

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

BTL ^{26th}
ANNIVERSARY
Between THE Lines



**GETTING TO ZERO
WILL TAKE ALL OF US**

WORLD AIDS DAY

1 December

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

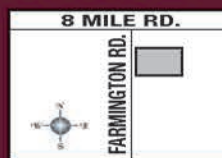
65%~75%

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

**All You Need is Love -
Let Me Help You Find the Home of Your Dreams**



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

Real Estate
One®



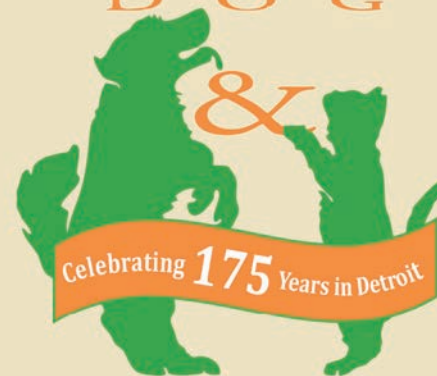
Lynn L. Stange

Realtor Associate

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

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

PATTERSON
DOG



Celebrating 175 Years in Detroit

CAT
HOSPITAL

1844-2019

Glynes D. Graham, DVM
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

3800 Grand River, Detroit, MI 48208-2866
tel: 313.832.7282 fax: 313.832.4990

www.pattersondogandcat.com

Find us on:
facebook



NEWS

- 4 Oakland County Expands Non-Discrimination Policy
- 4 Over 300 Honored at TDOR Remembrance Service in Detroit
- 6 Michigan Assoc. of School Boards Approves LGBTQ Resolution
- 6 FBI Report Shows Increase in Anti-LGBT Hate Crimes
- 12 DOJ Pride Warns Barr of Employee 'Dismay' Over Title VII Cases
- 12 Candian Diplomats Highlight Country's LGBTQ Rights Record

OPINION

- 8 Parting Glances
- 8 Viewpoint
- 9 Creep of the Week

WORLD AIDS DAY

- 14 World AIDS Day 2019: HIV in Michigan — The Good, the Ugly, the In-Between
- 17 World AIDS Day Events
- 20 Positive Thoughts: Trans Power
- 21 Michigan Author's 'Blood Criminals' Book Talks Modern Toll of HIV
- 22 Thriving Beyond the Red Ribbon

LIFE

- 24 Jamie Lee Curtis Still Kills
- 28 Hear Me Out: 6 Best Songs by Women in 2019
- 29 'Golden Girls Christmas' a Fun Holiday Hit
- 30 Happenings
- 32 6 Reasons to Eat Out This Year for Holiday Meals
- 33 Puzzle
- 34 Friendsgiving at Lansing's Salus Center
- 34 Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist Signs First Bill as Acting Governor, Makes Michigan History



Cover: Getting to Zero Will Take All of Us: World AIDS Day Dec. 1

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

Copyright 2019

www.PrideSource.com

VOL. 2748 • NOV. 28, 2019

ISSUE 1134

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

Oakland County Expands Non-discrimination Policy

BY CRYSTAL A. PROXMIRE

PONTIAC – The Oakland County Board of Commissioners voted Wednesday evening to update the County’s non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation and gender identity and gender expression.

The newly approved policy states that the county is committed to providing “an equal employment opportunity to all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, age, genetic information, height, weight, disability, veteran status, familial status, marital status or any other reason, that is unrelated to the person’s ability to perform the duties of a particular job or position, in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.” It also states that no person shall be subjected to discrimination or harassment for those reasons.

The policy “shall apply to all County departments, boards, commissions and employees of Oakland County.”

It also requires that contractors for the county do not discriminate if they are to do business with Oakland County.

The policy only applies to Oakland County, not to private businesses or other governmental bodies.

Commissioner Eileen Kowall of White Lake had the item removed from the consent agenda and remarked that, “We cannot supersede state law, it is unconstitutional and unenforceable for us to do that. ... I think we’re exceeding our authority here.”

She and the six other Republicans present for the meeting voted against the policy, which passed 11-7.

Board Chairperson Dave Woodward of Royal Oak said he wished the State of Michigan would amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity, but in the absence of that, “I believe we can expand equality and I am very proud to do that to the extent we can under the law.”

Several Oakland County cities have nondiscrimination policies, including Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Royal Oak, Pleasant Ridge, Lake Orion, Southfield, and Farmington Hills.

The full text of Oakland County’s new policy can be found online at gaybe.am/1v.

Over 300 Honored at TDOR Remembrance Service in Detroit

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

A determined crowd of nearly 80 fought the downtown congestion and masses headed to the televised Christmas tree lighting just down the street at Campus Martius to attend the 19th annual International Transgender Day of Remembrance service at Central United Methodist Church on Friday, Nov. 22. As always, the evening was somber as the names of those lost to fatal transgender violence across the world were read off. This year there were 311 of them, with 24 of them taking place here in the U.S. The Day of Remembrance was first celebrated in 1999 in San Francisco.

“I was volunteering at Affirmations and one of the youth coordinators showed me an article,” Michelle Fox-Phillips, the evening’s emcee, recalled. “So, in 2001 we held our own. The first vigil took place outside the old Affirmations building in the rain.”

Without much fanfare, the service has continued to grow over the year.

“Every year we invite the media to come, to cover our event,” Fox-Phillips said. “So far, the only one that has come every year is Between The Lines, except two years ago when I think it was Chocolate who was shot and killed the same day, and then the media just descended upon us. Every year that we become more visible there are more and more of us that are being buried.”

In between the reading of the names, comments were shared by Bridget Dawson from the Trans Sistas of Color Project, Fair Michigan Justice Project’s Director of Transgender Outreach Julisa Abad, Tiffany Ebony from the Ruth Ellis Center, Ruth Ellis Center Executive Director Jerry Peterson and Central’s Senior Pastor the Rev. Dr. Jill Hardt Zundel.

“Today we are here in remembrance of our family who have passed, a vast majority of them who are trans women of color,” Ebony said. “It hurts me to believe that in such a short time we have lost so many dynamic and phenomenal women from acts of violence alone. ... When I look into the crowd and I see the faces of other trans women of color, I think to myself, ‘Who are they to me?’ They are family. They are my aunts. They are my sisters. They are my mothers and we are changing the way that we not only see each other but how we see ourselves and that how we show up in spaces and the way that we are changing our history day by day.”

Zundel, the evening’s final speaker,



Prior to the service, Michelle Fox-Phillips presented a plaque to Affirmations Board President Cheryl Czach and Executive Director Dave Garcia that listed the name of all local trans persons murdered since the Day of Remembrance service started in 2001. An identical plaque was also presented to the Ruth Ellis Center. (Photo courtesy of Michelle Fox-Phillips)



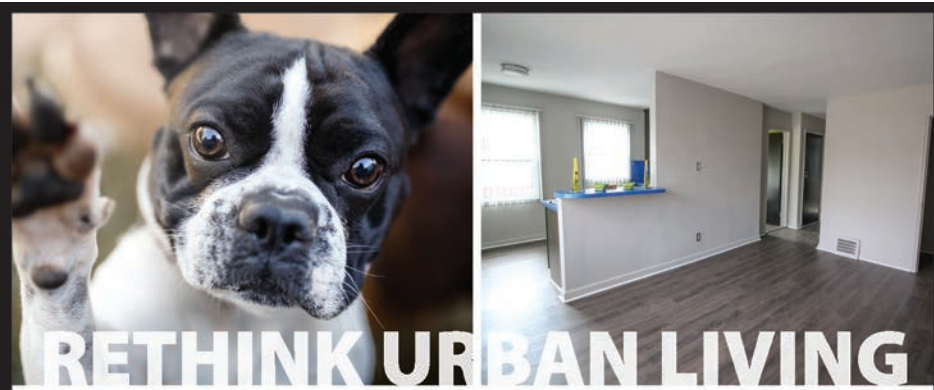
Dozens attended a service to remember the hundreds of transgender people slain in 2019 due to gender-related violence.

was impassioned. She told the crowd she first attended a Transgender Day of Remembrance service in 2009.

“I listened in horror at how many names were lifted up of those who had died, and at that service at that time they used to share how they had died, and it was devastating to me,” Zundel said. “And here we are 10 years later remembering again hundreds of people who are no longer with us simply because they embraced their true selves and others felt threatened by their light in this world.”

“It is 10 years later and we have work to do,” Zundel continued. “I wish we didn’t. I wish we lived in a world where the rigid

rules of gender didn’t apply and didn’t matter so much, weren’t enforced with the murderous brutality we bear witness to tonight. ... We don’t live in this world yet, which is why we hold this night sacred, which is why we take the time to remember and to grieve lives lost. It is so important that we not let these lives cut short go unnoticed, unmentioned, unnamed. It is so important that we not let these deaths remain invisible, that we not let the world be comfortable with people murdered because of their gender identity. These dead are our dead. They are ours, and we are theirs, and we will remember them.”



RETHINK URBAN LIVING

Welcome Home to Urbane on Manderson in historic Palmer Park. Our newly renovated, pet-friendly, **1 and 2 bedroom** apartment homes **from \$800** offer an extensive array of amenities.

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

248-800-2344

17435 Manderson Road, Detroit, MI 48203
URBANEAPTS.COM/PALMERPARK



SUBARU share the love® EVENT

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.

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!



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.

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

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

Michigan Assoc. of School Boards Approves Pro-Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Resolution

BY BTL STAFF

The Michigan Association of School Boards held its delegate assembly earlier this month before its annual leadership conference. Voting delegates from over 150 districts in 44 counties attended and voted to approve a pro-LGBTQ resolution to support adding sexual orientation, gender identity and expression to the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.



Eric-John Szczepaniak

“This resolution was offered by Kenowa Hills Public Schools who unanimously supported expansion of the ELCRA in June and sent this to the state legislators representing parts of the District,” said Kenowa Hills School Board member Eric-John Szczepaniak in a press release. “Kenowa Hills notes that ‘[b]eing one’s authentic self is paramount in building [their] learner profile’ and remarks that their work of shaping the lives of young people in their community are severely undermined due to the continued discrimination that LGBTQ+ students and graduates still face in this state. Kenowa Hills also amended their own procurements policy in April of 2019 to ensure that public dollars are not awarded to private vendors that still discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.”

Szczepaniak is currently Grand Valley State University’s student body president and a candidate for Alpine Township Clerk. As an openly LGBTQ politician who one day hopes to become an educator, he urged GVSU earlier this year to amend its purchasing and overall discrimination policies to contract only with vendors who are LGBTQ-affirming.

“The amendments made to the 18 resolutions and the one new resolution were adopted as proposed and outlined in the 2019 Delegate Assembly Handbook. There was one amendment made on the floor to Resolution G-5.07, Disciplinary Education Programs. The amendment added parents and guardians to the language. The resolution was then unanimously adopted,” said a MASB press release.

To learn more about the resolution visit masb.org.

FBI Report Shows Increase in Anti-LGBT Hate Crimes

BY LOU CHIBBARO JR.

The number of hate crime incidents targeting gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in the U.S. in 2018 increased by nearly 6 percent over the previous year and the number of anti-transgender hate crime incidents increased by 41 percent during that same period, according to the FBI’s newly released annual Hate Crime Statistics Report.

The report, which covers 2018, the most recent year for which the FBI has released hate crimes data, shows that participating law enforcement agencies throughout the country reported to the FBI a total of 7,120 hate crime incidents for 2018, 55 fewer than the total reported for 2017.

Under guidelines set by the FBI, the incidents are broken down into six categories of “bias motivation” – Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender and Disability.

The report released by the FBI last week shows that out of 7,036 “single bias incidents” reported in 2018, 57.5 percent were motivated by a race/ethnicity/ancestry bias; 20.2 percent were motivated by a religious bias; 17.0 percent were prompted by sexual orientation bias; 2.4 percent were motivated by gender identity bias; 2.3 percent were motivated by disability bias; and 0.7 percent (47 incidents) were motivated by gender bias.

The 2018 report shows participating law enforcement agencies reported 1,196 sexual orientation related hate crime incidents for that year, an increase of 5.8 percent over the 1,130 incidents related to sexual orientation reported in 2017.

According to the report, there were 168 incidents in 2018 in which a victim was targeted for a hate crime based on their gender identity, an increase by 41.1 percent over the 106 gender identity related incidents in 2017.

In its 2018 report, the FBI says the 1,196 incidents based on sexual orientation included 726 anti-gay male incidents, 129 anti-lesbian incidents, 303 anti-LGBT “mixed group” incidents, 21 anti-bisexual incidents, and 17 anti-heterosexual incidents.

Among the 168 gender identity related incidents, the 2018 report says there were 142 anti-transgender incidents and 26 reported anti-gender non-conforming incidents.

In response to a request from the Washington Blade asking whether President Trump is concerned about the increase in anti-LGBT hate crimes shown in the FBI report, the White House issued a short



“Bias-motivated crimes are a real, frightening problem in the United States,” said HRC’s Alphonso David. Washington Blade photo by Michael Key

statement.

“The president has said that hate has no place in America and has condemned racism, bigotry and violence,” the statement says. “This administration is committed to ensuring law enforcement have all the tools they need to investigate and disrupt hate crimes or acts of domestic terrorism against any person or group.”

In its data on hate crime incidents in individual states and D.C., the report shows there were a total of 213 reported hate crime incidents in D.C. in 2018, with 68 targeting the victim based on their sexual orientation and 33 related to the victim’s gender identity.

The FBI report shows there were a total of 143 hate crime incidents reported in Virginia in 2018, with 23 related to the victim’s sexual orientation. The report shows there were no reported hate crime incidents in Virginia related to a victim’s gender identity in 2018.

For Maryland, the FBI report shows a total of 50 hate crime incidents in 2018, with nine related to the victim’s sexual orientation and five related to the victim’s gender identity.

In Delaware, the report shows a total of 16 hate crime incidents in 2018, with two related to sexual orientation and none related to gender identity.

Similar to nearly all 50 states, the 2018 report shows that large numbers of law enforcement agencies in medium to smaller cities and towns in Maryland, Virginia and Delaware did not submit any hate crimes

data to the FBI for purposes of its annual hate crimes report. The FBI report places these non-reporting jurisdictions into a category it calls “Hate Crime Zero Data Submitted.”

Among the jurisdictions falling into that category in Delaware was Rehoboth Beach and nearby Lewes, both of which are popular summer resort destinations for LGBT people in the mid-Atlantic region.

Sal Seeley, director of Health and Wellness for the Rehoboth Beach LGBT community center CAMP Rehoboth, said he was not aware of any hate crimes occurring against LGBT people in Rehoboth in recent years. But he said he was surprised that Rehoboth’s LGBT-friendly police department would not have submitted information to the FBI stating whether or not any hate crimes have occurred in the town recently.

