

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



**Conversion Therapy is Violating
Michigan's Consumer
Protection Law**

**Fairness for All Act Seeks
Middle Ground on LGBTQ Rights**



'THE L WORD'

RETURNS FOR A

NEW GENERATION



**Star Jennifer Beals on Returning
to the Series, Diversifying the
Revival and Being the 'Most
Square' Cast Member**

kresge
artist
fellowships

APPLY BY JAN 16

\$25,000 AWARDS
IN LIVE ARTS AND FILM & MUSIC
FOR METRO DETROIT ARTISTS

FOR MORE INFO AND TO RSVP FOR AN INFO
SESSION, VISIT KRESGEARTSINDETROIT.ORG

KRESGE ARTS IN DETROIT

ENGAGED in the LGBTQ+ Community,
COMMITTED to inclusion,
EMPOWERING philanthropy

For 25 years, **The HOPE Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan** has proudly supported organizations and projects that are creating permanent, positive change for LGBTQ+ communities in our region.

Visit CFSEM.org/HOPE to learn more about our impact and make a donation to support local LGBTQ+ communities.

The HOPE Fund
of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan

43RD ANN ARBOR

**FOLK
FEST
2020**

PRESENTED BY FORD MOTOR COMPANY FUND

FRI JAN 31 & SAT FEB 1
6:30 PM · HILL AUDITORIUM

FINDYOURFOLK.ORG

A FUNDRAISER FOR
The Ark
where music lives

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

IN PERSON:
AT THE MICHIGAN UNION
TICKET OFFICE
& THE ARK BOX OFFICE

BY PHONE:
734-763-TKTS

ONLINE:
THEARK.ORG

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE
SEE LINEUP DETAILS AT THEARK.ORG

CALEXICO + IRON & WINE

NATHANIEL RATELIFF SOLIS

INGRID MICHAELSON

MANDOLIN ORANGE

THE LONE BELLOW · BETTYE LAVETTE

CEDRIC BURNSIDE · JOHN MORELAND

RAINBOW GIRLS · MOLLY TUTTLE

ELLIOTT BROOD · COLD TONE HARVEST

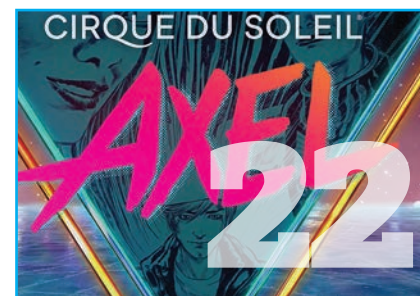
WILLY PORTER EMCEE

ANN ARBOR CARPETS FLOORING AMERICA

IVERS, RICKELMANN & PETERSEN CPAs

NO THAI!

RUTH BARDENSTEIN AND JIM ROLL



16 COVER: 'THE L WORD' RETURNS FOR A NEW GENERATIONS

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

Copyright 2019

www.PrideSource.com

NEWS

4 Conversion Therapy in Michigan: A Violation of Consumer Protection Law

5 Erin Knott on Banning Conversion Therapy in Michigan: Educate, Legislate, Litigate

8 Holland to Reconsider Anti-Discrimination Ordinance

8 Cool Yule Detroit Together Men's Chorus Holiday Concert

8 WC Safe to Host 2nd Annual Poetic Justice Event to Help Sexual Assault Survivors Heal

9 Affirmations Passes \$750K 2020 Budget

12 Fairness for All Act Seeks Middle Ground on LGBTQ Rights

14 Utah to Become 19th State to Ban Conversion Therapy

15 Fauci to Congress: Help Us Implement Plan to End HIV

OPINION

10 Parting Glances

10 Transmissions: The Trans Body

11 Creep of the Week: Scott Lively

LIFE

16 Jennifer Beals Walks the Walk, Hikes the Hike

20 Mombian: Holiday Gift Guide to LGBTQ Children's Books

22 Happenings

25 Puzzle

25 Frivolist: 5 Ways Your Upbringing Influences Your Money Mindset

26 Community Resources

VOL. 2750 • DEC. 12, 2019

ISSUE 1136

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 Witkowsky,
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

Conversion Therapy in Michigan: A Violation of Consumer Protection Law

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

A Legislative Dead End

Discredited by every mainstream mental health and medical organization in the nation, so-called conversion therapy has long been condemned as not only ineffective but harmful. There is little point in engaging in debate as to the efficacy of the practice, just as reputable media outlets have ceased allowing airtime and column inches to those who would deny the existence of climate change. Beginning with California's ban in 2012, conversion therapy has been outlawed in 18 states and the District of Columbia as well as numerous counties and cities: Huntington Woods, East Lansing, Ferndale and Berkley among them; Oakland County instituted a ban very recently as well. However, conversion therapy, the pseudoscientific treatment in which a counselor or coach of some kind attempts to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, remains legal in the state of Michigan.

Numerous attempts to ban conversion therapy have been made by state legislators. Former Rep. Adam Zemke (D-Ann Arbor) introduced legislation in 2014, 2016 and 2018; Sen. Mallory McMorrow (D-Royal Oak) and Rep. Yousef Rabhi (D-Ann Arbor) followed suit this April. The current bills would amend Michigan's mental health code to prohibit a mental health professional from engaging in conversion therapy with a minor. Violating the law would result in "disciplinary action and licensing sanctions for unprofessional conduct."

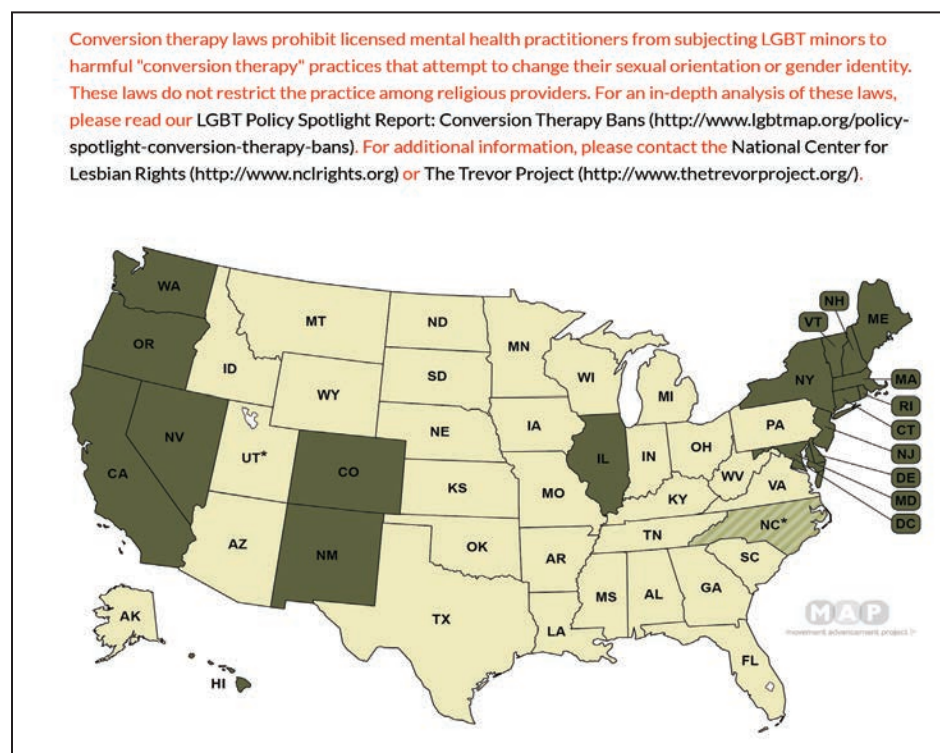
The current bills, as was the case with previous ones, will almost certainly not get a committee hearing, much less a full floor vote, while Republicans hold the majority.

The Promise of Litigation

Because attempts to end conversion therapy through legislation have as yet reached a dead end, litigation could be another strategy to tackle it in Michigan — though admittedly it would not ban the practice outright. Those harmed by conversion therapy may have a viable claim to make with the Consumer Protection Bureau. Because it amounts to "sham" medicine, a practitioner or business could be in violation of the Michigan Consumer Protection Act. Consumer fraud lawsuits need only prove the "product" doesn't work as advertised, not that it is unethical. Further, the targets of this tactic would not be limited to licensed therapists. And a claim could be made on behalf of any



Therapy aimed at changing an individual's sexual orientation or transgender status is considered ineffectual at best and harmful at worst. Major medical and psychological institutions — including the American Psychological Association, the World Health Organization, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics — widely reject the practice.



victim — minor or adult. By the same token, conversion therapy businesses could be sued merely for advertising their false claims.

In response to a recent email inquiry, the Michigan Consumer Protection Bureau replied that conversion therapy may violate one or more provisions of MCL 445.903, depending on exactly what they are doing and how it is being marketed:

- Causing a probability of confusion or misunderstanding as to the source, sponsorship,

approval, or certification of the services. (1)(a)

- Representing that a service has certain benefits or qualities that it doesn't have. (1)(c)

- Failing to reveal a material fact, the omission of which tends to mislead or deceive the consumer, and the fact could not be reasonably be known by the consumer. (1)(s)

- Making a representation of fact or statement of fact material to the transaction such that a

person reasonably believed the represented or suggested state of affairs to be other than it actually is. (1)(bb)

- Failing to reveal facts that are material to the transaction in light of representations of fact made in a positive manner. (1)(cc)

Consumer fraud lawsuits against conversion therapy have been tried with success in other states: one in New Jersey and another in California in which a settlement was reached.

A Legal Expert Weighs In

Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan, agrees that conversion therapy could amount to consumer fraud.

"I certainly think if they're taking money from people for a service ... with the expectation that they're going to get the results that have been promised, I think that is something involving consumers and consumer protection, particularly if what they're saying is false," Kaplan said.

"What this really is — people are, organizations are, entitled to commercial speech, but that commercial speech can't be false. And particularly if you're alleging specific results from your conversion therapy program, that ... can't be scientifically verified, or making certain types of verbal guarantees without being able to back that up, it's problematic."

Lately, however, anti-LGBTQ groups have argued that LGBTQ rights amount to an infringement of their own civil liberties. A situation arose in New York City in September where, much to their regret, city council felt compelled to repeal their ban on conversion therapy because the Alliance Defending Freedom threatened to sue: they claimed the ban violated their freedom of religion and freedom of speech. Because the Alliance has a history of its cases being elevated to the U.S. Supreme Court, which has a conservative majority, and due to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd District also having been stacked with conservative judges under the current presidential administration, the council made what they called a "painful" decision. An unfavorable SCOTUS ruling could put every ban in the country at risk. Fortunately, the citywide ban had largely duplicated the statewide one so city residents remain protected.

"There will be arguments that one does have freedom of speech to offer their opinions about things including what it means to be LGBT and whether or not they have an opinion that one's

See **MI Conversion Therapy**, continued on p. 14

Erin Knott on Banning Conversion Therapy in Michigan: Educate, Legislate, Litigate

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Conversion Therapy Equals Junk Science

"I think absolutely conversion therapy should be regarded as consumer fraud," said Erin Knott, executive director of Equality Michigan.



Erin Knott, executive director of Equality Michigan.

Medical professionals all across the United States have highlighted that this is junk science, that it doesn't help kids or adults; it harms them.

I think that litigation might be helpful in going after some of the worst practitioners of this

junk science, but young people need clear and comprehensive legislative protection to ensure that they're not in harm's way."

Two years ago, Equality Michigan urged Attorney General Bill Schuette to halt and investigate the conversion therapy workshops hosted by Metro City Church and to take legal action. He did not.

"So there is some precedent, but we need to make sure ... that there's a legislative path forward so that these protections are in place," Knott said.

And once those laws are in place, freedom of religion claims cannot credibly be made as a defense, Knott said.

"This isn't about religion or about people's faith ... but ensuring that people are protected from this dangerous practice," Knott said. "State laws that ban licensed professionals from practicing therapy have been challenged on religious grounds, just as freedom of speech and religion have been challenged, but these lawsuits have been dismissed and the laws have been upheld."

Knott hastened to add that, "In Michigan, as you're aware, there's the support of honest and accredited mental health professionals along with the love and acceptance of faith leaders ... including strong Christian pastors that have come out and condemned the practice of conversion therapy, and I just don't want that to get lost."

What About the Republicans?

In terms of the likelihood of banning conversion therapy in a state legislature dominated by Republicans, Knott sounded

optimistic but pragmatic.

