscilla" also deals with serious issues like homophobia, transphobia and trying to make it as a performer. Now, 25 years after the film's release, the Windsor International Film Festival is commemorating the film's longstanding impact on LGBTQ cinema with a screening and an appearance by "RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 3" winner Trixie Mattel on Saturday, Nov. 9.

Mattel will preface the film's screening with a performance and take the stage once again afterward as well. Ahead of the show, BTL caught up with Mattel to get her take on the film's relevance 25 years after its release, how it's changed the perception of drag and what it means to her.

**When was the first time that you saw "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert"?**

When I was in college, a lot of drag cinema hit me all at once — "To Wong Foo," "Hedwig" and "Priscilla." I find this movie very touching, but also Australian accents are fucking crazy.

**Once you did see it, did it impact or inspire your drag in any way?**

I believe this movie definitely fed and watered the seed in me that loved ABBA so much! Plus, I love the giant floral headpieces when the girls are performing in the desert for the natives.

**What does the film mean to you?**

This movie will always remind me of being in college and discovering drag by myself at my own pace. Even for a drag superstar like me, it was scary. You have to remember, I spent the first 18 years of my life in the deep country. "Priscilla" is a movie about how the world sees queerness and how drag queens have to navigate around it to survive. That message is timeless.

**"Priscilla" was a very groundbreaking film for its time, showing a positive relationship between a father who does drag and his**



**supportive son and wife. Do you think that positive portrayal contributed to its longevity?**

I think that "Priscilla" was groundbreaking in the way it humanized a drag queen. Long before "Drag Race" or "To Wong Foo" or "Hedwig," "Priscilla" showed an artist grappling with his family and drag. It's very easy to see us as amusements and not human beings.

**You've talked before about how drag has always played a role in cinema. Now looking back at the film 25 years after its release do you think "Priscilla" opened doors for other filmmakers looking to explore drag and the LGBTQ community?**

The impact that a film like "Priscilla" had on culture is immeasurable. Now we see movies like

"Mrs. Doubtfire," "White Chicks," "Madea" — movies that are drag movies technically. They just aren't defined as such.

**You'll be introducing the film to the audience and closing it off with a set. What are some of your favorite moments or one-liners?**

"Hey, I just flew into town and boy am I oppressed by a patriarchy systematically put in place to keep me down!"

**Will you be wearing a "Priscilla"-inspired look?**

It's a movie theater! I'll be wearing a dress with a peplum — to catch popcorn!

*The event begins at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Chrysler Theatre that is located at 201 Riverside Drive in Windsor, Ontario. To find out more information about the event and to buy tickets visit [windsorfilmfestival.com](http://windsorfilmfestival.com).*

## Prism of Possibilities Psychotherapy

Christine Cantrell, PhD  
Fully Licensed Psychologist



Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

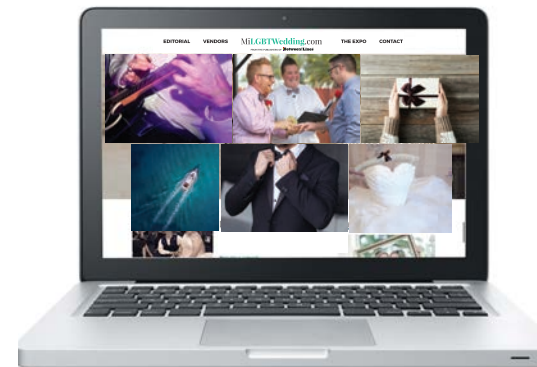
- ▼ Speak Your Truth
- ▼ Discover What You Want
- ▼ Create Your True Self
- ▼ Heal Old Hurts, Find Wholeness

Located in Royal Oak  
[www.christinecantrell.com](http://www.christinecantrell.com)  
[christinecantrellphd@gmail.com](mailto:christinecantrellphd@gmail.com)

CALL NOW! 248-591-2888

Michigan's Definitive LGBTQ-Friendly Resource

MiLGBTWedding.com



When Tying the Knot:  
Our Stories

The Ultimate LGBTQ  
Wedding

Planning Tools & Resources  
for Your Special Day

A PROJECT OF

Between the Lines™

To learn more contact [donelle@pridesource.com](mailto:donelle@pridesource.com)

Call 734-293-7200 ext. 101

THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!



