

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



**SOS Benson Announces
Revised ID Policy for
Changing Sex-Indicator**

**Call for Stephen Miller's
Resignation at Victory
Fund Conference**

**Director Elizabeth Banks
on Queering 'Charlie's
Angels' & Producing
LGBTQ-Inclusive Projects**

A photograph of a middle-aged man with short brown hair and a light beard, smiling slightly. He is wearing a blue blazer over a light blue button-down shirt. His arms are crossed, and he is standing outdoors with a blurred green background.

Coulter Throws Hat in Ring for 2020 Run

**Oakland County Executive
Sees Unique Opportunity**



LAFONTAINE KIA OF ANN ARBOR



2019 KIA SPORTAGE



2019 KIA NIRO



"HIGHEST RANKED BRAND IN INITIAL QUALITY, 5 YEARS IN A ROW"



SCOTT MORRISON
GENERAL SALES MANAGER
734-249-7714
smorrison@lafontaine.com



For lease or purchase options on the highest ranked brands, visit www.lafontainekiaannarbor.com
For J.D. Power 2019 award information, go to jdpower.com/awards for more details.

Oriental RUG IMPORTS OF LIVONIA

STORE CLOSING SALE

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

We've decided to close our showroom and our huge multi-million dollar inventory of the worlds finest hand-crafted Oriental Rugs must be sold!

EVERYTHING IS NOW

65%~75%

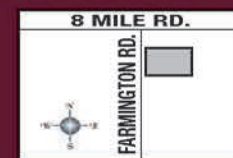
OFF THE TICKET PRICE



Our showroom is full of the finest handcrafted Oriental Rugs available in the world. New, Antique, Traditional and Contemporary, in every shape and size must be sold.

DOORS CLOSE IN WEEKS!

**20414 FARMINGTON ROAD
(S. OF 8 MILE)
248.427.0222
OPEN EVERY DAY
10AM - 6PM**



**WE ALSO OFFER
PROFESSIONAL RUG CLEANING AND REPAIR**

THE COMPANY OF THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL • PHOTO BY JEREMY DANIEL

nickelodeon THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

BROADWAY'S AWARD-WINNING HIT



DEC. 24 - 29



TICKETS AT 313PRESENTS.COM, TICKETMASTER AND THE FOX THEATRE BOX OFFICE | GROUPS 10+ SAVE BY CALLING 313.471.3099



6 COVER: COULTER THROWS HAT IN RING

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

Copyright 2019

www.PrideSource.com

NEWS

4 Transgender Murders of 2019 Documented in New HRC Report

4 Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Trans Advocates Announce Revised Policy for Changing Sex-Indicator on ID

6 Coulter Throws His Hat in the Ring for 2020 Run

10 ACLU Announces New Director of Women's Rights Litigation

10 Whitmer, Michigan Opioids Task Force Announce Efforts to Combat Opioid Epidemic, Cut Opioid Deaths in Half

11 Obituary: Stuart Itzkowitz

12 Chick-fil-A to End Donations for Anti-LGBTQ Causes

12 Jayapal Reiterates Call for Stephen Miller's Resignation at Victory Fund Conference

13 Parker Slams Media for Reporting Black Voters Won't Back LGBTQ Candidates

OPINION

8 Parting Glances

8 Viewpoint

9 Creep of the Week

LIFE

14 Elizabeth's Gayngels

17 Politics, Touring and Drag: Lady Bunny Bares it All

20 Screen Queens: The Johns

21 Thanksgiving Event Highlight Calendar

22 Happenings

24 Deep Inside Hollywood

25 Puzzle

26 7th Annual Flint Print Fair

COOL CITIES: ROYAL OAK

19 Drag Queen Trivia Nov. 27 at Five15

19 6th Annual Santa Pub Crawl Royal Oak

VOL. 2747 • NOV. 21, 2019

ISSUE 1133

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

News & Feature Editor

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105
eve@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers

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

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists

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

Cartoonists

Paul Berg

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Andrew Cohen, Roxanne Frith, Tih Penfil

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

MEMBER OF

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



"Between The Lines Newspaper"



Follow us @YourBTL



Email your op-eds to
editor@pridesource.com



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

22 Transgender Murders of 2019 Documented in New HRC Report

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Days before the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, the nation's leading LGBTQ group has issued a report detailing the murders of each of the 22 transgender and gender non-conforming people killed this year.

The report, produced by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and titled *A National Epidemic: Fatal Anti-Transgender Violence in the United States in 2019*, includes a short bio for each of the 22 transgender and gender non-conforming people killed in 2019.

Among them is Zoe Spears and Ashanti Carmon, black transgender woman who were killed in Prince George County.



Paris Cameron died in a shooting on May 25 in Detroit.

Also included is Jordan Cofer, one of the nine victims of the mass shooting in Dayton, Ohio. Amid heavy scrutiny of the incident, and another mass shooting that took place the same weekend in El Paso, the media website

Splinter reported close friends knew Cofer was a transgender man.

Alphonso David, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement the report is intended to draw attention to the anti-trans climate enabling this violence.

"Transgender women of color are living in crisis, especially Black transgender women," David said. "While the details of the cases documented in this report differ, the toxic intersection of racism, sexism, transphobia and easy access to guns conspire to deny so many members of the transgender and gender non-conforming community access to housing, employment and other necessities to survive and thrive."

David urged a wide spectrum of institutions to take action to stop the anti-trans violence and to draw additional scrutiny to the transgender murders.

"Every one of these lives cut tragically short reinforces the urgent need for action on all fronts to end this epidemic — from lawmakers and law enforcement, to the media and our communities," David said.

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

Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, Trans Advocates Announce Revised Policy for Changing Sex-Indicator on ID

Action Reverts Policy Back to Procedure of Past Administrations

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

FERNDALE – This week, alongside transgender allies and activists, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson announced that her administration has revised the policy for changing the sex-indicator on a driver's license or identification card. This action reverts state policy back to previously existing procedures that made it easier for transgender people to obtain ID. Studies show that nearly 81 percent of the transgender population in Michigan lacks proper identification.

"One of my goals is to reduce barriers for marginalized communities to participate fully in our society. The transgender community has faced both marginalization and violence without proper identification," Benson said. "This change returns to a policy that was in place before the issue was politicized, and that was utilized by both a Republican and Democrat secretary of state."

Effective today, individuals who would like to correct the sex designation on their license or ID card will only need to fill out a form, go to a branch office to have their photo taken and pay the \$9 correction fee for a driver's license or \$10 for a state ID. They will no longer need to provide a birth certificate, passport or court order. The form is available on the department's website at Michigan.gov/SOS and at all branch offices.

Roz Keith is the executive director of Stand With Trans, a nonprofit that supports transgender youth. She was in attendance at the event and said that for a limited time anyone who could not afford the fee to change their ID could send her an email at roz@standwithtrans.org and "put \$9 in the subject line" to receive help with their costs.

"The fact that we now have people in place like Secretary Benson to make these changes is huge. We're moving toward more equality in Michigan, which is the way things need to be," she said. "I feel really privileged to be a part of this announcement today, and Stand With Trans is one of several organizations that is going to provide some funding."



Joining Benson at the news conference were David Garcia, executive director of Affirmations; Jey'nce Poindexter, transgender specialist/victims advocate for Equality Michigan and vice president of communication and organizing at the Trans Sistas of Color Project; Lilianna Angel Reyes, youth drop-in director at the Ruth Ellis Center and executive director of Trans Sistas of Color Project; and Jay Kaplan, ACLU of Michigan attorney with the Nancy Katz and Margo Dichtelmiller LGBT Rights Project.

Poindexter perhaps emphasized the importance of this change best when she gave a real-life example of a transgender woman who experienced discrimination because her gender marker did not match up with her presentation.

"We had a situation where a young lady was downtown. She was outside of a bar. After a bouncer confirmed her biological ID, her card was burned, and they were standing there threatening to beat her and chase her down," Poindexter said. "So that's the importance of an ID that aligns with your presentation. It's a matter of life and death for us, and we thank you so much for making this right."

She added that proper identification in the transgender community reduces the chances for misunderstandings to occur when interacting with law enforcement, health care providers and others.

Reyes' message was similar. She referenced the fact that changing her own gender identity marker at 19 was a long and difficult process, and she drew attention to the fact that violence against transgender women is far too common.

"Trans women of color have the life expectancy, throughout the United States,

of about 35. I'm 34, so my life expectancy is pushing it, and it's scary," she said. "... So, I'm so excited to be in this space right now, because I know that policy would help a lot of people. Most trans people, actually over 50 percent of trans people, attempt suicide in this country. And so, small policies like this, those systemic policies, help create longer lives and more successful people, and we just want to be happy."

Kaplan pointed out that though Benson's office did not do a radical thing by reverting to the old policy, but they did "the right thing."

"We must fully welcome transgender community members into everyday life and policies, what secretary of state's office has done today is not a radical thing, but it is the right thing, it's the just thing and it's the humane thing," he said.

Benson also mentioned that she has started cultural competency training for all 131 Secretary of State branch offices across Michigan to better deal with LGBTQ issues in the future. To do this effectively, she is working with Affirmations and other LGBTQ organizations in Michigan.

"We found upon taking office that many of our branch office employees received no training on customer service or interaction with customers of any background, and so this is part of a holistic effort to ensure that the hard-working branch office employees are more consumer- and customer-friendly and have the training and resources to do that," she said. "We also want to ensure across the board that the expectation is clear that when someone walks into our office they will be treated with dignity and respect. And this is also a reflection of our commitment to ensuring that that is the expectation for all employees."



Divine Peace Metropolitan Community Church

Sunday Service at 9:30 a.m. Come meet our new Pastor, Gail Simonds.
Praise music from 9:15 - 9:30 a.m. beginning November 24th.

Join us for a soup, bread and bible study at
5:30 p.m. Thursdays -

December 5th, 12th and 19th

Celebrate the season at the Symbols of
Christmas Holiday Music Event and Bake Sale
Saturday, December 7, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.



6650 Elizabeth Lake Road
Waterford, Michigan 48327
P: 248.332.1186
W: www.dpmcc.net

SUBARU share the love® EVENT

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!

2019 SUBARU
IMPREZA
2.0i 5-DOOR

\$239

PER MONTH LEASE/
36 MONTHS/10,000
MILES PER YEAR

\$0 due at signing

*36 Months @ 10,000 miles/year. \$0 Security deposit. Tax, title, license fees extra. Must qualify at tier one credit through Subaru motors finance.

KLB-01

SUBARU

HODGES
SUBARU

Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

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

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

EVERYDAY!

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

*Tax, title, license fees extra. \$0 Security deposit. 10K miles/year. Must be approved tier one credit through Subaru Motors Finance. Valid until 11/30/19.

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

Coulter Throws His Hat in Ring for 2020 Run

Oakland County Executive Sees Unique Opportunity

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

An Attractive Proposition

Two and half months after being appointed Oakland County executive following the death of L. Brooks Patterson, Dave Coulter has announced he will run in 2020 for the full four-year term. That decision adds yet another wrinkle in the ever-evolving race, which has already experienced numerous twists and turns.

“I didn’t expect when I got the appointment that this was where the path would lead,” Coulter said. “I just wanted to do a good job and see what it was like to be the county executive. Since I’ve been in the role, I’ve really enjoyed the issues that I’ve been able to work on and helping to advance the things that got me into politics in the first place. Over time, I realized that I’ve been given a very unique and amazing opportunity to be a change agent in Oakland County and in Michigan and that’s an attractive proposition for me.”

One of those things that Coulter said steered him toward politics was the possibility of regional mass transit. It was a passion in 2002 when he first ran for office and now, 17 years later, Coulter finally sees that within reach.

“I’m at the table with regional leaders, actually trying to craft a plan [for transit] that makes sense for Southeast Michigan and I think we can get there, and I’m excited to be part of those discussions,” Coulter said.

2020 Vision

Yet the lure of leading Oakland County following more than 40 years of Republican administration, and possibly making inroads when it comes to regional transit among other neglected areas, is not felt by Coulter alone. Both County Board of Commissioners Chair Dave Woodward and County Treasurer Andy Meisner were the presumptive opponents in a primary battle, but Coulter’s announcement



Courtesy Photo

has altered that calculation.

“Since Dave became county executive, we have an incredible partnership with the board, putting not just reforms into place but leading on new initiatives,” said Woodward, who announced he will not seek the county executive post and has endorsed Coulter.

“What changed is we have a county executive who shares the board’s values, my values and we want to continue to work with him so that we can make Oakland County a more successful and prosperous county for everyone, not just a few,” Woodward said. “I was proud to be the deciding vote that helped put Dave Coulter in that spot originally. I’m extremely excited after a few months on the job ... that he’s made the decision to not just finish up this term but continue to build on the path that we’re on.”

Back in August, Coulter told Between The Lines the reason he had not applied for the county executive appointment was that he supported Woodward for the position. Following the complex route that led to Coulter’s appointment and fast forward to today, Coulter addressed the significance of Woodward’s endorsement.

“The legislative and the executive branch need to be on the same page really to achieve the kinds of successes I’m talking about. I’m very fortunate to have Dave’s support, and a number of commissioners, as we do this work,” he said. “They appointed me to the position, I’m honored by their trust in me, and I’ve been delighted by the way we’ve been able to work together on issues that are important to all of us.”

Meisner, whose campaign launched in March and who has raised more than \$500,000, has decided to stay in the race and will challenge Coulter in the Democratic primary.

“I’ve known Dave for many years and respect him,” Meisner said. “It’s his right to [run]. I was happy when I had his endorsement for my [county] executive run. I obviously think he got that endorsement right ... because I think that I’ve got a proven track record, not only on the job but also at the ballot box, winning countywide three times. I look forward to a very vigorous discussion about the future of Oakland County going forward.”

Coulter said he shared the news with Meisner the day before it was made public, and “we had

a very honest and candid conversation,” Coulter said. He added that they agreed on the necessity to maintain a good working relationship.