Rehoboth Police Chief Keith Banks couldn’t immediately be reached for comment.

“Bias-motivated crimes are a real, frightening problem in the United States, and LGBTQ people continue to be targeted because of who they are,” said Alphonso David, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the national LGBT advocacy organization based in D.C.

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

Michigan All Stars: 6 Cities Lead the Way in LGBTQ Equality

BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON — At a time when many states have failed to pass LGBTQ-inclusive laws and policies, cities are stepping up to ensure that all citizens are treated equally, according to a report issued last week by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's largest LGBTQ civil rights organization.

In Michigan, six cities earned over 85 points on the 2019 MEI despite hailing from a state without LGBTQ-inclusive statewide non-discrimination laws. Across the country, 59 cities like these set a standard of LGBTQ inclusiveness with exemplary, best-practice policies such as local non-discrimination laws, providing transgender-inclusive health benefits for city employees and offering LGBTQ-inclusive city services.

Ann Arbor, Detroit, East Lansing, Ferndale, Grand Rapids and Lansing earned one of HRC's 59 MEI "All Star" designations. MEI All Stars are cities nationwide that are excelling by advancing LGBTQ equality without relying on state law. This year, Ann Arbor earned a 100, Detroit earned a 100, East Lansing earned a 100, Ferndale earned a 100, Grand Rapids earned a 92 and Lansing earned a 86.

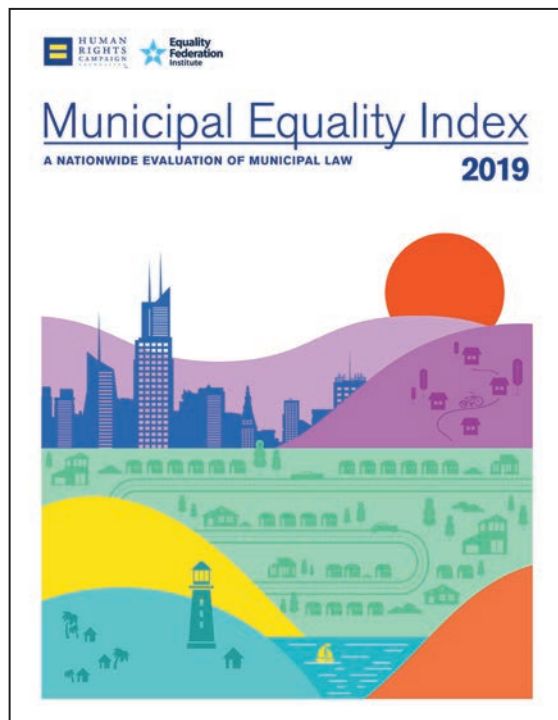
The average score for cities in Michigan is 74 out of 100 points, which falls above the national average of 60.

"These inclusive and welcoming cities are standing up to the unrelenting attacks on the LGBTQ community by the Trump-Pence administration, and sending a clear message that the fair and equal treatment of our community, our families and our neighbors is a true American value," said HRC President Alphonso David. "This year's Municipal Equality Index shows that across the country, city leaders are working tirelessly to ensure that their constituents can secure housing, make a living and participate in community life without being discriminated against because of who they are. And the people overwhelmingly agree with these leaders: support for non-discrimination protections to protect LGBTQ people topped 70 percent, which includes a majority of Democrats, Republicans and Independents. These policies are not only the right thing to do, but they are also critical in driving economic success by attracting

residents, visitors and businesses that place a high value on inclusivity."

"HRC's MEI serves as a roadmap of the progress made in cities across Michigan toward full equality, but also as a reminder of the work still ahead," said Erin Knott, executive director of Equality Michigan. "Equality Michigan will continue to work with city leaders in communities like Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Traverse City to create lasting, positive change for LGBTQ people."

This year's report also includes two new issue briefs for policymakers: Achieving a Healthier,



Stronger Workforce through inclusive paid leave and expanding PrEP access to help end the HIV epidemic.

Since the MEI's debut in 2012, the number of cities earning the highest score has increased by more than eightfold, and today at least 25 million people live in cities that have more comprehensive, transgender-inclusive non-discrimination laws than their state.

Progress on transgender equality has been particularly noteworthy in cities across the U.S. this year, continuing a positive trend that the MEI has tracked — and encouraged — since 2012. Transgender-inclusive health care benefits are offered to employees of 164 municipalities this year — up from 147 in 2018, 111 in 2017 and just five in 2012.

The full report, including detailed scorecards for every city, as well as a searchable database, is available online at hrc.org/mei.

If you were to die **TODAY...**

Who would be in charge of your funeral
TOMORROW?

(The answer may surprise you)

For members of the LGBTQ+ community, there's a simple, yet important step you can take to ensure your final wishes are met.

CALL OR GO ONLINE TO LEARN MORE:

734-783-2646 | MiMemorial.com/funeral-rep

MichiganMemorial™
Funeral Home • Park • Crematory

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.

LaFontaine
The Family Deal.com

LAFONTAINE
KIA OF ANN ARBOR

2019 KIA SPORTAGE

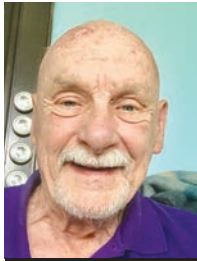
2019 KIA NIRO

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

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

KIA

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.



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

How's Your Sugar Plum Fairy, Mary?

This irreverent PG first appeared in BTL Nov. 2018

I hate to play the gay Grinch who stole Christmas, but there's a movement afoot by the Southern Comfort Baptists to do away with all suspected gay references in Christmas carols and holiday traditions. (Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Veterans Day are targeted next.)

Unless we act with a united front, and a well-padded backside, "Don we now our GAY apparel" is doomed. "God rest ye, MARY gentlemen" is a goner. Gold, frankincense and myrrh (and patchouli) are out. Mince pie and sugar plum you-know-whats are things of the past.

Rainbow ribbons and wrapping paper are taboo. Red stockings for the chimney will be minus silver belles or D&G designer fur trim. Dancer, Prancer and Cupid are dead ducks. (Substitute: Butch, Bouncer, Bimbo.)

Yes, Christmas may never be its gay old self again. And Mr. Gailey will forever be a delete from "Miracle on 34th Street." (How gay, by the way, is Kris Kringle? He even looks a bit, well, you know, suspect. And what's all this fascination with kids, anyhow? Has he ever had an authentic FBI security check?)

For readers who are in the dark about the Southern Comfort Baptists, they're a boisterous offshoot of gay-bashing, Disney-boycotting, 15-million-strong Southern Baptists. All Trump religious elves!

The 100 proof Southern Comforters swarm like a plague of biblical locust. And they're two-fisted when it comes to minding other people's business and sampling other people's Texas tea.

Every neighborhood has one or two Southern Comforters living things up way into the wee-wee Sabbath hours. (I spotted one leaning against a lamppost and singing the doxology to my neighbor's calico pussy just the other morning. The cat has yet to return. Saved or unsaved. Neutered or otherwise.)

Southern Comforters are headquartered in Myopic Flats, Texas, home of the world-famous, batter-dipped, low-cal Gila Burger. ("The burger with a bite to die for!") They broadcast over radio station TPARTY-AM, and their TV program, "The Church Key Hour," is syndicated worldwide. Sarah Palin, who likes peeking through an occasional narrow-minded keyhole, is thinking about converting. Again.

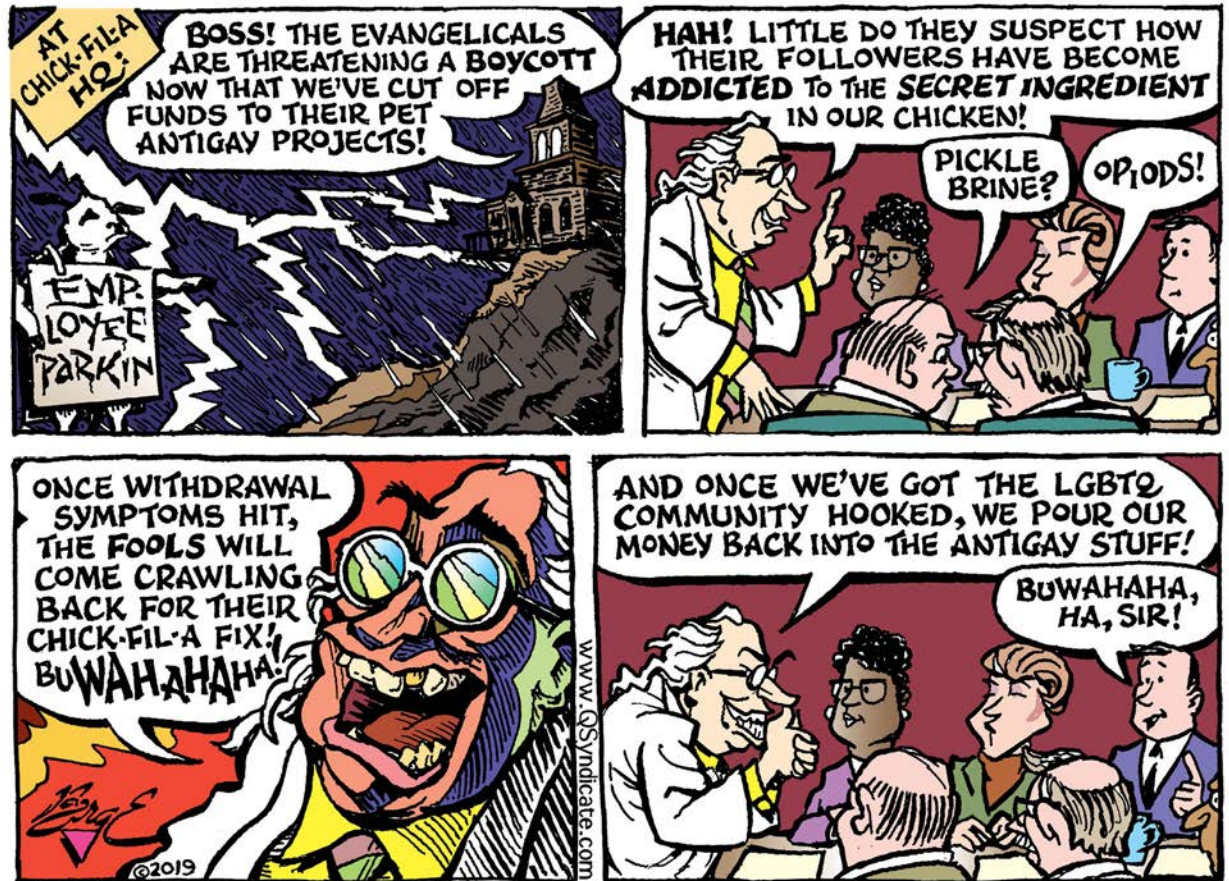
The Southern Comforters perform what they call brinkmanship baptism.

"We don't sprinkle. We dunk, count to 10 very slowly and ask God for a miracle."

They don't smoke weed, boogie down, play bridge, skinny-dip, practice feng shui, eat kosher mayonnaise or play kissy face on the first and last date. Their motto: "One taste of 100-proof heaven goes a long, long way."

More than likely you've seen a controversial full-page ad the Southern Comforters took out in National Expirer tabloid recently (appearing next to Lady Gaga's 'candid camera cuties'). SANTA: A GAY AGENDA PLOT! Homos put the X in X-Mas!

See next page



BTL Editorial

We Must Not Betray Their Sacrifices

BTL STAFF

The New York Stock Exchange. St. Patrick's Cathedral. The National Institutes of Health. All three locations are icons in America not just because of their status in the broader culture but because of their seminal roles in bringing the urgency of our community in addressing the HIV crisis.

That urgency was born out of the fierce knowledge that action had to happen immediately because many who were leading the street protests may not see a future. Death was a constant companion, decimating an entire generation of men who have sex with men.

We have come a long way since then. Unlike in the '80s, HIV is no longer a likely terminal diagnosis. It's a chronic manageable disease, and HIV prevention no longer requires barriers to intimacy. Both of those are the result of astonishing scientific and medical advances since 1981.

Despite this incredible potential, we have to stop and look at who is continuing to be impacted by this virus. It is our black and brown brothers and sisters who are carrying the burden of new infections disproportionately. It is also black and brown people who are less likely to garner culturally appropriate health care access, which includes treatment and prevention drugs.

In 2017, Gretchen Whitmer was a candidate for governor of Michigan in a primary with Democrat Abdul El-Sayed. She won the governor's office, besting notorious homophobe and

former Attorney General Bill Schuette. During that campaign, she was clear that the state had an obligation to do more to address the HIV crisis. She said the state should free up funding for syringe-access programs to prevent an outbreak in persons who used drugs. She delivered on this call two weeks ago when she put syringe access programming front and center in her administration's response to the opioid crisis. Kudos to her. That move alone will save hundreds of Michiganders from infections related to using dirty needles.

Whitmer also committed herself to finding funding to help those who are uninsured or underinsured access to Truvada, a drug approved by the federal government for HIV prevention. That prevention measure, known as pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP, has been found to be as much as 99 percent effective in preventing someone from contracting HIV. PrEP is expensive, unfortunately. Those with high deductible plans or no health insurance are completely cut from the market even with pharmaceutical assistance programs. And even those with commercial insurance may find the copayments beyond their means.

Access to PrEP is no less a life-saving measure than access to sterile syringes. And though positive steps have been made, it's vital that the governor take action to make PrEP accessible and available to everyone in need now.

However, waiting on government to act is not something

See BTL Editorial, continued on p. 9

Access to PrEP is no less a life-saving measure than access to sterile syringes. And though positive steps have been made, it's vital that the governor take action to make PrEP accessible and available to everyone in need now.

► **BTL Editorial: World AIDS Day**

Continued from p. 9

that AIDS activists did in the '80s and not something we should do now. As we were dying, the government was busy in underfunded labs looking at poppers and too much semen as the cause of the new epidemic. It was gay men who created safer sex and promoted it. It was gay men and allies who fought back in the streets when the Reagan administration continued to ignore the deaths of Americans from the epidemic, years on. And they chanted, while fighting for access to life saving clinical trials, 'Nothing about us, without us.'

We owe to their memories to respond with no less urgency to the ongoing HIV crisis in our state. And those who are struggling with the disease need help now. Not tomorrow. Not next year. Now. To that end, here's how you can act right now:

- If you are sexually active or if you use drugs, get on PrEP. Now.

- If you are on PrEP, advertise it loudly on all your social media including your hook-up apps. Normalize PrEP as an expectation, not an exception.

- If you are HIV-positive, stay in medical care and stay on your medications.

- All of us must stop the tyranny of "disease-free" tag on social media and hook-up apps. With PrEP and treatment as prevention, both positive and negative persons have the tools to stop transmissions. Don't let others separate our community with this stigmatization.