BUY  
ADULT DVD'S  
STARTING AT  
\$5.95



EVERY TUES & FRIDAY  
NEW  
RELEASE  
DAY



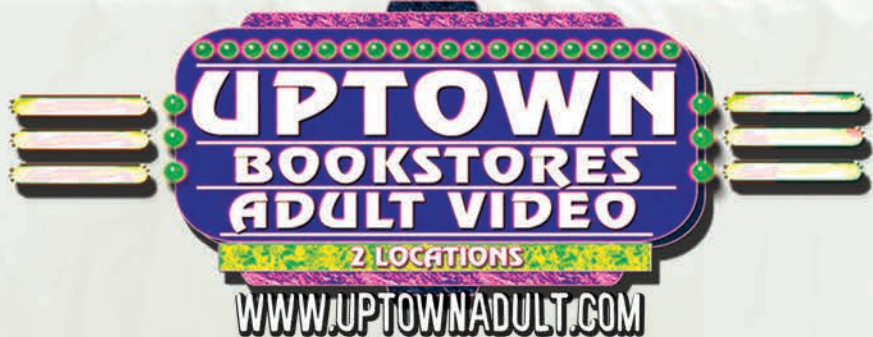
ALL XXX  
DVD RENTALS  
AS LOW AS \$1.25  
EVERY DAY!

VIEW ANY XXX DVD  
IN OUR STORE'S PRIVATE  
VIEWING ROOMS  
ONLY \$5.00!!!  
NOVEMBER 14-17, 2019

UPTOWN SPECIAL  
XXX DVD'S  
3/\$9.99  
WHILE THEY LAST  
NOVEMBER 25-DECEMBER 4, 2019



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



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

16401 W. 8 Mile  
Between Greenfield & Southfield  
Detroit  
313.836.0647

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

# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## 'Mrs. Doubtfire' comes to Broadway in 2020

Someone, somewhere, is keeping count of all the movies turned into Broadway musicals. We aren't, obviously, though we see what's going on, and therefore we will call 2020's "Mrs. Doubtfire" the official umpteenth film-to-the-boards production Broadway has hosted to date. With early plans for a movie sequel scuttled after the untimely death of Robin Williams, this all-singing, all-dancing version is a way to keep the property alive and remind people of the sweetly strange '90s family comedy about a man who performs in elaborate professional drag as nanny to his own children in an effort to subvert family court visitation rules. 2013 Tony Award nominee for "Chaplin" Rob McClure is going to take on the title role (he also co-starred in another movie-to-stage adaptation, "Beetlejuice, the Musical") and all the heavy lifting of prosthetic makeup and padded body-suit costuming that goes with it. Directed by Jerry Zaks, the show begins previews in November through the end of the year, with its Broadway run kicking off in April 2020 at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre. And call us sentimental, but unlike so many of the other movies that have found themselves suddenly saddled with showtunes, we're kind of rooting for this one.

of life, *are* rare, and we'll be buying opening weekend tickets, carrying a box of tissues. Also, call us shallow or thirsty or whatever, but we're also more than a little enthusiastic over the idea of watching Tucci and Firth being homo-romantic. 2020 can't come soon enough.

## Brian Michael Smith gets paid twice

Put this man in the One To Watch category. His name is Brian Michael Smith, and he's a transgender actor whose name you understandably might not know quite yet. Smith's been in that dues-paying part of an actor's life, working his way through occasional recurring roles in series like "Queen Sugar," where he played a trans police officer. But he's about to become much more visible, with not one but two new shows waiting in the wings. Smith will be a featured recurring character on the upcoming Showtime series, "L Word: Generation Q," where trans character storylines are reported to be a more substantial and thoughtful part of the mix than on the original series. Smith will also be a series regular on Fox's upcoming "9-1-1," spin-off, 9-1-1: Lone Star. It'll be the same premise as the original show - people barely surviving enormous natural and mechanical disasters - only in Texas. That means more guns, probably? Probably. "LW:GQ" hits Showtime in December, while "9-1-1: LS" is slated for sometime in 2020.