“I would never tell another candidate that they should or shouldn’t run,” Coulter said. “When I ran in 2002 for the first time, I ran against an incumbent. People have to make their own decisions about what’s in their heart.”

Coulter responded that the situation in Oakland County today is different than it was four months ago when asked about his endorsement of Meisner over the summer. And as to Meisner’s fundraising, Coulter stated, “I wouldn’t have made the decision to run if I didn’t think I could be competitive — and that means financially as well.”

New Direction

As County Executive, Coulter said he is excited about the prospect of working with other leaders in ways that benefit not just Oakland County but the region at large.

“I think, too often, Oakland County has been perceived as an obstacle or a barrier to issues, whether it be transit or economic development

“I think it’s historic that we have [not only] our first Democrat executive but our first LGBT executive. I’m proud to represent our community, and I want to make sure that our community and every resident of Oakland County feels included and is included in the success that people enjoy here.”

or other initiatives. And I want to declare for the world to see that I want a collaborative relationship,” Coulter said. “I want to be at the table with the other leaders in the region. I know my first responsibility is to the residents of Oakland County because I am the county executive, but I think there’s things that we can all do together that will lift the entire region up.”

Because of Coulter’s recent work as director of external relations for the Children’s Foundation of Michigan, he said he is especially focused on issues related to the health and wellness of his constituents, particularly children.

“I’m asking the questions in Oakland County now. Are we doing everything we can to address the gaps that exist in health care, including things like lack of access to mental health services?” Coulter said. “Are we addressing the health disparities between communities in Oakland County?”

“It’s really critical to me, because the health division is under the county executive, and I believe there’s no greater responsibility that the executive has than to promote the health and wellness of the residents of Oakland County — and I take that very seriously.”

Responsibility to the LGBTQ Community

As he did in Ferndale, Coulter wants to assure residents that Oakland County is welcoming and inclusive for everyone.

“Sometimes some of that is symbolic, like when we put the Pride flag in our city council chambers,” Coulter explained. “Some of it goes beyond symbolism, and things like becoming a Welcoming City where anyone based on any criteria is protected.”

Sharing those values countywide is a priority for Coulter.

“I think it’s historic that we have [not only] our first Democrat executive but our first LGBT executive,” Coulter said. “I’m proud to represent our community, and I want to make sure that our community and every resident of Oakland County feels included and is included in the

success that people enjoy here.”

Further, Coulter agreed that being an LGBTQ elected official of his rank carries with it a certain responsibility, too.

“I do feel a responsibility to represent our community with dignity and to the best of my ability,” Coulter said. “I know that if I fail it could reflect in some people’s eyes on our community, and I certainly don’t want that to happen.”

Reflection

In April, Coulter announced he would not seek reelection as mayor of Ferndale after serving nine years. Three months later, in July, he launched his campaign to represent Michigan’s 27th State House District. The following month brought Coulter to the county executive’s office for what most assumed was a placeholder role until now. The way Coulter explains it, it was a matter of the pieces falling into place.

“I couldn’t have made it up if I tried,” Coulter said plainly. “And it goes back to my general philosophy that you just prepare yourself, try to get the skills and the talents and the experience you need for whatever life might throw at you or whatever opportunities might come your way, so that when they do come, you are prepared to take advantage of them. I still pinch myself; to think that I am in this position and I have the ability to do the incredible work that I get to do. And to me it’s just the universe worked this way and I’m just trying to be open and receptive to the opportunities that have been presented to me.”

“I’m just humbled by the support of so many people. You can’t do a job at this level by yourself. And part of what helped me decide I could do this, is the support I had from our staff, from the employees in Oakland County, from my friends, from our community,” he continued. “Literally, without that support, I would not have felt that ability to put my hat in the ring and ask for four more years in this role.”

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

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

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

734-783-2646

Michigan Memorial

Funeral Home • Park • Crematory

www.MiMemorial.com

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



FERNDALE

FERNDALE, MICHIGAN – ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

Department: Department of Public Works

Location: DPW

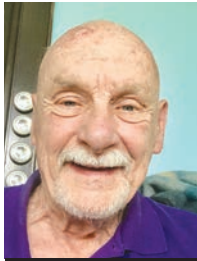
Salary range: \$56,203-\$70,189

FLSA: Exempt

Employment Type: Full Time

The City of Ferndale is seeking a Facilities Manager to be a key part of our DPW team. This position will oversee the maintenance, repair, construction, and alteration of all City buildings and associated equipment. Candidates must possess a Bachelor’s degree in a related field, licensure or equivalent applicable experience. Must have a minimum of 3 years practical experience working on large projects or applicable facility management oversight. Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, FSA, and Retirement Plans are available.

Salary Range is \$56,203-\$70,189 commensurate with experience. Visit <https://www.ferndalemi.gov/jobs> for more information and to apply.



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Editor's Note: Originally published on Nov. 21, 2015

Getting Plymouth Rocks Off

DRUMSTICK #1: If you're looking for a ploy to come out to your family this Thanksgiving, you might casually remark that according to "Biological Exuberance" by animal behavior specialist Dr. Bruce Bagemihl, the female domestic turkey often engages in same-sex courting and mounting activity before, during and after the holidays.

DRUMSTICK #2: Contrary to popular belief, the 102 Pilgrims who sailed on the Mayflower in 1620 did not eat Thanksgiving turkey or pumpkin pie. Flour for baking bread and pie crust was all used up during the three-month ocean crossing. Guinea hen – whose same-sex courting and mounting status is unavailable as BTL goes to holiday press – was the main dinner staple.

LIGHT MEAT: Pilgrims were too straightlaced to wear silver buckles, and they didn't land at Plymouth Rock. Thomas Faunce, a popular preacher, started that PR story in 1740. He claimed his father, who arrived in this country three years after the Mayflower first dropped anchor, pointed the site out to him as a kid.

According to Harvard historian spoilsport Edward Channing (no relation to "Hello, Dolly!" Carol), a ship could never have landed at Plymouth Rock, given the strong direction of the surrounding currents.

(Note: New England Pilgrims – America's original "love the sinner, hate the sin" do-gooders – would be appalled if they had an inkling of the direction the current flows around P'Town these days. Especially at the Boat Dock!)

DARK MEAT: In 1647, Puritans – who, it turns out, actually enjoyed only missionary position sex – outlawed the preaching of wedding sermons. Marriage for brimstone Calvinists was not a sacrament but strictly a secular matter to be conducted by civil magistrates and so it remained well into the 1700s.

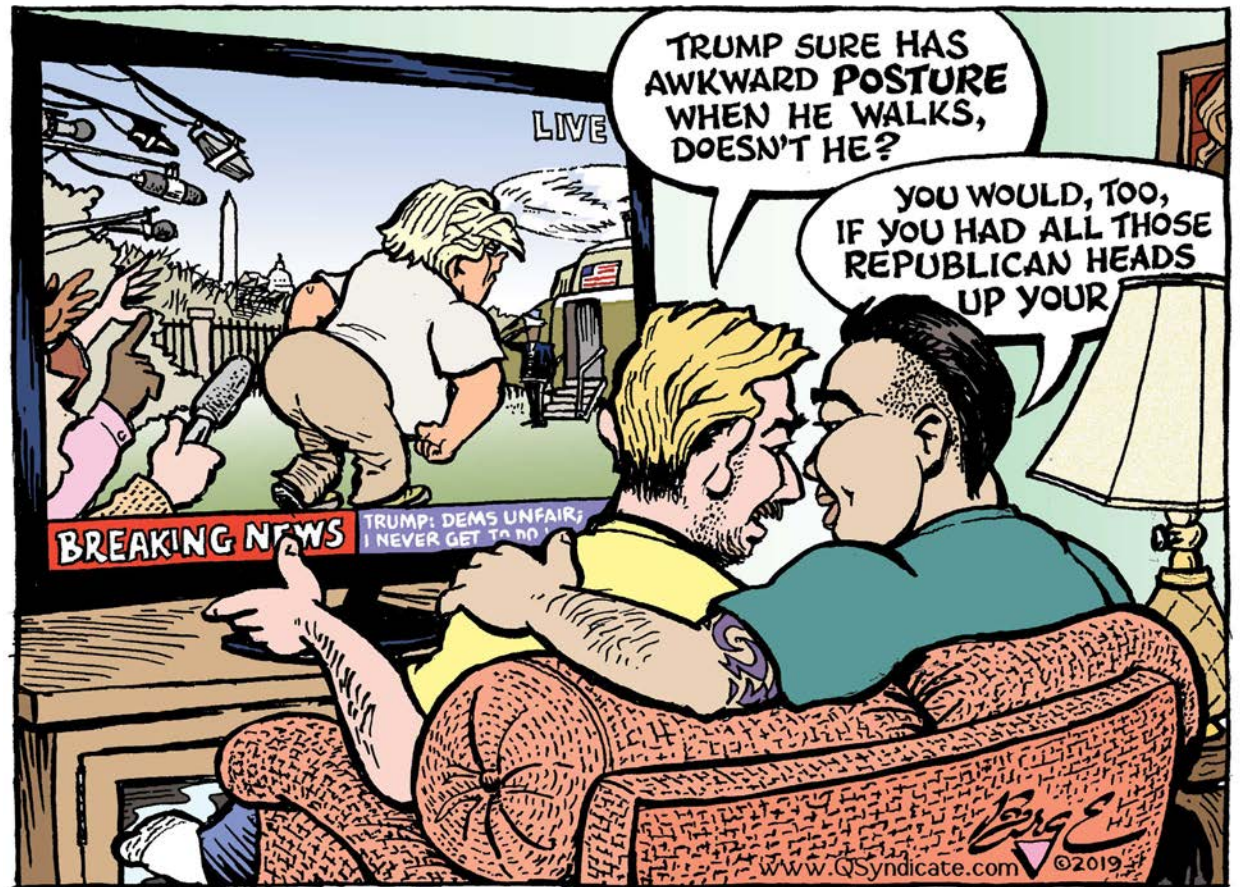
Puritans quoted Martin Luther, who cautioned, "Marriage is a secular and outward thing, having to do with wife, children, house and home, and with other matters that belong to the realm of government, all of which have been completely subjected to reason." (American Family Association please take note, and go get stuffed!)

BREAST: From 1702 until 1708 the governor of New York, Lord Cornbury, was a cross-dresser. He appeared gowned at public ceremonies, wore elaborate hairdos, let his fingernails grow long. A favorite of Anne, Queen of England, he was a bit too, too much for the puritanical colonists who booted him (and his overly polished silver buckles) out of office.

GIZZARD: Puritans were a mean-spirited bunch. The JW's of their time. They didn't celebrate Christmas. And nobody dared work on Sunday for fear of being put in the stockade. Children's games were deemed unbiblical. Unmarried courting couples risked public beatings if they were discovered sitting alone or holding hands unchaperoned.

Children who disobeyed parents in colonial Connecticut got stoned. And not on pot! Massachusetts rakehells who were

See next page



Transmissions



One Day After

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

On Nov. 20, transgender and non-binary people — and our allies — across the world come together to honor those murdered due to anti-trans violence. This year marks the 20th since a group of people in San Francisco and another group in Boston decided to take to their respective streets, launching the Transgender Day of Remembrance.

TDOR, as it is commonly known, has largely remained the same over these past 20 years, though the way it is honored has traveled down a few avenues.

In some places, "and resilience" has been added to the name, acknowledging that there are, indeed, many of us who have survived and who continue to thrive. It's a good acknowledgement that we are more than just our deaths.

By the same token, many have expanded this out to a week of events, under the name "Transgender Awareness Week." This, in turn, has expanded out to "Transgender Awareness Month." I have less love for this, but only from a semantic side. I feel that we need more than just awareness that we exist in this world, no matter how long a time period to which this is applied.

Some TDOR events opt to go beyond the understanding that this is an event focused on anti-transgender violence. They may add in cases of suicide to their tally — a choice that I can empathize with, but one to which I typically opt to not include myself.

Some, too, add in just about every transgender death they can find, perhaps out of a misunderstanding as to what TDOR is about — again, anti-transgender violence — or perhaps to inflate the numbers on an issue for which, quite frankly, one death is too many. Passing away after a long, violence-free life is not what TDOR is about. Would that it were.

That said, I don't tend to tell people what they can and cannot do when it comes to TDOR. I may have been one who helped get the ball rolling, helping to create an event honored globally, but I don't like to think of it as something that I or anyone need to control. People grieve in different ways, and it would simply be wrong to force my personal view onto the whole.

Even if, I must admit, I have.

I have to admit some uncomfortable truths when it comes to TDOR, ones over which I often find myself pondering. I often feel that the white trans woman that I am should not be a spokesperson for a contagion that predominately preys on black trans women. It's not that I wallow in "white guilt" about it, per se, but I use it as a reminder to center voices other than my own and try to use my privilege constructively.

I also often ponder the ways that TDOR may have framed the trans rights struggle as a whole. Much as I alluded to above,

See **Transmissions**, continued on p. 9

I have to admit some uncomfortable truths when it comes to TDOR, ones over which I often find myself pondering. I often feel that the white trans woman than I am should not be a spokesperson for a contagion that predominately preys on black trans women. It's not that I wallow in "white guilt" about it, per se, but I use it as a reminder to center voices other than my own and try to use my privilege constructively.

► Transmissions

Continued from p. 8

there's a lot of living we all do. We are resilient, we do, when given the chance, thrive.

On Nov. 20, transgender and non-binary people — and our allies — across the world come together to honor those murdered due to anti-trans violence. At the end of the night, our candles are extinguished, our signs and banners put away and we go back to living our lives.

One day after TDOR, I want you to ask yourself a simple question: What are you doing today to try and make the next TDOR a day where fewer names are read, and, instead, more of us are thriving?