"There has been bipartisan support for banning conversion therapy across the country," Knott said. "Republican governors have signed bills banning conversion therapy. And Gov. Herbert of Utah recently announced that his administration, with the support of religious leaders — again, I'm talking about Utah — would be banning the practice of conversion therapy by licensed practitioners, on minors," she said, in regard to a ban scheduled to go into effect in January, making Utah the 19th state to ban the practice. (See page 14.)

"At Equality Michigan, we need to be in coalition with mental health professionals as well as religious leaders that believe that this practice is harmful and isn't rooted in evidence-based science," Knott said. "And we need to educate lawmakers about what's at stake and then continue the public education campaign on why this practice is deeply, deeply harmful for our community."

However, it was pointed out that conversion therapy has been introduced in the Michigan state legislature for four years without a single committee hearing. Knott had a few words for those who would stand in the way of policy meaningful to the LGBTQ community.

"I think whether we're talking about conversion therapy or amending Elliott-Larsen, or a handful of other pro-equality potential pieces of policy or legislation, we know that more and more Republicans are joining us and are on our side. The polling shows that the majority of Michiganders oppose discriminatory practices against our community. I think it's possible that we could have favorable votes in both the House and the Senate if we had hearings and if we had the opportunity for an up or down floor vote. This is good policy. It would be good for lawmakers who took this up; it's something that Equality Michigan is working on with key partners all across state the and ... elections have consequences."

2020 and the Big Picture

"We're going into 2020," Knott said. "And I think we need to be using issues like conversion therapy in talking to constituencies that don't necessarily turn out and vote. We know that there are approximately 65,000 LGBTQ Michiganders that aren't registered to vote. And there's a huge opportunity of reaching out to these folks and educating them. ... We've got to get these folks engaged in our democracy. We've got to register them, we've got to educate them, we've got to mobilize them to the polls. Civic engagement really should be a year-round activity. We need to be harnessing the people power of our community and talking under the framework of what's at stake."

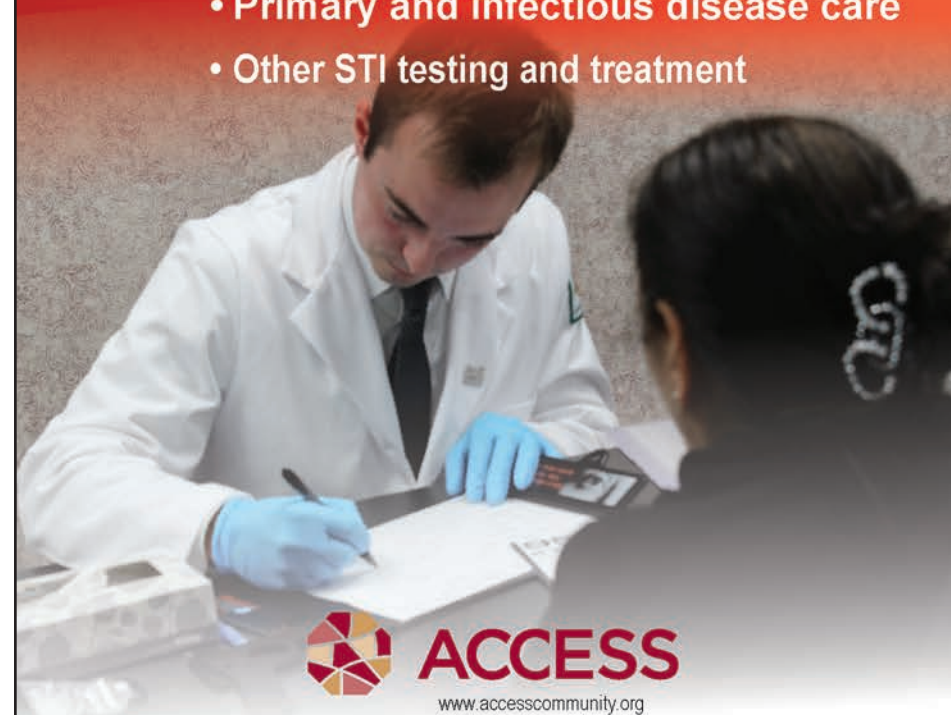


**SEXUALLY
TRANSMITTED
INFECTIONS**
Treatment and Prevention

**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



 **ACCESS**
www.accesscommunity.org

Sterling Heights Center

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

Part of the MetroCare Coordination Network

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. BYYC0103 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.biktarvy.com).

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

GILEAD

Holland to Reconsider Anti-Discrimination Ordinance

BY JIM LARKIN

The new Holland city council is likely to soon discuss new ordinance language that would protect LGBTQ residents from discrimination, and this time around there is a greater chance it will pass.

New Mayor Nathan Bocks said the city council will probably bring up such an ordinance when it meets in January for its annual priority-setting session. He added that he expects the council to direct the city staff and legal counsel to begin working on ordinance language for the council for review.

“With a new makeup of council I believe there is a greater likelihood of passage of changes in Holland’s non-discrimination ordinance related to LGBTQ+ protections,” said Bocks, who defeated incumbent Mayor Nancy DeBoer in the November election. “I am as supportive of LGBTQ+ protections as I was during the campaign and I will make the issue one of my top priorities at the (priority-setting meeting) and moving forward.”

Bocks was one of five council members who were elected in November after vowing support for anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ residents. Also elected were incumbents Jay Peters and David Hoekstra and new council members Lyn Raymond and Nicki Arendshorst. Being defeated were DeBoer and council challenger Vicky-Lynn Holmes, who campaigned together and wouldn’t support LGBT protections.

“I do get the sense that since the recent election, there is renewed interest in revisiting our ordinance that impact Holland’s LGBTQ community,” Peters said. “With 1/3 of the council new to their positions, we will need to have a collective discussion on where we have been on the matter, where we are now and where we want to go as city leaders.”

“It is my hope the upcoming annual retreat in January will provide an opportunity for the discussion and produce a consensus on any next steps.”

The Holland City Council in 2011 voted 5-4 in opposition to adding LGBTQ residents to those protected by the city’s anti-discrimination ordinance. Now, however, as many as six council members are in favor of taking such a step.

“I have talked to many people in the community and the consensus seems to be that not only do we want to move forward with new ordinance language, we want to make sure that it is done correctly so it receives the appropriate amount of community input and that a new ordinance will survive a legal challenge,” Bocks said.

Detroit Together Men’s Chorus Holiday Concert

BY BTL STAFF

The Detroit Together Men’s Chorus was founded in 1982 and since then has been performing music around the Metro Detroit area. One of the first gay choruses in the nation, its mission has been the same since it started: “Contribute to, and transform our community through music.” Now, on Sunday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. longtime fans and those new to DTMC can see them live at a holiday show at the Affirmations LGBTQ community center in Ferndale.

“Christmas is the time for family, fun and memories! Join DTMC in our journey about everything that makes the yule cooler,” write event organizers. “We’ll have a few goodies to nosh on, too, because as the song says, ‘Christmas Is Delicious.’”

To find out more about the chorus and to purchase tickets visit dtmc.org/events.html.

WC Safe to Host 2nd Poetic Justice Event to Help Sexual Assault Survivors Heal

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Its effects felt by millions around the world, in the U.S. alone it’s reported by the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network that over 400,000 people aged 12 and older become victims to rape and sexual assault annually. Yet despite its prevalence, positive steps forward have resulted in a 50 percent decrease in sexual violence over the last 20 years. Methods for helping survivors recover from the trauma of sexual violence have developed, too. In Detroit, Wayne County Safe is a nonprofit that provides trauma-informed care for people in all stages of recovery from sexual violence. This year on Feb. 9, the organization is putting on its Poetic Justice sexual violence healing event for a second time.

“The intention of it is to allow people to heal through art. It could actually be through photography, it could be singing, it could be instruments, it could be spoken word. What happened last year was that we got people who were interested in the spoken word aspect of it,” said WC Safe Access Coordinator Sharron Fincher.

An eight-week program, participants of the group meet regularly to explore storytelling as a means of healing. Guest speakers are also frequent and they aid in various aspects of participants’ storytelling. Fincher said that she was positively surprised at the participation in last year’s event and is eager to see how group members will express themselves this year.

“Last year we had a very diverse group of people,” she said. “It was 50 percent men and 50 percent women, we had different ethnicities and we had different religions that were there. We put on something for them at the end and we allowed them to have a panel discussion, and then we allowed them to actually share some of their pieces and invite their families.”

But if sharing a piece of personal art doesn’t seem to be draw, Fincher emphasized that because Poetic Justice is a safe space there is no obligation for attendees to share their final art pieces.

“We don’t ask you to disclose what happened to you either,” she said, adding that the group is also for people who are secondary survivors of sexual assault, too.

“The secondary survivors of sexual assault may be a person who is a loved one of a person who is a survivor of sexual assault and has been impacted,



Crystal Dupree (right) and Matthew Schmitt participated in last year’s Poetic Justice event. Sharron Fincher (center) helped to organize the event.

too. We have to understand that those people who are families and loved ones who experience that trauma also experience a form of trauma themselves,” she said.

When asked why this particular method of healing through art was created, Fincher said that while traditional methods of therapy and healing work well for many, others find solace in the arts.

“Sometimes sitting across from someone in a room isn’t necessarily the best way everyone heals, so what we’ve done here is just create an artistic outlet for people to be able to release whatever it is that they need to release,” Fincher said. “Again, we don’t ask anyone to disclose their trauma or the event, but we just need the techniques to be able to release. Every week focuses on something different, and one week we may talk about what sexual assault is and defining that. But we also discuss things like storytelling and learning how to tell your story in a responsible way. For example, telling your story in a manner that’s safe for you and also safe for your audience.”

Fincher said that often when people choose to use art as a means of healing they find connections with others who

can relate to their experiences. This can sometimes make people who are already feeling vulnerable feel more at risk, so Poetic Justice has a built-in education piece to mitigate those kinds of reactions.

“We had some very powerful moments throughout the eight weeks. Even to the point where we had the discussion that men are also survivors as well as perpetrators and so are women. And it was interesting seeing the dynamics of men and women and actually seeing them come together and really be supportive of one another for the duration of it. I will say this: the people who participated came in one way and they left another,” Fincher said. “The four of them are actually doing some phenomenal things in the community and for their families and I think that this was very healing for them, and it allowed them to put some things to the side and overcome some things which allowed them to manifest into the people that they are. I’m excited to see what the next group of people do.”

To find out more about the event contact Fincher at sfincher@wcsafe.org or call 313-949-7064.

Affirmations Passes \$750K 2020 Budget

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

The Affirmations Board of Directors, with new interim president Cheryl Czach helming her first regular meeting Dec. 4, passed a proposed 2020 center budget. The budget, drafted by Executive Director Dave Garcia, showed an operating revenue next year of \$750,000. Expenditures followed closely behind at \$748,000. Still, it's a remarkable feat for the center which just last year looked on the brink of closure.

"I think the real story here is that when I arrived in late April, Affirmations didn't even have a budget," Garcia said. "At this exact time last year, Affirmations was heading to zero cash flow by the end of December. We are at \$165,000 today and are projected to be over \$180,000 by the end of the year in our checking, which is cash flow. We have approved a 2020 budget, actually on time, and have completed the 2018 audited financials on time. The 990 is on our website.

"In other words," Garcia continued, "we have stabilized financially and are behaving like a normal and healthy non-profit."

Garcia can claim much of the credit for this. From the moment his return was announced he has been a calming force in the face of the crisis, and his name and reputation helped him successfully secure some large donations and lead a solid fundraising campaign. In addition, he revamped the center's annual Fall Fling event and his efforts here brought back a nearly \$50,000 return alone.

"You knew what you were getting into, for the most part, and you came anyway," Czach said to Garcia during the meeting. "I don't know if that makes you crazy or honorable. But I'm thankful you chose to do it."

Former Board President Thanks Directors for Efforts

The center's 2020 budget does not reflect any part of the recently announced partnership with Corktown Health Center to build a functioning clinic within Affirmations. Former Affirmations Board of Directors President Mike Flores, who stepped down from the board to take a position with Corktown to help lead the partnership, spoke at the meeting during public comment.

"It's a lot different being on this side and I'll be honest, it feels good," Flores started. "I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you. For what you may ask? For making me a better leader and person. All of you taught me to look beyond the numbers, to think deeper and to feel the community. Because of you I became more empathetic, more confident and more energized. I've never felt all of emotions all at once in the private sector," he said. "And for that, I thank you."