## Jim Parsons brings 'Equal' to HBO Max

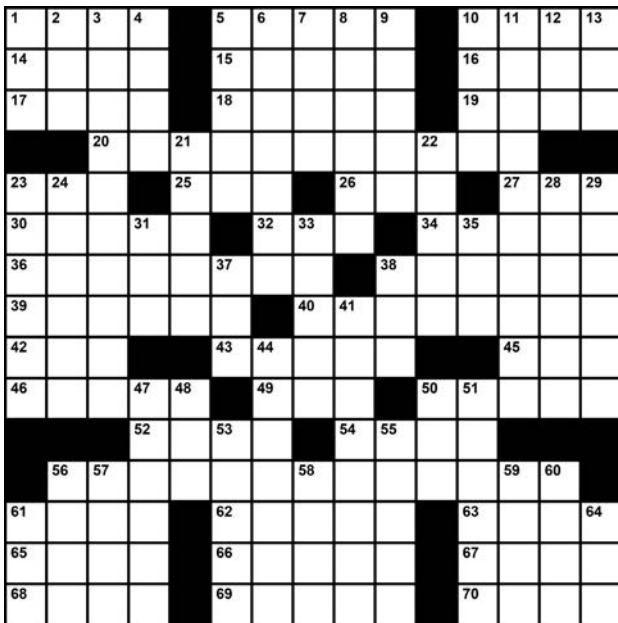
It's a producer's life for Jim Parsons lately, as he and Greg Berlanti ("Love, Simon") prepare to bring "Equal," a new LGBTQ-focused docuseries, to HBO Max, the upcoming streaming service due to launch in the spring of 2020. The four-part series will cover highlights of the queer civil rights movement, both the landmark events and the significant, if sometimes unsung, figures who worked to make history. Through a combination of re-enactments and previously unseen archival footage, "Equal" will explore the lives and activism of Mattachine Society founder Harry Hay; Christine Jorgensen, the transgender woman who publicly transitioned in 1951; gay rights and African-American civil rights leader Bayard Rustin; and the lesbian civil rights group Daughters of Bilitis. There've been some imperfect - and in some cases, such as the recent feature film "Stonewall," thoroughly embarrassing - attempts at presenting queer history to contemporary queer audiences. But in between seasons of "The Great British Bake Off" we live in hope for good television of any sort, so if it also happens to be queer then we'll call it a double-win.

## Colin Firth and Stanley Tucci form a queer 'Supernova'

The road trip movie is a tricky one to pull off in the world of independent cinema. It's a go-to form and it's been done to death. But then along comes news of a film in which Colin Firth and Stanley Tucci play a longtime gay couple confronting the uncertainties of aging, and we're giving it the spiritual green light to fill our hearts. It's called "Supernova," the second feature from filmmaker Harry Macqueen, and it's set in England as a gay couple travel around the country in an RV, visiting friends, family and places from their shared life together. The catch is that Tucci's character has been diagnosed with early onset dementia, so in many ways it's a farewell tour. Queer stories on film, though still a minority, are far more plentiful in this new century than at any other time in movie history. Even so, stories of elder queer couples, and the way they navigate the challenges of that stage

Romeo San Vicente is old enough to be a (still quite handsome) historical figure.





### Mistress of Evil

### Q Puzzle

#### Across

- 1 Sissy
- 5 Shoot off a larger branch
- 10 They may come from Uranus
- 14 Anti-oxidant berry
- 15 Model's asset
- 16 Request from bended knee
- 17 Woody valley
- 18 Beatles manager Brian's nickname
- 19 Trireme propellers
- 20 She plays Princess Aurora in

- "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil"
- 23 Threesome on a phone button
- 25 Same-sex vow, now
- 26 Lid for Barrie
- 27 Pacifier
- 30 Roll with the punches
- 32 You can dance with a sailor here
- 34 Dish in a lab
- 36 With 40-Across, she plays Queen Ingris in "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil"
- 38 Like some classic movies

- 39 Cross-dresser's concern
- 40 See 36-Across
- 42 Sticky stuff
- 43 Taiwanese or Thai
- 45 Way out
- 46 Goofed up
- 49 James Whale portrayer McKellen
- 50 Way of the theater
- 52 Cabinet div.
- 54 Connoisseur Allen and others
- 56 She plays the title role in "Maleficent: Mistress of Evil"
- 61 Asian cuisine
- 62 Biscotti flavoring
- 63 Gets the bottom line
- 65 Erection, in slang
- 66 Gin partner
- 67 NY Met, for one
- 68 It may come before 69
- 69 "\_\_\_ at time!" (serial polygamy motto)
- 70 Lair of bears