On the next Transgender Day of Remembrance we may have a new president in the White House, and they may be willing to stop the horrible rollbacks of our rights that have happened under President Trump. It's also plenty likely that races from the halls of Congress to your local school board will be decided, and each of those may affect us. What will you do, now, to help elect people who will serve our needs?

We also live in a time where misinformation about transgender people runs rampant. We still live with unfounded specters of transgender restroom predators. Lately, too, we've seen this absurd notion of men trying to infiltrate women's sports under the

guise of transgender rights, with no less than "South Park" making an even deeper mockery of the idea. These make life harder for us, and instill fear of is in others — fear than can lead to violence against us. What will you do the day after TDOR to help educate and show that these same fears are not part of reality?

Right now, there are young, and not-so-young, transgender people who may be coming to terms with their own transness in this awful world of 2019. They may be facing homelessness after their families kick them out, harassment in their schools or workplaces, or even face challenges that could lead to their own deaths. What steps will you take, on the Nov. 21, and every other day, to build a better world for them?

This is the challenge I put forth to you.

On Nov. 20, transgender and non-binary people — and our allies — across the world come together to honor those murdered due to anti-trans violence. We remember our dead, we honor our resilience and we rededicate ourselves to creating a better world where people are not murdered because someone had an issue with transgender or gender-non-conforming people.

I won't tell you how to honor our dead, but please heed this: one day after, we must show that we will continue to fight like hell for the living. It is the least we can do.

Gwen Smith remembers. You can find her at gwensmith.com

hanged — and each of the aforementioned amorous playmates was "kild" for making unwilling hey-nanny-non with a minor.

Happy Holiday! Enjoy your drumsticks. But please leave your domestic birdies behind the barn alone. You may gobble. They peck.

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.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 8

caught in adultery got the head chop in the mid-1600s. Salem witch hunts came soon after.

PARSON'S NECK: In 1642, 17-years old Thomas Granger was at various times seen cuddling up with "a mare, a cow, two goats, five sheep, two calves and a turkey." But not necessarily in that poking — er, pecking — order.

For his post-pubescent bit of animal husbandry, he was hung — beg pardon:

Creep Of The Week

Rod Dreher

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Strike up the band and start the parade, ladies and gentlemen and those who identify somewhere in between or beyond. Chick-fil-A has gone gay! We've done it. At long last, we've broken the anti-LGBTQ spirit and will of Chick-fil-A's philanthropic arm. From here on out Chick-fil-A will only be donating to Homosexual Agenda, a 501(c)(3) that seeks to make everybody both transgender and/or lesbian, gay, bi or pansexual. In addition, HA will ensure that the only political figure children learn about is Harvey Milk, though the idea Abraham Lincoln was gay will be included in the curriculum ...

Wait a minute. I'm being told that I may have my facts mixed up. It appears that there the so-called "homosexual agenda" is just a general desire to be recognized and treated as equal and worthy human beings and not a 501(c)(3) organization. Oof. That's going to hurt me at tax time. Oh, and Chick-fil-A hasn't gone gay after all.

You can forgive me for thinking that Chick-fil-A had done something very drastic when it came to their charitable giving. I'm old enough to remember when Chick-fil-A gave money to anti-LGBTQ organizations like the odious Family Research Council. Progressives were angered while anti-gay conservatives literally lined up around the block to show their anti-LGBTQ solidarity by buying and eating chicken sandwiches with two pickles on a toasted butter bun. I'm also old enough to remember that Chick-fil-A stopped giving money groups like FRC. That was in 2012.

Well lo and behold, Chick-fil-A has still been giving money to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Salvation Army, two groups that are against marriage equality and have been accused of discriminating against LGBTQ people in hiring. And so Chick-fil-A received criticism from LGBTQ people and allies. And now Chick-fil-A has announced that it isn't going to give money to either group anymore. Coincidence?

Honestly, maybe? I mean, it's possible that Chick-fil-A has been watching a lot of "Queer Eye" and has had a change of heart. But it's also possible that they just decided to put their money and focus somewhere else? Regardless, people on the right are freaking out.

Rod Dreher, an editor at The American Conservative, is one of them. He wrote a piece titled "Chick-fil-A Surrenders To LGBT Bullies" on The American Conservative website which begins with, "This is a sad day. Even though Chick-fil-A is hugely profitable, it still capitulated to progressive bullies."

Dreher is, of course, entitled to his feelings so if he wants to feel sad then I won't try to diminish that. But I have a problem with the insinuation that a "hugely profitable" company is exempt from public pressure or just basic decency due to its wealth. I also don't appreciate being called



Rod Dreher - The Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians in a Post-Christian Nation. March 9, 2018, Danube Institute Budapest, Central Europe. Elekes Andor. gaybe.am/Qk.

a bully simply for insisting on my full humanity and refusing to capitulate to anyone who sees me as less than. I also do not give a pass to being anti-LGBTQ based on religion.

So apparently that means Dreher despises me. I've got to give him some credit for not hiding behind that "love the sinner hate the sin" bullshit. He's just flat out, "I hate you." Cool cool.

"I despise the LGBT bullies, but I'm not letting Chick-fil-A's leadership off the hook," he writes, calling them "cowards" and accusing them of "gutless surrender."

"And it's a lesson to all of us," he warns. "The LGBT lobby, and their progressive allies, will never, ever leave you alone. Never."

Never ever ever? True. There is no amount of discrimination and hatred that we will or have to tolerate.

"Anyway," Dreher continues, "shame on you, Chick-fil-A. You had no reason to capitulate. You have successfully resisted the mob for years, and built a booming business in spite of it! But capitulate you did."

I would like to take a moment to remind everyone that Chick-fil-A is a fast-food restaurant, not the American Embassy, not a hospital, not a military base. They sell sandwiches and fries. They don't save lives or protect this country.

I am reminded of the, "Sir, this is an Arby's" punchline used so often on Twitter. A great example is its use by Alexandra Petri (follow her at @petridishes) as a response to a Brett Kavanaugh quote regarding his insane behavior before the Senate.

I propose that we use, "This is a Chick-fil-A" in response to the crazy ramblings of folks like Dreher.

Dreher: "The homosexuals are taking over and ruining our freedom and will never, ever leave me alone!"

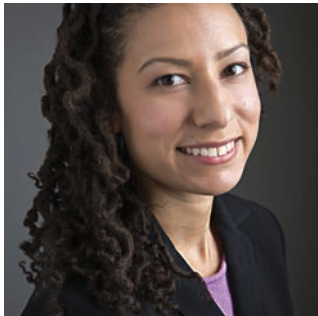
Employee: "Sir, this is a Chick-fil-A. And you need to leave."

ACLU Announces New Director of Women's Rights Litigation

BY BTL STAFF

NEW YORK — The American Civil Liberties Union this month announced Ria Tabacco Mar as the director of its Women's Rights Project. Tabacco Mar replaces Lenora Lapidus, who died earlier this year.

"Ria has the vision, talent and resolve to be a force for gender equality," said Louise Melling, ACLU Deputy Legal Director. "She will take the Women's Rights Project and the ACLU to new heights."



The Women's Rights Project was co-founded by Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 1972 and has been striving for systematic legal reform of women's equality and economic

rights. It has taken on significant cases to fight against the discrimination of women, including the military bans on women in combat, discrimination in advertising, equal access to parental leave and institutional perpetuation of gender-based violence and harassment.

"I'm thrilled to help lead the fight for women's rights work and gender equity," Tabacco Mar said. "At a time when our civil rights and liberties are under unprecedented attack, our work is even more urgent."

Tabacco Mar previously served as a senior staff attorney for ACLU's LGBT & HIV Project, fighting discrimination of all types, including gender stereotypes and sex segregation, as well as attempts to use religion to discriminate against LGBTQ people at school, at work and in public places. Tabacco Mar was part of the ACLU's litigation team in two cases now before the Supreme Court, *Zarda v. Altitude Express* and *R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. EEOC*, in which the Trump administration has argued it should be legal to fire someone because they are LGBTQ. Previously, she led the ACLU's team in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, the case in which a same-sex couple was refused a wedding cake because they are gay.

She has been recognized in *The Root* 100 annual list of the most influential African-Americans ages 25 to 45 and as one of the "Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40" by the National LGBT Bar Association.

Prior to joining the ACLU in 2014, Tabacco Mar was a member of the board of directors of the New York Civil Liberties Union and served as assistant counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, where she participated regularly as amicus curiae on cases involving marriage equality.

Whitmer, Michigan Opioids Task Force Announce Efforts to Combat Opioid Epidemic, Cut Opioid Deaths in Half

LANSING – Last week Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and other members of the Michigan Opioids Task Force announced a slate of steps the state is taking to combat the opioid epidemic. The state's strategy addresses three key areas: preventing opioid misuse, ensuring individuals using opioids can access high-quality recovery treatment and reducing the harm caused by opioids to individuals and their communities.

The state is announcing new actions in all three areas; the beginning of a multi-year blitz to cut opioid-related overdose deaths by half in five years. In 2017, Michigan recorded more than 2,000 opioid-related overdose deaths and more than 7,000 Michiganders have lost their lives to this epidemic in the last five years.

"We are losing more than five people every single day to opioid overdoses," Whitmer said. "This epidemic touches all areas of our state and is one of the greatest health crises of our lifetimes. My number one priority is protecting our families and our overall public health, and these efforts will help bring us closer to ending this epidemic."

The Michigan Opioids Task Force, created by Whitmer in August, held its first meeting last month to map out an action plan across state departments to meet this goal. The Task Force will announce additional actions in the coming months and conduct a series of regional town hall meetings to hear directly from individuals across the state about how the epidemic has affected their communities.

Prevention: \$1 Million Media Campaign Seeks to Reduce Stigma

To address the stigma associated with seeking opioid use disorder treatment, MDHHS is launching a \$1 million statewide campaign. Funded through State Opioid Response federal grant funds, the campaign focuses on changing the conversation about opioid use disorder treatment and encourages Michiganders to seek treatment to help improve their lives and ultimately prevent overdoses.

"We're asking for family members and peers of people with opioid use disorder to help us change the script about treatment and dispel the stigma around receiving recovery services for opioid misuse," said Robert Gordon, MDHHS director. "We want to change criticism to compassion; helplessness to hopefulness. We need to show every Michigander struggling with this medical condition that they are deserving."

The campaign includes TV, radio, billboards, social media, paid search and mobile ads that will run through April 2020. The ads will direct people to Michigan.gov/Opioids, which will provide information about programs and resources available to Michigan residents from multiple state agencies.

With partners at the University of Michigan Injury Prevention Center, the state is also releasing a toolkit for medical providers on safer opioid prescribing practices. These comprehensive resources will help medical professionals make evidence-based decisions when prescribing opioids to decrease the risk of opioid misuse. The tool kit will be broadly shared with the Michigan medical community and is available at michmed.org/optoolkit.

Treatment: Eliminating Barriers by Removing Prior Authorization for Treatment

To increase access to treatment for Medicaid recipients with opioid use disorders, MDHHS will remove prior authorization

requirements for specific medications used to treat these disorders, including buprenorphine as of Monday, Dec. 2.

Prior authorization is a requirement that physicians must obtain approval from a patient's health care insurer before prescribing a specific medication for or to perform a particular operation.

"Removing prior authorization for these medications in the Medicaid program eliminates an unnecessary barrier to treatment access for people who are struggling with an opioid use disorder," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health for MDHHS. "By eliminating this requirement, we will increase availability of treatment and increase their chances of a successful recovery."

Medication-assisted treatment, combined with counseling or behavioral therapy, is the gold standard for treating individuals with opioid use disorder, leading to significantly better outcomes.

MDOC Expanding Medication-Assisted Treatment in Michigan Prisons

More than 20 percent of incarcerated individuals in Michigan have been identified as having an opioid use disorder, and those leaving prison are 40 to 120 times more likely to die of an overdose within two weeks of release. To help address this issue, the Michigan Department of Corrections is beginning Medication-Assisted Treatment programs in three facilities with a goal of expanding treatment to all its facilities by 2023.

Central Michigan Correctional Facility, Carson City Correctional Facility and Charles Egeler Reception and Guidance Center will be the first facilities to pilot medication-assisted treatment. The Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility will be added as a fourth site for the program, following the launch of the initial pilot. The facilities will offer methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone as treatment regimens for individuals in prison.

"Medication-assisted treatment, along with additional substance abuse treatment services increases the likelihood of long-term recovery, reducing the chance of recidivism," said Marti Kay Sherry, MDOC acting administrator, Bureau of Health Care Services.

Harm Reduction: Syringe Service Programs

To help reduce the amount of harm caused by opioid use disorder to individuals and their communities, MDHHS has expanded support for syringe service programs, which are now being offered by 25 agencies, up from 13 the previous year. This includes organizations in Detroit and Macomb, St. Clair, Genesee, Washtenaw, Ingham, Jackson, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Ionia, Kent, Muskegon, Grand Traverse, Chippewa and Marquette counties, and several other counties. A full list is available at Michigan.gov/SSP.

MDHHS data highlights the impact the opioid epidemic has had on infectious disease transmission and demonstrates the need for SSP expansion. New diagnoses of hepatitis C among adults less than 40 years old increased from 292 in 2000 to 3,774 in 2018, following similar patterns in accidental drug overdoses in the state. Where data was collected on HCV diagnoses among adults less than 40 years old in 2018, more than 80 percent self-reported a history of injecting drugs.

SSPs also offer referrals to substance use disorder treatment, distribution of the overdose reversal drug naloxone, collection of sharps disposal containers, providing sterile syringes, HCV and HIV testing and treatment, hepatitis A and B vaccinations.

For more information on the opioid epidemic and efforts being made by the state to address this issue, visit Michigan.gov/Opioids.

Obituary: Stuart Itzkowitz



BY TIM RETZLOFF

Pioneering Metro Detroit gay activist, psychologist, one-time diarist and retired Wayne State University lecturer and counselor Stuart Itzkowitz died Nov. 5. A resident

of Grosse Pointe Park, he had been battling a recurrence of cancer for several years.