Flores also took a moment to speak on the Corktown partnership and what it signifies for the center's future.

"Between today and tomorrow the community will pick up its favorite paper and read the front page. 'Affirmations, Corktown Partner to Revolutionize LGBT Care.' A year ago, different adjectives and verbs were being used to describe Affirmations and its future. Tomorrow we will all read 'partnership,' 'revolutionary,' 'Affirmations' in the same sentence, inspiring our community. And for that you should all be extremely proud."

Also at the meeting, board member Anthony Sherman was elected to the position of vice president to fill the absence left by Czach's transition to interim president. Sherman started volunteering at Affirmations in 2016. In 2018, he joined the board and was given the Jan Stevenson Award for exemplary commitment to the mission of Affirmations.

Transgender Michigan Holiday Party at Affirmations

For many in the LGBTQ community the holidays are a time to spend with chosen family rather than biological relatives. For this reason, the holidays can be a difficult period for many, but Transgender Michigan and Affirmations are teaming up on Dec. 21 to host an LGBTQ-inclusive holiday party for anyone in the LGBTQ community.

"We don't do it right on the holiday because there are lots of people who can't be themselves right on Christmas. They have other obligations, and we want to attract those people," said Transgender Michigan Founder Rachel Crandall-Crocker.

This event is a potluck where guests are invited to bring food, games and more to share and enjoy with other community members. At the event there will also be a DJ. It's free, but donations to Transgender Michigan are welcome and encouraged. Crandall-Crocker

said that she's excited for another year of this annual tradition because the holiday season really can be "the most difficult time of the year."

"I had someone who told me that Christmas was always the highlight of the year and now they no longer had that; Christmas was the defining moment of every year and all of a sudden they no longer had that moment and it ruined them," she said. "People are social animals, and they need that socialization. And they need to know it might be a different family, but that they still have a family. That's one of the reasons why I created Transgender Michigan; it was because I was without a family."

To register ahead of time visit transgendermichigan.org. Affirmations is located 290 W Nine Mile Road in Ferndale.



Get a great vehicle and support a great cause.



With every new Subaru purchased or leased, Subaru will donate \$250 to your choice of charities. November 14 through January 2.





2019 Charity Partners









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....





Whosoever
MINISTRY

Rev. Dr. Selma Massey

FOUNDER & PASTOR

Sunday December 15th Family and Friends Holiday Sunday Service 11:30 am
Christmas Sunday Service 11:30 am December 22nd
New Years Eve Sunday Service December 29th 11:30 am

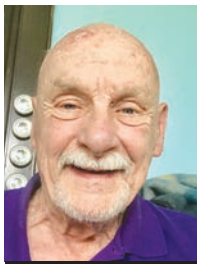
Monday December 16th Healing Phone Line 6:00 pm
Tuesday December 17th Prayer Phone Line 6:00 pm
Wednesday December 18th Bible Study Phone Line 6:00 pm

Dial: (712) 770-5505
Access Code: 881-220#

SUNDAYS AT 11:00 AM

240 CHALFONTE AVENUE,
GROSSE POINTE, MI 48236
313.259.0000

Like us on Facebook
Get the Whosoever Ministry App!!
Google and Apple Play Stores
WHOSOEVERMINISTRY.ORG



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

This article originally appeared in BTL in January of 2017.

You May Say I'm a Dreamer

About a dozen days ago tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow — at my age how can I be sure? — I was gifted with a pair of John Lennon enchantment glasses. Gold-rimmed. Sunset orange. Autumn-tinted. Pre-Donald Trump, to be sure.

Reflected in my hand-held vanity, two-way mirror, these magic spectacles make me look and feel younger. (To be honest, not an easy thing to do at my gravity-compromised, sag-along-with-me age.)

The two-circle Lennon spectacles came rainbow-wrapped. Gay tasteful in a box filled with “magic sequins and let’s pretend glitter.”

Oh, yes! With a note. And, surprise of surprises! A note written in cursive writing — thanks to the Republicans, rapidly becoming a lost art form — one word: “Imagine!”

Underneath the sequins and glitter is a folded patchouli-scented parchment. A map. Headline: “Things Once Happened at Downtown Detroit’s gay intersection. Midnight’s the bewitching moment. Follow! In or out of high heels or leather.”

And, in small lavender hand lettering, “Count the years backward. Say, the magic word. Put on these glasses. For a minute or two, be glad you were gay way back then...”

Let me be honest. I’m a born skeptic. I arrive 15 minutes early — promptness is the courtesy of kings (or queens, in my case) as the old saying goes — and I discover, to my chagrin, two empty, dimly lighted downtown city blocks. Farmer & Bates. Come on, MoTowners, you’ve got to be kidding!

I stop counting backwards at 60, which it turns out, is just a few seconds before midnight. Looking about for safety’s sake, seeing I’m not in harm’s way, I — with just a touch of coming out nervousness — put on my Lennon specs, and ... Oh, my stars. Mary, I can’t believe it!

Farmer & Bates is suddenly alive with hundreds of tourists eagerly watching from behind street-lined wooden barricades. There are shouts of approval. Loud applause, as one by one, gaudy costume by glorious costume, drag queens by drama queens arrive, turn, bow, pause regally for yet another take of in-your-face grandeur.

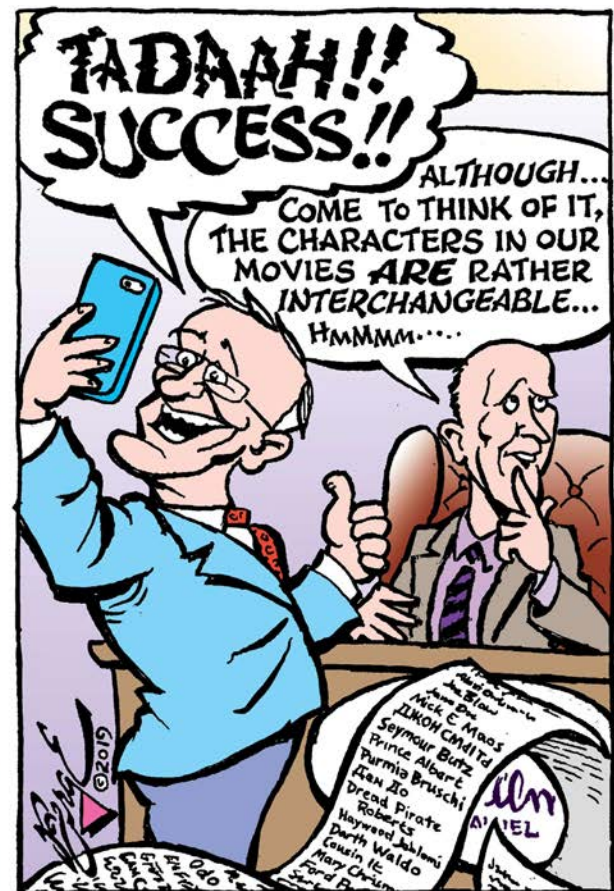
“You like what you see folks? You bet your sweet straight bippies you do!” chants Lola Lola, pausing grandly before the entrance of one of the intersecting streets of several gay clubs. “This year’s trade, next year’s competition!”

She blows a kiss to the crowd as imaginary light bulbs flash. And out of nowhere, blue side of the moon perhaps, a recorded band lip-syncs “Hello, Dolly!”

Even in this imaginary, make believe world of once-a-year royalty on parade, there’s got to be a star. Just to be sure it’s all for real, I push my Lennon glasses back on my nose. Oh, my. Yes! Of course, it’s Hazel Hobbs arriving by top-down, 1960-something red convertible.

Her gown, a year in sewing. Sequin by sequin. She radiates

See next page



Transmissions



The Trans Body

BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

Transphobia, like homophobia, isn’t generally using the suffix “-phobia” to mean “fear,” but to mean “aversion.” It’s the same notion as hydrophobic surfaces refer to their ability to repel water.

That said, I feel there is a distinct element of transphobia that is rooted in fear. I feel that many non-transgender people have a deep-set fear, far beyond their rational mind, that if transgender and non-binary people are able to shift from one expressed to another during their lifetime, then their own fixed gender is, inexplicably, under threat.

As both trans and non-binary identities have gained visibility, you have also seen the established gender identities become more entrenched and more policed. The rise of both may simply be coincidental, but they both end up working very much against each other.

Ironically, while one can hear millions of different ways one isn’t man enough in this society, transitioning away from a masculine identity seems to be the ultimate way to find a person continually told just how much of a man one is, but I digress.

Before I say much more, I want to express a point of order: a person doesn’t actually need to opt for any surgical

or hormonal treatment to identify as any given gender, or to express their gender. Many choose against surgical options, for example, but one’s genitals simply do not equal their gender. That is good and valid, and anyone who does so is aces in my book.

I am, nevertheless, going to be talking a lot about such things below. Mea culpa.

The human body is a remarkable thing, and it is capable of displaying all sorts of variation. In the womb at around 8 weeks into gestation, the human body begins to form genitals. Initially, this is little more than what’s known as a “genital ridge” forming an identical set of genitals for nearly any baby, regardless of chromosomes or anything else. This formation is also, apparently, separate from the formation of gender.

Over the course of the next few weeks, the baby’s genitals will usually move away from this single form, with gonads taking the role of testes or ovaries, penis or clitoris and so on.

Nevertheless, the evidence of our very flesh sharing identical structures no matter what genital configuration one may have remains a part of our life. All humans, for example, have nipples, even though — in most cases — they

See next page on p. 11

► Transmissions

Continued from p. 10

remain underutilized for about half the population.

With many things, all it can take is the presentation of estrogen or testosterone to change the human body from one distinct shape to another. The addition of estrogen can help form breasts, help soften facial features and generally make a body to become more feminine in appearance. Add testosterone and body and facial hair can appear, voices can lower and bodies can develop a more masculine appearance.

A number of surgical and other options can further alter our bodies, creating vaginal canals, a clitoris and labia on one body or a phallus and scrotal sack on another. Breasts can be augmented. Testicular implants are possible. And unwanted hair can be removed via electrolysis, for just a couple examples.

There's a lot of misconceptions about trans bodies and how they work. Some of these notions are amplified by non-transgender people who delight in spreading falsehoods as a way of tearing down transgender people as a whole. I feel these people are transphobic no matter which way you parse the suffix.

There are many who want tell you that a post-surgical trans person will no longer have any sensitivity to their genitals, or will no longer have the ability to orgasm. Others may claim that a neo vagina will be an open wound forever, requiring contact after care in order to not simply heal over. Any number of complications may be made up about trans bodies of all stripes.

All of this is, by and large, nonsense.

While this was less true in the past, the genitals of a trans person will, by and large, maintain sensation. A penis and a clitoris are analogous structures,

and are used as such in many surgical procedures. Hormones also do a lot to affect how these work on a trans body.

Likewise, orgasm is certainly possible for transgender people who opt for surgery. To quote Kate Bornstein in her first book, "Gender Outlaws," "the plumbing works and so does the electricity." Likewise, hormones can change the way an orgasm works for a transwoman, often in very positive, affirming ways.

As for stories of trans women's vaginas as some sort of open wound, this is poppycock. Yes, for the first few weeks post genital surgery, there is an aftercare regime that will require regular use of dilators on a neo-vagina. After that initial period, the time spent with dilation tapers off.

At no time is it an open wound, and the dilation is more about stretching the skin as it heals into place than it is about keeping a body from healing shut. It doesn't work that way.

Also, once more, no amount of surgery or hormones invalidates one's own innate understanding of their gender, and all trans bodies are valid no matter what. You know who and what you are, always.

I think, again, misinformation about trans bodies persists because there are those who wish to push transgender people back into the margins, as well as those who — afraid that their own gender identity may be called into question — opt to believe that all bodies are fixed into a one-or-the-other immutable shape.

Our remarkable bodies, trans or otherwise, know better

Gwen Smith was actually very surprised how much hormones alone did. You'll find her at gwenmith.com.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

class! And chic. Her muscular Prince Charming companion holds up a sign. QUEEN OF FARMER & BATES! The crowd — straight and gay — roars its once-a-year awe-struck approval.

I look at my self-winding watch. How quickly time runs down when you're having last-minute fun. Or so it seems tonight. Just as I reluctantly turn to go, an old-familiar parade passes by.

Somehow gathered for my imagined

benefit. I'm gently touched. Perhaps one final farewell with feeling for me. They wave in gaily passing ... I nod nostalgically ...