- Hold fundraisers for your local HIV organization to raise money to specifically assist uninsured and underinsured persons gain access to PrEP.

- Write your lawmakers and your governor.

"Be forewarned. Sitting on Santa's ample knee and telling him you're naughty or nice, when God knows you're a loathsome, rotten, stinking sinner, is an invitation to disaster and damnation. Santa, and all he stands for — which includes same-sex marriage — is anti-American, anti-family values, anti-Republican and a GAG plot to boot. Amen."

PS: The less said about "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," the better. Mary Christmas, PGers!

YULETIDE TIP: Instead of donating LGBT dollars to the Salvation Army this year, put a note in the little red kettle: "The Salvation Army's homophobic! No donation from me, my family, my friends. MARY Christmas!"

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

Are There 'Toys' Under Your Tree? Is Your Sock 'Hung' by the Chimney with 'Care?' Beware! The GAGs are coming.

In case you're too busy to speed-read the scandal sheets at checkout counters, Santa really got a few below-the-belt punches from these burning bush holy rollers: "It's bad enough the Gay Agenda Gang (GAG) has shoved TV's Burt & Ernie and Tinky Winky down our collective throats, but the real Trojan Horse is Old St. Nick himself!

"It's true. Santa, who wears a leather belt and boots, sports a beard and a big beer belly, is what GAGs call a card-carrying 'bear.' His red suit is color-coded to convey a deep-seated message. (Years ago, gay men wore bright red ties. And, those unmentionable hankies!) And while there may be a Mrs. Santa — a 'beard' of another kind — what grown man in his right mind breaks bread with elves, second cousins to hobbits, twinks and fairies?"

Creep Of The Week

Tony Perkins

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Is America ready for a gay president? No way say the people who currently support with blind fealty and reverence a president who is a corrupt serial adulterer rapist half-wit.

A president can be many things, but not a homo. That is a bridge too far for the American people!

But some people are starting to freak out a little bit, because there's been polling that shows Sworn Gay Pete Buttigieg leading in Iowa. Which obviously means he has this whole thing in the bag and also that this whole thing is gay now, as is the bag.

Even if Buttigieg does win the Iowa caucus, that hardly means he's going to go on to win the nomination. Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and Ronald Reagan, for example, all lost Iowa but ended up becoming their party's Numero Uno.

A win in Iowa for a candidate like Buttigieg isn't insignificant, however. It would bestow some extra credibility on his candidacy that has seemed like a long shot to many. It would also prime the fundraising pump. But it would also be a historic "holy shit, a gay dude just won the Iowa caucus" kind of moment.

Buttigieg's appeal stems in part from his vocal embrace of his Christian faith, something that has rankled right-wing Christians like Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council, an organization dedicated to dismantling any gains LGBTQ people have made in the U.S. and preventing any others.

On the Nov. 21 edition of the Family Research Council's "Washington Watch" podcast, Perkins and David Closson, also of the FRC, claim that Buttigieg can't possibly be a real Christian.

"[Buttigieg is] actually twisting God's word to advance a political agenda that is antithetical to biblical Christianity," Closson says, presumably with a straight face.

I mean, come on. As if the religious right doesn't conveniently cherry-pick parts of the Bible to support their ideology. They literally HAVE TO DO THAT in order to support Trump.

In a justification for why the right-wing Christians supported Trump, someone on the right said something about Trump being an "imperfect messenger." According to Vox, evangelicals see Trump as an "unlikely 'vessel': someone God has chosen for an important historical purpose, despite not looking like — or having the religious character of — an obvious man of God."

In other words, we don't care if this man is trash so long as he can bring about the end to Roe v. Wade and gay marriage.

Perkins zeroes in on an interview Buttigieg did with Rolling Stone magazine in which he criticized "people who are avowedly Christian" who "get themselves into bed with a president like [Trump]."

Buttigieg's appeal stems in part from his vocal embrace of his Christian faith, something that has rankled right-wing Christians like Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council ...

Perkins resends by asking, "Well, what about supporting a man who gets in bed with another man? I think that's really the issue here when you talk about biblical Christianity. The Bible speaks very clearly about the issue of homosexuality, and ... it's amazing to me that he would so use Scripture when he is ... openly in a lifestyle that is contrary to the teaching of both the Old and the New Testaments."

It's a curious response, notable for the fact that while Trump gets a pass with it comes to all of his sins and transgressions, Buttigieg does not. Because to Perkins being gay is worse than literally anything else. Buttigieg cannot be an "unlikely vessel." He doesn't get the benefit of the doubt. Buttigieg professes his faith while Trump couldn't even give an example of a favorite Bible verse when asked, it is Trump who is considered more Biblical.

Closson says, "The irony of Mayor Pete Buttigieg lecturing Christians on the ethical content of Christianity when, like you just said, this is a man who is married to another man, again, when Scripture is just super clear."

Ahem. SCRIPTURE IS ALSO CLEAR ABOUT ADULTERY. Not to mention the fact that Trump apparently interpreted the Seven Deadly Sins not as a cautionary list, but an aspirational one.

But please, do go on about how Buttigieg's happy marriage to his husband Chasten is the deal-breaker here.

Being gay, argues Peter LaBarbera of Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, "is the ultimate blasphemy" and that Buttigieg "is making a farce out of Christianity."

"The media will pretend that a man like Peter Buttigieg kissing his so-called husband is just like a man kissing his wife," LaBarbera told OneNewsNow. "But the average Joe on the street, the average American, will not believe that. And I do not believe that an openly homosexual, far-left progressive candidate like Pete Buttigieg — I do not think the American public is ready for that."

And so we've come full circle. Actually, scratch that. "Full circle" implies that there's something orderly and logical to the argument that Trump is a divine gift while Buttigieg is the spawn of the devil. Who was it again making a farce out of Christianity?

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

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

(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

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

ABOUT BIKTARVY

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

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

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

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

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

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

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

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

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

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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

BIKTARVY, the BIKTARVY Logo, DAILY CHARGE, the DAILY CHARGE Logo, KEEP PUSHING, LOVE WHAT'S INSIDE, GILEAD, and the GILEAD Logo are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc., or its related companies. Version date: December 2018 © 2019 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved. BVYC0103 02/19



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

LOVE
WHAT'S
INSIDE[®]

KEEP PUSHING.

Because HIV doesn't change who you are.

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

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

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

 **GILEAD**

DOJ Pride Warns Barr of Employee ‘Dismay’ Over Title VII Cases

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The affinity group for LGBTQ employees calls on U.S. Attorney General William Barr to affirm their value. (Blade file photo by Michael Key)

The affinity group for LGBTQ employees at the Justice Department has a warning for U.S. Attorney General William Barr: The Trump administration’s litigation position against protections for LGBTQ workers under federal civil rights law has left employees with “concern, dismay and even distress about the cases.”

In a letter dated Nov. 22 and made public Monday, the leaders of DOJ Pride said they undertook a survey of LGBTQ lawyers and law enforcement officials within the Justice Department and found “every response but one” was negative about the U.S. government arguing against LGBTQ protections.

“We recognize that the department was arguing in favor of a particular interpretation of a federal statute, and that it was not advocating that LGBTQ individuals are undeserving or unworthy of protections against discrimination,” the letter says. “But many of our members did not perceive the department to have made such a distinction. Some reached out to us in alarm, afraid their jobs could be in jeopardy.”

The signers of the letter include DOJ Pride President Jason Lee, a staff attorney for the Justice Department, as well as each of the board members of the organization.

“Various respondents told us they believe that the department does not support its LGBTQ workforce, that the department think



LGBTQ people do not need or deserve anti-discrimination protections, that the department will be less able to recruit and retain talented employees, that department employees will be less comfortable coming out at work and the department’s litigation positions set back the department’s mission of promoting justices, fairness and equality,” the letter says.

In October, U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in the cases *Zarda v. Altitude Express* and *Bostock v. Clayton County* against the idea that anti-gay discrimination is a form of sex discrimination, therefore prohibited under Title VII of the Civil Rights of 1964, and —

defying massive case law — argued against the idea that anti-trans discrimination is a form of sex discrimination in the case of *Harris Funeral Homes v. EEOC*.

It remains to be seen what the Supreme Court will rule. U.S. Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch indicated he’s at least considering the idea Title VII is LGBTQ-inclusive, making LGBTQ legal advocates cautiously optimistic about the litigation.

DOJ Pride calls on Barr to reassure employees, no matter the outcome of the cases, the Justice Department’s Equal Employment Opportunity policy will prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination. Also, the LGBT affinity group

calls on Barr to reiterate LGBTQ employees and job applicants are welcome.

Further, DOJ Pride calls on Barr to “call for a legislative fix in the event that the Supreme Court adopts the department’s interpretation of Title VII.”

That would be a tall order to fill for a Cabinet member within the Trump administration. President Trump has come out against the Equality Act, which would accomplish that goal.

DOJ Pride also calls for other changes unrelated to the Title VII, such as returning its annual Pride celebration to the Great Hall and adding LGBTQ employees to the department’s leadership positions.

The missive may not fall on deaf ears. As the letter points out, Barr issued EEO policy assuring non-discrimination for LGBTQ employees in February, met with DOJ Pride leaders in June in recognition of Pride Month and subsequently issued a Pride Month statement affirming the value of LGBTQ employees.

At the same time, Barr has stood up for religious freedom at the expense of LGBTQ rights, lamenting the lack of religious exemptions to the LGBTQ curricula several states, including California and Illinois, have adopted within their school system.

The Washington Blade has placed a request in with the Justice Department seeking comment on the letter.

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

Canadian Diplomats Highlight Country’s LGBTQ Rights Record

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

Two Canadian diplomats in the U.S. earlier this month highlighted their country’s efforts to promote LGBTQ rights.

“We are very much aligned in terms of strongly supporting the rights of LGBTQ persons, both at home and abroad,” said Martin Loken, minister of political affairs at the Canadian Embassy in D.C., on Nov. 14 during a reception that was part of the LGBTQ Victory Fund’s annual International LGBTQ Leaders Conference.

“Respect for all human rights is a central tenet of Canada’s domestic and foreign policy,” added Loken.

Loken spoke three weeks after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau won reelection. A picture of Trudeau in brownface that emerged in September sparked outrage and seriously tarnished his reputation ahead of the Oct. 21 election that saw his Liberal Party lose its majority in Parliament.

Trudeau in 2017 formally apologized to those who suffered persecution and discrimination

under Canada’s anti-LGBTQ laws and policies. Trudeau in a speech he delivered in the Canadian House of Commons also said the government agreed to settle a class-action lawsuit filed by those who were forced to leave the Canadian military and civil service because of their sexual orientation.

A law that added gender identity to Canada’s non-discrimination and hate crimes law took effect in 2017. Canada the following year joined the Global Equality Fund, a public-private partnership the U.S. launched in order to promote LGBTQ rights around the world.

Trudeau is among the world leaders who have publicly condemned the anti-LGBTQ crackdown in Chechnya.

Refugees and asylum seekers in recent years have increasingly sought refuge in Canada. Randall Garrison, an openly gay member of the leftist New Democratic Party who represents portions of Vancouver Island in British Columbia in the House of Commons, is among those who have said the Canadian government needs to do more to protect refugees and asylum seekers, regardless of

their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

“While recognizing that countries are at different stages, Canada continues to advocate to eliminate laws and policies that discriminate against persons based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics and to combat all acts of violence targeted towards LGBTQ persons,” said Loken.

Canadian Ambassador to the Organization of American States Hugh Adsett at the Nov. 14 reception noted his country is a founding member of the OAS LGBTI Core Group, which seeks to promote LGBTQ rights in the Americas.

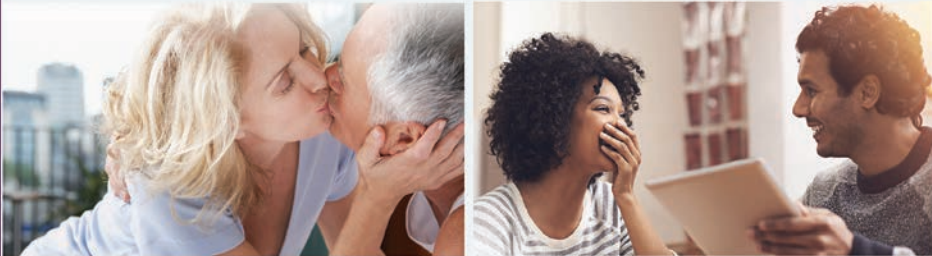
“Canada is proud to be part of this collaborative effort to support the rights of LGBTI persons in the Americas,” Adsett said.

Adsett also said Canada has “been working closely with” the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and other OAS-affiliated entities “to advance our collective responsibility to protect LGBTQ2 persons against human rights violations.”



Let's Talk Women's Health

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



NO DOWNTIME. NO HORMONES. NO SURGERY.

Now offering FemTouch™ Vaginal rejuvenation treatments.
Don't Suffer in Silence!



Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOG

Fian Clair
MEDICAL SPA
AT PARTRIDGE CREEK OBGYN

LIMITED TIME OFFER
SPECIAL SAVINGS
UP TO
40% OFF*

*FemTouch Package purchase.

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

DETROIT'S BEST FLORIST SINCE 1977

**BEST OF
HOUR**
MURRAY

BLOSSOMS

FULL SERVICE FLORIST

2 Locations - Order Online - Delivery to City & Suburbs

BIRMINGHAM

BLOSSOMSBERMINGHAM.COM
(248) 644-4411

MIDTOWN DETROIT

BLOSSOMSDETROIT.COM
(313) 447-1919

**BLOSSOMING
ARTISTS.NET**
EMERGING ARTISTS SPACE

GALLERY INSIDE BLOSSOMS MIDTOWN
Monthly Exhibitions | 4152 Third St. | Detroit, MI 48201



Crown Pharmacy

Specializing in providing world class HIV
pharmaceutical care



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



24401 Plymouth Rd., Redford, MI 48239
313-532-DRUG (3784) 313-532-3718 (fax)
crownpharmacy1@aol.com

HOURS: M-F 10 am - 6 pm Weds 10am-5pm
Closed Weekends and Holidays



Low Cost Pet Prescriptions

PEWABIC

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND AT PEWABIC

Shop local this weekend at the pottery or online and enjoy a free gift with purchase*, discounts, and chances to win prizes in store!

PEWABIC.ORG



* One free gift with purchases over \$100.
Discounts only available on select items, and no purchase is necessary to enter in store drawings.

MUG
Frost

World AIDS Day 2019: HIV in Michigan – The Good, the Ugly, the In-Between

BY BTL STAFF

Let's be clear: the response to the HIV epidemic today has shifted dramatically since it was first identified as a crisis in 1981 and a viral epidemic in 1984. The crisis has gone from usually fatal, to, today, a chronic manageable disease. It also means that people living with HIV are living nearly the same lifespan as people without the virus. However, it's also true that stigma continues to hamper efforts to end the epidemic, to ensure access to prevention services for at-risk people, and access to medical care and medications for those with the disease.