Born to Abe and Marilyn Itzkowitz on May 3, 1948, Stuart George Itzkowitz grew up in Brooklyn and graduated from Stuyvesant High School. After earning his B.A. in zoology from Harpur College of what was then SUNY Binghamton, Itzkowitz moved to Ann Arbor in 1969 to attend graduate school at the University of Michigan. He received a master's in zoology from Michigan in 1971 and continued work toward a doctorate over the next three years.

While on campus he began to act on his same-sex attractions and, with a fellow grad student, attended a gay dance in June 1972 at the First Unitarian Church in Detroit during

the city's first Pride celebration.

"I didn't just come out. I sort of exploded," Itzkowitz recalled in a 2005 oral history interview.

Within weeks he helped staff the gay information table at the Ann Arbor Art Fair. He soon discovered the Flame Bar. He became active with the Ann Arbor Gay Liberation Front. He met people like Jim Toy and Harry "Kitty" Kevorkian, who had lasting impact on his sense of self as a proud young gay man.

That same year, Itzkowitz began to keep a diary, recording his activities in detail. He would eventually fill 14 volumes and more than 4,000 pages before his writing tapered off in 1985. On an almost daily basis, he described his goings-on and impressions at a pivotal time of life, all the while documenting a rich and vibrant gay world around him that was just coming into its own in new ways.

He was asked in the summer 2018 for the Queer Remembering blog how he felt about having kept the diary during his formative 20s and 30s. He expressed gratitude to his younger self.

"I did have a life and things did happen," he said. Some of what happened proved significant. "This is a very gay area."

He noted that in September 1974 he moved to 885 Covington in the Palmer Park apartment district of Detroit. Months later, he visited Menjo's nightclub on its first night open on Dec. 13, 1974. "Had a good crowded dance

time," he jotted in his diary.

Itzkowitz also recorded his response to the victory of Anita Bryant in overturning a new gay rights ordinance in Miami-Dade County, Florida.

"News on. The Gay Rights Amendment was overturned by a vote of 202,000 to 90,000," he wrote on election night, June 7, 1977. "It's depressing. I felt like it might pass. Oh shit..."

Bryant's "Save Our Children" campaign sparked dread among many gay Detroiters but also spurred Itzkowitz and other activists into action. A committee comprised of Itzkowitz, Marg Cimafranca, Retty Schreiber, Larry Knox, Bob Vance and Don Mager, each representing a different facet of the local gay and lesbian community, met over the summer of 1977 to map out a new statewide activist group. After much discussion, they agreed on the Michigan Organization for Human Rights as the name.

Itzkowitz remembered meeting in the scorching hot office of Metro Gay News with a faulty air conditioner and editing the draft by-laws with Mager.

"He and I would go to Belle Isle beach, which was fairly gay then," Itzkowitz recalled. "And he and I did a lot of our revisions on pen and paper, because there were no computers back then."

In addition to helping to establish MOHR, Itzkowitz took part over the years in the Wayne State GLF switchboard, the Association of Suburban People, Studs 30, Gilda's House and

the Senior Koffee Klatch at Affirmations. He became involved, as well, as a volunteer and board member in the 1980s with Wellness Networks, the earliest Detroit-area organization formed in response to the AIDS crisis. He was particularly proud to have helped found one of the area's first HIV/AIDS support groups.

In 1978, Itzkowitz met Larry Zimmerman at a meeting of the Wayne State GLF. The two began dating and went on to share homes in Detroit, Grosse Pointe Park, St. Clair Shores and Clearwater, Florida. They married in Vermont in 2009 and were together for 38 years until Zimmerman's death from cancer in 2016.

While teaching at Marygrove College in the mid-1970s, Itzkowitz decided to change direction professionally and studied to become a psychologist. He went on to get a master's degree in counseling from Wayne State in 1978 and was awarded his Ph.D. there in 1984.

Itzkowitz was hired by Wayne in 1983 and enjoyed a long career in admissions, counseling and the School of Education. In 2004, Gov. Jennifer Granholm appointed him to the Michigan Board of Counseling. He retired from the university as senior lecturer and university counselor in 2014.

Services for Stuart Itzkowitz were conducted by Rabbi Marla Hornsten on Nov. 10 at Dorfman Chapel in Farmington Hills.

He was survived by his brother Howard and many friends.

We're Smiling for Pride!

RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS

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

248-399-4455

Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)
Proud participants in the Ryan White Program
No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.
Uninsured? No problem. Significant savings with our in-office club.

Care Credit
MasterCard VISA

1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4, Berkley, MI 48072
www.rontwilliamsondds.com Find us on facebook

Chick-fil-A to End Donations for Anti-LGBTQ Causes

BY JOHN PAUL KING

Controversial chicken chain Chick-fil-A has long been the target of protests and boycotts over its donations to anti-LGBTQ causes, but that could soon be a thing of the past.

The fast-food giant has revealed that it has plans to stop its well-documented donations to anti-queer lobbying groups, citing the chain's expansion as the reason for change.

Speaking to the website Bisnow, COO of Chick-fil-A Tim Tassopoulos said, "There's no question we know that, as we go into new markets, we need to be clear about who we are. There are lots of articles and newscasts about Chick-fil-A, and we thought we needed to be clear about our message."

Chick-fil-A has a long history of donating to groups like the Salvation Army, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and the Paul Anderson Youth Home – all of which have anti-LGBTQ positions and policies. In addition, CEO Dan Cathy's comments against marriage equality have cemented a widespread impression of a company with homophobic corporate policies, and further added to the stigma with which the restaurant is associated by a large sector of the public.

That stigma has had real-world consequences; Chick-fil-A is has been the target of repeated calls for boycott; earlier this year, the landlord of the chain's UK pop-up restaurant said he would not renew their lease due to the company's history of homophobia, and several airports cited the same reason as the cause in denying applications for Chick-fil-A to open new locations in their facilities.

Beginning next year, the Atlanta-based fast-food chain – which donated to more than 300 charitable organizations in 2019 – will change its philanthropic structure to will focus on three initiatives with one accompanying charity each: education, homelessness and hunger

"When there is a tension, we want to make sure we're being clear. We think this is going to be helpful," Tassopoulos said. "It's just the right thing to do: to be clear, caring and supportive and do it in the community."

Chick-fil-A has yet to issue an official company statement.

Jayapal Reiterates Call for Stephen Miller's Resignation at Victory Fund Conference



BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

U.S. Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.) on Saturday once again called for White House advisor Stephen Miller to resign. "We do not believe Stephen Miller should be in the White House advising this president," said Jayapal as she spoke during a panel on LGBTQ immigration at the LGBTQ Victory Fund's annual International LGBTQ Leaders Conference that took place at the JW Marriott Hotel in downtown D.C.

The Southern Poverty Law Center last week published a series of emails Miller sent to Breitbart News before the 2016 presidential election that "showcase the extremist, anti-immigrant ideology that undergirds the policies he has helped create as an architect of Donald Trump's presidency." Jayapal in her remarks noted the Congressional Progressive, Black, Hispanic and Asian Pacific American Caucuses have all called for Miller's resignation.

"It's clearer than ever that Stephen Miller is a far-right white nationalist with a racist and xenophobic worldview," said Jayapal in a Nov. 14 statement alongside U.S. Reps. Mark Pocan (D-Wis.), Karen Bass (D-Calif.), Joaquin Castro (D-Texas) and Judy Chu (D-Calif.) "His beliefs are appalling, indefensible and completely at odds with public service."

Trans Woman Died in ICE Custody in 2018

The separation of immigrant children from their parents and the "remain in Mexico" program that has forced more than 40,000 migrants to remain in Mexico to await the processing of their asylum claims are among the most controversial aspects of the Trump administration's overall immigration policy. Activists have also sharply criticized U.S.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement over the treatment of LGBTQ migrants who are in their custody.

Roxsana Hernández, a transgender Honduran woman with HIV, died at a hospital in Albuquerque, N.M., on May 25, 2018, while in ICE custody. Hernández was detained at Cibola County Detention Center, a facility in Milan, N.M., that CoreCivic, a private company once known as Corrections Corporation of America, operates.

The Transgender Law Center has filed a wrongful death lawsuit on behalf of Hernández's family. U.S. Sens. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) earlier this month demanded Attorney General William Barr to appoint a special counsel to investigate why ICE allowed personnel at the Cibola County Correctional Center to delete surveillance video that relates to Hernández's case.

Johana "Joa" Medina León, a trans woman from El Salvador, on June 1, 2019, died at a hospital in El Paso, Texas, after ICE released her from its custody. Medina had previously been detained at the Otero County Processing Center, a detention facility in Chaparral, N.M., that Management and Training Corporation, another private company, operates.

ICE in 2017 opened a unit for trans detainees at the Cibola County Correctional Center.

Trans Queer Pueblo, a Phoenix-based group that advocates on behalf of undocumented LGBTQ immigrants, in June received a letter from 29 trans women detained at the privately-run detention facility who complained about inadequate medical care and mistreatment from staff. A dozen gay men and trans women earlier this year said they suffered "rampant sexual harassment, discrimination and abuse at the Otero County Processing Center.

The House Immigration and Citizenship

Subcommittee, of which Jayapal is vice chair, in September held a hearing on conditions inside ICE detention centers. Raiza Daniela Hernández, a trans activist from El Salvador who said she suffered anti-LGBTQ discrimination while detained at the Otay Mesa Detention Center, a CoreCivic-run ICE facility in San Diego in 2017, and Denis Davydov, a gay man with HIV from Russia who claims he contracted Hepatitis A while in ICE custody at the Krome Detention Center in Miami in 2017, both testified.

An immigration judge in September granted asylum to Yariel Valdés González, a Washington Blade contributor who suffered persecution in his native Cuba because he is a journalist. ICE last month appealed the ruling, and Valdés remains detained at the Bossier Parish Medium Security Facility in Plain Dealing, La.

"These LGBTQ folks have had a treacherous life, a treacherous life and a treacherous journey to make and they make their journey to our border hoping to be met with compassion and respect for their humanity," said Jayapal at the Victory Fund conference. "And yet they are placed into these incarceration centers at the border."

Jayapal in April introduced the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act that, among other things, end the use of private prisons and jails as immigrant detention centers and require the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE, to issue a public report on a detainee's death within 60 days. Jayapal on Saturday said her measure now has 138 co-sponsors.

"We are really making headway on what is a dramatic proposal ... to transform immigrant incarceration in this country," she said.

Jayapal — along with U.S. Reps. Jesús "Chuy" García (D-Ill.) and Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) — on Oct. 30 introduced the New Deal for New Americans Act, a bill that seeks to further integrate immigrants in the U.S. Jayapal on Saturday also defended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that has allowed hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants to remain in the U.S. and obtain work permits.

The Trump administration in 2017 announced it would end DACA, which the Obama White House enacted in 2012. The U.S. Supreme Court on Nov. 12 heard oral arguments in a case that could determine DACA's future.

"These Dreamers, including LGBTQ dreamers, have made the case themselves with their resilience and their courage," said Jayapal.

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

Parker Slams Media for Reporting Black Voters Won't Back LGBTQ Candidates

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The head of the LGBTQ Victory Institute took the media to task Friday amid a flurry of media reports Pete Buttigieg isn't faring well in the South because black voters are reluctant to support a gay presidential candidate.

Annise Parker, CEO of the Victory Institute, made the remarks in her "State of Victory" speech at the annual LGBTQ International Leaders Conference, which the organization hosted this year in D.C. at the JW Marriott Hotel.

Parker, who before serving as Houston's first lesbian mayor was an LGBTQ activist in the 1970s, said the media reports echoed earlier whisper campaigns against openly gay and lesbian candidates decades ago.

"But what was once whispers are now New York Times stories, and Washington Post columns," Parker said. "Right now, some pundits and opposition candidates are pushing the lie that black voters will not vote for an LGBTQ candidates. It is wrong."

Late last month, The State, a South Carolina-based newspaper, published a memo on internal Buttigieg campaign focus groups indicating black voters in South Carolina find the candidate's sexual orientation a barrier



to supporting him. Additional stories were published in Politico and the New York Times to the same effect.

Repudiating these stories, Parker laid out the case for the many levels why the notion black voters won't support LGBTQ candidates isn't right.

"It is wrong factually, according to opinion polls," Parker said to extended applause. "It is wrong morally, because it treats the black community as monolithic and ignores LGBTQ

black voices, like those in the room. And it is wrong empirically because we see LGBTQ candidates winning the hearts and minds of black voters across this nation."

Parker cited the recent wins of LGBTQ candidates as evidence the narrative is incorrect. Among them Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, who's both the city's first openly lesbian mayor and first black woman to serve as mayor. Lightfoot, Parker said, won by 73 percent of the vote and carried a majority in each of Chicago's 50 wards.

Other candidates cited by Parker were Pennsylvania State Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta, who's won an election as a gay black man despite the distribution of homophobic flyers in his district; and Alabama State Rep. Neil Raffery, who won a majority black district and

became the only openly gay elected official in his entire state.

"Real harm is done by these narratives, it can discourage us from running in certain communities, religious, racial, ethnic or otherwise, allowing these myths to fester even further," Parker said. "It is the elected officials in the room, and those we need to run in the future, who will eventually dispel these myths."

It wasn't the only time during her speech Parker criticized the media for coverage of LGBTQ leaders.

In the aftermath of U.S. Rep. Katie Hill's (D-Calif.) resignation amid "revenge porn" posts on conservative websites and a House Ethics Committee investigation into whether she had an improper relationship with a legislative staffer, Parker slammed "right-wing media outlets determined to take her down."

"They put forward — and her opponents grabbed — a message, photos and a storyline driven by biphobia and sexism condemning her for actions that straight, cisgender congressman have so often gotten away with in the past," Parker said.