... Big Red, Jean, Eve, Rusty, The Empress, Miss Bruce, Tall Dick, Virgil, Tabu, Rita Hayworth, Fran, Flo, Uncle Jimmy, Little Mama, Mack, Drano, Sky, Eve Taylor, Che Che, Fran & Wally, Bookie, Fat Jack, Bessie, Billie Hill, Rosie Bonham, Andy, Sam, Chunga, Bobby Johns, Billy & Maurice, Ruthie Ellis ... Hugs! Godspeed! Gay today. Gone tomorrow ...

Creep Of The Week

Scott Lively

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

My youngest sister just got married. To a man. Though she's chosen the heterosexual lifestyle, I accept her.

I visited my local Hallmark store to get the couple a wedding card. I looked and looked but every card either had two brides or two grooms.

So I asked the cashier where I could find a one-man-one-woman wedding card.

"OH, WE DON'T HAVE ANY OF THOSE!" she said loudly, her eyes nervously sweeping the store. After she was sure no other customers were near she pulled out a tattered box from under the counter.

"Quick," she whispered, "if the owner finds out about these I'm done for."

I started browsing through the clandestine collection. She grabbed my hand.

"There's no time!" she hissed.

With that, she grabbed a random card and put it face down on the counter. She'd no sooner stowed the box when the chimes above the door announced the arrival of a new customer. She reacted to the sound as if it were an explosion, flinching and audibly gasping. She was covered with a sheen of perspiration.

"GOSH," she said loud enough for the man who'd just entered to hear. "THIS IS A GREAT HOMOSEXUAL WEDDING CARD YOU'VE CHOSEN."

The man glanced up from a display of decorative hand towels, his hand resting on one that read, "There's no such thing as too much butter."

When the man resumed browsing the cashier said, "I'LL BET THE SAME-SEX COUPLE YOU'RE BUYING THIS FOR IS GOING TO LOVE IT. I JUST LOVE GAY WEDDINGS."

She gave me a not-at-all subtle wink.

"Uh, thanks," I said.

"THAT'LL be \$4," she said while sliding me a slip of paper that read, "Actually, it's \$20. Cash only."

I was about to protest the exorbitant charge but she put a finger to her lips, eyes locked on the browsing man. He'd picked up a snow globe with "Frozen" movie characters inside and was shaking it vigorously.

"You wanna take your chances somewhere else, be my guest," she whispered, her tone threatening.

I handed over the money. She put the card in a paper bag, put that bag into another paper bag, then folded over the top and sealed it with four Gold Crown stickers. She completed the job with two staples.

"Don't open this until you're in your car," she said, lips barely moving.

"Okay," I said, confounded. Then it hit me.

"Wait," I said. "Are you a friend of Dorothy?"

"Over the rainbow and out," she replied. It was classic Homosexual Agenda code.

"I had no idea!" I said, and we both laughed. Her shoulders relaxed a little. "We just got Chick-fil-A, now Hallmark? What's next, Hobby Lobby?"

Chick-fil-A, of course, now only sells chicken sandwiches to the LGBTQ community.

"Do we have the Hallmark Channel, too?" I asked.

"Yes," she replied. "In fact, they're currently remaking their 2012 movie 'A Bride for Christmas.' They're keeping Arielle Kebbel but are replacing Andrew Walker's character with Portia de Rossi."

"I can see it," I said. "I can't wait to watch that with my wife."

"I'm kind of partial to the original," she said, looking down at the floor.

"It's OK," I said. "Homosexuals need movies, too. I'm sure you can get it on DVD."

"What makes you think I'm heterosexual?" she asked nervously. "I never said that."

It was my turn to whisper now.

"Hey, I'm not heterophobic. I have straight friends. My sister is marrying a man for goodness sakes!" I glanced behind me to make sure no one was within earshot. "Don't worry. Your secret's safe with me."

And with that I tapped my heels together and disappeared in a haze of rainbow smoke.

Back in my car I checked my phone. I opened the Homosexual Agenda app, which is cleverly disguised with the Home Depot icon. Sure enough, an alert.

"Scott Lively uncovers latest take-over," it read.

"Scott Lively, president of Abiding Truth Ministries, appears to have knowledge about the complete and total takeover of the Hallmark Channel." Apparently a Hallmark higher-up leaked to the Hollywood Reporter and Lively demanded that Hallmark clarify. Hallmark tried to stall with an unspecific answer, knowing that the news had not yet been announced by Homosexual, Inc.

"Their answer to these demands is a little vague and kind of concerning, especially in light of just what's happened with Chick-fil-A," Lively told One News Now Dec. 9.

"We just don't want to see wishy-washy in the face of this kind of pressure because of so many pro-family organizations that have capitulated in the past," Lively continued. "It's killing us as a movement to have people in the business world who won't stand firm on family values."

That is, of course, the plan. Our agenda may be gay, but it's based on ruthless capitalism. I couldn't believe that Lively was onto us again. He'd called the Chick-fil-A takeover in 2014!

I took out the card I'd bought. On the front was a rainbow, Cinderella and Prince Charming dancing heterosexually below it. I then remembered that Lively had written a book titled "Redeeming the Rainbow: A Christian Response to the 'Gay' Agenda." Oh, the irony.

"How do you do it, Scott?" I wondered. "How ever do you do it?"

Fairness for All Act Seeks Middle Ground on LGBTQ Rights

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Newly introduced legislation in the U.S. House backed by the Mormon Church seeks to strike a middle ground on LGBT rights and religious freedom in federal civil rights law, although major proponents of each refuse to support the legislation.

Introduced by Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah) on Friday, the Fairness for All Act would strike balance between LGBT rights and religious freedom in way proponents say would protect First Amendment rights. That way, however, permits anti-LGBT discrimination from religious institutions and small-business wedding vendors.

“Throughout history, there are time when principles come into conflicts, and often they are conflicting good principles, both of them with equal value,” Stewart said at Capitol Hill news conference Friday.

“The job we have before us in our society today is a good example of that, where we have the principle of non-discrimination, that every American should be treated fairly and with respect and with dignity, and at the same time, the sincerely held belief that religious faith and principles also matter, and how do we reconcile those two conflicting principles,” Stewart added. “This is what we are trying to do with this legislation.”

The Fairness for All Act is seen as an alternative to the Equality Act, legislation approved by the House in May under the Democratic majority — with five Republican votes. The Equality Act would make anti-LGBT discrimination a form of sex discrimination under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and clarify the Religious Freedom Restoration Act can't be a justification for discrimination.

Much like the Equality Act, the Fairness for All Act would make anti-LGBT discrimination against federal law, but it would also institute a accommodation for institutions like religious organization and small-business wedding vendors.

The Fairness for All Act would prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination in employment, housing, jury selection, credit, federal programs and public accommodations, but do so without defining anti-LGBT discrimination as sex discrimination. The bill would also expand the definition of public accommodations beyond the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

But in contrast to the Equality Act, the Fairness for All Act would preserve Religious Freedom Restoration Act and protect the tax-exempt status of religious colleges and universities that oppose same-sex marriage, such as Brigham Young University, Bethel University and Catholic University.

The Fairness for All Act would also extend protections to small business whose owners refuse to provide services to same-sex weddings based on religious objections. Among them



Photo: Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah) speaks about the Fairness For All Act at a press conference near the Capitol on Friday. (Washington Blade photo by Vanessa Pham)

is Jack Phillips, the owner of Masterpiece Cakeshop, who gained notoriety when his reached the Supreme Court and justices ruled narrowly in his favor based on the facts of the case.

The measure would prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination at “any store, shopping center or online retailer or provider of online services that has 15 or more employees for each working day in each of 20 or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding calendar year,” but states the threshold doesn't apply to claims of discrimination based on race, color or national origin or the small business wedding vendors excluded under the measure.

Similarly, the measure says “a property owned or operated primarily for noncommercial purposes by a non-profit religious corporation that holds itself out to the public as substantially religious, has as its stated purpose in its organic documents that it is religious, and is substantially religious in its current operations” is not a public accommodation under the legislation.

Lastly, the Fairness for All Act purports to protect religiously affiliated adoption agencies “so they can continue to serve vulnerable children and willing couples, while at the same time ensuring the ability of LGBT persons to adopt and foster children too.”

Unlike the Equality Act, the Fairness for All Act also makes clear access to abortion services isn't protected, but stipulates the measure shouldn't be construed to impose a

penalty on women who have had an abortion or seek abortion-related services.

Among the proponents of the Fairness for All Act is the Church Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Seventh-Day Adventist Church, which expressed support for the legislation in a statement Friday.

Shirley Hoogstra, president of Council for Christian Colleges & Universities, spoke out in favor of the legislation at the Capitol Hill news conference.

“This coalition represents civic pluralism at its best,” Hoogstra said. “We want a society where people with deep differences can live alongside each other with respect and understanding.”

But the nation's leading advocacy group for LGBTQ rights says the Fairness for All Act doesn't go far enough, and an anti-LGBT legal firm that purports to protect religious freedom also doesn't support the legislation.

Alphonso David, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said he “strongly oppose[s]” the Fairness for All Act because it sells LGBTQ people short and erodes existing protections under federal civil rights law.

“The so-called Fairness for All Act is an unacceptable, partisan vehicle that erodes existing civil rights protections based on race, sex and religion, while sanctioning discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people,” David said. “For LGBTQ people living at the intersection of multiple marginalized identities, this bill is

a double whammy of dangerous rollbacks and discriminatory carve-outs. This bill is both wrong and harmful, and we strongly oppose it.”

David said the right path for advancing LGBTQ rights is the Equality Act, which he said is necessary because “LGBTQ people deserve full federal equality, period.”

“The Equality Act, on the other hand, has already passed through the House of Representatives with a bipartisan majority, the support of more than 260 leading companies and more than 500 civil rights, religious, medical and social welfare organizations, and is our movement — and, most importantly, our community's — top legislative priority,” David said.

A spokesperson for Alliance Defending Freedom, the anti-LGBT legal firm that has represented Masterpiece Cakeshop and schools seeking to deny transgender kids access to bathroom consistent with their gender identity, referred to the Washington Blade to a 2018 statement from the organization against the Fairness for All Act.

“Every person should be treated with dignity and respect,” said ADF Senior Vice President of U.S. Legal Division Kristen Waggoner. “Unfortunately, sexual orientation and gender identity laws like the so-called ‘Fairness for All’ proposal undermine both fairness and freedom. This proposal is a SOGI law under different branding, with special — and likely temporary — exemptions that protect only a favored few.”

A chief proponent of the Fairness for All Act, however, is the American Unity Fund, a pro-LGBTQ Republican organization backed by philanthropist and GOP donor Paul Singer.

Tyler Deaton, senior adviser to the American Unity Fund, said his organization supports the Equality Act, but prefers the Fairness for All Act to prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination.

“We have to have black letter laws on the books that can make it explicit when we’re protected and when we’re not,” Deaton said. “This is hard thing from me to say as a gay guy. There are going to be times that there are religious organizations that are going to have the freedom to refuse to serve me or employ me.”

Deaton said the Human Rights Campaign’s opposition to the Fairness for All Act was “disheartening,” especially the assertion it would undermine existing protections based on race, sex and national origin.

“I think that the statement exaggerates impacts that the bill would have on existing civil rights,” Deaton said. “And I want to be clear on this point, which is that Fairness for All does not touch, or erode, or diminish any civil rights that are on the books today, and in fact, it is biggest expansion of civil rights since the passage in 1964 of the Civil Rights Act, and that’s similar to the Equality Act.”

Another supporter of the legislation is Republican LGBTQ ally Margaret Hoover, who voiced support for the measure in an interview last month with the Los Angeles Blade and at the Capitol Hill news conference.

“We know that we expect that this bill will be met with criticism from both sides of the aisle,” Hoover said. “Compromise is never easy, but it is our view that LGBTQ Americans cannot afford to wait a single day longer.”

Just about every LGBTQ advocate pushing for the Equality Act came out against the Fairness for All Act, including Justin Nelson, president of the National LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce.

“NGLCC reaffirms its support for the Equality Act, and cannot support any legislation containing loopholes designed to further keep tax-paying, law-abiding LGBT citizens from achieving success and safety in their own country,” Nelson said.