And Michigan is not an outlier in the evolving perceptions of the epidemic either. In our state, as has happened nationally, there have been good changes, bad changes and downright ugly ones, too. Here's a breakdown of those items from 2019.

The Ugly

The HIV epidemic continues to disproportionately impact people of color, particularly transgender people of color and same-gender-loving men of color, and this is clearly shown in Michigan's statistical trends represented in the Michigan Statewide HIV Surveillance Reports from 2019, 2018 and 2017. In 2017, men who have sex with men represented the most newly diagnosed cases with 448 diagnosed, along with 19 men who have sex with men and inject drugs. In 2016, those rates were 449 and 22 respectively.

The numbers also show a racial disparity in both who is at risk for and who is being diagnosed with HIV. Fifty-nine percent of those diagnosed with HIV in 2017 were black. This is up from 58 percent in 2016. Of the men diagnosed with HIV, 44 percent were black and six percent were Latino.

The transgender community is also over-represented in the diagnoses in Michigan. Twenty-two transgender individuals were diagnosed with HIV in 2017, up from 17 in 2016. Of those diagnosed, 16 were black transgender persons, up from 15 in 2016.

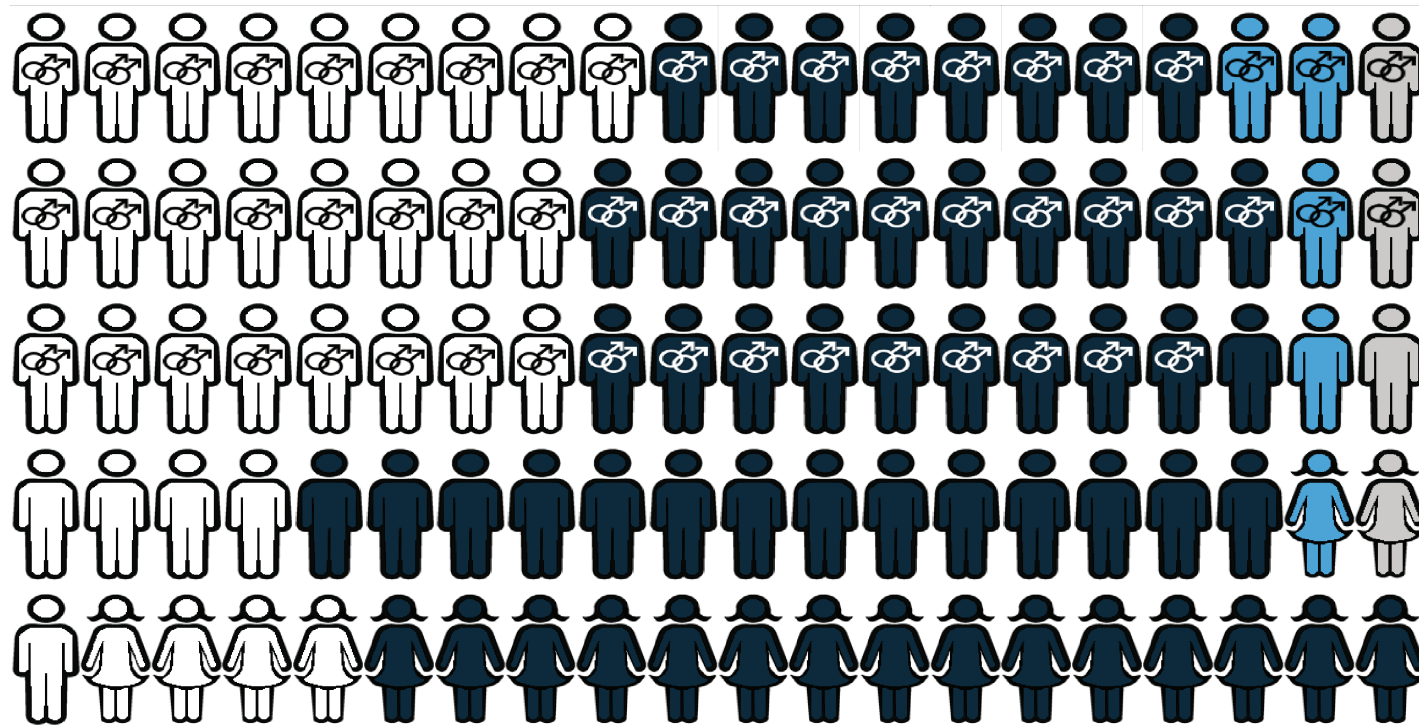
Collectively, the number of people living with HIV in Michigan is 16,218 — this number differs from diagnosed persons because a person could move to Michigan after a diagnosis in another state.

Of those in the state who are diagnosed, 82 percent are in care, and of those in care, 89 percent have attained viral suppression. Though there is no cure for HIV, viral suppression means a person has an undetectable viral load. That means the virus's capacity to cause harm to the infected person is restricted. This also

Persons living with HIV (PLWH) - Demographics

On January 1, 2018

The HIV epidemic represented as 100 people. The majority of persons living with HIV (PLWH) are black men and/or gay & bisexual men. Of women living with HIV, the vast majority are black.



Icon Key

Men

Women

White



Black



Latino(a)



Other



Men with this symbol acquired HIV via sex with men (MSM)

From Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Report

serves as a prevention method, because in this state the virus cannot be transmitted.

The vast majority of people living with HIV are in Metro Detroit. In total, that's 10,384 persons living in an area that includes Lapeer, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair and Wayne counties. Wayne County and the city of Detroit represent 6,895 of those cases. Eighty-one percent of those living with HIV are in medical care in the Metro Detroit area, while 87 percent of those in care in the region are virally suppressed.

The numbers also show that rural counties in Michigan continue to struggle to help people living with HIV get access to HIV medical care. Berrien County has a 71 percent rate of people in care, up from 58 percent in 2016; Monroe County has 70 percent of people in care, down from 76 percent in 2016; Sanilac county has 59 percent of people in care, down from 71 percent in 2016; and Mecosta county has 64 percent of people in care, up from 50 percent in 2016. All of these statistics are

dramatically lower than the state average of in-care percentages, which is over 80 percent.

Both sets of numbers point to dramatic social and racial barriers to accessing care in Michigan and raise serious concerns about the ability of the state to meet the federal and state goals of getting 90 percent of people living with HIV diagnosed, 90 percent of those diagnosed in medical care and 90 percent of those in care virally suppressed.

So here's the good news in the numbers: There was a 1 percent increase in the number of people in care from 2016. However, there was no change in the percent of people in care with an undetectable viral load.

The In-Between

Michigan has been burdened by an onerous felony law applicable only to persons living with HIV since 1988. But earlier this year, legislation signed into law at the end of January by former Gov. Rick Snyder, changed the law.

Previously, Michigan law required disclosure of an HIV-positive status for any sexual penetration, 'however slight.' Courts had rejected medical defenses that a person who was virally suppressed posed no risk to a sexual partner, despite federal and state government reports. This resulted in many prison sentences for people who were HIV-positive and virally suppressed because they failed to tell their sexual partners, rather than because they posed a real and quantifiable threat to the other person.

That law is gone. In its place are four new criminal laws, three of which explicitly require a prosecutor to prove a person intended to cause harm to another person via their sexual activity. The laws also specify that oral sex is excluded from criminalized behavior, and they allow a defendant to prove they were virally suppressed and thus presented no risk to their sex partner.

Despite the new laws, those who violated

See **HIV in Michigan**, continued on p. 16

THE WORLD AIDS DAY COMMUNITY
COMMITTEE PRESENTS...

THRIVING BEYOND THE RED RIBBON

DECEMBER 2, 2019
10AM-4PM

LOCATION
The Eastern
3434 Russell Street
Detroit, MI 48207
(Next to Milano Bakery)

Please Register Via
Eventbrite
Key Words: World AIDS
Day Detroit

THIS EVENT
IS FREE AND
ALL ARE
WELCOME!!

FREE
BREAKFAST
AND LUNCH
RAFFLES
AND MORE!!

Contact: Rondoe
rondoecs@yahoo.com
or Royale
248-808-2625

SPONSORS



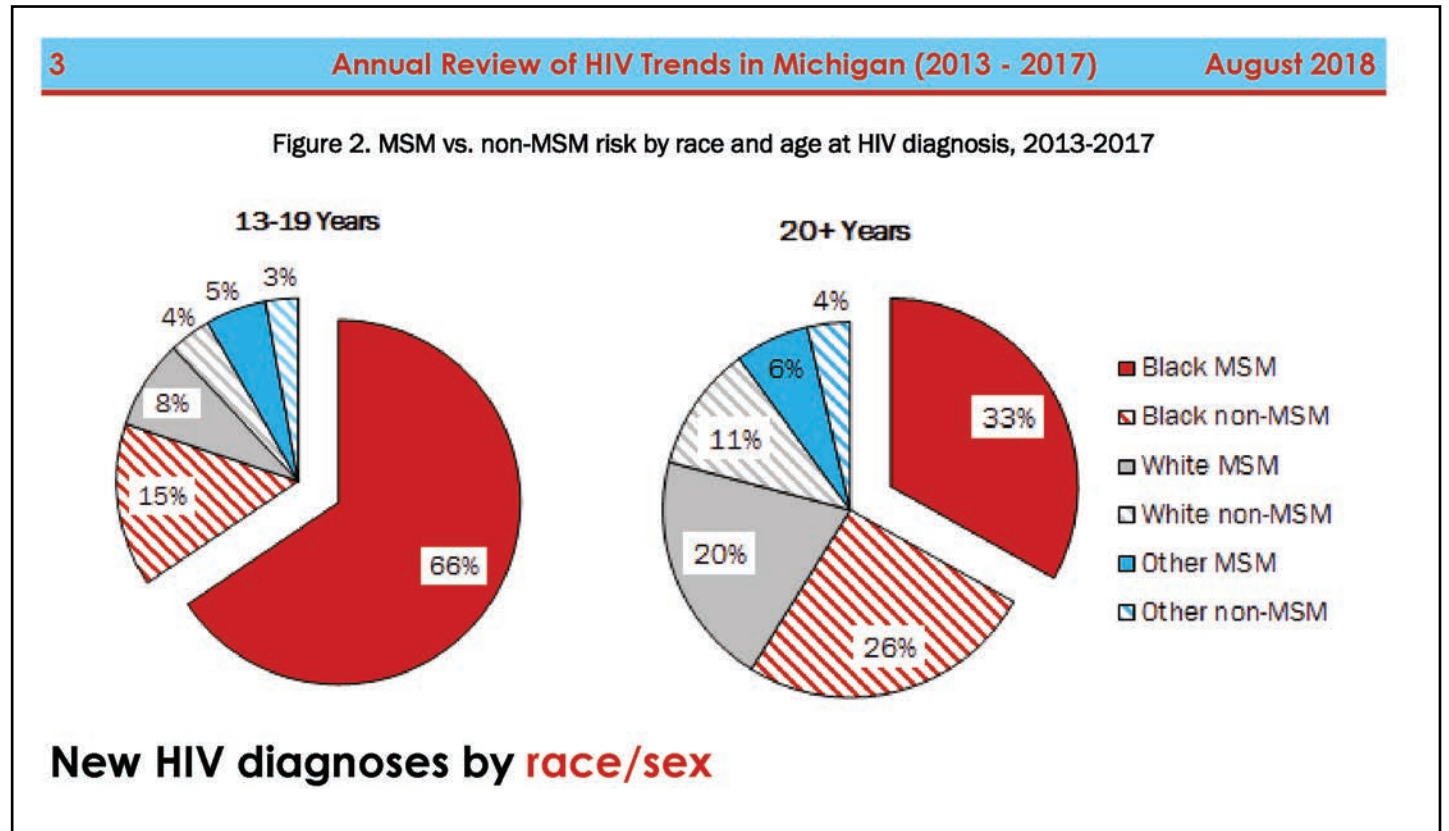
► HIV in Michigan

Continued from p. 14

the old law could still face prosecution and 15 years in prison if allegations are brought. In September, Kent County presented a clear case of this. Keisha, an HIV-positive transgender woman of color, was arrested on criminal charges for failing to disclose issued related to an incident that happened four years ago. Prosecutors said they were determined to pursue the charges, despite the change in the law and Keisha having had an undetectable viral load. The charges were dismissed when the other person involved didn't show up for a preliminary hearing.

Unfortunately, even with the progress of the new laws, they contain a catchall misdemeanor with which people can be charged if they engage in sexual activity with "reckless disregard." That phrase is not defined, which leaves a loophole that could still be exploited negatively and resulting not only in more HIV-related cases in the criminal justice system but the outing of people's HIV status.

See **HIV in Michigan**, continued on p. 17



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**

World AIDS Day Events



Dec. 2

The World AIDS Day Committee Presents Thriving Beyond The Red Ribbon

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Gather on World AIDS Day to remember those who have died from the disease and to gather more resources to combat HIV and AIDS.

3434 Russell St., Suite No. 501, Detroit
gaybe.am/Y6

HIV Monologues

6 to 8 p.m.

An evening of presentations, performances and reflection about HIV/AIDS. This event is presented by the National Council for Negro Women.

525 S State St., Ann Arbor
events.umich.edu/event/69700

World AIDS Day 2019

9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Great Lakes Bay Health Centers partnered with the Saginaw NAACP, the Great Lakes Bay HIV/AIDS Task Force and the Saginaw Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority to observe World AIDS Day.

501 Lapeer Ave., Saginaw
gaybe.am/jy

See **Events**, continued on p. 22

► HIV in Michigan

Continued from p. 16

The Good

With Gov. Gretchen Whitmer in office, the state systems are beginning to shift. Just two weeks ago, Whitmer, state health officials and advocates held a press conference to announce new initiatives to address Michigan's ongoing opioid crisis.

The new plans include more access to treatment, a public relations campaign to reduce stigma for those seeking care for opioid addiction and increased syringe access programming in the state.

That last one, syringe access, specifically follows calls Whitmer made two years ago to address the potential for a massive HIV outbreak in northern Michigan related to contaminated syringes. At the time, Whitmer was in a heated primary campaign for Governor, and

she "demanded [Snyder] free up state dollars to address a potential HIV outbreak among people who use drugs in 11 mostly rural northern Michigan counties," *Between the Lines* reported exclusively in November of 2017.

Those remarks were made after state officials revealed that 11 counties in Northern lower Michigan were in the top five percent of counties in the U.S. at risk for an intravenous drug use outbreak of the virus.