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

An advertisement for Trillium Real Estate. The background is a dark, grayscale image of a building with a sign that says "TRILLIUM REAL ESTATE". Overlaid on the left is the text "Supporting the Community Since Before it was Cool." with "Before it was Cool." in a rainbow-colored banner. Below this is the text "100% Local Agents. 100% Client Focused. Trillium Real Estate Helps People Make Good Decisions." On the right side, there are three polaroid-style photos: one of two women smiling, one of a man and a woman smiling, and one of two people at a community event. At the bottom, there is a green bar with contact information for Sandi & Linda, including their website, address, and phone number. To the right of the green bar is the Trillium Real Estate logo, which consists of a stylized rainbow flower icon and the text "TRILLIUM REAL ESTATE".

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



Elizabeth's Gayngels

Photo: Sony Pictures

Director Elizabeth Banks on Queering 'Charlie's Angels' & Producing LGBTQ-Inclusive Projects

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Elizabeth Banks is here for all your lesbian-energy needs. After starring in “Pitch Perfect,” which never quite gave a cappella group members Beca and Chloe the full-on queer relationship fans (and even star Anna Kendrick) yearned for, Banks returned for “Pitch Perfect 2” as star, producer and director, the musical-comedy’s flirtation with queerness still very much intact.

You could say the same for Banks’ new “Charlie’s Angels” and its own ranking on the Kinsey Scale, which definitely leans a little gay.

Banks wrote, directed and produced the feature under Brownstone Productions, which she co-founded with her husband, Max Handelman. In addition to working behind the camera to launch the fearless trio – portrayed by Kristen Stewart, Naomi Scott and Ella Balinska – into our modern, sexually fluid era, Banks also stars in the spy epic, playing an ex-Angel and one of the film’s multiple Bosleys. Notably, Stewart portrays her secret agent character Sabina Wilson, the first Angel to be depicted as a member of the LGBTQ community, to reflect her real-life queer sexuality.

On a recent morning, Banks called to talk

about busting up gender expectations, canceling straight, white, cisgender men and how – yes, kweens – “Kristen’s character is definitely gay in the movie.”

So, Elizabeth, are you seeing the lesbian energy in this film that every other lesbian is seeing?

(Laughs.) I am! Sure, of course.

It was intentional then?

I’ll tell you, this is what it is: We have a very inclusive, open, loving movie set and I get to make movies with multiple women who get to sit around in rooms and touch each other

and hold hands, because that’s what women do, right? We just really tried to be as loving and accepting of each other as possible, and if that creates some vibes that people want to interpret, so be it.

After the trailer dropped, this film was dubbed “Charlie’s Gayngels” by some queer fans. Is a part of you upset that that wasn’t the actual title?

(Laughs.) I wish it was just “Elizabeth’s Gayngles.” I’ll make a new movie that says that.

Was it your intent to remain sexually ambiguous with these characters?

I think ambiguity is kind of modern now. I think the fluidity is very modern right now. Kristen's character is definitely gay in the movie. I mean, she wanted to be gay in the movie and I'm like, "Yeah." I made sure we kept that little moment in so that you understand what she was attracted to. And you're welcome to talk to her about it. She loves to be open about it. I just wanted to make sure that she was able to present a character that she was fully behind.

Was it important to you to cast somebody whose sexuality aligns with that of the character she's playing?

Yeah. I will say none of them had sexuality written into the script and everybody in the script sort of flirted with everybody (laughs). Everybody could go all ways at all times and we didn't want to put any limits on anyone. It's a really great way to investigate your mark.

Speaking of investigating your mark: "Pitch Perfect" fans were rooting for Beca and Chloe to get together, and that never happened.

Both of them date boys in the movies.

Hey, that means nothing.

Apparently it means nothing. But they do dates boys in the movie. And they do get naked in the shower together, but lots of people get naked in communal showers in college.

That wasn't my college experience, but please, tell me about yours.

(Laughs.) I definitely was naked in lots of communal showers.

So, back to Sabina: She identifies as gay? Or does she identify as queer, lesbian, bi?

I believe that she refers to herself as queer.

To have a queer lead in a "Charlie's Angels" movie, does that feel like a big deal to you? It's never happened before.

It's so interesting. I'll be honest, it feels so natural to me that these characters would

"Kristen's character is definitely gay in the movie. I mean, she wanted to be gay in the movie and I'm like, 'Yeah.' ... I just wanted to make sure that she was able to present a character that she was fully behind."

live in this way. Again, I feel like it's the most modern version of "Charlie's Angels" and speaks to the audience that's here for it right now. It was never a big deal, it was not a big deal. We talked about it and it just... happened. It was very natural.

How much of Sabina's queerness was Kristen's idea and how much of it was yours?

I wrote that little moment in that script for her to be like, "Ohhh, hello!" to another woman because I wanted it, even though she flirts with guys and then beats them up. It was important for Kristen to present herself as queer in the movie and I was all for it.

Was she responsible for the hair too?

Oh, I definitely wanted her to have that hair. We wanted to play with expectations of Kristen Stewart in the movie, so I told her from the get-go, "I want to open the movie with you in full Barbie regalia. I want you to have the long, blond hair."

She played Gisele on "SNL" and we looked at a lot of those photos for reference, like long, long, beautiful hair and bright pink dress. You know, the whole thing. Just super comfortable in her skin, so then when she transformed in the opening scene of the movie, it was like, ha-ha, you thought it was one thing but it's something totally else. We were presenting something that really had a big turn. It wasn't like she took off a long, blond wig and then just had shorter blond hair, you know what I mean? (Laughs.) I really wanted there to be a distinction so that you know she's truly playing a character and the real her is underneath.

"Queer Eye" style expert Tan France visited the "Charlie's Angels" set. Did he approve of everything in that giant closet where the Angels's wardrobe is housed?

(Laughs.) I wish he was able to consult on the closet! But he was with us after we were done in the closet (laughs). We were in Istanbul together. We had so much fun. I was so grateful that he came. I don't think he's

See **Elizabeth Banks**, continued on p. 16

The Nutcracker

Featuring BalletMet

Sat. Nov. 30 at 2:30 PM & 7:30 PM

Sun. Dec. 1 at 2:30 PM

At the Detroit Opera House

Detroit's favorite
Nutcracker
is back!

Family friendly activities at
matinee performances!

Tchaikovsky's
magical score
performed LIVE
by the MOT
Orchestra!

MICHIGAN
OPERA
THEATRE

TICKETS:
MichiganOpera.org
or 313.237.7464

Arts
MIDWEST

DETROIT'S GOLDEN TICKET


ROALD
DAHL'S
**CHARLIE
AND THE
CHOCOLATE FACTORY**
THE NEW MUSICAL

ON SALE NOW

FEB 18 - MAR 1

DETROIT OPERA HOUSE • BroadwayInDetroit.com

BroadwayInDetroit.com, ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office
Info: 313.872.1000, Groups (12+) groups @ BroadwayInDetroit.com (Subject: Charlie)

AD  OC Feb. 23



► Elizabeth Banks

Continued from p. 15

ever been to Istanbul, which is a really incredible city. And he loved the film and is a huge supporter of it. He's just been great.

Are you a "Queer Eye" groupie now?

Oh, I've been a groupie since the original Fab Five, honey. I love the first go 'round. I'm back for round two. I can't get enough. I have not seen (the special) Tokyo (season) yet. Have you?

No, but I've got a box of Kleenex ready to go.

Yeah, exactly. I bawl during every single episode. (Laughs.)

How did you connect with Laverne Cox for her cameo in "Charlie's Angels"?

I got to develop two television shows with her and love her and I think she's an incredible talent, and she blessed "Charlie's Angels." I told her a year-and-a-half ago when I first started, "I have something in mind for you and it will be small at first, but I promise there's more if you'll just trust me," and she was like, "Let's do it. Anything." Off we go!

You seem to be strongly suggesting you're working on another "Charlie's Angels" film. Are you thinking of making an even queerer follow-up?

I can't... I don't want to... I just want to tell you I always keep her in mind.

It's been said that you playing a space witch in "Power Rangers," Rita Repulsa, is the ultimate queer role. Is that really your queerest role yet?

Oh, she is probably really high on the energy scale, isn't she? Wow. And also just the costuming. And she was *real* mad at guys too, by the way (laughs). Yeah, I'm gonna go with Rita, for sure.

You're gonna go with her over Effie Trinket in "The Hunger Games"?

I think so, yeah. I think Effie's kind of asexual, actually. She's more of a drag queen; she really has an affinity for Haymitch, obviously. I think that's real. The two of them had a connection but I think in general, yeah. Asexual.

Will LGBTQ characters be among the cast of your HBO show "DC Super Hero High"?

I don't want to say too much about that, honestly. But I'm sure self-exploration will be a part of their journeys as they are very young and in high school.

As a producer, how important is LGBTQ inclusivity when it comes to the projects that you oversee?

I think it's really important. Also, it's really good business. I'm all about trying to be fresh, and some (people) are like, "You seem to have a lot of female-fronted films and television shows. You have Aidy Bryant on 'Shrill,' Kristen..."

The fact of the matter is that as a businesswoman, I'm trying to create (in a way) that feels really fresh to people, that feels like you haven't seen it before, that feels exciting and new and speaks to right now. It just comes down to the fact that a white, male, cisgender perspective is just not fresh. We've been looking at 'em for 100 years (laughs). And in media right now, I'm about giving voice to something a little different than that.

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



C & N PARTY RENTALS

5140 Meijer Drive,
Royal Oak, MI 48073



**Marquees, Canopies and Tents • Tables • Chairs • Linens
Dinnerware • Glassware • Flatware • Silver Service
Food Service & Cooking Equipment • Convention & Meeting Equipment**

We have Beautiful Linens for all events and budgets!

248-435-3580 • 800-351-0031 • www.cnparty.com

Politics, Touring and Drag: Lady Bunny Bares it All

Drag Icon Lady Bunny to Appear in 'A Drag Queen Christmas'

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Known as the queen of New York nightlife and, indeed, at one time one of Michael Alig's infamous Club Kids, Lady Bunny is a legend in pop culture and drag circles alike. Now, Bunny is taking her diva chops to Detroit when she visits Motown as part of "A Drag Queen Christmas," the latest "RuPaul's Drag Race"-related tour put together by Detroit's own super event producers Murray & Peter.

Lady Bunny, of course, was never on "Drag Race" as a contestant. But she and Ru go back to the early '80s in Atlanta when the two were both just starting out as performers. They moved together to New York and their careers have continued to intersect through nearly the last four decades. While RuPaul was busy declaring herself Supermodel of the World, Lady Bunny stayed based in NYC where for many years she put on the annual Wigstock event, where RuPaul would often appear.

It's undeniable that Lady Bunny has shaped LGBTQ pop culture drastically, having released various singles and been featured in songs like "Lick it Lollipop," as well as appearances in iconic films like "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar." She is also known for her comedy routines and skills as a DJ. Between The Lines spoke with Lady Bunny as she was preparing to hit the road for the new tour. She talked about life on the road, her longlasting friendship with RuPaul and why giving advice to those who are "young and thin" makes no sense. She kicked off the interview with an introduction.

"First, before we get started, my correct pronouns are slutty and sugar tits, my sexual preference is often, and I identify as transslender because I used to be."

That's good to know. I'm very familiar with Murray and Peter and their productions, especially of the "[RuPaul's] Drag Race" queens. Then I saw your photo amongst them. How did you come to be a part of this tour? Is it a Christmas miracle?

Well, I did the "Haters' Roast," the last tour, with Murray and Peter, and I had a blast. It was probably the biggest tour that I've ever been on. I'm used to maybe 8 or 10 dates or something like that. But I was ready to do it again this year.

Best and worst things about being on the road that long?

Sometimes being on a bus in those bunk beds isn't the most easy or glamorous thing. And it was definitely not glamorous the night our show went well in New York and I celebrated



with a pint of Haagen-Dazs ice cream and the rest of the cast got to learn that I am lactose intolerant. So, you do have to respect people's personal spaces when you're drag queens in a crowded space. But when you weigh it up against performing in these large venues, which are often sold out and full of cheering crowds. It's fun. I'm not a "Drag Race" queen. Obviously, I'm an old friend of Ru's and will make an appearance occasionally, but I love mixing it up and I'm glad Murray and Peter feel the same way.

What's it like to be on the road with so many young girls? They must look to you for guidance, though I read in no less than The New York Times that you're not trying to be a mentor like Mama Ru. And that instead you consider yourself to be hateful and demented.

First of all, why do I want to give tips to somebody who's young and thin? Why? What do I get out of it? Honestly, I'm not hateful and I'm happy to dispense with advice to anyone who asks me. But as someone who likes twisted and raunchy humor I'm a little sick of the drag queen as role model or mentor because that's not what I am.

While there's always the semblance of a rivalry between you two, you and Ru go way back. You met in the Atlanta in the early '80s. What do you remember from those early years of your friendship and careers?

Not much. We were pretty fucked up. We moved to New York together — me to perform a guest spot at his first show at the Pyramid. Those were crazy times. We lived in Atlanta on the gay strip where there were also trans hookers who Ru and I idolized and got to know. So this is why when people say RuPaul is transphobic I have to giggle. He's the furthest thing from transphobic.

After all these years in the business, what's the secret to staying young at heart and still relevant?

Cocaine. No, that's not going to be young at heart, that's going to be a decrepit heart about to blow. I've been lucky to do things that I am passionate about. I'm doing a new number I wrote and will be performing in the Drag Queen Christmas tour. So that will be fun to try out. I also DJ, I record original music and then there's the comedy stuff. So between all of that I can't get bored.

In recent year you've begun to speak out politically. In fact, in 2016 you stumped so hard for Sanders that I heard folks were calling you Lady Bernie.