#### Down

- 1 What a guy may shoot
- 2 Frozen dessert
- 3 Culprit with a Y chromosome?
- 4 AZT dose
- 5 Geert Blanchart's kind of skating
- 6 High hit ball in Glenn Burke's sport
- 7 Talk show cohost Kelly
- 8 Really loves
- 9 Susan's "Thelma and Louise" partner
- 10 Second word of a fairy tale

- 11 Poles for pennants
- 12 On top of, in poetry
- 13 Airline to Oslo
- 21 Soda size, sometimes
- 22 Philip Johnson contemporary
- 23 Cost, in slang
- 24 Susie Bright, to erotica
- 28 Tough sledding
- 29 Cocteau's Peter
- 31 F-word start, for Socrates?
- 33 Mapplethorpe's "Dark \_\_\_ Rose"
- 35 Band that recorded "Unbelievable"
- 37 Comic actor DeLaria
- 38 Kevin Bacon in "Footloose"
- 41 1940 Disney classic
- 44 Audit
- 47 More like Cho's comedy
- 48 One of Freddie Mercury's pair
- 50 "Oklahoma!"'s \_\_\_ Annie
- 51 Cuba or Aruba
- 53 Philosopher of Athens
- 55 Force out
- 56 "Cat on \_\_\_ Tin Roof"
- 57 Children's caretaker
- 58 Bean's team
- 59 "Spamalot" writer Eric
- 60 Forbidden fruit site
- 61 USA alternative
- 64 MTF operation

Find solution on page 22 and at [www.pridesource.com](http://www.pridesource.com)

## PrEP Clinic

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

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

UNIFIED  
HIV health and beyond  
LIFE CONTINUES. LIVE HEALTHY.

In partnership with  
Sinal Grace Hospital



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

- ✓ HIV Testing
- ✓ PrEP Assessment
- ✓ Insurance & Payment Guidance.
- ✓ PrEP Education



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

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

For more information about PrEP and prevention services please contact our Lead Prevention Specialist Keith Hughes at [khughes@miunified.org](mailto:khughes@miunified.org)

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

**METRO CARE**  
COORDINATION NETWORK  
ACCESS. Matrix Human Services. OLHSA

ARE YOU LIVING WITH HIV?  
WE HAVE ASSISTANCE FOR YOU!

CALL (248) 266-5545  
[MetroCareNetwork.org](http://MetroCareNetwork.org)

# 'Drawn to Detroit' Exhibit Friday, Nov. 8 at Blossoming Artists Gallery

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

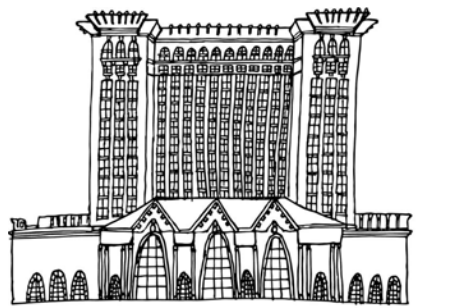
Leah Carroll's "Drawn to Detroit" exhibit will open this Friday, Nov. 8, at the Blossoming Artists Gallery. The gallery is located in the rear of high-end floral experts Blossoms Midtown store, aptly titled Blossoms Midtown, is described by the store as an art exhibition space dedicated to bringing original, high-quality, affordable artwork to the community. With the new show, Carroll takes a close look at the city of Detroit and its rich architecture.

"Some are abandoned, others revitalized but all sacred," Carroll said. "As a resident of Detroit, I have only scratched the surface of the ever-changing city with this series of work. The pencil to pen drawings focuses on the intricacies of each structure. They pay homage to the architectural beauties in the heart of the city. The renaissance of Detroit is captivating and endearing."

"Drawn to Detroit" started out as a class assignment when Carroll was in graduate school at Wayne State University.

"[As] you can see, [it] became much more than an assignment," Carroll said. "The process of creating the freehand drawings became a therapy in between the grind of work and school."

"Drawn to Detroit" is a way to explore the city and give reverence to the landmarks, hot spots, classics, and iconic-must-visit places," Carroll continued. "Each drawing is created in real time viewing the building and or by a photo taken of the structure in its current state. "Drawn to Detroit" plays off the idea of artwork and how many are drawn from near and far to visit the comeback city and its renaissance"



Leah Carroll's *Drawn to Detroit* opens this Friday at the Blossoming Arts Gallery inside of Blossoms Midtown, located at 4152 Third St. The opening, which is free, will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, visit [blossomingartists.net](http://blossomingartists.net).