December 5 | 6:00 - 9:00 P



Greater Flint Arts Council
816 Saginaw Street
Flint MI 48502



"The Red Carnation Affair"

Come join us for food, entertainment, raffle prizes, and community engagement in celebration and remembrance of World Aids Day



Affirmations
People Building Community

Affirmations | 290 W. Nine Mile Rd.
Ferndale | 48220 | (248) 398-7105
www.GoAffirmations.org
info@GoAffirmations.org

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

State FarmTM

Dedicated to helping
LGBTQ teens and
young adults who
are experiencing
homelessness

Residential Services Drop In Center Street Outreach

313-252-1950
info@ruthelliscenter.com
www.ruthelliscenter.com

Ruth Ellis Center
77 Victor St.
Highland Park, MI 48203

Lynn L. Stange
Realtor Associate

248.561.6967
email: LLStange@aol.com
2100 West Big Beaver, Troy

*Serving the Real Estate Needs of Michigan's Gay
and Lesbian Community for Over 25 Years!*

Dr. Paul Benson
1964 W 11 Mile, Berkley
248-544-9300
DoctorBeWell.com

Michigan AIDS Hotline
800-872-2437

PartridgeCreek
Obstetrics & Gynecology

586.247.8609
partridgecreekobgyn.com

MAIN OFFICE
19991 Hall Road, Suite 105
Macomb, MI 48044

Providing exceptional
care for women of all ages.

Charles Alexander, Artist

Page Toyota

PAGE
TOYOTA HONDA

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

**DIGNITY
DETROIT**

A Faith Community for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered
& Questioning individuals, their families and friends.

Box 558 - Royal Oak, MI 48068 - (313) 278-4786
www.dignitydetroit.org

GRCC

Office of
Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion

143 Bostwick Ave NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
616-234-3390
www.grcc.edu/odei

**HODGES
SUBARU**

Metro Detroit's "Subaru-Only Dealer"

23100 Woodward Ave, Ferndale MI, 48220
248.547.8800
www.hodgessubaru.com

SUBARU

NEW!
Skin Care
for Men &
Women

Dr. Paul Benson
1964 W 11 Mile, Berkley
248-544-9300
DoctorBeWell.com

Remembering World AIDS Day
December 1, 2019
Get Tested.
Stay Informed.
Michigan AIDS Hotline
800-872-2437

Town & Country
Garage Door, LLC
248-213-7882
1991 ORCHARD LAKE RD,
SYLVAN LAKE, MI 48320
TOWNANDCOUNTRYDOOR.NET

Tyrrell
ELECTRIC CO.
248-767-5238
jttyrrell@yahoo.com
www.tyrrellelectric.com

Gayle R. Beck, Ph.D.
Adults, adolescents,
individuals, couples.
Relationship, work
and family issues,
anxiety,
depression,
grief and loss.
248-851-2040
31700 W. 13 Mile Rd. Ste 219, Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Tito's
AWARD WINNING
DISTILLED 4 TIMES
Handmade
VODKA
AUSTIN ★ TEXAS
WWW.TITOSVODKA.COM

PREMIER
EST. 1992
PET SUPPLY
248-647-4310
31215 Southfield Rd.,
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
www.premierpetsupply.com
Family Owned, In business
for over 20 years.

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993
BTL 26th
ANNIVERSARY
Between THE Lines

BIDWELL TOVAREZ PLLC
PROVIDING BANKRUPTCY SOLUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES
333 W. 7th St., Suite 140
Royal Oak, MI 48067-2510
248-237-3718
www.bidwelltovarez.com

I Stay Ready, I Stay **UNDETECTABLE**

People living with HIV that are on treatment and keep an undetectable viral load cannot pass HIV through sex.

Share the news and support your loved ones to get in care or stay in care!

U=U

Talk with your doctor, or call/text **Link-Up Detroit** to get into care: **313-300-5672**



**Health
Department**

Positive Thoughts: Trans Power

Organizer of First National Trans Visibility March on DC Urges Action by HIV Advocates

BY ORIOL R. GUTIERREZ JR.

Marissa Miller was the lead organizer of the first National Trans Visibility March on Washington, D.C., which took place Saturday, Sept. 28, in the nation's capital. Thousands attended the march down Pennsylvania Avenue, which was preceded by a rally at Freedom Plaza.

Miller is currently the CEO of TransSolutions Consulting, a global resource center that advocates for safety and universal health access for transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary people across the country. For more than a decade, she has worked in public health with a focus on HIV.

As a black transgender woman living with HIV, Miller has both personal and professional experience with the virus. She has worked with such groups as Howard Brown Health, AIDS United, Positively Trans and the Transgender Law Center.

Most recently, Miller was a program coordinator in the leadership division of the National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC). She stepped away from that role just before the 2019 march to focus on planning the 2020 march.

How did the idea for the trans march originate?

In 2018, the Positive Women's Network-USA had its third National Leadership Summit in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. There was tension between some cisgender women and some trans women. It got rowdy, and it kind of scared me because I'd never been in a setting where people who were fighting for the same cause were so able to let words separate us.

As a result, Lynn Morrison, a trans advocate from Atlanta, suggested during the summit that we needed a trans march. About six months after that, Dejanay Stanton, a trans woman from Chicago, was killed. She died three days before she was supposed to start a class that me and my business partner, Tatyana Moaton, who has a consulting business in Chicago, were conducting. We were going to mentor 10 Black trans women from the sex industry.

Out of emotion — very disappointed at the system and at myself for not getting to Dejanay a little bit sooner — I posted on Facebook that we should have a trans march in 2019. The idea caught fire with tons of likes and shares.

Why was 2019 the time for the march?

The Trump administration has made it abundantly clear that trans, gender non-conforming and non-binary people are not included in their narrative of who we are as a country.

They've made it difficult for trans people to access medical care. They've begun making it possible for folks to tell us that we can't have jobs or access businesses and other services because we're not really protected under the law. We wanted to let them know that we have a right to exist. They are trying to erase us, so increasing the visibility of trans people right now was important. If they were not going to count us in the U.S. census, then at least they were going to count us in the streets.

Tell us about the rally and the march.

We originally wanted the march to take place on National Trans Visibility Day, which is March 31. As a result of underestimating the costs — as well as having the original date coincide with April Fool's Day — we delayed. In the end, postponing the march helped us raise additional funds and bring in support to make it the best event that we could.

People from across the country attended both the rally and the march. Our opening reception was hosted the night before in D.C. by the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce, where we honored 16 advocates at our Torch Awards. One of the people we honored was actress and activist Angelica Ross (from "Pose" on FX) for the work that she's done as founder and CEO of TransTech Social Enterprises over the past decade, including sponsoring our virtual march. She wanted the trans march to reach everybody, so the virtual march made that possible.

The day before the march, we held workshops for march participants at our official hotel. Subjects ranged from financial equity and social media to health and wellness. They were designed to support participants in their advocacy. The rally motivated the participants to get energized for taking our call to action to the streets. In addition to several musical performances, Angelica Ross and Lynn Morrison were among the many amazing speakers. The march itself saw thousands of participants walk down Pennsylvania Avenue, right past



Marissa Miller. Photo: Daniel Swartz.

the Trump Hotel, all the way up to the Capitol Building.

Both at the rally and at the end of the march, you urged participants to get involved with the 2020 march. Why?

The 2019 march was a great start for our trans advocacy, but since 2020 is a crucial election year, the next march will be even more important. Our community partners — such as Rock the Vote, Human Rights Campaign and GLAAD — as well as our trans march ambassadors nationwide will be spreading the word about the importance of voting in 2020. Get out the vote efforts will be happening from now through 2020, up to and including election day. The details of the next march haven't been finalized, but we are confident it will take place in September 2020.

In addition to the next march, please tell us about your other efforts.

I left NMAC to focus on the next march, but I am working on more projects. There is just so much work to do when it comes to trans advocacy in general. One of those projects is working as a consultant to TransTech Social Enterprises. I'll be assisting Angelica Ross to build their conference.

I'm also working with TransTech to develop a safety device. For transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary people, the issue of safety is a primary concern. We're going to pilot the device in 10 major U.S. cities. We talk about HIV prevention and adherence to treatment for the virus. We know that equity and opportunity are part of the formula for ending the HIV epidemic by 2030. However, if we're not safe, or don't feel safe, all the other discussions become secondary.

The device is not an app on a smart phone. It is a separate device that can be carried or worn discreetly. When activated, which will be as simple as pressing a button, someone

the device owner preprogrammed into it will be notified that their friend needs assistance.

One of the things that we realized from having conversations about the device is that we didn't want it to police the people who were using it. So that is why we envision it as a buddy plan. All the hate crimes and murders affecting not only the trans community but also the LGBT community at large have made prioritizing safety a must.

You tested HIV-positive in 1990. As a long-term survivor, please share your insights on living with the virus.

After I tested positive in the prison system, I just laid in my cell. At that time, I didn't have a whole lot of information about HIV, and I certainly didn't think that I would be celebrating my 50th birthday in 2020. I thought that I would be dead before I was 30. Some of the cis-masculine individuals that I had in my life back then were always connected to HIV. They pushed me to be better. They pushed me to embrace living with HIV and to not let the virus tear me up. Their encouragement led to my being put in positions of decision-making at the table. In turn, that allowed me to have broader conversations about transgender people and HIV. From my perspective, leadership was never about others following me. Leadership was always about me taking people on a journey with me. My advice to folks living with HIV is to keep living. Stay at the table — and if there is no table, create a table.

Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr. is the editor-in-chief of POZ magazine. Find him on Twitter @oriolgutierrez. This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, The Body and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites — hivplusmag.com, positivelyaware.com, poz.com and thebody.com — for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.

Michigan Author's 'Blood Criminals' Book Talks Modern Toll of HIV

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

When HIV hit America in the '80s it decimated LGBTQ communities and forever changed the course of national sex education. But what happened to the people who survived the epidemic? And what happens to people who are diagnosed today? In his new book, "Blood Criminals: Living with HIV in 21st Century America" (\$13 from Weasel Press), author, activist and *Between The Lines* contributing writer Jonathan Thurston tracks the lives of six people in America as they deal with all the cultural problems associated with HIV/AIDS. Their stories include incomplete sex education; diagnosis without links to care; abuse from criminal and legal systems; dehumanization and suicide "requests" from people online.

"Blood Criminals' is not my story though," Thurston said. "It's the culmination of over 100 interviews with doctors, pharmacists, lawyers, law enforcement officers, medical scientists, case managers, people living with HIV and

people who've lost others to HIV. In this book, I track six people as they go from early sex education to their diagnosis, treatment, stigma and dating life. While I use these six major narratives as points of departure, I move on to show the structural issues each of these people are engaging with rather than lingering on these six lives."

Thurston, who is open about being HIV-positive since 2016, studies English at Michigan State University.

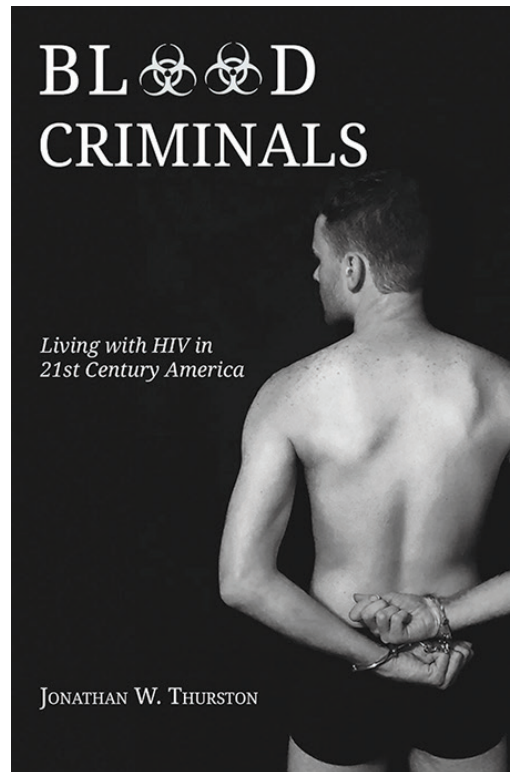
"As my HIV helped to inspire the creation of this journalistic expose, I am very excited to see this book being released for World AIDS Day on Dec. 1 this year," Thurston said. "A major part of my reason for writing and researching this book comes from a lack of serious journalistic work in 21st century on HIV. Everyone knows Randy Shilts' book 'And the Band Played On' tracking the issues related to HIV in the '80s. But no one has shown the cultural issues of HIV in the 2010s. No one has discussed in book form the exorbitant costs of the medications, the daily requests from others to kill yourself

because of your disease or the prisons that will beat you into submission because they know you are subhuman. Not until now.

"In these pages, I show nurses in biohazard suits, people locked away for not disclosing their status — even if they did — and the loss of those the medical system failed," Thurston continued. "When you have HIV, you lose personhood. When you have HIV, you are labeled a biohazard."

While this is Thurston's first book on HIV, it is not his first foray into writing or activism. Earlier this year he released a TED Talk called *Being Positive*. And, in addition to his work for BTL, Thurston was an editor for Lansing's *City Pulse*. He has also given numerous talks about HIV at Vanderbilt University's *Out in Front* conference.

To find out more about the book or purchase a copy visit gaybe.am/St.



AT RISK FOR HIV?

Once a day PrEP can reduce your risk.

OAKLAND COUNTY MICHIGAN HEALTH DIVISION
248-424-7109
oakgov.com/HIV

[f](https://www.facebook.com/publichealthoc) [t](https://twitter.com/publichealthoc) @PUBLICHEALTHOC

The Oakland County Health Division will not deny participation in its programs based on race, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. State and federal eligibility requirements apply for certain programs.

WORLD AIDS DAY

Thriving Beyond the Red Ribbon



Sunday, Dec. 1, marks the annual World AIDS Day, an internationally recognized day that is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS crisis that was caused by the spread of HIV. It's also a day designed to remember those whose lives were lost due to the disease. On Monday, Dec. 2, Detroit's World AIDS Day Community Committee presents Thriving Beyond the Red Ribbon at The Eastern.

"World AIDS Day, the first-ever global health day designated on Dec. 1 every year since 1988, is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness," write event organizers. "World AIDS Day is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV."

This year's event sponsors include Gilead, Community Health Awareness Group, Crown Specialty Pharmacy, Corktown Health Center and more. This free event includes breakfast, lunch, raffles and more, along with information about combatting HIV and AIDS in the community.

The Eastern is located at 3434 Russell St., Suite No. 501, Detroit. To preregister visit eventbrite.com.

► Events

Continued from p. 17

Dec. 4

World AIDS Day Reception

5 to 9 p.m.

Join the board of directors and staff at Unified-HIV Health and Beyond to settle into their new location.

3968 Mt. Elliott St., Detroit

gaybe.am/BZ

Dec. 5

World AIDS Day - Film Screening and Panel

6 to 8 p.m.