My political awakening was speaking out against George W. Bush's Iraq war which, sadly, Democratic frontrunners like Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden voted for, which I think is gross. Listen: you're never going to find a politician as honest as Bernie who has kept the same positions for decades, for the most part, and who is rejecting corporate donors which poison our elections. Trust me, you're not going to find it.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime candidate who is addressing income inequality and our ridiculous health care costs. I just posted an article about how Pete Buttigieg, Pete Butt Juice, was supporting Medicare for all two years ago. Well what happened between then and now? He started taking money from the health care industry. I get flak from people who say you're eating your own by dissing Mayor Pete. And I'm like, "No, I'm not. I want affordable health care, the same kind that works in so many other countries [like] in Europe and in Canada." So, the fact that he's gay that's like a tribal thing. I don't like everybody in my community. Do you?

You're going to be on the road for much of the holiday season. Talk to me about Christmas. Do you have a special memory?

Holidays are for family, and they know that I'm a heathen who does not know the Lord Jesus. ... It's kind of sappy. My parents were never big on giving gifts. We would get socks and that Life Savers book. And we'd get a toothbrush.

Lady Bunny, it's been every bit the delight I knew it would be to talk with you. Any famous last words before you head out on the road?

I just hope that Latrice isn't going to be cooking roadkill on the bus this year.

INFO

"A Drag Queen Christmas"

Friday, Nov. 29
8 p.m.

Tickets start at \$55
350 Madison St., Detroit
detroittheater.org

BTL Cool Cities Royal Oak



Don Chisholm, REALTOR®
(248) 425-4366
DChisholm@RealEstateOne.com
www.DonChisholmRealtor.com



Your Personal Advocate



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

Real Estate One
26236 Woodward Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48067



Michigan's Largest Real Estate Company



ROYAL OAK BTL ADVERTISERS

Bidwell Tovarez Pllc.....1	Miner's Den.....*	Shelton & Dean Law Office.....15
C & N Party Rentals.....*	Myrina Mortgage, LLC.....*	Sine & Monaghan.....*
Christine Cantrell, Ph.D.....2	Noir Leather.....9	St. John's Episcopal Church.....16
Changez Salon.....*	Dr. Bernadine Petzold	Stagecrafters.....17
Cloverleaf Fine Wine.....3	PhD, L.P.C. B.C.P.C.....6	Matt Sweet, MSW, PC.....8
Cummings Law PLLC.....4	The Print Stop.....*	Transcending Horizons.....18
Fernlee Kennels.....*	Real Estate One.....10	Unity of Royal Oak.....*
Holiday Market.....5	Red Door Realty.....11	Ron T. Williamson DDS.....*
Rosemary A. Jozwiak.....6	Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce.....12	Zeoli's Restaurant.....*
Keller Williams Real Estate.....7	Royal Oak Farmer's Market.....13	
Joe Kort, Ph.D. & Associates, PC.....8	Royal Oak Music Theatre.....14	



Experience. Advocacy. Accessibility. Value.

Sheila C. Cummings
Heather Cummings

423 N. Main St, Suite 200
Royal Oak, MI 48067
248-733-3405
www.cummingslawpllc.com

Specializing in:

- Campaign Finance and Election Law
- Union-Side Labor Law
- Employee Rights
- Estate Planning

CUMMINGS & CUMMINGS
LAW GROUP, PLLC

NOIR LEATHER

Andrew Christian
Fetish Gear & Attire
Erotic Menswear
Gothic Couture
Collars & Cuffs
Tykables
Luxury Adult Toys
Lubes & Elixers
Chest Harnesses

Meet You Under the Mistletoe!

124 W 4TH ST ROYAL OAK 248-541-3979
M-TH 12-8 FRI 12-10 S 11-10 SUN 12-7 NOIRLEATHER.COM
PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW CHRISTIAN

Shop The Rainbow

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

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



Drag Queen Trivia Nov. 27 at Five15

BY BTL STAFF

Testing trivia wit is a common pastime, but doing so matched with the quick wit of a drag queen? That's unique. Royal Oak's Five15 is an independent book, music, movie and gift shop that regularly hosts Metro Detroit's beloved Drag Queen Bingo. Coming up on Wednesday, Nov. 27, all trivia buffs are welcome to test their skills with local favorite Sabin.

"Are you smarter than a drag queen? Do you dare test your skills? Sabin hosts our very first Themed Drag Queen Trivia at FIVE15

in an exclusive agreement with Quizzo Pub Trivias. Test your Golden Girls Knowledge and have a BLAST!" write event organizers. "Get your team and start your Thanksgiving Eve off with something unique. Seating is assigned, so reserve your team early. This will sell out! Please let us know if you have any special requests."

This event costs \$10 and tickets must be purchased online in advance on five15.net. Doors open at 6 p.m. for pre-show drink specials. The show begins around 7 p.m.; newcomers are advised not to be late, lest they face Sabin's wrath.



6th Annual Santa Pub Crawl Royal Oak

BY BTL STAFF

Bringing together hundreds annually who are interested in spending time with friends, family and spreading holiday cheer — uh, cheer that is, Royal Oak's sixth Santa Pub Crawl is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 7, in the city's downtown.

"It's the phenomenon wildly popular in major cities around the globe from London, Boston, New York and Chicago to San Francisco and beyond!" write event organizers. "Thousands of pub-crawlers join Santa Pub Crawl to kick off their holiday season!"

All attendees are encouraged to wear their

santa or holiday wear. Tickets to the event include a santa hat or holiday headband, a lanyard for beer, cocktail or shot specials, a stop at the keepsake photo station, access to the Christmas Carol Karaoke station, pictures with Santa and access to prize drawings. This year's locations include Mr. B's, HopCat, Rock on 3rd, Dixie Moon, Jolly Pumpkin Restaurant & Taphouse, O'Toole's, Fifth Avenue, 526 Main / Tequila Blue, Mesa Tacos & Tequila, Motor City Gas, Bar Louie and more.

Tickets start at \$20. Find out more online at santaconroyaloak.com.

www.PrideSource.com



*A full service law firm for businesses, families and individual LGBT people
Your same-sex divorce and custody specialists*

The Shelton & Deon Law Group provides clients the quality and depth of experience that is expected of a large firm with the flexibility and individual attention only a small law firm can offer.

**612 East 4th Street, Royal Oak, MI 48067
248-494-7444 | www.sheltondeonlaw.com**

BIDWELL TOVAREZ PLLC

PROVIDING BANKRUPTCY SOLUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES



Providing personal and compassionate assistance with financial problems including Chapter 7 and 13 bankruptcies, foreclosure, garnishments and elimination of second mortgages.

What clients say about Bidwell Tovarez:

"Most trustworthy and experienced"

"Outstanding representation"

"Services with a personal touch"



Bidwell Tovarez PLLC

333 W 7th St., Ste. 140 432 N. Saginaw, Suite 800

Royal Oak, MI 48067 Flint, MI 48502

248-270-3333

810-222-6422

www.bidwelltovarez.com

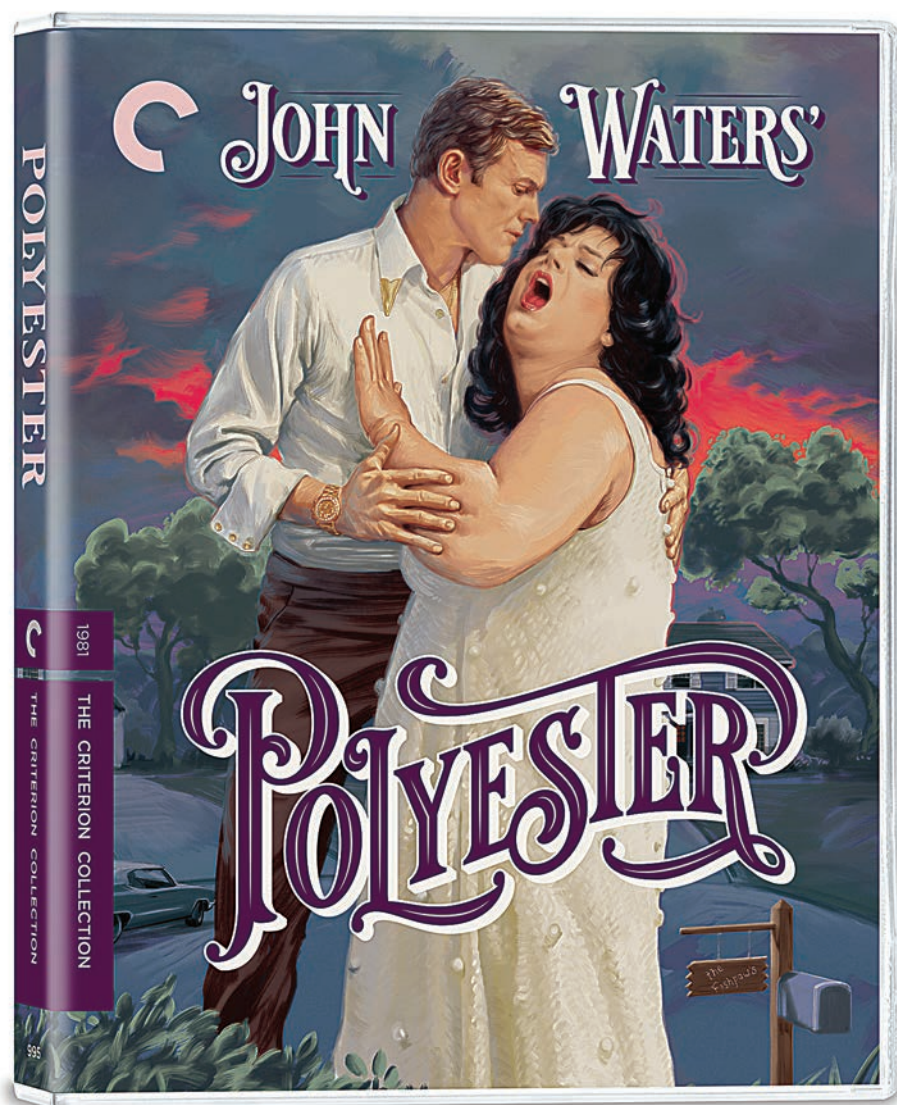
david@bidwelltovarez.com

Call 248-270-3333

We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the Bankruptcy code.

Screen Queen: The Johns

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



Polyester

John Waters staged a live chicken decapitation for his 1969 debut feature “Mondo Trasho.” In the following year’s “Multiple Maniacs,” he made anal sex with rosary beads a thing. And in “Pink Flamingos,” Divine, his drag muse, committed fully to her art by eating real dog crap for a scene. So by the time 1981 rolled around, the King of Filth was over it, ready to move away from the filth and find some fresh inspiration via the 1950s. He looked to bygone moms, specifically the classic trope of the overburdened middle-class housewife. With a beefed-up budget of \$300,000, he rounded up his motley crew of John Waters regulars, including Divine as Christian mother-of-two Francine Fishpaw, for “Polyester,” released in 1981.

A hysterically melodramatic spoof of American suburbs, the film holds up as one of Waters’ finest comedies – due in large part to the game cast, including Edith Massey as Francine’s debutante friend Cuddles, who regularly dispenses basic-mom-type inspirational bromides to soothe Francine. And with Tab Hunter playing opposite

Divine as, naturally, the hunk who swoops in to save her from domestic agony – his name, Todd Tomorrow, is over-the-top perfection – “Polyester” nudged Waters closer to mainstream notoriety and would eventually give him enough household-name clout to make “Hairspray” and “Serial Mom.” Among the supplemental features on Criterion Collection’s new Waters-approved Blu-ray edition is a feature where Hunter, in an interview shot several years before his death in 2018, appears on-camera to discuss playing Todd despite his agent’s advice to pass. In a separate interview conducted by out film critic Michael Musto specifically for this special edition, Waters discusses various aspects of the film, including the movie’s wide-ranging smells (the Criterion edition includes an “Odorama” scratch-and-sniff card), Tab Hunter’s kiss with Divine, and Divine’s evolution from monster to heralded sympathetic housewife.

Rocketman

Elton John’s on-the-surface glitzy, larger-than-

life story can’t be contained to a mere biopic. The shiny gay costumes, the shiny gay glasses. The drugs, the overdose. The parental rejection. But then, of course, the story’s greatest turn of events: how Elton John rose above it all to become, well, Elton John. So “Rocketman,” fortunately, is a razzle-dazzle, Broadway-big musical with an apt surrealist flair that arranges the elements – the dark, the decadent – of Elton’s life and career into a wild, otherworldly fever dream (it even leans proudly into its subject’s innate queerness, unlike last year’s “Bohemian Rhapsody”). In the film, directed by Dexter Fletcher, we meet Elton as he makes a very Elton entrance, storming into the scene with fully bedazzled devil horns, feathered wings and gem-encrusted heart specs to go to ... rehab.

Amid parental pushback on his passion for music and his homosexuality, a critical career moment occurs at one of L.A.’s historically famous music venues, the Troubadour, where Elton jams on the piano, playing his hit “Crocodile Rock.” When he hilariously levitates, the crowd joining him in mid-air



as he hovers over his piano bench, Elton’s life is no longer a match for reality. Only a supernatural flourish can truly register his emerging stardom. Capturing the essence of Elton with precision, charm and his own singing voice – and the heartbreak of having your parents reject you – is Welsh actor Taron Egerton. His magnetic presence is such a staggering revelation it’s impossible to imagine what “Rocketman” would be like without him carrying it on his sequined shoulders. Included among the supplemental features is

“Becoming Elton John,” where Egerton talks about transforming into John; during the short feature, John, executive producer, discusses watching the film, calling it simultaneously “eerie” and “satisfying.” Clips on staging the musical numbers and the costumes, as well as Egerton’s studio session (where John gives Egerton free rein), are also among the loaded special features.