# Queer Fashion Course Draws Students LGBTQ and Straight Alike

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

With a history of designers like Cristobal Balenciaga, Bob Mackie and Karl Lagerfeld it's impossible to dispute the LGBTQ community's impact on the world of modern-day fashion. But as famous as those names are, along with dozens of others like them, it's startling how little research has been done on the LGBTQ community's overall involvement in the fashion industry. Dr. Michael Mamp, a professor of fashion, interior design and merchandising at Central Michigan University, certainly thought so when he put together his "Queer Fashion" course.

"Fashion has always fought a battle of being considered frivolous, but when you consider the history of fashion and really, within my field we refer to it as dress from a scholastic perspective, there's so much that we can learn from what people have worn and what they've chosen to wear over time," Mamp said.

Mamp said that he first got the idea for his course in 2013 when he went to the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City for a museum exhibit called "A Queer History of Fashion from the Closet to the Catwalk."

"And that exhibit explored the relationship between fashion in the queer community and mostly from a couture, very high-end perspective. And when I saw that exhibit and the subsequent catalog that came out from it, my wheels started to turn and I was thinking how could I do something that took 'A Queer History of Fashion from the Closet to the Catwalk' where they left off, and maybe still talk about some of those components of high-end fashion. Because I do think people are interested in that," he said. "But also, how clothing in general has really helped to shape and express queer identity over time."

That began an intense process of research that traced LGBTQ fashion influences to as far back as the 18th century. Mamp provided an example of Marie Antoinette, who by many is considered a fashion icon for her extravagant gowns and wigs, but who was also lambasted for her choice to wear male-inspired riding jackets and pants.

"We remember her for this made-up phrase of, 'Let them eat cake,' but she wore pants. She had a woman paint her portrait," Mamp said. "... And because she wore those garments people accused her of being a lesbian."

The trajectory of Mamp's curriculum extends into present-day. He said that students really become engaged when they can see some of the course's topics represented in their day-to-day experiences like through social media. Mamp gave an example of a student sharing a tweet with the class that observed many male attendees of this year's New York Fashion Week wearing heels.

"I think the students then feel validated and they're looking in the zeitgeist for expressions of queer identity through dress and then they bring that to the classroom," he said. "So, that



really creates this dynamic environment where I'm learning to grow from their engagement."

## Vibrant Debate in Class

And with a dynamic environment comes spirited debate. Mamp said that one of the interesting elements of teaching a class that features the styles of various LGBTQ subcultures is that it forces students to reexamine their own relationships to gender identity and its presentation.

"Within our own community we value masculine traits over feminine traits. We tend to shame those that represent a femme identity over those that represent a masculine identity. So, when you start to talk about those nuances within the LGBTQ+ community the students begin to think about how they express either femininity or masculinity and how that has either been encouraged, discouraged, questioned throughout their own experiences," Mamp said. "And so, I think it opens the door for conversation across these boundaries of straight versus gay communities."

Mamp said those who do attend his course come in with "a strong desire and curiosity to learn" but where debates sometimes occur is in the discussion of sex and expressions of sexuality in relation to queer identity.

"And we talk about that in the context of dress and how people express their sexuality or sexual practice through dress. And we also talk about that through queer art, like produced by Robert Mapplethorpe or Leigh Bowery," Mamp said. "I think it's probably the first time they've had a class where they're talking about things like that. So that might be a little, for lack of a better word, shocking."

Mamp said that Bowery's work can often have that effect because his costumes played heavily with gender presentation in an effort to show it as merely a social construct. However, once the initial shock washes away, Mamp said that students tend to leave the course with positive reviews of what they've learned, for which he is grateful. He added that he was surprised at the demographics of the course, too, because many students in attendance aren't LGBTQ themselves and those who are are often

transgender men.

"It really spoke to me that we need to, through this course and through other courses, provide spaces and information and curriculum that address needs of trans individuals," he said.

## Fashion's Historical Impact

Mamp noted that Generation Z — people aged roughly between 4 and 24 — tends not to have a traditionally binary view of gender either, which allows many of his students to be "thirsty and hungry for greater understanding" of not only the subject matter, but how fashion — consciously or not — has impacted their own experience and perspective. He gave an example of lesbian fashion made popular in the early 20th century.