Join Spectrum Center's programming board, Unified and SNPhA to recognize World AIDS Day with a screening of "A Day With(out) Art."

1100 North University, Building 1544, Ann Arbor

events.umich.edu/event/69763

World AIDS Day: The Red Carnation Affair

6 to 9 p.m.

An event with food, entertainment, raffle prizes and community engagement in both celebration and remembrance of World AIDS Day.

816 Saginaw St., Flint

gaybe.am/iA

Dec. 7

Red Ribbon Brunch

11 a.m.

The purpose of this event is to raise funds for our program budget and also give exposure and promote HIV/

AIDS awareness around the LGBTQ community.

290 W Nine Mile Road, Ferndale

mobilizedetroit.com/events/red-ribbon-brunch



Macomb County Health Dept. launches "Rock the Ribbon" campaign.



Health Department

STD/HIV CLINIC

"The Risk is Not Knowing, Know Your Status!"

Get Educated! Get Tested!"

Services Provided:

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

Testing and Treatment:

Confidential, \$10.00 Administration fee, appointment

Only, persons 12 and older

- Syphilis
- Gonorrhea/ Chlamydia
- Trichomoniasis
- Non –gonococcal urethritis (NGU)
- Scabies
- Pubic lice
- HEPC

To schedule an appointment

CALL 586-465-9217

at the time listed below

Monday	10:00 a.m.
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.
Thursday	9:00 a.m.

Staff is available Monday –Friday to answer any questions



"We Take pride in taking care of our residents"



NEED HELP WITH HIV SERVICES?

LINK-UP OAKLAND CAN HELP

248.410.7537 • oakgov.com/health



The Oakland County Health Division will not deny participation in its programs based on race, sex, religion, national origin, age or disability. State and federal eligibility requirements apply for certain programs.



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

BRINGING WELLNESS TO LIFE



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

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

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



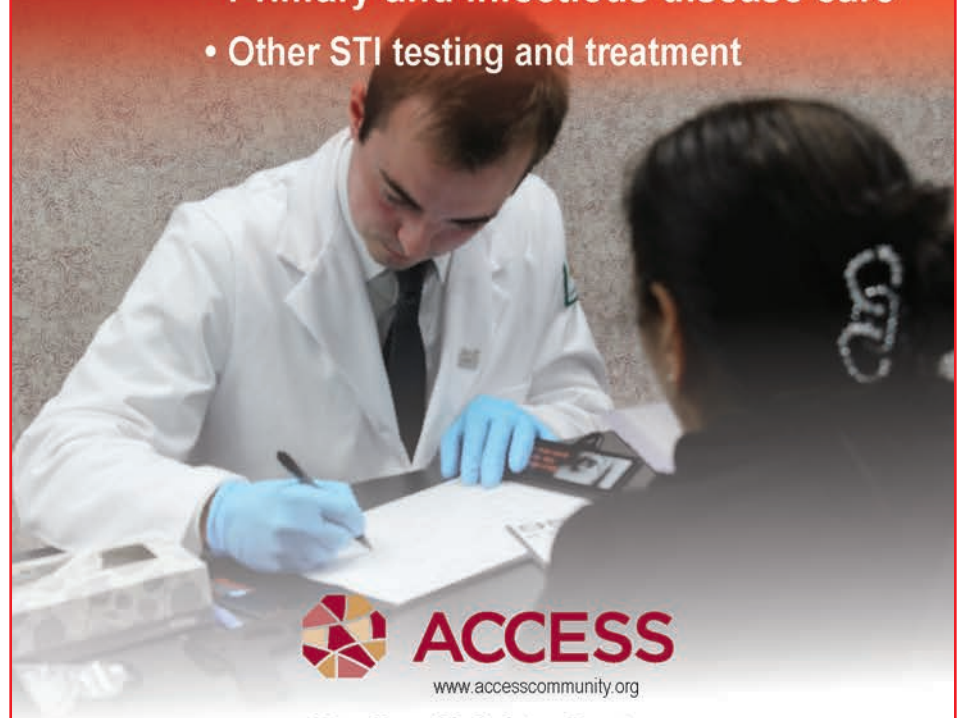
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Treatment and Prevention

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

SERVICES INCLUDE

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



Sterling Heights Center

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

Part of the MetroCare Coordination Network

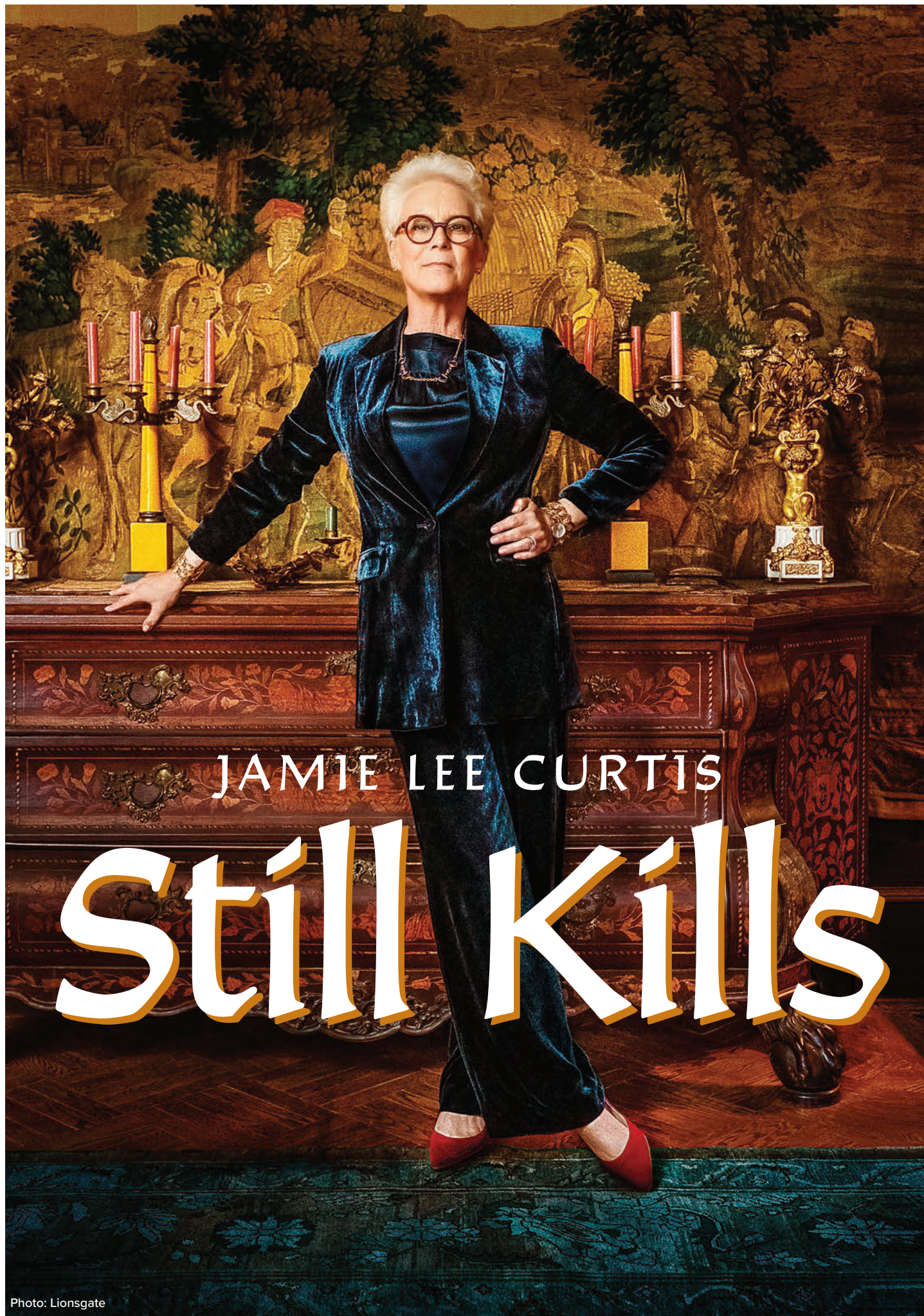


Photo: Lionsgate

Screen Legend Talks LGBTQ Compassion, Why She Became an Ally & the True Gay Icon of 'Knives Out'

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Thirteen minutes with Jamie Lee Curtis was not quite enough time to find out why, even though it was “very important to me” to investigate the sexuality of one of her characters, she’s never considered the sexuality of her most enduring, Laurie Strode. I’m still curious. I still want to know. Jamie, if you’re out there, if you’re reading this, call me.

The day we spoke, Curtis, in signature no-nonsense mode, was fully immersed in a whirl of action at the media junket for her new whodunit film “Knives Out,” which left precious time for contemplative states, Laurie Strode gay talk and cheeseburgers.

The esteemed “Scream Queen” is completing her order as she calls me, though “the last thing I’m thinking about is what I’m gonna eat.” Eventually, however, I’ve got Jamie Lee Curtis thinking about that time she decided to make a character gay and no one ever really knew. Minutes into our twisty chat, Curtis, best known for roles in “A Fish Called Wanda,” “Trading Places” and some movie called “Halloween,” is reflecting on a role she seems very proud of: her portrayal of the school principal in a film she says “no one saw” called “Spare Parts.”

Based on a true story, the 2015 film centers on a group of Latino students who win first place over the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the 2004 MATE ROV robotics competition. Those who didn’t see it, and perhaps even those who did, missed what Curtis calls a “subtle reference” to her character’s late wife, who she says is pictured in a photograph in her character’s office. “I very specifically wanted the backstory – that you will never know – that she moved to that place because of her wife and her wife died,” Curtis says.

Knowing that the actress used her ally powers to queer one of her characters, I’m curious if Curtis delved similarly into Laurie Strode, who is stalked by madman Michael Myers in

“Halloween,” both the original and its recent 2018 sequel – asking you to forget all “Halloween” sequels in between. Released in 1978, the horror film jump-started her career; exploring the effects of lingering trauma in the latest installment

lured Curtis back to fictional Haddonfield, Illinois, where the story takes place (Curtis will return for two more entries in the undying saga, “Halloween Kills,” due in 2020, and “Halloween Ends,” set for 2021).

I point out that one Tumblr page I discovered recently is called “Laurie Strode is gay!!!” (The site even features Pride Laurie Strode icons, with a cartoon Laurie in front of a rainbow backdrop.) Curtis tells me she hasn’t considered Laurie’s sexual identity at all. “No, no,” she says, firmly. Quickly moving on, she leads the conversation into a discussion about the sexuality of public figures, including her own.

“I don’t think it’s anybody’s business what people’s sexuality is, to be perfectly honest,” she says. “I find it like a reverse discrimination.”

Going beyond the scope of the question, she explains that, “People’s private lives are their private lives and whether I’ve ever kissed a girl – have not – is irrelevant to whatever advocacy I participate in.” Curtis thinks it’s “sort of destructive cocktail party fodder what people’s sexuality is,” but that ultimately it’s “nobody’s business, it doesn’t matter” – unless, she insists, “you legislate anti-gay legislation but are gay. I fully accept outing those people for the hypocrisy.”

Though not gay herself, Curtis has been a longtime LGBTQ ally since the AIDS epidemic hit close to home, claiming the lives of her good gay friend Rick Frank, whom she starred with in the early ’90s ABC sitcom “Anything But Love,” and his husband George Lowe, who both succumbed to complications from the virus and, she says, died one year apart.

“You don’t have to have your own experience in order to feel compassion and the need for justice and equality. In the LGBTQ world, certainly I have friends and family, but I don’t have to have the direct experience in order to feel the compassion that I truly feel for acceptance and equality in all areas.”

“Rick became, honestly, one of my best friends,” she says, warmly. “That experience with both Rick and George was a galvanizing moment for me, and I have tried to honor him more than anything with trying to keep that focus.”

Though her compassion for the LGBTQ community stems from Rick and George, Curtis’s ties to it go back even further, thanks to the passel of gay friends and colleagues surrounding her legendary mother, “Psycho” actress Janet Leigh (Curtis’s also-legendary father, Tony Curtis, star of early-drag romp “Some Like It Hot” and featured in “The Celluloid Closet,” was also noted for having close friendships with gay men).

“Her make-up artist was gay, the playwright that she did a play with was a great friend of our family who was gay,” she says. “I did not know any gay kids growing up, but I was propositioned in school once by a girl. I was at boarding school and I remember I rejected her advance and, you know, that didn’t go well. She made a point of making that an issue for me at school a little bit.”

But even as a straight woman, who has been married to “Best in Show” filmmaker Christopher Guest since 1984, “You don’t have to have your own experience in order to feel compassion and the need for justice and equality. In the LGBTQ world, certainly I have friends and family, but I don’t have to have the direct experience in order to feel the compassion that I truly feel for acceptance and equality in all areas.”

She has acted accordingly, participating in a variety of LGBTQ causes and projects. In 2012, alongside Brad Pitt and Martin Sheen, Curtis portrayed Sandy Stier, one of two women who went to the Supreme Court to defeat Prop 8,

See **Jamie Lee Curtis**, continued on p. 26

THEATRE & DANCE at WAYNE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Based on the story by Charles Dickens
Adapted by John Wolf and Tom Aulino

The beloved holiday spectacular returns for a final year at the historic Bonstelle Theatre!

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

December 4 to 15, 2019
Bonstelle Theatre

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

Photo by Chuk Nowak Photography



Miner's Den

JEWELERS

WWW.MINERSDEN.COM
(248)-585-6950

3417 ROCHESTER RD.
ROYAL OAK, MI



Make Her Wish Come True



► Jamie Lee Curtis

Continued from p. 25

in Dustin Lance Black's play "8." Four years later, in 2016, Curtis was one of many stars who shared stories of the people killed in the Orlando Pulse nightclub shooting for a Human Rights Campaign-produced video. And earlier this year, Curtis appeared in another video for the HRC's launch of the Americans for the Equality Act public awareness and advertising campaign.

Her LGBTQ advocacy will soon translate to screen, as Curtis has purchased the rights to author Sara Cunningham's self-published memoir "How We Sleep at Night." The book tells the journey of Cunningham, a Christian mother, as she learns to accept her gay son. Cunningham is now the executive director of "Free Mom Hugs," a non-profit offering LGBTQ outreach and support to LGBTQ youth, an organization she founded. As for the movie: "We're in the final script," Curtis told me, otherwise tight-lipped, "and then hopefully we will be making it next year."

On TV, she's also defended the LGBTQ population with her bare fist. Her role as Dean Cathy Munsch in Ryan Murphy's "Scream Queens" featured the actress in a politically charged moment, her character beating up an attacker dressed in a Justice Antonin Scalia mask. While Curtis throws a steady stream of punches at his face, she gives him a piece of her mind, insisting with fiery conviction that, "The homosexual lifestyle is *not* destructive to the fabric of American society!"