But there was some openness among LGBTQ advocates. Striking a welcoming chord on the Fairness for All Act was Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

“The introduction of this historic bill marks the first time that conservative religious organizations and leaders have supported comprehensive federal protections for LGBTQ people,” Minter said. “While the details of the bill require more careful consideration, it marks an important milestone in the growing national support for the equality and dignity of LGBTQ people.”

The Fairness for All Act is introduced as the U.S. Supreme Court is considering litigation that would clarify whether Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bans discrimination

on the basis of sex in employment, also applies to cases of anti-LGBT discrimination.

If the court rules in favor of LGBT workers, it could have far reaching implications and make federal legislation against anti-LGBT discrimination moot in employment, housing and education (although a legislative change would still be necessary to ban anti-LGBT bias in public accommodations and federal programs). If the court rules against LGBT workers, they would have no protections under federal law, and a legislative fix would be all the more needed.

Arguably the very introduction of the Fairness for All Act bolsters the case Congress didn’t intend to include LGBTQ people when it passed the Civil Rights of 1964, but Deaton denied that was case, adding that line has already been crossed with the Equality Act.

“I think that we all know that regardless of what the Supreme Court decides in the spring, we’re still going to need a federal law that either codifies that decision or rebukes that,” Deaton said. “I mean, if the Supreme Court decides that sex should be interpreted narrowly, then it’s all the more reason we need this bill now.”

The Fairness for All Act will be a tough sell in the House, which addressed the issue of expanding LGBT non-discrimination protections by passing the Equality Act. In the Senate, companion hasn’t even yet been introduced.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) signaled she “strongly opposes” the legislation via comments from her spokesperson Drew Hammill.

“Speaker Pelosi strongly opposes this legislation,” Hammill said. “It represents a step backward in many respects and is a partisan effort to that would lead to much more discrimination in our country not less.”

The solution for enacting LGBT non-discrimination protections under federal law, Hammill said, would be for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to bring up the Equality Act.

“LGBTQ Americans deserve nothing short of full equality,” Hammill said. “House Democrats will continue to call on Senator McConnell to pass the Equality Act.”

Then there’s President Trump. Asked whether he spoken with the White House about the Fairness for All Act, Deaton declined to discuss conversations.

The Trump administration, through White House Deputy Press Secretary Judd Deere, signaled an openness to the Fairness for All Act when asked by the Washington Blade about the legislation.

“President Trump has protected human dignity, fought for inclusion, promoted LGBTQ Americans and strongly protected religious freedom for everyone while in office,” Deere said. “The White House looks forward to reviewing the legislation.”

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

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.

Jeep CELEBRATION EVENT

Snethkamp
CHRYSLER • DODGE • JEEP • RAM

CHRYSLER PACIFICA
INCREDIBLE
SALES EVENT

At Snethkamp
We Share Your Pride. CALL 313-868-3300
Ask for Alex Chernov or Mike Carter

Proud Sponsor of the 2018 Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo
achernov@snethkampcjd.com www.billsnethkamp.net 16400 Woodward Ave. Highland Park, MI 48203

Utah to Become 19th State to Ban Conversion Therapy

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert announced Tuesday his state would implement regulations prohibiting mental health experts from engaging in “ex-gay” conversion therapy on LGBTQ youth, making Utah the 19th state to prohibit the widely discredited practice.

The announcement from a Herbert, a Republican, comes after a tumultuous debate over conversion therapy in the heavily Mormon state, where family rejection of LGBTQ youth is known to contribute to Utah’s homeless population.

“I have learned much through this process,” Herbert said. “The stories of youth who have endured these so-called therapies are heart rending, and I’m grateful that we have found a way that will ban conversion therapy forever in our state. I’m grateful to the many stakeholders who came to the table in good faith, with never-ending patience.”

After legislation seeking to prohibit conversion therapy failed in the state legislature, Herbert in June announced the Utah Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing would seek to establish rules to regulate conversion therapy. At the time, the results of that undertaking weren’t known.

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, praised Herbert in a statement for ending that process with regulations to prohibit conversion therapy.

“Utah is once again leading the way in protecting LGBTQ youth and their families,” Minter said. “We salute Governor Herbert for taking action on this important issue and for this historic accomplishment.”

Therapy aimed at changing an individual’s sexual orientation or transgender status is considered ineffectual at best and harmful at worst. Major medical and psychological institutions — including the American Psychological Association, the World Health Organization, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics — widely reject the practice.

Although the Mormon Church last month issued a statement urging Utah not to ban conversion therapy, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints signaled in a statement it supports the agreement.

“We are opposed to conversion therapy and our therapists do not practice it,” said LDS spokesperson Marty Stephens. “However, we are grateful for the clarifications the new rule provides, and we support its adoption.”

According to the Herbert’s office, the

Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing is working to file the rule, which will be published on Dec. 15. A 30-day public comment period will follow that will end on Jan. 14, 2020. The new rule could be effective as soon as Jan. 22, 2020.

The regulation is expected to have the same language as H.B. 399, legislation introduced by Rep. Craig Hall that failed in the state legislature, and will apply to all licensed therapists in Utah. (However, that won’t apply to practitioners of conversion therapy who aren’t therapists, such as clergy, and for LGBTQ adults seeking to participate in the practice with a licensed therapists.)

“I am grateful we have developed language that both prohibits conversion therapy and also protects the legitimate interests of health care professionals, patients and families,” Hall said in statement.

Conversion therapy for youth is banned in D.C. and 18 states: Connecticut, California, Delaware, Nevada, New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Oregon, Illinois, Vermont, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Washington State, Maryland, Hawaii and New Hampshire. (Former Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló signed an executive order against conversion therapy after the legislature failed to pass



Utah Gov. Gary Herbert has announced an agreement with the Mormon Church to ban conversion therapy. (Photo public domain)

legislation against it.)


Mathew Shurka, a conversion therapy survivor and “Born Perfect” strategist for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, commended the Utah agreement in a statement.

“It is vital that our leaders support LGBTQ youth,” Shurka said. “We are grateful to Gov. Herbert for his leadership and for making sure all youth know they are born perfect. It is lifesaving.”

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

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!





AT PARTRIDGE CREEK OBGYN



*FemTouch Package purchase.

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

► MI Conversion Therapy

Continued from p. 4

sexual orientation or one’s gender identity could be changed,” Kaplan stated. He also felt houses of worship could claim it is part of their overall religious program and that separation of church and state should prevent the government from intervening.

Still, “Some of these groups might be affiliated with a faith-based organization and if they are advertising outside of their institution itself and looking for customers to utilize these services, I think that still ties it to it,” Kaplan continued. “No doubt, if a complaint is filed, some of these groups will allege they are being targeted because of their religious beliefs.”

Where to Go from Here

Kaplan believes states are on stronger ground when they’re dealing with licensing.

“If you’re engaging in a type of practice that’s thoroughly debunked and discredited by experts, that should have an impact on your license,” he said.

Currently, bans in four states allow for licensing discipline in addition to enforcement and penalties consistent with their state laws against unfair business practices. Not only that, the Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act, federal legislation introduced in 2015 and 2017, would classify conversion therapy provided in exchange for payment as a form of consumer

fraud. State attorneys general and the Federal Trade Commission could bring enforcement actions against practitioners. Bottom line, the government should be expected to have an interest in protecting the public’s pocketbooks, if not their psyches.

“While we’re waiting for the legislature to do something on this. ... filing complaints would help make the case about why this needs to be more comprehensively dealt with,” Kaplan concluded. “I think this is something the ACLU would be interested in if there was clearly information about a particular conversion therapy program doing false advertising and making false claims.”

Nearly two years ago, there was tremendous outcry in the LGBTQ community when it was discovered that a local church was engaging in conversion therapy with minors. At that time, Reps. Zemke and Camilleri sent a letter to then-Attorney General Bill Schuette urging him to investigate whether FORGE Ministries and Metro City Church committed any “unfair, unconscionable or deceptive practices,” and to work with federal authorities to look into possible violations of the Federal Trade Commission Act. A response from the Republican AG’s office was not forthcoming.

If a violation of the Michigan Consumer Protection Act has been made, file a complaint with the Attorney General’s office: mi.gov/agcomplaints or 877-765-8388. Submit a legal complaint to the ACLU of Michigan: action.aclu.org/legal-intake/submit-complaint-aclu-michigan

Fauci to Congress: Help us Implement Plan to End HIV

BY LOU CHIBBARO JR.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told an audience of mostly legislative aides to members of Congress at a Dec. 5 congressional briefing on Capitol Hill that scientific advances have made it possible to end the HIV epidemic in the U.S. within the next decade if not much sooner.

In an impassioned description of what he calls “implementation science,” Fauci said he and his colleagues at the National Institute of Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other federal, state and local health agencies are hopeful that a newly launched federal plan to end HIV will be able to overcome socio economic barriers that have prevented the scientific advances from reaching those who could most benefit from them.

The briefing, held at the Rayburn House Office Building across the street from the U.S. Capitol, was organized by the National Minority AIDS Council, or NMAC, a D.C.-based AIDS advocacy group that puts on the annual U.S. Conference on AIDS. Fauci said his presentation was based on findings and information presented at the 2019 U.S. Conference on AIDS in August.

Among those who attended the briefing were U.S. Reps. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) and Alcee Hastings (D-Fla.).

Fauci has been involved in AIDS research and public policy since the epidemic first surfaced in the U.S. in 1981. He told the briefing the federal plan is based on two major scientific advances that are available today.

The first, he pointed out, is the effective anti-retroviral drug treatment regimens that have successfully suppressed HIV in the human body for the past 10 years or longer. More recently, he said, studies have shown that suppression of the virus to the point that it becomes undetectable means an infected person can no longer transmit HIV to someone else through sexual relations.

The second major advancement, he noted, is the development of the HIV prevention drug known as PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, which Fauci said is 99 percent effective in preventing someone at risk for HIV from becoming infected.

“So you now have two, as I call it, game-changing issues, treatment as prevention and pre-exposure prophylaxis,” he told the more than 75 people attending the briefing.

“Theoretically, if you got everyone or almost everyone who is infected and put them on therapy and bring down the virus to below detectable and you got most of the people who are at risk of infection and put them on PrEP, theoretically you can end the epidemic tomorrow because the people who are infected are not infecting anyone and the people who are at risk have a 99 percent effective therapy to prevent them from being infected,” he said.

“And all you need to do is implement that,”

said Fauci. “The problem is we don’t live in a theoretical world, we live in a real world. And the goal of any plan is to bridge that gap between what we know is possible and what we can make happen. And that’s really what the plan is.”

Among the “real world” facts that the plan is intended to address, Fauci said, is the disparities among the diverse groups at risk for HIV who are not taking advantage of the treatment and prevention options.

“Thirteen percent of the population in the United States is African-American. Yet almost 45 percent of all new infections are among African-Americans. Of those, 60 percent are among African-American men who have sex with men and 75 percent of those are young individuals,” Fauci said. “So right now you have a concentration, a real disparity of infection.”

He noted that nationwide, only about 260,000, about 20 percent of the 1.2 million people in the U.S. who are believed to be at “substantial risk” for HIV, are taking PrEP. Aside from that, only 53 percent of people in the U.S. who have HIV have a viral load that is undetectable due to effective drug treatment, Fauci said.

“We have to do better than that,” he told the briefing. “That’s a big target of the plan.”

According to Fauci, he and his government colleagues who helped develop the plan to end HIV in the U.S. determined one important way to address disparities faced by different risk groups was to respond to the geographic breakdown of the HIV epidemic in the U.S.

Much to their surprise, Fauci said, data show that more than 50 percent of all new HIV infections in recent years come from just 48 out of the 3,007 U.S. counties plus the District of Columbia and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Also shown to have high concentrations of new infections are seven southern states.

“This almost shocked me to the point where I had to go and look at the individual data myself because I almost didn’t believe it,” Fauci said. “That’s really amazing.”

Among other things, the new federal plan will target those 50 geographic “areas” along with the seven states for greater resources and outreach to address the disparities that may be causing the higher infection rates there, he said.

“So what do we do to do better than that? You maximize the tools you have and you develop better tools,” he continued, adding that a “prototype” for the new federal plan is a highly effective program developed in San Francisco called Rapidly We Treat All.

“They proactively and aggressively go into the community with community workers,” said Fauci in describing the San Francisco program. “They go into areas where there is high risk – gay bars, bathhouses, homeless shelters, commercial sex workers. They approach people and they test them and they get the result right there in a test that takes only 20 minutes,” Fauci said.