Booksmart

Nerd-friends Amy (Kaitlyn Dever) and Molly (Beanie Feldstein) have a bright future ahead of them. Amy is going to Columbia, and Molly is off to Yale. They worked hard to

get into those Ivy League schools and have been rewarded accordingly... and, wait, the kids who drank and smoked and partied also got accepted to those schools? So Amy and Molly lose their shit, realizing that amid extracurriculars and college-prep courses they could’ve been playing beer pong, getting wasted, and waking up next to boys and, in the case of the casually queer Amy, girls. In a crazy, “Superbad”-type effort to squeeze in every last bit of drunken, drugged-out, jail-level fun they didn’t have in high school, Amy and Molly go all out the night before they graduate from Crockett High School for good.

This is it. Their last shot at being remembered as more than total bores. A riotous, tender coming-of-age teen-friendship romp, director Olivia Wilde’s directorial debut modernizes and diversifies the classic school-comedy with a cast representative of the queer experience: there’s Amy, but there’s also George (the great Noah Galvin, who, at one point, unleashes a perfectly timed hiss) and Alan (Austin Crute), a pair of theater aficionados who, like other well-rounded side characters in the film, eschew cookie-cutter stereotypes. They are each their own messy person (look no further than George’s appropriately melodramatic take on an Alanis classic). They read like real people, people you could’ve known. In that sense, Wilde’s biggest triumph is its authenticity, but “Booksmart” is also a weird, emotional and wonderfully queer-inclusive creation, which wisely stays rooted in the film’s central, changing friendship. Featured on the film’s Blu-ray release is a contextual feature with the cast and Wilde, as well as a peek into the delightful “dance fantasy” scene.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Cher, Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. Reach him at chris@pridesource.com.

Thanksgiving Event Highlight Calendar

BY BTL STAFF

Spending Thanksgiving together with friends and family is what the holiday is all about, and we often fall into the same tradition of celebrating at home. If you're looking for a way to change up the way the holiday is done in your family this year, check out these events around Metro Detroit going on and around this Nov. 28.



1. Festival of Trees

Lasting from Nov. 24 to Dec. 1, the 35th annual Festival of Trees is a benefit designed to support medical research at the Children's Hospital of Michigan. Attendees can bid on tree displays, visit the gift shop, participate in children's activities and grab a photo with Santa, too. This event is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children and free for kids under 2 years old. Though the event isn't happening on Thanksgiving day, attendees are invited before and after the week of the holiday.

Ford Community and Performing Arts Center
15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn

Visit fot.org/wp/events/schedule/ to see the scheduled events.

2. America's Thanksgiving Parade Viewing at Hockeytown

Held at the Hockeytown Cafe, this is the first official watch party of America's Thanksgiving Parade, this year hosted by Art Van, that marches along Detroit's iconic Woodward Avenue. "This free event is opening early for



viewing at 8am outside on Detroit's largest outdoor patio!" write event organizers. "Outdoor breakfast stand with full bars both inside and outside the restaurant are available."

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Find out more online at the event's Facebook page.

3. Detroit Turkey Trot

Called by many fans the "parade before the parade," the annual Turkey Trot is an event that allows Southeast Michiganders to choose their ideal distance to run or walk. Participants can choose from a 10K, 5K or a mile-long distance along different paths. Visit theparade.org to find out event times, distances and locations.

4. Detroit Lions Vs. Chicago Bears

For many, Thanksgiving isn't Thanksgiving without a game of football. Head down to Ford Field to catch the Turkey Day game of The Detroit Lions Vs. The Chicago Bears.

2000 Brush St., Detroit

313-262-2000

fordfield.com

5. Detroit's Thanksgiving Day Parade

The tradition of a parade down Woodward Avenue has been going on since 1924 and every year it draws hundreds of thousands of attendees. The parade's step off begins at the corner of Kirby and Woodward Avenue and ends at Woodward Avenue and Congress. The parade begins at 8:45 a.m.

theparade.org

TAYLOR MAC'S HOLIDAY SAUCE

Sat 12/14 at 8 pm
Sun 12/15 at 4 pm
Ann Arbor's Power Center

Taylor Mac, creator and performer
Machine Dazzle, set and costume designer
Matt Ray, music direction and arrangements
Niegel Smith, co-director

Taylor Mac returns to Ann Arbor with the ultimate holiday survival guide, taking the season head-on and celebrating all of its dysfunction. "Taylor Mac's Holiday Sauce plies acerbic wit, subversive politics, circus pageantry, sartorial riot, and boundless compassion to the holidays." (*San Francisco Chronicle*)



Lead Presenting Sponsor: Renegade Venture Fund, established by the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation
Supporting Sponsor: Louise Taylor
Funded in part by: Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Endowment Fund
Media Partners: Between The Lines and Metro Times



734.764.2538
— UMS.ORG

Ring in the new year with MCC Detroit!

Join us for a night on the town that includes dinner, dancing, cash bar, midnight celebration and snack.

2020 New Year's Eve Party

December 31st, 7pm - 1am

Vassel's Banquet Hall

26750 Eight Mile Rd, Southfield, MI

Tickets: \$50 per person

available for purchase at www.mccdetroit.org

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

The Ark

where music lives

Sunday, 11/24, 7:30pm

Abigail Stauffer & The Wisdom w/sg Jordan Hamilton

Music that's an irresistible invitation to heal and be healed

Thursday, 12/5, 8 pm

Over The Rhine

A beloved holiday show



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

734.763.TKTS

316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, MI

www.theark.org



Prism of Possibilities Psychotherapy

Christine Cantrell, PhD
Fully Licensed Psychologist

Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

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

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



CALL NOW! 248-591-2888



Happenings

OUTINGS

Saturday, November 23

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

LGBT Social Meet Up 6:30 p.m. LGBT social meet up group is for all LGBT 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.

Sunday, November 24

Catholic Weekly Liturgy for LGBTQI Community 6 p.m. Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at The School at Marygrove (formerly Marygrove College). The School at Marygrove, 8425 W. McNichols, Detroit. dignitydetroit74@yahoo.com. dignitydetroit.org.

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 Hamed Animashaun as Titania, Oberon, Puck and Bottom. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397. ums.org.

Monday, November 25

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 LGBTQ individuals. All are welcomed. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105.

Tuesday, November 26

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

Sunday, December 1

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4 p.m. Meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month @ St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St., Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. standwithtrans.org.

Big Band Holidays – Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis 4 p.m. 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 <http://ums.org/performance/jazz-at-lincoln-center-orchestra-with-wynton-marsalis/>

JOE HERTLER & THE RAINBOW SEEKERS AT EL CLUB

Ring in the new year is always exciting but doing so with the genre-bending stylings of Joe Hertler & The Rainbow Seekers is a recipe for a good time. This Michigan-based band puts elements of rock, funk, soul, jam and much more into its tracks. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$20. Find out more information at elclubdetroit.com.

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee Street, Adrian. 313-909-5408 www.standwithtrans.org <http://www.hilltopcounseling.org>

Tuesday, December 3

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

Friday, December 6

Michigan Tobacco-free Coalition for People Living with HIV (MiTCH+) 10 a.m. A new community-led organization comprising community stakeholders, including People Living With HIV (PLWH) and people who use tobacco products. Forest Community Health Center, Lansing, MI, 2316 S Cedar, Lansing. 517-887-4597

Monday, December 9

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Macomb County 6:30 p.m. Macomb Teen/Youth Support Group: All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700

Tuesday, December 10

Foster Care and Adoption Orientation 6 p.m. Join us for an informational orientation to learn how you can become a foster parent or adoptive parent for a child in need. Orchards Children's Services, 24901 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 601, Southfield. 248-258-0440 smarks@orchards.org

Shaku Kanneh-Mason, cello 7:30 p.m. One of the brightest young stars on the classical music scene, Shaku 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

Editor's Pick

A CHRISTMAS CAROL THROUGH DEC. 8 AT MEADOW BROOK THEATRE

This favorite holiday classic has captivated audiences for decades, and this year will mark its 38th time gracing the Meadow Brook Theatre stage. Catch the show before it ends to see the Charles Dickens story about a mean-spirited man who learns the true meaning of Christmas.



See **Happenings**, on p. 23

www.PrideSource.com

Editor's Pick



'RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER: THE MUSICAL' AT THE FOX THEATRE DEC. 1

This show has toured for five years and been performed over 500 times around the country. Now, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical" will be performed at the Fox Theatre on Sunday, Dec. 1. Tickets start at \$30. Find out more online at 313presents.com.

Tuesday, December 17

Yoga: A Holistic Approach to Substance Use Disorder Recovery 7:30 p.m. Erin Shawgo, LLMSW, CIYT, C-IAYT will review the research supporting yoga as an effective complementary practice, discuss ways that yoga can benefit recovering people, and provide suggestions for developing a personal yoga practice. Michigan Heart and Vascular Institute, 5325 Ypsilanti. www.dawnfarmeducation.org

Wednesday, December 18

Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County 6:30 p.m. Group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month @ Emmanuel Lutheran Church. 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. www.standwithtrans.org

MUSIC & MORE

Stew & the Negro Problem – Notes of a Native Song November 23, 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) Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University, Ann Arbor. 734-763-3333

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting November 28, 7 p.m. LGBTQ Toastmaster Club focusing on Professional and personal communication skills development. Guests (and allies) are always welcome. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867

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

2019 Holiday Show December 6, 4 p.m. Join us for a free event, open to the public, families with children welcome! Participate in glassblowing workshops, shop in our gallery for one-of-a-kind sculptures, and unique handmade gifts. 15 percent off gallery prices! 770 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. 248-745-3786 www.epiphanyglass.com

Handel's Messiah December 7, 8 p.m. Music director Scott Hanoian conducts the UMS Choral Union and the Ann Arbor Symphony in this annual community tradition. Ann Arbor Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor. 555-555-5555

Hug Detroit Day 9th Annual Coat and Blanket Drive/ Benefit Concert Ft. Satin Doll Revue December 8, 4 p.m. Featuring Satin Doll Revue starring music by Nina Simone, Dinah Washington, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday. Tangent Gallery, 715 East Milwaukee Avenue, Detroit.

Shaku Kanneh-Mason, cello December 10, 7:30 p.m. One of the brightest young stars on the classical music scene, Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St, Ann Arbor. (734) 764-8572 www.rackham.umich.edu

Yourist Studio Gallery Holiday Show and Sale December 13, 5 p.m. Featuring exceptional ceramic art from our resident artists and selected students in a convivial holiday atmosphere. Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway, Ann Arbor. 734-662-4914

Taylor Mac's Holiday Sauce December 14, 8 p.m. "Taylor Mac's Holiday Sauce plies acerbic wit, subversive politics, circus pageantry, sartorial riot, and boundless compassion to the holidays." (San Francisco Chronicle) Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327

Moscow Ballet's 'Great Russian Nutcracker' December 22, 12 p.m. Coming to Detroit's Fox Theatre for three performances, the "Great Russian Nutcracker" will stun with hundreds of costumes, sets and more. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

THEATER

Hello, Dolly! 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

Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Souffle November 23, 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

Ebenezer December 5, 7:30 p.m. It has been 15 years since the Ghosts of Christmas Past. Present and Future intervened in Ebenezer Scrooge's life. The Marlene Boll Theatre, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. www.detroitmercyarts.com

A2CT Auditions : The Play's the Thing December 15, 6 p.m. The Play's the Thing is a unique collaboration between playwrights and audience members. Playwrights hear their works read and the audience gives feedback to facilitate new play development. A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228 <https://www.a2ct.org/audition>

Hookups = SQUIRT.org



Come celebrate 20 years of Squirt.org with a free night at the bathhouse.

Dec. 06th
8PM - 4AM

BODY ZONE
1617 East McNichols
Detroit

Dec. 14th **THE DIPLOMAT CLUB**
8PM - 2AM
2324 Division Ave S
Grand Rapids

*Visit www.squirt.org/20th for full details.

I	D	O	L	S	A	B	B	A	E	D	E	N	
T	O	M	E	I	V	O	L	T	N	I	K	E	
O	R	N	O	T	O	P	U	S	I	S	E	E	
R	A	I	N	B	O	W	S	R	E	I	G	N	
	A	Y	N		B	A	G	M	E	N			
C	C	R	T	A	V		G	A	Y	I	S		
G	O	O	I	N	A	W	A	Y	L	E	A		
A	R	N	O	M	A	D	A	M	S	A	C	K	
L	I	V		M	E	X	I	C	O	K	N	E	
A	N	E	R	A		S	O	N	E	D	S		
	G	R	A	I	N	S		G	I	L			
	S	I	L	E	N	C	E	=	D	E	A	T	H
A	S	I	S		R	E	B	A	A	T	R	E	E
T	R	O	I		V	E	E	R	H	A	G	A	R
M	I	N	N		E	R	R	S	O	L	O	R	D

PUZZLE P. 25

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!



UPTOWN SALE
\$10 OFF
ANY \$50 PURCHASE
\$20 OFF
ANY \$100 PURCHASE
REG. PRICED MERCHANDISE ONLY
DECEMBER 5-8, 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

UPTOWN
BOOKSTORES
ADULT VIDEO
2 LOCATIONS
WWW.UPTOWNADULT.COM

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

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

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

Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Jodie Foster fights for 'Prisoner 760'

Jodie's back, fighting for justice. She's part of the cast of "Prisoner 760," playing a lawyer defending a man who was detained at Guantanamo Bay detention facility without charges for over a decade. The true story of Mohamedou Ould Slahi (French actor Tahar Rahim, "A Prophet"), a man suspected of ties to al-Qaida, and his 10-plus year wait for charges or help, the film stars Foster and Shailene Woodley as lawyers working on his case, as well as Benedict Cumberbatch as a military prosecutor. Cumberbatch is executive producing the project, to be directed by Kevin Macdonald ("The Last King of Scotland") and written by acclaimed journalist and producer Michael Bronner ("United 93," "Captain Phillips"). Following the initial rush of Bush-era narrative and documentary features about the so-called War on Terror, this project has the feeling of a next wave of stories, ones obscured during the chaos of the Trump era, where the legacy of America's now seemingly endless wars is subject to renewed scrutiny. No word yet on when to expect this one, but it's guaranteed to be heavy when it hits.