As for using her art as activism to spur social and political change, Curtis says, "I'm happy to represent whatever aspect of hope someone will take from anything I do, be it something I write, something I say, a part I played or, most importantly, the 'being Jamie' in the world. If that ends up being something that is helpful, that is then a reason to be alive; to be hurtful would be a tragedy for me. It would kill me to think that I've hurt someone with an action or

a word or a deed."

If you take away anything from "Knives Out," a feel-good murder mystery featuring Curtis as real-estate mogul, bullshit-calling Linda Drysdale-Thrombey, whose father Harlan (Christopher Plummer) is murdered at his 85th birthday bash, it's who the film's real gay icon is. Some on the internet have already given the title to Toni Collette's high-camp character Joni, the widowed step-sister to Linda and Walt (Michael Shannon), because she speaks in Valley Girl uptalk and owns a silly lifestyle and wellness brand called Flam, which, according to a branding video, is "more than a word, it's a way of living."

But Curtis wants to redefine the very broad qualifications of a gay icon, it seems – beginning with taking a good, hard look at why women with children fall into that category. (This would exclude, of course, famous moms like Madonna, Cher, Britney Spears, Judy Garland, Diana Ross, Barbra Streisand, Beyoncé and Mariah Carey.) "Why does Toni Collette's character have to be a gay icon?" Curtis objects. "I don't understand that. She's a heterosexual woman who has a child. She's not gay. Because she's flamboyant?"

Passionately speaking on the subject, Curtis posits that the true gay icon in "Knives Out" is Marta Cabrera (Ana de Armas), Harlan's devoted caregiver, "because she's kind."

"You see, embracing LGBTQ issues, the root of it is kindness," she explains. "Not clothing or lifestyle. The root of acceptance of a human being is kindness and the kindest person in 'Knives Out' is Marta Cabrera. I would hope what LGBTQ people focus on is whether someone is kind and loving and inclusive and expansive versus rigid, cold, judging and hateful, and that is, to me, the dividing line."

Gay icons of the world, Mama Jamie has her eyes on you.

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.



More Cash Back
2%
on gas, airlines,
hotels, & more



Receive 2% cash back on airlines, hotels, car rentals, gas, and more when you use your MSUFCU Visa Signature® Credit Card to book your holiday travel.

Traveling out of the country? Use your Visa Signature and pay zero international transaction fees.

Open your Visa Signature Credit Card today!
msufcu.org/visasignature

Cardholders will earn 2% on gas, travel (airlines, hotels, motels, resorts, taxi/limo, and car rental) and universities (when making tuition payments to MSU using a credit card, a service fee of 2.2% will be charged by the university) for every one U.S. dollar in eligible net purchases made on their Visa Signature Credit Cards, rounded to the nearest whole dollar. Cash back is not earned on tax payments, any unauthorized charges or transactions, cash advances, convenience checks, balance transfers, or fees of any kind. Account must be in good standing to redeem cash back. Returns result in the loss of cash back equal to amount returned. Negative cash back will be given if returns or credits exceed purchases. Certain restrictions, limitations, and exclusions apply. Visit msufcu.org/visasignature for full terms and conditions. Federally insured by NCUA.



We're making the holidays merry and bright! Reindeer visits, movie screenings, live concerts & much more!

Making Memories

HOLIDAY COLLECTIONS



BOOKS

Choose print, eBook, eAudio and more.



MOVIES

Check out a DVD or stream to any device.



MUSIC

Holiday tunes to play or stream.



Capital Area District Libraries

The magic starts at cadl.org/holiday.



Introducing the All New 2020 Subaru Outback and Legacy

2020 Subaru Outback



2020 Subaru Legacy



2845 East Saginaw St.,
Lansing, MI 48912



525 North Howard St.,
Lansing, MI 48912

517-484-1341 | www.williamsautoworld.com

We have a strong and committed sales staff with many years of experience satisfying our customers' needs. Our customers leave our dealership 100% satisfied with our excellent customer service and our friendly sales people. We carry a variety of used cars for you to choose from, all of which have gone through our detailed quality inspection before made available on the lot. We offer financing services so you can get into the new or used car you want without a problem. We have a full service repair and body shop so you can get the best care.

DAVID HARRIS, PH.D.
Fully Licensed Psychologist

Individual | Couples
Family Therapy



G.DAVID.HARRIS@COMCAST.NET

234 MICHIGAN AVENUE, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823

(517) 337-6545 X 232 | Fax: (517) 337-3010 | adjacent to MSU campus

Cool Cities Lansing

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ♦ YOUR MARKET

Pinpoint your ad dollars where they will do the most good . . .

Advertise in the next Cool Cities
TO PLACE AN AD CALL 734.293.7200

Hear Me Out: 6 Best Songs By Women in 2019



Tanya Tucker. Photo: Danny Clinch

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

'Bring My Flowers Now,' Tanya Tucker

Country music legend Tanya Tucker's elegiac coda from her first album in 10 years, "Bring My Flowers Now" off "While I'm Livin'," is a frank reflection of leaving this life, its imagery handled with a gentle hand in the song's music video. The video features Tucker riding atop a horse, two young girls flanking her and releasing flowers petals to the streets. They stop at one point, wave goodbye. On her journey, Tucker passes a smiling preacher and a man in a convertible. Finally, she comes to a halt to share a moment with the co-writer of "Flowers" and "While I'm Livin'" producer Brandi Carlile, who's playing the piano; the out singer-songwriter and the country icon relay a deep mutual respect through a simple tip of their hats and a warm, silent acknowledgement.

Then Tucker is on her way. The video is one of the year's best, its simplicity the perfect match for the small, heartbreakingly specific details in Tucker and Carlile's plaintive lyrics about Tucker's life and its message of living for those you love now. "Don't spend time, tears, or money on my ol' breathless body. If your heart is in them flowers, bring 'em on," she achingly sings. The years on Tucker's voice are as life-affirming as the song itself. And these – plus its recent Grammy nomination for Song of the Year – are her flowers. Lovingly, Carlile has brought them to her.

'Track Record,' Miranda Lambert

Even Miranda Lambert knows she's been a little busy with the boys. She mocks her floozy image with dry wit on "Track Record" from her new album "Wildcard," owning it and treating it as a shoulder-shrugging fact of her life rather than a rueful self-analysis. I'm obsessed with



what might be the Pun of the Year, as Lambert pokes fun at her ways with men, noting that her past is "as checkered as the floor at the diner on Main Street." She even makes time for a casual dig, namelessly calling out past exes, the "user" and the "loser." Sonically, there are traces of The War on Drugs in "Track Record," matching the indie rock band's signature sound with its hypnotic '70s-rock-style torrent of glistening guitars and chugging drums. When Lambert sings, "Girls like me don't mean it but we don't know better, I got a track record," you really do have to wonder: Is this the Grindr anthem we've all been waiting for?

'Love You For Free,' Cynthia Erivo

If church every day was Cynthia Erivo singing "Love You For Free," my hands would be folded and I'd be at that pew right now. The Broadway star's sparse, inviting almost prayer of a song is about unconditional love, its warmth radiating through her angelic approach to its gentle, dreamy stride and twinkling sound. The song is among over 30 originals recorded for "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" creator John Cameron Mitchell's 10-episode "Anthem: Homunculus," an alt-autobiography he produced for the Luminary podcast app. Its central character is Ceann Mackay (voiced by Mitchell), whose brain tumor is essentially collective Catholic guilt and shame. Erivo plays Joan the Bishop, the mother of his child. The singer's greatest contribution, and perhaps the greatest from any of the podcast's performers, Patti LuPone and Glenn Close among them, is "Love You For Free." For the world's outcasts, queers and others who have felt rejected by any church, hearing Erivo sing,

"In this world, my child, you have a place," is like falling into arms that won't let you go.

'Cornelia Street,' Taylor Swift

The lyrical cornerstone of Taylor Swift's "Lover" album, "Cornelia Street" shares some DNA with tender story-song "All Too Well," off her 2012 "Red" release. Both summon images with the striking vividness of a photograph. The latter happens to be one of Swift's best written songs – and now so is "Cornelia Street." The sole writer of the song, Swift is confronting the fear of potential romantic loss, setting the scene over gentle, rolling synths like a movie whose image shifts aspect ratios. She's riding in the backseat with her man, Londoner Joe Alwyn, drunk in love, maybe, but definitely drunk on "something stronger than the drinks in the bar." She's afraid of losing him. This is serious. The song rolls on like the car she's singing about, accelerating at the chorus, a flood of sound pouring in; there are car-door and wiper-blade sound effects tucked into Jack Antonoff's production, which also includes a heartfelt piano break. "Cornelia Street" is like going back to a good book. You discover something new and wonderful every time.

'Bible and a .44,' Trisha Yearwood

Trisha Yearwood turns words on a page into country-music magic, but the singer is at her best when those words tell a story as rich as the one CMA Best New Artist Ashley McBryde wrote for "Bible and a .44." Yearwood's finest moment on her latest album, "Every Girl," is this weepy, which illustrates the lessons a father has passed down to his child. Made personal by the death of Yearwood's own dad in 2005, the singer fondly remembers what he looked like ("hair as white as a cottonfield") and what he taught her (to be perceptive, to love the Lord, to "take what you've got and do the best you can"). The guitar softening to a whisper, she reflects

on seeing him strumming "this thing," which "he left it to me like he said he would." Before the final chorus, Yearwood reminds us, her warm, no-frills vocals accompanied by Patty Loveless's soulful harmonies and ad-libs, of how certain things become our most prized possessions: "And if you ask me why it sounds so good, it's 'cause I'm holdin' onto more than strings and wood."

'Higher Love,' Whitney Houston and Kygo

When Whitney Houston's unreleased cover of Steve Winwood's 1986 hit "Higher Love" was released during June Pride Month, I made my gay friends listen to it any way I could. Of



note was the time this past summer when I flung open my car doors and cranked this one up, the song's divinity thumping in a public parking lot. Not only did my closest friends hear, but so did many lucky passersby. I was doing them a favor that day because Whitney's never-before-released-in-America cover, originally recorded during her "I'm Your Baby Tonight" sessions and reimagined as a club banger thanks to Norwegian DJ Kygo, is gay dance heaven. She sounds incredible, and Kygo enlivens the song at every turn, taking it beyond its very '80s origins and into timeless soul-revival territory. This is exactly the Whitney I want to remember.

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.



‘Golden Girls Christmas’ a Fun Holiday Hit

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Unauthorized drag parodies of “The Golden Girls” have become something of a boom market in recent years. Right now, various versions are in production in major cities across the country and even Off-Broadway. Metro Detroit’s own version, “A Very Drag Golden Girls Christmas,” is at The Ringwald in Ferndale through Dec. 16.

I was first introduced to the “Golden Girls” drag parody phenomenon this summer on a visit to Chicago. There I saw “The Golden Girls: The Lost Episodes” in the Mary’s Attic theater above Hamburger Mary’s. That production featured two completely new episodes of the show written by David Cerda – who starred in the production as Dorothy – and based on the original characters and premise.

In the Ringwald production, Dyan Bailey and Christopher Kamm have taken favorite lines from easily 100 episodes and reworked them into a script with the overarching themes from three episodes – the only two Christmas episodes in the seven seasons of “The Golden Girls” and the one where Sophia marries her old friend Max. The show even features ensemble appearances by some of the show’s favorite guest characters including Stanley Zbornak, Aunt Angela, Uncle Angelo, Max, Coco the chef, flamboyant wedding planning Mark, author Barbara Thorndyke and nagging neighbor Carol Weston.

If it all sounds a little convoluted perhaps that’s because at times it is, but if you’re a real “Golden Girls” lover you’ll be delighted by the familiarity of your favorite episodes reworked into a big ol’ bowl of “Golden Girls” soup. Laughter rang out frequently through the small Ringwald, and the audience I saw the

show with on Sunday evening was enthusiastic in their praise.

The cast — Andy Fillmore as Dorothy, Christopher Kamm as Sophia, Richard Payton as Blanche and Brandy Joe Plambeck as Rose — is all strong. But I’d be remiss if I didn’t single out Payton. Payton had Blanche’s sizzling sensuality and Southern drawl down perfectly and was just a little more animated than the others. However, every cast member was very true to character, and the guest appearances were rib ticklers.

I should probably, for the sake of transparency, let you know that “The Golden Girls” is my favorite sitcom of all time. If it’s yours, too, you’ll want to check this fun production out. It’s clever, witty and even just a little bit naughty. And it’s a fun way to revisit the beloved show and be taken back to a seemingly simpler time in television and life.

For more information on “A Very Golden Girls Christmas” or to purchase tickets, visit theringwald.com.

REVIEW

A Very Golden Girls Christmas

The Ringwald

Now through Dec. 16 (Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays at 8 p.m., Sunday at 5 p.m.)

THEATRE & DANCE at WAYNE presents

DECEMBER DANCE CONCERT

Two performances only!

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

December 7 and 8, 2019
Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts

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

Photo by Scott Lipiec

YOU CAN BE GAY AND CATHOLIC

Join your GLBTQI family for Mass - every Sunday at 6 PM at the still open and still welcoming Marygrove Campus and Chapel Six Mile and Wyoming in Detroit

Dignity Detroit
www.dignitydetroit.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

I	R	M	A		R	A	F	F		L	O	S	S	
S	W	A	B	S		U	C	L	A		O	R	E	L
W	A	S	H	I	N	G	T	O	N		R	I	P	A
E	N	C	O	D	E	S		A	N	T	I	G	A	Y
A	D	O	R	E	S		T	I	E		I	R	E	
R	A	T		M	T	M		S	E	M	I	N	A	R
			P	A	E	A	N				O	A	T	S
	S	E	A	N	D	O	O	L	I	T	T	L	E	
S	E	A	L				G	E	N	O	A			
T	A	R	M	A	C	S		S	S	N		A	S	A
A	F	L		P	L	O			A	I	S	L	E	S
R	A	I	N	B	O	W		A	N	G	E	L	E	S
T	R	E	Y		W	H	I	T	E	H	O	U	S	E
L	E	S		N	A	T	O			T	U	R	I	N
E	R	T	E		S	T	E	P			L	E	N	T

PUZZLE P. 33



Happenings

TAYLOR MAC'S 'HOLIDAY SAUCE' DEC. 14, 15

Taylor Mac is a playwright, actor, singer-songwriter, director, producer and performance artist whose work has earned him the National Medal of Arts, made him a Pulitzer Prize Finalist for drama and much more. This December he returns to Ann Arbor with two performances of "Holiday Sauce," which look at the dysfunction of the holiday season. Find out more online at ums.org.

OUTINGS

Saturday, November 30

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

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

A Very Golden Girls Christmas 8 p.m. This unauthorized parody by Dyan Bailey and Christopher Kamm is sure to get you in the holiday spirit. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale.