“If you’re positive you immediately are put on

therapy because they give you a bag of a month’s supply of a drug and say take it. And then they give you a prescription for when they run out,” he said. “And then they say now if you have any trouble call us. This is our phone number. And if don’t have a phone they give them a phone.”

“It’s really amazing how they go into the community,” he said, noting that the incidence of new HIV infections in San Francisco declined dramatically.

He said an aggressive outreach program in D.C. has also resulted in a sharp drop in new HIV infections over the past decade, although the new infection rate in D.C. has remained stable in recent years.

Still more advances in drug treatment, including PrEP, may further boost the number of people taking PrEP, Fauci said. He pointed to a new form of “long-lasting” PrEP that’s in the final stages of drug trials that can be given as an injection that will last a month or more, eliminating the need for taking a daily pill. He said a PrEP implant is also in development that can be placed under the skin similar to birth control implants used by women that can last as long as a year.

NMAC, meanwhile, is urging the Senate to follow the U.S. House in approving the full \$291 million in funding proposed by the Trump administration for the AIDS plan Fauci outlined at the Capitol Hill briefing. The Senate has




Dr. Anthony Fauci said that scientific advances have made it possible to end the HIV epidemic in the U.S. within the next decade if not much sooner. Washington Blade photo by Lou Chibbaro, Jr.

approved \$266 million in the federal budget for the AIDS plan, \$25 million less than the amount approved by the House and called for by the administration.

NMAC spokesperson Chip Lewis said NMAC and other AIDS advocacy organizations are calling on the Senate to agree to the House version of the appropriation when the two bodies negotiate differences in their respective budget figures in the coming weeks.

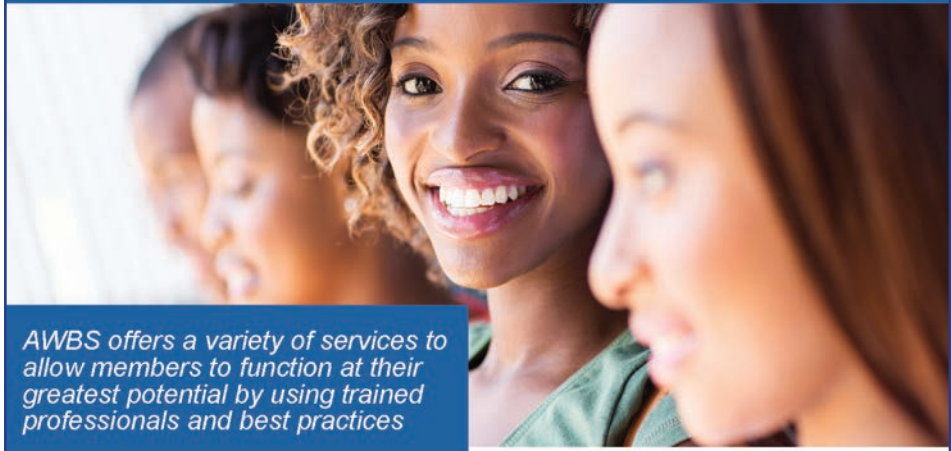
“We’re very grateful to Dr. Fauci,” said NMAC Executive Director Paul Kawata. “And our efforts here are to educate members of Congress and their staff so that we can make sure we get the HIV budget that we need to end this epidemic.”



AWBS
ALL WELL-BEING SERVICES

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





JENNIFER BEALS

WALKS THE WALK,

HIKES THE HIKE

Photo: Kharen Hill

'The L Word' Star on Returning to the Series, Diversifying the Revival and Being the 'Most Square' Cast Member

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

When Jennifer Beals speaks to the universe, the universe listens. Or at least it did this one time while the 55-year-old actress was on a hike. She can't recall the exact year, but it was sometime between 1999 and 2002 when she got down on her knees in the middle of a trail and asked for a "great love story."

Beals got that love story. Granted, she also got fighting and cheating and custody battles, but the universe still delivered her a great love, which just so happened to be a lesbian love. And the show, "The L Word," which ran from 2004-2009 for six seasons, changed the landscape for lesbian women in mainstream culture with a show dedicated to their lives for the first time ever. The series took on important LGBTQ topics such as "don't ask, don't tell," same-sex adoption and coming out as transgender. And in 2012, Beals, one of the series' leading stars, was presented with the Human Rights Campaign's Ally for Equality Award for her support of the LGBTQ community.

Ten years after it wrapped, "The L Word" returns to Showtime with an extended title, "The L Word: Generation Q," and a new, more diverse cast who are starring alongside original cast members and current executive producers Katherine Moennig, Leisha Hailey and Beals. For the eight-episode revival, Beals reprises her role as Bette Porter, now running for mayor of L.A.

When Beals, who has been called an icon, a dykon and an honorary lesbian, calls me one recent afternoon, I acknowledge her zen disposition in the interview clips I've watched in preparation for our talk. How does she manage to keep so calm? "It's so funny because I just got finished with a two-hour hike," she says, breaking into a laugh. "But I think hiking is really helpful."

Indeed, it seems to be doing the trick.

You went into the original "L Word" hoping that maybe you'd reach someone who needed to see themselves reflected on screen. For this revival, what was the driving force to get these characters back on TV?

Quite early on, as early as, gosh, 2012, Kate, Leisha and I became aware that "The L Word" was still being discussed on social media and in chat rooms, and that there was still a hunger for these stories but perhaps in a newer form because there was a paradigm shift happening within the queer community where a whole new generation was refusing to let other people define them, and those definitions were outgrowing any kind of lexicon that we had. And so it was at that time that we approached (series creator) Ilene Chaiken about resurrecting the show in a new form, and she was busy with a little show called "Empire" (laughs) but was very excited about the idea. And the more we learned about the stories of this newer generation, the more excited we became about being able to tell those stories and making our cast more

inclusive and more diverse.

Despite breaking ground, the original show was criticized for not being inclusive.

And, honestly, there will be criticism of this version, because the community is outpacing pop culture in exponential ways. That criticism is important to hear and to take in and to figure out how and where we can do better.

How did the criticism from the original show shape the revival?

I think the most important things were to have trans actors playing trans roles and to make it more inclusive racially.

The bisexual community also felt like they weren't fairly represented.

Right. And the fact is it's not humanly possible to tell everyone's story right away. But we hope as the years go on that we will be able to be as inclusive as possible. In the meantime, I encourage everyone to write their story and try to get it made. I think that's also really important.

Going back, what was your experience with the LGBTQ community before "The L Word"?

Oh my gosh, I knew nothing! I knew *nothing*! I am still by far the most square cast member. Like, Kate still makes fun of me because my playlists are so square.

Your music playlists?

Yeah. Because I stay with her sometimes and she's an amazing DJ and my playlists have, admittedly, some Top 40 influences in there (laughs), and she just cringes when she hears them. So I have to get permission to play my playlist. (Laughs.)

She's queering your playlist then?

She hasn't yet (laughs). I should ask her to do it, that would be a good thing. And it's not even queering the playlist; it's just making it a little bit more robust. It's either stuff from the '40s or chants or, all of a sudden, it's Post Malone. It's sort of just crazy, with a healthy dose of Joni Mitchell.

I mean, you could say Joni Mitchell has some lesbian currency.

OK! All right! I feel better now. I do feel better. What about Rickie Lee Jones?

Rickie Lee Jones is not on my radar, so I'm sorry, I cannot qualify that.

(Laughs.) OK, I'll pretend I never asked.

While we're on this topic: Having learned about dental dams during the original "L Word," are you still learning new things about the LGBTQ community with this latest iteration?

I always am learning, frankly. And the language is changing so fast that I'm trying to keep up with it. It's important, not necessarily that certain labels or sayings or qualifications will remain, but sometimes it feels like

language is an inadequate repository for things that are so fluid and so fast-moving. It's like trying to quantify a stream that's flowing by you so quickly.

Jennifer, that's so poetic.

I was just hiking, so you know, that's where that comes from. (Laughs)

I agree with you, and I think that that's the direction the queer community has moved into: into a more fluid environment.

Yes, and it's incredibly exciting to me. It's incredibly exciting to me when language can't keep up. It tells you that we're at a fulcrum of change that's tremendously exciting, and as a cis, straight woman where I have to come from always is a) that I have a tremendous responsibility being so lucky to be chosen to play this part and b) that the intersectionality of these stories is always love. Our desire to be loved and to love in the way in which we choose is the thing that connects all of us and *that* I can relate to deeply. And I can relate to otherness deeply.

How did you tap into your otherness at the beginning of "L Word"?

Apologies that you were looking at interviews ad nauseam, but I tell the story of preparing for the pilot and I had been focusing, really, on what it was like to be a curator, to be a gallerist, in that world: I was at a restaurant with my husband and he turned to me and he kissed me. It just was like an epiphany, where it dawned on me that if we had been a gay couple that that event would've been monumental in this particular restaurant. It really pained me.

As a straight woman, were you scared of taking on a lesbian role?

No, because there was no conversation about that at the time. Zero. Any fears that people talked about was the other way, of what it would do to your career. And I had no fear about that; I didn't even really consider it. I just thought, "Look at this gift I've been given; it's an extraordinary part that's layered and complicated and complex." Frankly, I had been hiking, gosh, I don't remember what year it was – maybe 2000, maybe 1999, maybe 2002. I can't remember. I'm gonna have to look it up. But I was hiking and I was trying to communicate to the universe what I wanted and I said, "Please, I want to be in a great love story. I want to be in a grand, historic, iconic love story," and I literally got down on my knees on the trail and said, "Please." Because it was something I felt like I hadn't really had yet and that would be meaningful, not only to me but perhaps to other people, as all love stories are.

And of course, I gave it to the universe and it handed me back my request in an even more extraordinary package of playing in an iconic, wonderful, lesbian love story. And it

See **Beals**, continued on p. 18

"JERSEY BOYS meets WEST SIDE STORY"
The New York Times CRITICS' PICK
A BRONX TALE
BROADWAY'S NEW HIT MUSICAL
ON SALE NOW
JAN 21 - FEB 2 • FISHER THEATRE
BroadwayInDetroit.com, ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office 313-872-1000;
Groups (12+) Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com (subject: A Bronx Tale) or 313-871-1132; and Jan 26.

DETROIT'S GOLDEN TICKET
ROALD DAHL'S
CHARLIE
AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
THE NEW MUSICAL
ON SALE NOW
FEB 18 - MAR 1
DETROIT OPERA HOUSE • BroadwayInDetroit.com
BroadwayInDetroit.com, ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office
Info: 313.872.1000, Groups (12+) groups @ BroadwayInDetroit.com (Subject: Charlie)
 Feb. 23



Jennifer Beals, Katherine Moennig and Leisha Hailey reunite for "The L Word: Generation Q." Photo: Showtime

► Beals

Continued from p. 17

was fantastic. It was more than I even knew what to ask for. And I'm incredibly grateful. And it was only a couple months later; it was a choice between "The L Word" and another show. I was sent two scripts and they asked me to choose between the two parts, and then they asked me to choose between ("L Word" character) Tina (Kennard) and Bette.

It fascinates me that you didn't know you had a lesbian following until "The L Word" given "Flashdance" and your iconic water scene. How did you *not* know?

Well, because I never... I'm not... there was no social media! And like, I wasn't part of the community, so I never really was privy to those conversations. And I was in college in my own little bubble, studying, and, you know, running around town.

And, evidently, not going to lesbian bars.

But I did go to a lesbian bar once! I was in a (1992) film called "In the Soup" – I *think* it was "In the Soup" – and we had a lesbian assistant director who had an amazing pair of leather pants and I said, "Where did you get those leather pants?" She named some place in Germany and I was like, "OK." She goes, "But if you go with me to the" – oh, god, what the hell is the name of the place I want to say? Pink Pussycat or something like that.

Sounds very lesbian.

(Laughs.) "If you go with me to the Pink Pussycat, I'll give them to you!" I'm like, "Done. That's so easy." So I went to the bar in I want to say the East Village or Alphabet City – somewhere like that – and it was really uneventful. I mean, in some ways like a heteronormative bar in that you have girls, they're scantily clad, dancing in cages or on things or whatever, and then you just had a bunch of women drinking. It wasn't... I don't know what I expected it to be! But it wasn't

as transgressive as maybe I had imagined it might be (laughs). But I got the leather pants! (Laughs.) I was really excited!

Did you wear the leather pants?