"Gertrude Stein, Janet Flanner, Marlene Dietrich ... all of them dressed in a mannish way by taking the suit, which is really a symbol of the patriarchy, and interpreting it and having it made and fitted for their bodies," Mamp said. "... But then in 1966 Yves Saint Laurent, a gay man, creates a suit called Le Smoking, which was on the cover of Vogue and was a huge sensation and becomes a fashion juggernaut."

Despite those positive steps for individual expression, Mamp said that because a lot of fashion trends, particularly in women's fashion, have been decided by prominent gay fashion designers, sometimes unintended negative effects have resulted.

"I kind of have a love-hate relationship with it. Dior, who was a gay man, post-World War II put women back into these very molded, sculpted, object-on-a-pedestal silhouettes," he said. "And so, I think that's why it's important that we look at how did women individually, people like those that I've mentioned, figure out ways of dressing that allowed them to function in a public sphere?"

"So, this course is sort of like a history course, a sociology course, a psychology course, but it's just told through the lens of fashion with a focus on LGBTQ+ persons," Mamp continued. "And I'm just really excited and privileged that CMU has been supportive of me offering this as a part of our curriculum."

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT  
FILLED WITH FILM-SHORTS,  
FOOD, AND FUN!



**LGBTQ FILM NIGHT**  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH  
5-7:30PM

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



**Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit**  
205 N. Main St, Clawson, MI 48017 | 248.399.7741  
[www.mccdetroit.org](http://www.mccdetroit.org)

Free  
Attended  
Parking

**Detroit  
REPERTORY  
THEATRE**

World Premiere  
**Nov 7 to Dec 29, 2019**

**CHANNEL CAT**  
by  
**Joseph Zettelmaier**  
Directed by Harry Wetzel

On a late night in Mound Bayou, MS,  
fried okra is served, secrets are  
revealed, and three lives  
are changed forever

Free  
Attended  
Parking

<b>GEN'L ADM.</b> \$20	<b>All Seats -</b> <b>All performances</b>	<b>ADV. ADM.</b> \$17
---------------------------	---	--------------------------

**Tickets & Information 313-868-1347**  
**Online Tickets: [DetroitRepTheatre.com](http://DetroitRepTheatre.com)**

**WIFF AND LAVENDER  
PROMOTIONS  
PRESENT**

**TRIXIE MATTEL**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9TH 8:30PM**

*RuPaul's Drag Race All-Stars* Champion **TRIXIE MATTEL** will perform before  
and after a special 25th anniversary screening of drag cult classic film:  
**THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT.**  
*Dragtacular Street Party to follow.*

**WINDSOR INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 AT 8:30 PM

- General tickets \$50 CAD (taxes & fees incl.)
- VIP tickets (priority seating, meet-n-greet  
and photo with Trixie, souvenir poster)  
\$150 CAD (taxes & fees incl.)

Visit **[WINDSORFILMFESTIVAL.COM](http://WINDSORFILMFESTIVAL.COM)**





# THIS IS A SAFER PLACE

Dr. Paul Benson's



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

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

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

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

**Primary Care • HIV Rapid initiation of Therapy • PrEP • Hormone Affirming Therapy**

## Most Experienced and Knowledgeable

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

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

by Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Center of Excellence.

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

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

## Extensive Network of Sensitive Specialists

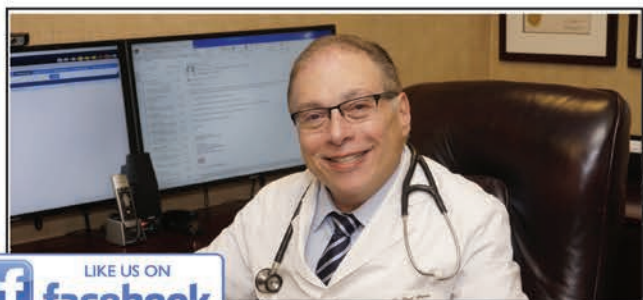
with an ongoing relationship to refer as necessary.

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

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

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

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



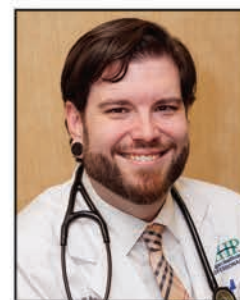
Dr. Paul Benson, D.O.



Caleb Youngblood, PA-C, AAHIV-S



Mark Rosen, PA-C



Leon Bullough, NP-F



Keyuna Nance, MSW