Shonda Rhimes' next one: 'Inventing Anna'

Anna Vadimovna Sorokina, aka Anna Sorokin, aka Anna Delvey, knew how to run the grift on rich people. The Russian-born trickster moved to New York City in 2013, assumed the identity of a fictitious German heiress, and began stealing in earnest. Her marks were high society types and fancy hotels, and she was good at it for a while. But then she got caught, was tried, was sentenced, and is currently serving 4 to 12 years. Meanwhile, though, Shonda Rhimes is bringing the story to Netflix with Emmy winner Julia Garner ("Ozark") as Delvey, and a solid supporting cast, including Laverne Cox, Anna Deavere Smith and Anna Chlumsky ("Veep") as journalist Jessica Pressler, who broke the story (unusual fun fact: this will be the second time Pressler as been portrayed on screen, after Julia Stiles played her in "Hustlers"). And because stories about robbing from the rich and giving to the poor – or whoever, really – are universally appealing (and because we stan Laverne Cox in anything, even TV commercials with Ted Danson) we're more than ready to watch this one.



Kate McKinnon

Kate McKinnon hunts down 'Joe Exotic'

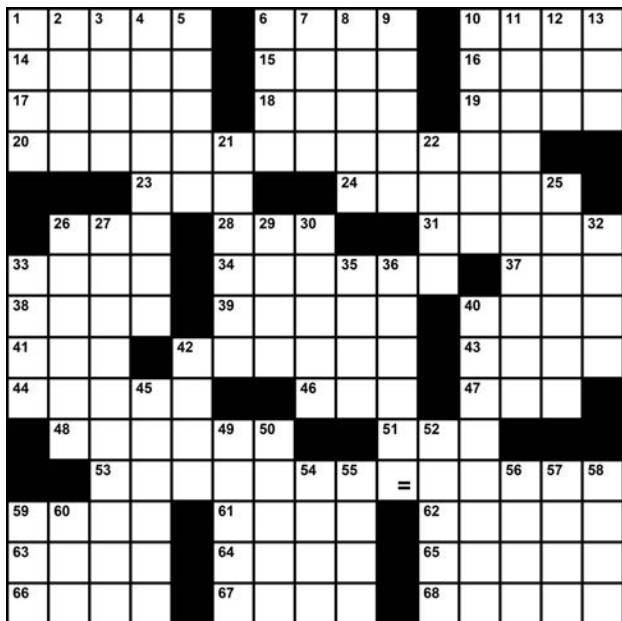
Kate McKinnon is working on another project based on a podcast. The Emmy Award-winning "SNL" star is already in production on "The Dropout," based on ABC News/ABC Radio's podcast about Theranos fraud Elizabeth Holmes (a no-brainer, really, since they look

quite alike and McKinnon is a master at tackling the slightly "off" comedy of bizarrely delusional people). And now she's joined production company UCP – who've already turned the podcasts "Homecoming," "Dirty John," and "Dr. Death" into TV projects – for "Joe Exotic," based on the Wondery network's podcast called "Over My Dead Body." McKinnon will executive produce and star in this true story as Carole Baskin, a big cat enthusiast, who discovers that a man named Joe "Exotic" Schreiber is breeding his own big cats for profit. She tries to shut him down, a rivalry develops, and the two engage in a battle that turns, well, you can listen to the podcast yourself, but it's a doozy. No word on when this limited series will air, or where, but keep your cat eyes open for it down the road.

Teen romance 'The Thing About Harry' coming for Valentine's Day

Peter Paige, the "Queer As Folk" star-turned-production-mogul who created, wrote and produced shows like "The Fosters" and "Good Trouble," has a new queer directing gig on the horizon. It's called "The Thing About Harry," a romantic comedy for the Freeform network. Starring Jake Borelli ("Grey's Anatomy") as a young man taking the yearning romantic's path through life after coming out in high school, and newcomer Niko Terho as the no-strings player who complicates the lives of yearning romantic types, it's a straightforward tale of young love and commitment that networks like Hallmark still refuse to touch (and let's not call it heteronormative for now, let's just call it sweetly traditional). The film co-stars Britt Baron ("Glow") and Karamo Brown ("Queer Eye") as friends, as well as Paige as an older mentor. It all sounds like the "Love, Simon"-ing of gay boy romances, and we are here for it. There's still an absolute dearth of those, so we're more than ready to watch come Valentine's Day, 2020, when it drops.

Romeo San Vicente starts buying Valentine's Day candy for himself on December 26.



38 River of Michelangelo's land
 39 Woman who goes both ways?
 40 Give a pink slip to
 41 Tyler of "Lord of the Rings"
 42 Kahlo's country
 43 Trick joint, maybe
 44 "The end of ___"
 46 Mama's boy
 47 Wood and more
 48 Tiny bits on South Beach
 51 Bellows of "Ally McBeal"
 53 Slogan used to draw attention to the AIDS crisis
 59 Label on a lemon that isn't a fruit
 61 "Queen of Country" McEntire
 62 Kilmer simile phrase
 63 "Star Trek" counselor Deanna
 64 Deviate
 65 Helmeted cartoon character
 66 A. Spear's state
 67 Slips up
 68 Words said from one's knees

10 It's hard to figure out
 11 Gay-friendly theme park
 12 Barely get, with "out"
 13 Born, in gay Paree
 21 How punctual people come
 22 Pop of pop
 25 Sibling issue
 26 Removing a fruit center, e.g.
 27 Homophobic type of therapy
 29 Some have it to grind
 30 "Quo ___?"
 32 Drink from the land of the samurai
 33 The Oscars, e.g.
 35 Baylor's city
 36 First ___
 40 Like a pirate insignia
 42 Chains around a knight
 45 Hansberry's wrinkled fruit
 49 Cheek
 50 Look from Snidely
 52 "My Own Private ___"
 54 Good buddy
 55 Features of Disney's Dumbo
 56 2012 Ben Affleck movie
 57 Tin Woodsman's rust source
 58 Bunch of stallions
 59 It swallows plastic
 60 Hindu title of respect

LGBT Slogans

Q Puzzle

Across

1 Clay Aiken and others
 6 "Dancing Queen" band
 10 Adam and Steve's locale?
 14 Oscar winner Marisa
 15 Vibrator measure
 16 Winged goddess
 17 "Ready ___, here I come!"
 18 Piece of Aaron Copland
 19 Chin stroker's words

20 Slogan on banners of the Pink Pistols
 23 "Atlas Shrugged" author Rand
 24 Mob collectors
 26 "Suzie Q" band, for short
 28 T, as in Leviticus
 31 With 33-Across, slogan coined by Frank Kameny
 33 See 31-Across
 34 Sorta
 37 Grazing ground

Down

1 "Believe ___ not!"
 2 Nickelodeon explorer
 3 Potent leader?
 4 Sculptor da Vinci
 5 Be passive
 6 Admit openly
 7 Conks on the head
 8 Words on a book jacket
 9 Cruising, maybe


PrEP Clinic

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


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


UNIFIED
 HIV health and beyond
 LIFE CONTINUES. LIVE HEALTHY.

In partnership with
 Sinai Grace Hospital


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

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


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


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

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

WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG

Find solution on page 28 and at www.pridesource.com

LIONS PRIDE PACKAGE



SUNDAY, DEC. 15 | 1 PM KICKOFF

\$70 PER TICKET INCLUDES

- LIONS GAME TICKET
- EXCLUSIVE LIONS PRIDE T-SHIRT
- PREGAME NETWORKING IN COMERICA GRIDIRON CLUB
- \$5 DONATION TO SELECTED CHARITIES*

*CHARITY DONATION OPTIONS






DONATIONS TO BE MATCHED BY DETROIT LIONS CHARITIES

www.detroitlions.com/pride
 For any questions, please email Mike.Goodwin@lions.nfl.net or call 313-262-2154




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



HOLIDAY MARKET



ENJOY OUR

World-Class Catering

AT YOUR NEXT WEDDING OR SPECIAL EVENT

- A WORLD-CLASS GROCERY - RIGHT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
- WIDE ARRAY OF GOURMET PREPARED FOODS
- WONDERFUL PRODUCE, MEAT AND ETHNIC FOOD SELECTIONS
- WINES FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE
- JOIN US FOR MIREPOIX GOURMET COOKING CLASSES
- ONLINE SHOPPING COMING IN JULY!

HOLIDAY MARKET • 1203 S MAIN ST ROYAL OAK
248.541.1414 • HOLIDAY-MARKET.COM • CONNECT WITH US   

7th Annual Flint Print Fair Nov. 23-24 at FIA

BY JASON MICHAEL

In 2007, the FIA created the Flint Print Club with the mission to develop connoisseurship among its members and educate the general public about prints, printmaking and print collecting. Today, that mission lives on with the 7th semi-annual Flint Print Fair happening on Saturday, Nov. 23 through 24. Because the club is restricted to 100 members, the edition of each featured print is limited, signed and numbered.

This year, the Fair will focus heavily on contemporary printmaking with works ranging in price from \$500 to several thousand dollars. Organizers say the Fair is an ideal opportunity for novice collectors to start a collection and for connoisseurs to add works to existing collections. Over the past decade, the Fair has featured a slate of internationally recognized artists, among them Janet Fish, Richard Bosman, Gladys Nilsson, Mary Lee Bendolph, Marylyn Dintenfass, Sidney Hurwitz, Hunt Slonem, April Gornik and Karsten Creightney. There are still some prints available for from previous Fairs at the price of \$500 for club members and \$600 for non-members. These will be sold over the weekend on a first come, first served basis while supplies last.

Each year, the Flint Print Club commissions an artist to produce a print to augment both the FIA's collection and the pursuit of personal

collecting. The Club is limited to 100 members in good standing at the Family level or above. Flint Print Club dues are \$250 annually, which provides each participating member with a selected print and related programs.

For the 2019 installment of the Fair, Joseph Drapell has been chosen to create the commissioned print. Born in Prague, Drapell has resided in Canada since leaving Europe in 1965. Since then, he has exhibited in more than 150 solo and group exhibitions and landed in over 50 major collections, including the Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Modern Art and The British Museum in London. Print dealers featured in this year's Fair include The Lawrence Lithography Workshop in Kansas City, Missouri, Paramour Fine Arts in Franklin, Michigan, Susan Teller Gallery in New York, Stewart & Stewart in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and Zanatta Editions/Contemporary Art in Shawnee, Kansas. Prior to the event, FIA Executive Director John Henry will make selections from each dealer that he considers of exceptional interest and worthy of acquisition by the museum. "Director's Choice" selections will be on view and available for sale throughout Print Fair weekend.

For more information about the Flint Print Fair or to join the Flint Print Club, visit flintarts.org/art/flint-print-club or call 810-234-1695



128 PAGES OF MICHIGAN LGBTQ RESOURCES
AVAILABLE @ PRIDESOURCE.COM

DIGITAL DOWNLOAD AVAILABLE. SEARCH SERVICES ONLINE

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

AIDS/HIV

There are dozens of AIDS/HIV organizations and resources listed at www.PrideSource.com. Here are just some of them:

Metro Care Coordination Network

Free, comprehensive services for those living with HIV/AIDS.
877-931-3248
248-266-5545
Metrocarenetwork.org

UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond

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

Matrix MAC Health

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

Macomb County STD Clinic

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

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA)

196 Cesar E. Chavez Ave.
Pontiac, MI 48343
248-209-2647
www.olhsa.org

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service (ACCESS)

Sterling Heights Center
4301 East 14 Mile Rd.
Sterling Hts., MI 48310
586-722-6036
www.accesscommunity.org

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

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

Campus

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

U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center
Spectrumcenter@umich.edu
<http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu>
734-763-4186

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

gsc@oakland.edu
www.oakland.edu/gsc
248-370-4336

Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center
emich.edu/lgbtrc
734-487-4149

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

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

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor
www.jimtoycenter.org
www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter
or follow them on Twitter @JimToyCenter.
319 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI
734-995-9867

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

Ferndale
<http://goaffirmations.org>
www.facebook.com/Affirmations/
or follow them on Twitter @GoAffirmations.
290 W. Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, MI
248-398-7105

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI
www.aclumich.org
313-578-6800

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

Outlaws U-M student group
outlawslegal@gmail.com
734-995-9867

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI
313-578-6812
sagemetrodetroit.org
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

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

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 32446
Detroit, MI 48232
detroitlgbtchamber.com
1-800-DET-LGBT

Ties Like Me

Professional networking events third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.
TiesLikeMe.org
Suits And The City
Lansing, MI
suitsandthecity@gmail.com
www.suitsandthecity.org

Transgender

FtM Detroit

<https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/>
ftmdetroit@gmail.com.

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

You can add or update any listing by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information. You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to editor@pridesource.com



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

FtM A2 Ypsi

ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/>

Transgender Michigan

23211 Woodward Ave.
Ferndale, MI
info@transgendermichigan.org
www.transgendermichigan.org
800-842-2954

Trans Sistas of Color Project

19641 W. 7 Mile Rd. in Detroit
313-537-7000 Ext 107
info@tscopdetroit.org
www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

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

Ozone House

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

Stand With Trans

Farmington, MI
www.standwithtrans.org
248-739-9254

Find these resources online

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



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

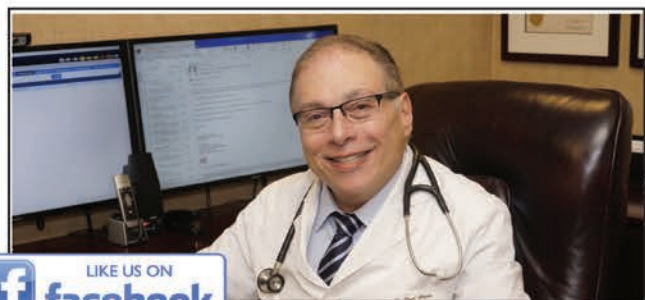
with an ongoing relationship to refer as necessary.

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