Yes... but they didn't fit me very well! I mean, I just don't look good in leather pants. That's just a fact.

Most people don't.

My husband looks much better in leather pants than I do.

So the moment you stepped onto the set of "Generation Q," you're in LA with co-stars that you've worked with for many years who maybe you hadn't seen regularly. What did it feel like to be back with them and back on the set?

Well, we had seen each other regularly because we had been plotting and scheming to get the show back on the air for years and years and years, and I was at Kate's house quite regularly when I would come to Los Angeles and we could see Leisha, and the three of us would spend time together. But what was surreal was seeing us in the wardrobe and the manifestation of our characters; that was really quite surreal. And Ilene came to visit that day too, so it was really intense.

Your queer fans will appreciate that you're executive producing an adaptation of Taylor Jenkins Reid's critically acclaimed novel "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" for Freeform with Ilene. From what I've read, it all seems very queer. Were its LGBTQ themes a draw for you?

Well, it's funny how it came about: I had just finished playing Margo Taft in (the Amazon Studios series) "The Last Tycoon," which is my favorite part that I've ever played. It was so much fun. And I really missed her. Like, I had a palpable ache of missing this person, and I was at dinner with my friend and I was talking to her about it and telling her about the character because the show hadn't aired yet and she said, "Oh, it sounds so much like 'Evelyn Hugo,'" and I said, "What's 'Evelyn Hugo?'" and she said, "My friend Taylor just wrote this new book; it's not out yet but I think you'd be really interested in it.

“ We got together and dedicated ourselves to bringing 'The L Word' back, because we knew at that point visibility would be even more important. ”

– Jennifer Beals

It's sort of a similar idea." I said, "Please, please, please, can I read it? I just want to visit with someone who's even like Margo." So I got a hold of Taylor and she was kind enough to send me an advanced reader copy and I fell in love with it. It had a lot of similar themes that Margo had, but it was like a Margo Taft and "L Word" mashup. (Laughs.) And yeah, it definitely has a lot of queer themes in there.

Could you talk about the relevancy of "The L Word" in its respective political moment, then and now?

It's really interesting. In 2004, Bush was president and there were no comprehensive legal protections covering gender or sexual orientation, and there aren't now either. But then there was "The L Word" that challenged this heterocentric view of the world, which was exciting. And now here we are in 2019 with an administration that, from the moment they took office, was attacking the LGBTQ community. It was an assault. And as the returns were coming in in 2015, Ilene and I were texting one another, trying to figure out what we can do. And on November 18, we got together and dedicated ourselves to bringing "The L Word" back, because we knew at that point visibility would be even more important. Because when you're under attack, visibility, while it's not everything, brings a certain amount of agency and a certain amount of community and can also help shift paradigms in terms of the parasocial interaction, so we knew it would be important. I think somebody called it "the discrimination administration."

This couldn't be a better time, then, to have Bette run for openly lesbian mayor of LA. And she's outspoken about many issues, including curbing the opioid crisis.

But she is also her own worst enemy. That's been her way all the time. That's one thing she hasn't quite mastered. (Laughs.)

If you were an out lesbian mayor, what issues would be first on your agenda?

I would really want to push the Equality Act. I think that's the most important thing right now. That and education. Making sure that schools are safe.

That's great. Now we just gotta get you in. Jennifer Beals for office.

(Laughs.) Never! Never in a bazillion years!

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



CAGE FREE 24 / 7

HAPPY HOUNDS



BOARDING IN COMFORT

Day & Overnight Care!

FOR DOGS

WHO DON'T LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE ANIMALS

GROOMING

pet care extraordinaire

BOARDING

A SECOND HOME FOR YOUR FURRY FRIEND



ACCOMMODATIONS



Happy Hounds®



Dog Day Care & Lodging

24/HR SUPERVISION



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

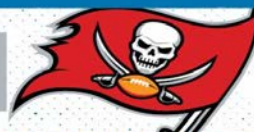


673 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan

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



DETROIT
REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Stand
Trans
ADVOCATE
CELEBRATE
EDUCATE



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



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



Patch Work Collective

WORK THE WAY YOU WANT

- Open Coworking
- Private Offices
- Conference Rooms
- Permanent Spaces
- Special Event Hosting

FIND OUT MORE

PatchWorkCollective.net • 248-850-2525
22007 Woodward Ave. • Ferndale, MI 48220



BTL Shop The Rainbow
Between Lines

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!



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

Mombian: Holiday Gift Guide to LGBTQ Children's Books

BY DANA RUDOLPH

It's time for my annual gift guide to some of the year's best LGBTQ-inclusive children's picture books! There were happily more books published this year than I can include here, so please visit mombian.com for a longer compilation.

Family and Relationships

"A Plan for Pops," by Heather Smith and illustrator Brooke Kerrigan (Orca Books), is the touching story of Lou, an overall-clad, gender-ambiguous child who loves visiting their grandfathers, a biracial couple. Lou must figure out how to help when one grandfather is confined to a wheelchair and won't leave his room. Evocative prose and a big dose of family love.

Caldecott Honor and Ezra Jack Keats Honor winner Bao Phi's "In My Footprints," illustrated by Basia Tran (Capstone), tells of a Vietnamese-American girl who gets teased by classmates about her two moms and told to "go back where I come from." She finds solace in imitating wild creatures and her moms draw on their own cultural identities (Vietnamese American and Hindu) to help her pretend. A lyrical tale about finding strength in imagination, family and heritage.

"Ghost's Journey: A Refugee Story," by Robin Stevenson (Rebel Mountain Press), is based on the true story of a same-sex couple who fled from Indonesia to Canada from fear of persecution. Stevenson tells the tale from the perspective of their cat, Ghost, and her thoughtful prose captures the family's journey with just the right amount of detail for young readers.

"I Am Perfectly Designed," by "Queer Eye" star Karamo Brown and his grown son Jason "Rachel" Brown, with illustrations by Anoosha Syed, gives us a gentle yet affirming conversation between a young black boy and his father about their life together, as they walk through their vibrant, multicultural, queer-inclusive neighborhood.

"Maiden & Princess," by Daniel Haack and Isabel Galupo, with illustrations by Becca Human (Little Bee), tells of a maiden who falls in love with a princess at a multiracial royal court. A welcome addition to the genre of LGBTQ-inclusive fairy tales and books about women in control of their lives and loves.



"Love Makes a Family," by Sophie Beer (Dial Books), is a cheery board book in the vein of many others that showcase family diversity, but it stands out for the fun, dynamic and gently humorous illustrations. (Published in the last week of 2018, too late for my gift guide last year.)

"My Two Moms and Me" and "My Two Dads and Me," by Michael Joosten and illustrator Izak Zenou (Doubleday), are board books that depict the everyday lives of children with same-sex parents. While they stick with a formula used in two previous LGBTQ-inclusive board book pairs (one by Lesléa Newman and the other by Stacey Bromberg and Joe Taravella), they are upbeat and stylish.

"Family Is a Superpower" (Capstone, 2019), by Michael Dahl and illustrator Omar Lozano, shows Wonder Woman, Superman, Batman and other DC Comics' heroes, along with a diverse group of everyday children and parents, demonstrating aspects of the one superpower that outshines all others — the power of family. A two-dad family is included.

"You Began as a Wish," by Kim Bergman and illustrator Irit Pollak, offers a simple explanation of assisted reproduction, inclusive of same-sex, transgender and non-binary parents. For 30 years, Bergman, a licensed psychologist, has been helping LGBTQ clients and others have children through assisted reproduction. She has distilled

her wealth of knowledge to create this melodic book appropriate for even the very youngest children.

Pride

Robin Stevenson's "Pride Colors" board book (Orca) turns the meanings of the colors in the Pride flag into a poem from parent to child, coupled with images of babies and toddlers and sometimes their two moms or dads. "Yellow sunshine, smiles so bright. I'll hug you, kiss you, hold you tight," says one spread. There's a mention of "Pride Day fun," but the sentiments extend far beyond a single day or month.

"Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution," by Rob Sanders and illustrator Jamey Christoph (Random House), uses the perspective of the Stonewall Inn itself to create a simple yet compelling story of the fateful night in 1969.

Gender Identity and Expression

"When Aidan Became a Brother," by Kyle Lukoff and illustrator Kaylani Juanita (Lee & Low), is a joyous tale about a biracial (black and South Asian) transgender boy awaiting the birth of his new sibling. What sets this book apart from many others is that rather than Aidan's gender identity offering only challenges to be overcome, it is instead a source of strength and wisdom as he plans for being a good brother.



“**In They, She, He easy as ABC,**” by Pura Belpré Honor Award-winner Maya Christina Gonzalez and Matthew Smith-Gonzalez (Reflection Press), we meet an alphabet of friends, mostly children of color, who use a variety of pronouns and dance their way from A to Ze. The reader is then invited to “Join the dance. There’s always room.”

“**Ho’onani Hula Warrior,**” by Heather Gail and illustrator Mika Song, is based on the true story of a native Hawaiian child who feels neither wahine (girl) or kāne (boy) and who wants to join the school performance of a traditional kāne hula chant. An empowering story of a child navigating and finding strength in both gender and cultural identities.

In “**Sam!**,” by Dani Gabriel and illustrator Robert Liu-Trujillo (Penny Candy Books), a 9-year-old transgender boy finds support from his older sister and parents when he tells them he’s not a girl. Sam and his family read as Latino and they live in a racially diverse neighborhood. A warm story of sibling support and family love.

The protagonist of “**What Riley Wore,**” by Elana K. Arnold and illustrator Linda Davick (Simon & Schuster), loves to dress up in ball gowns, hard hats and bunny costumes. When another child asks, “Are you a girl or a boy?” Riley simply answers, “Today I’m a firefighter. And a dancer,” and several other fanciful things. Arnold conveys a message of acceptance without raising issues of teasing or bullying – important issues, but too often the only narrative about children expressing gender creativity. The completely positive approach here is refreshing.

In “**Ogilvy,**” by Deborah Underwood and illustrator T. L. McBeth (Henry Holt), the titular and gender ambiguous bunny moves to a new town, where the other children say that bunnies in sweaters must do certain things, while those in dresses do others. Ogilvy’s medium-length garment confuses them. Ogilvy relabels the outfit at will and plays accordingly, until one day the other bunnies demand a fixed choice. Ogilvy convinces them that everyone benefits from wearing and doing what each chooses.

“**Jacob’s Room to Choose,**” by Sarah and Ian Hoffman and illustrator Chris Case (Magination Press), is a follow up to their 2014 Jacob’s New Dress. When Jacob, in a dress, and his friend Sophie, in a button-down and khakis, get chased out of the boys’ and girls’ bathrooms, respectively, their teacher leads a class discussion on gender expression. The children decide to create new signs indicating anyone can use any bathroom. The unfortunate reality is that not all schools will be as quick to make change – but this cheerful book offers a model to follow.

Across the Rainbow

Flamingo Rampant micropress published its third cohort of queer-inclusive, multiracial and celebratory picture books, this time with the theme “**Discovery.**” Buy them as a set at flamingorampant.com.

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

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


I Stay Ready. I Take

PREP

PrEP is a pill that can prevent HIV if taken every day. Women are protected after 21 days; men after 7 days.

Who takes PrEP? Anyone that wants to protect themselves from HIV.

To see if PrEP is right for you, visit **Detroit's STD & HIV Clinic at 50 E. Canfield, Detroit, MI 48201 or call 313-577-9100.**


 Health Department

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL®

AXCEL

Happenings

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL'S "AXCEL" JAN. 2 - 5

The world-famous Cirque du Soleil returns to Detroit's Little Caesars arena for an "electrifying" ice skating experience. Featuring a mixture of traditional ice skating with acrobatics, fans of Cirque can look forward to six performances starting Thursday, Jan. 2, through Sunday, Jan. 5. Find out more online at 313presents.com.

PrEP Clinic

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

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

UNIFIED
hiv health and beyond
LIFE CONTINUES. LIVE HEALTHY.

In partnership with
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

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.

OUTINGS

Saturday, December 14

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

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. Hazel Park Community Center, 620 West Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

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.

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 15

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.

Catholic Weekly Liturgy for LGBTQI Community 6 p.m. Dignity Detroit meets every Sunday evening at The School at Marygrove (formerly Marygrove College). Although the College is closing, the campus remains open. The Mass begins at 6 p.m. and is open to anyone interested. The School at Marygrove, 8425 W. McNichols, Detroit. dignitydetroit74@yahoo.com. dignitydetroit.org.