248-545-5545. theringwald.com.

Sunday, December 1

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4 p.m. Free. For parent support group information contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St., Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. standwithtrans.org.

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

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.

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups - Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 p.m. Free and open to the community. For trans youth support group information, contact facilitator Socorro Sevilla, MSW: socorro@hilltopcounseling.org Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. standwithtrans.org. hilltopcounseling.org.

Monday, December 2

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

Tuesday, December 3

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups - Lake Orion / Oakland County 7 p.m. Parent support group facilitated by Lisa Goyette, ally, activist. St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663. stmarysinthehills.org. 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. 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, 2316 S Cedar, Lansing. 517-887-4597. cwheeler@ingham.org. ingham.org.

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. Come and meet other trans* youth and teens and support each other through your journeys. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700. chippewavalley.schools.org.

Tuesday, December 10

Foster Care and Adoption Orientation 6 p.m. Join us for an informational orientation to learn how you can become

Editor's Pick

XAVIER OMAR ST. ANDREW'S HALL ON DEC. 11

Formerly known as SPZRKT (pronounced Spazzy Rocket), Xavier Omar's soulful blend of R&B and hip-hop beats got the attention of producer Sango and the Soulection collective two years ago and brought him into the public eye. Now, catch him at The Shelter at St. Andrew's Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. Find out more online at saintandrewsdetroit.com.



Editor's Pick

TIFFANY AT ULTIMATE '80S PARTY AT ST. ANDREW'S HALL



On Friday, Dec. 13, fans of all things '80s should gear up to celebrate the highlights of that era with pop icon Tiffany. Doors open at 8 p.m. for this all-ages show. Find out more online at saintandrewsdetroit.com.

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. orchards.org.

Wednesday, December 11

Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genessee 6:30 p.m. Free to all, Trans Youth Support Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month @ Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint. Facilitator Sara Griffin, MA, LPC is a psychotherapist and a parent of a transgender son, eiregriff@aol.com. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023. uuf Flint.org. standwithtrans.org.

Saturday, December 14

Taylor Mac's Holiday Sauce 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 St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. smt.d.umich.edu. ums.org.

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. dawnfarmeducation.org.

Wednesday, December 18

Transgender Support Group – Westland 6 p.m. Free adult support group held on the third Wednesday of each month at the Westland Public Library Meeting Room B, 7 to 8:30 p.m. All trans, non-binary, and GNC people and allies welcome. Westland Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. 734-326-6123. westlandlibrary.org

MUSIC & MORE

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

2019 Holiday Show December 5, 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! Epiphany Studios, 770 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. 248-745-3786. 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. ums.org.

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. This event stars Faye Bradford, Nina Simone, Chelly K and Sky Covington Tangent Gallery, 715 East Milwaukee Ave., Detroit. 248-445-1277. nicolefreemanmanagement@gmail.com.

Shaku Kanneh-Mason, cello December 10, 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. rackham.umich.edu. ums.org.

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting December 12, 7 p.m. LGBTQ Toastmaster Club focusing on Professional and personal communication skills development. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. lawrencemoeb@gmail.com. speakout.toastmastersclubs.org.

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. kay@youristpottery.com. youristpottery.com.

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. Tickets start at \$29. Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611. gaybe.am/wN.

THEATER

Hello, Dolly! November 30, 2 p.m. Winner of four Tony Awards including Best Musical Revival, "Hello, Dolly!" is the universally acclaimed smash that NPR calls "the best show of the year!" and the Los Angeles Times says "distills the mood-elevating properties of the American musical. Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com.

Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Souffle November 30, 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 Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. 734-433-7673. purplerosetheatre.org.

A Very Golden Girls Christmas November 30, 8 p.m. This unauthorized parody by Dyan Bailey and Christopher Kamm is sure to get you in the holiday spirit. The Ringwald Theatre, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. 248-545-5545. theringwald.com.

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. Now renowned for his philanthropy, generous spirit and selflessness, his heart yearns to continue spreading joy. The Marlene Boll Theatre, 1401 Broadway, Detroit. tasiopeg@udmercy.edu. detroitmercyarts.com.

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 St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. smt.d.umich.edu. ums.org.

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. Each performance features plays of varying lengths. A2CT Studio Theatre, 322 W. Ann St., Ann Arbor. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org.

Hookups = SQUIRT .org



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

Dec. 06th
8PM-4AM

BODY ZONE
1617 East McNichols
Detroit

Dec. 14th
8PM-2AM

THE DIPLOMAT CLUB
2324 Division Ave S
Grand Rapids

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

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

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



Frivolist

6 Reasons to Eat Out This Year For Your Holiday Suppers

BY MIKEY ROX

Spending time with family stuffing your face is grand – until it isn't. Ditch the drama this holiday season and eat out for a happier holiday.

1. It's hard to overeat

I've never been one to pile my plate high with turkey and sides. I'm one of those who can't have his food touch lest you want me to gag while you're happily masticating. But I have housed an entire sweet potato pie in one sitting because it was first time tasting it – and *Oh. My. God.* That's not my norm though. Considering my aversion to neighboring foodstuffs comingling, I can fit about three items on my plate, maybe have a second helping of turkey, and call it an afternoon.

It's hard to overeat at a holiday meal at a nice restaurant, too. Usually there's a preset menu that includes the holiday staples, and when it's gone it's gone. Of course, all bets are off if you're setting up shop at a holiday buffet. I've done that a couple times and required a handcart to carry me out.

2. It's something different

If you always spend your holiday dinner at the same house, switch it up this year. Changing a routine every now and again is refreshing, and dining out for Thanksgiving or Christmas is an easy way to do it. Plenty of chain and local restaurants are open for dinner on those days, either with special seasonal menus or their regular fare.

3. It's far less expensive – if you're the one who usually cooks

I haven't spent less than \$200 on a Thanksgiving meal that I've prepared for family and friends in the past. Mains, sides and their respective (and exhaustive) list of ingredients, plus drinks (soft and hard), ice and desserts will set you back. Guests usually will bring dishes of

their own, but you can never count on that, so it's best to be prepared. There are a fair amount of leftovers, but that's just a parting gift I like to offer. Good to have new plastic containers around that guests can take home and never return because you know they're not going to anyway.

4. Everybody acts like normal people in public – hopefully

Racists grandpas, criticizing moms, creepy uncles and badass cousins can turn docile family dinners into a WWE smack down, but people tend to mind their behavior when seated at a restaurant. Your uppity sister and brother-in-law will probably let their kids run wild, but that's nothing a sweeping foot can't solve.

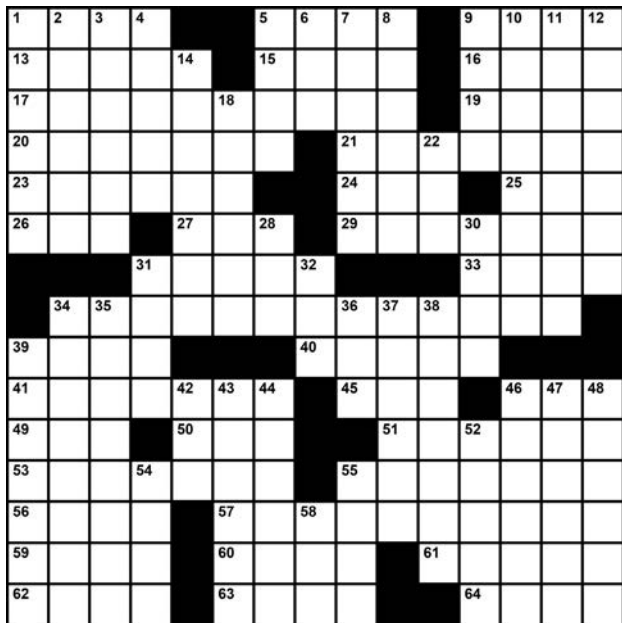
5. There's no cleanup

Washing a kitchen full of dirty dishes after a holiday meal is a *chore*, even when you have help. Skip that step and tip the restaurant bussers instead. They deserve a kickback the same as your server, and your kitchen gets to stay fully intact.

6. Everybody departs after dinner – and you're free at last

Guests linger after a family dinner, but even if you get along with them it can be an annoyance when all you want to do is open your parts, have a fart and nap on the couch. That dream can come true for your this year. Pay the restaurant bill, say your goodbyes and go your separate ways until the next family reunion or funeral.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He spends his time writing from the beach with his dog Jaxon. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyroxtravels.



31 Hymn to a Greek god
 33 Mouthful for a stallion
 34 Pitcher for the World Series Champions Nationals
 39 Big top barker
 40 Type of salami you can put in your hero
 41 Airport areas
 45 1040 ID
 46 Nutty ___ fruitcake
 49 Old org. of tight ends
 50 Gaza Stripper assn.
 51 Bridal paths
 53 Type of flag that 34-Across has worn on his cleats
 55 Part of L.A.
 56 Parker of "South Park"
 57 Where 34-Across refused to go because of homophobe Trump
 59 "Not that I loved Caesar ____"
 60 Western defense gp.
 61 Shroud site
 62 "Ziegfeld Follies" costume designer
 63 Brady Bunch prefix
 64 Fasting time

6 ___ UP
 7 Gay pride parade vehicles
 8 "Fried Green Tomatoes" writer
 9 Petty of "Orange Is the New Black"
 10 Copy source
 11 Split
 12 Buffy, and others
 14 Band member
 18 Placed one inside another
 22 Word after pro
 28 Warhol subject
 30 Tiny amount
 31 You might get dates from it
 32 Yule drink
 34 Pirate, for one
 35 At the crack of dawn, maybe
 36 ___ Miz_
 37 Out of whack, off, etc.
 38 _West Side Story_ tune
 39 Scare the pants off of
 42 NYPD notice
 43 "Send in the ___"
 44 "Big deal!"
 46 Sexy quality
 47 Greets and seats
 48 Thumbs-up
 52 Asian capital
 54 NASDAQ rival
 55 Straddling
 58 Sodom suffix

He Does a Lot

Q Puzzle

Across

1 Shirley MacLaine's la Douce role
 5 Rabble, for short
 9 Bad bottom-line news
 13 Cleans, as a pirate ship deck
 15 NCAA home of the Bruins
 16 Baseball great Hersheriser
 17 Home of the Nationals, team of
 34-Across

19 Big name in TV talk
 20 Scrambles, perhaps
 21 34-Across spoke out against this type of slur
 23 Is nuts over
 24 Reason for extra innings
 25 Land of O. Wilde
 26 Informer
 27 "Rhoda" production co.
 29 College setting

Down

1 "Hell's bells!"
 2 Kigali's land
 3 Maddie, to the New York Liberty
 4 Can't bear
 5 Toupees, e.g.

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


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

WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG


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

 HIV Testing
 PrEP Assessment
 Insurance & Payment Guidance.
 PrEP Education


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


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

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



CAGE FREE 24 / 7

BOARDING IN COMFORT

HAPPY HOUNDS

Day & Overnight Care!



FOR DOGS

WHO DON'T LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE ANIMALS

GROOMING
pet care extraordinaire
BOARDING

A SECOND HOME FOR YOUR FURRY FRIEND
1 ACCOMMODATIONS





Happy Hounds®

Dog Day Care & Lodging

24/HR SUPERVISION

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

673 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan

LIONS PRIDE PACKAGE



VS



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





FERNDALE, MICHIGAN – FACILITATES DIRECTOR



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.

Community Connections

Friendsgiving at Lansing's Salus Center

BY BTL STAFF

The Salus Center is an LGBTQ community center based in Lansing that focuses on centering queer voices and providing a safe space for them as well. On Sunday, Dec. 1, the center will be holding its own Friendsgiving celebration in honor of "community, friendship and gratitude." Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share.

"Please bring a complete ingredient list for dishes you bring to pass, including spices used. This will help folks with dietary restrictions make informed choices! Current known dietary restrictions to be aware of: peppercorn allergy,

vegan, gluten allergy, peanuts," organizers wrote. "This space is wheelchair accessible, has an all-gender restroom on site, and children are welcome."

The day's schedule starts at 3 p.m.:
3 - 3:30 p.m. Appetizers, Games, & Mingling's
3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Sharing a Meal and Creating our Ancestor Wall
5:30 - 6 p.m. Clearing Up and Closing
6 - 7 p.m. Facilitated Group Discussion

Visit the Salus Center's Facebook page to sign up to bring food and pre-register. The Salus Center is located at 408 S. Washington Square in Lansing.

Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist Signs First Bill as Acting Governor, Makes Michigan History

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING - Lt. Gov. Gilchrist, in his role as acting governor, signed House Bill 4044, which passed with strong bipartisan support. With the bill signing, Lt. Governor Gilchrist becomes the first black lieutenant governor to sign a bill into law in our state's history.

"As the first black lieutenant governor to sign a bill into law, today's historic action symbolizes the opportunity that exists when we create a space for more participation from a more diverse set of voices and experiences," Gilchrist said. "Gov. Whitmer and I built the most diverse administration in our state's history because we believe that our practices, policies and proposals should reflect and enable Michiganders from all backgrounds to be successful."

The signed legislation will reverse the lifelong ban on felons who submit applications for insurance producer licenses by allowing the Department of Insurance and Financial Services to issue those licenses to individuals who have not been convicted of a felony in the last 10 years.

While many applicants with prior felonies will be granted an insurance producer license,



the new law will still provide exemptions for people with violence-, fiduciary- or financially related crimes.

Under current law, the State of Michigan does not grant insurance licenses to individuals with felony convictions. As a result, the State denied 61 applications due to prior felony convictions in 2018.

Lt. Governor Gilchrist is serving as the acting governor due to Gov. Whitmer's overseas business trip to Israel to strengthen relationships and build business ties with startups and mobility companies. House Bill 4044, sponsored by State Rep. Michele Hoitenga, will take immediate effect.

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



LOVE
Wins

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

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

Between THE Lines™

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

Your Best Choice in Healthcare For All the Right Reasons

Dr. Paul Benson's

Be Well
Medical Center

1964 Eleven Mile Rd
Berkley, MI 40872

(248) 544-9300

doctorbewell.com



Most Experienced and Knowledgeable

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

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

by Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Center of Excellence.

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

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

Extensive Network of Sensitive Specialists

with an ongoing relationship to refer as necessary.

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

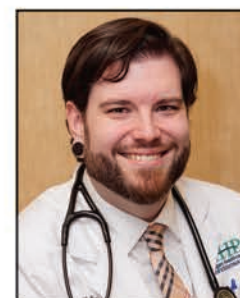
He leads our team of professional and talented Providers:



Caleb Youngblood, PA-C, AAHIV-S



Mark Rosen, PA-C



Leon Bullough, NP-F



Keyuna Nance, MSW

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!)