Monday, December 16

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 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

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

PUZZLE P. 25



LOVE
Wins

Between the Lines™

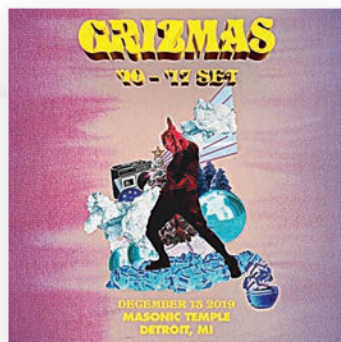
There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and welcome everyone.

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

Editor's Pick

GRIZMAS AT THE MASONIC TEMPLE

Detroit-born, Denver-based artist GRIZ has a "future funk sound" that's been taking dance floors by storm across the U.S. and beyond. He'll be stopping by The Masonic Temple in Detroit for two nights of GRIZMAS music. Find out more online at themasonic.com/events.php.



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 8:30pm. All trans, non-binary and GNC people + allies welcome. Westland Public Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. 734-326-6123. westlandlibrary.org.

Friday, January 3

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

Sunday, January 5

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 p.m. Free and open to the community. 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.

Tuesday, January 7

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Lake Orion / Oakland County 7 p.m. St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663.

Yourist Studio Gallery Holiday Show and Sale 10 a.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. gaybe.am/wN Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-471-6611. gaybe.am/wN.

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting December 26, 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. lawrencemoebis@gmail.com. speakout.toastmastersclubs.org.

THEATER

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

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.

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.

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.

Editor's Pick

"THE SANTALAND DIARIES" BY DAVID SEDARIS AT KICKSHAW THEATRE

Hosted by Ypsilanti's Kickshaw Theatre, fans of David Sedaris' iconic holiday comedy about a down-on-his-luck department store elf have six opportunities to see it performed this winter. The first show is Friday, Dec. 13, with performances lasting through Saturday, Dec. 21. The Kickshaw Theatre is located at 117 Pearl St. in Ypsilanti. Find out more online the theater's Facebook page.



A hand clapping, soul stirring holiday celebration!



The Jazz Gospel Messiah Too Hot To Handel

TICKETS START AT JUST \$33 ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Sat., Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Detroit Opera House



Alfreda Burke



Rodrick Dixon



Karen Marie Richardson



Alvin Waddles

TICKETS:
MichiganOpera.org
or 313.237.7464

Presented by Rackham Choir and the Detroit Opera House



DETROIT OPERA HOUSE



"A GORGEOUS, THRILLING, HEAVENLY MUSICAL."

-THE GUARDIAN



ON SALE NOW

FEBRUARY 4 - 9, 2020
DETROIT OPERA HOUSE

BroadwayInDetroit.com | ticketmaster.com | 800-982-2787 | Box Office | Info 313-872-1000
Groups (12+) Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com (subject: Jesus Christ Superstar)

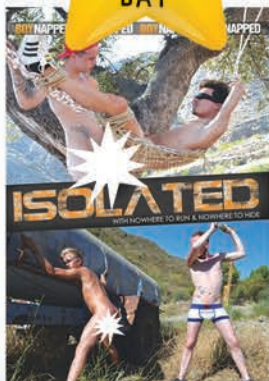
AD and Feb 7

THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!

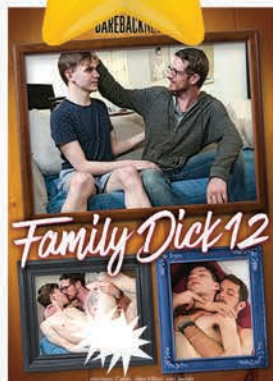
BUY
ADULT DVD'S
STARTING AT
\$5.95



EVERY TUES & FRIDAY
NEW
RELEASE
DAY



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



UPTOWN SALE
20% OFF!

ALL REGULAR PRICED NOVELTIES,
TOYS & LOTIONS
DECEMBER 20-22, 2019

UPTOWN SPECIAL
XXX DVDS!

3/\$9.99

WHILE THEY LAST
DECEMBER 24-31, 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

Hookups =
SQUIRT
.org



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

Dec. 06th

BODY ZONE

8PM-4AM

1617 East McNichols
Detroit

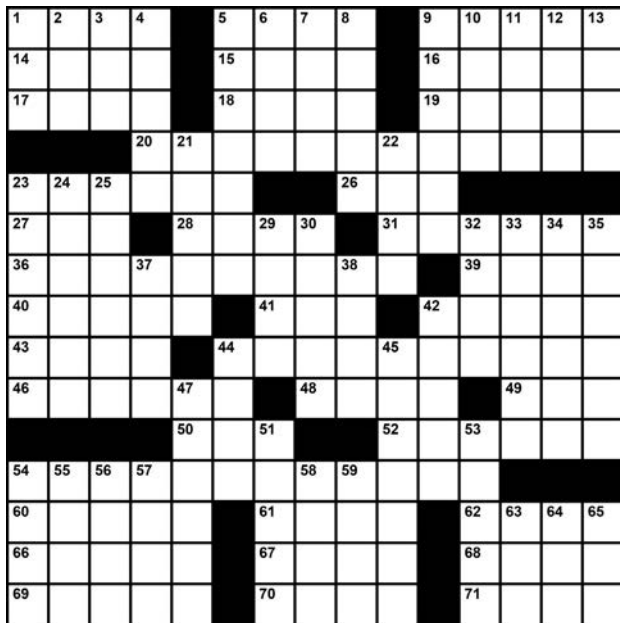
Dec. 14th

THE DIPLOMAT CLUB

8PM-2AM

2324 Division Ave S
Grand Rapids

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



- 41 "Yoo-__!"
 42 Use your butt to demonstrate
 43 "Six Feet Under" creator Ball
 44 End of the self-description
 46 Frida's wrap
 48 Menu option
 49 Request to Sajak
 50 Michelangelo's output
 52 Circuit parties, for example
 54 Character played by Brigitte Lundy-Paine on the Netflix series "Atypical"
 60 Hayes of "South Park"
 61 Roz portrayer on "Frasier"
 62 Woolf wrote about one of her own
 66 Houston ballplayer
 67 Bowie married her
 68 Vegas line
 69 Erect
 70 Diana of "The Avengers"
 71 Red-ink figure

- Anderson
 13 And others, for Nero
 21 Novelist Shaw
 22 Jessica of "I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry"
 23 Phallic shaped creatures
 24 Diamond bird
 25 Potation location?
 29 K-12
 30 Vidal's story lines, e.g.
 32 Small corn serving for Gomer?
 33 Lane of "Modern Family"
 34 Set straight
 35 Gay mag and others?
 37 Lollobrigida of film
 38 New York college
 42 One with a holey bottom
 44 It made the Titanic go down
 45 "Some Enchanted ___"
 47 Give money to UPS
 51 Jaguar's prey
 53 Flynn with dashing roles
 54 "See ya!"
 55 The A in GLARP (abbr.)
 56 Satisfy and then some
 57 Make money
 58 Maria's "Do-___"
 59 "Mrs. Doubtfire" attire
 63 Rene Auberjonois role
 64 Takes too much, for short
 65 Papers of D.H. Lawrence, e.g.

Down

- 1 Anderson Cooper's network
 2 Gardener's long tool
 3 Night stalker
 4 Novelist Cather
 5 Albert to Armand, in "The Birdcage"
 6 Prebirth berth
 7 Anti-oxidant berry
 8 Stops for pirates
 9 Vague chat room boast?
 10 Deuce taker
 11 Carbon compound
 12 "My Life in High Heels" writer

Find solution on page 23 and at www.pridesource.com

Atypical Actress

Q Puzzle

Across

- 1 Put it in your mouth, enjoy
 5 What kissers do with spit
 9 Ancient erection
 14 "___ lay me ..."
 15 Comedic actor James
 16 "Ready ___, here I come!"
 17 Foster role
 18 Nicky portrayer, in "Funny Girl"
 19 Former hotelier Helmsley

- 20 Start of a self-description by recently out non-binary actress Brigitte Lundy-Paine
 23 Noel of "Blithe Spirit"
 26 Homophobia or gay-bashing
 27 Miner concern
 28 Make an emotional discharge
 31 Seasonal serving
 36 More of the self-description
 39 One way to have one's meat
 40 Williams of "The Birdcage"

The Frivolist 5 Ways Your Upbringing Influences Your Money Mindset

BY MIKEY ROX

You may not recognize a connection between your parents' financial habits and the way you manage money as an adult, but the apple often doesn't fall far from the tree.

1. Your parents were tightwads

Frugality is about balance. If your parents didn't strike a healthy balance and were overly frugal when you were a child, you may have developed a pattern of overspending and impulse shopping later in life.

Even if your needs were meant as a kid, maybe you felt deprived because your parents didn't or couldn't provide your wants. Either way, you might spend your adult years overcompensating for what you feel you lacked as a child. Rather than save your money, you spend it as soon as you get it.

Now that you're older, it's important to find a healthy balance between being frugal and frivolous. Be realistic when it comes to your money and stick to a budget. It's OK to splurge and enjoy your income, but not if it means going into debt and sacrificing your savings account.

2. You were spoiled as a child

Whether you were rich or middle class, if you always got what you wanted materially and the word 'no' wasn't in your parents' vocabulary, you might grow up thinking you're entitled to everything.

As a kid, you probably didn't see anything wrong with instant gratification and being spoiled by your parents. But the desire

to have what you want, when you want it, can follow you into adulthood. And when your parents stop paying your way, you might do whatever it takes to get what you want, even if it means using a credit card and digging a financial hole for yourself. This sets the stage for debt and begins the vicious cycle of living paycheck-to-paycheck.

3. Money wasn't discussed in your house

Some parents feel like money is an "adult" topic, so they don't discuss finances in front of their children. The main problem with this type of upbringing is that when some parents take money topics completely off the table, they forget to teach their kids the basics of money management. These kids grow up knowing nothing about money, and they become adults who overspend and overcharge.

Just because money was a taboo topic in your house doesn't mean you have to live in the dark. After reaching a certain age, it's your responsibility to learn about money, debt and credit. If you don't know much about personal finances, there are resources available to educate you like reputable financial websites and blogs, or you can work with a financial advisor.

4. Your parents were financially insecure

If a neighbor purchased a new car, did your parents have to buy one? Or if a neighbor updated his house or went on vacation, did your parents feel the need to outshine them? Some people feel they have to stay a step ahead of everyone. If you observed this behavior growing up, this attitude might rub off on you, to the point where you remain in constant competition with your friends.

Toyota

PAGE TOYOTA

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

MSRP: \$26,970 **Page Discount: \$2,199**

2020 Toyota RAV 4 LE SUV

\$239 per month

for 36 months/10k miles
 \$2,999.00 due at signing
 Page Discount: \$2,199. Page Price: \$24,771.
 Conditional Incentives.
 \$1,000* Cash Offer. Toyota Safety Sense.
 \$2,200 off MSRP! Gray 2020 Toyota RAV4 LE
 8-Speed Automatic 2.5L 4-Cylinder DOHC Dual
 VVT-i 26/35 City/Highway MPG Price includes:
 \$1,000 - TFS Non-Su... 11/30/2019

OR

2019 Accord Sedan

Continuously Variable Transmission LX
 Manufacturer Offers

\$249 per month

for 36 Months, \$1,499.00 cash
 due at signing.

Request More Info/View Inventory *Disclaimer(s) Only for residents of AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, IA, IL, IN, MA, ME, MI, MN, MT, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OH, PA, RI, SD, UT, VT, WI. Offer only valid 11/01/2019 through 1/06/2020. Applies to select new 2019 Honda Accord Sedan. Closed-end lease for 2019 Accord Sedan Continuously Variable Transmission LX available through 01/06/2020, to approved lessees by Honda Financial Services. MSRP \$24,650.00 (includes destination; excludes tax, title, license, registration, options, insurance). Actual net capitalized cost \$22,047.25. Total monthly payments \$8,964.00. Option to purchase at lease end \$13,557.50. Lessee responsible for maintenance, excessive wear/tear and up to 20¢/mi. over 12,000 miles/year. Dealer participation may affect actual payment. Dealer sets actual prices. See participating dealers for details. Includes down payment, no security deposit required. Excludes tax, title, license and dealer fees. For well-qualified customers. Cannot exceed 12,000 miles per year.

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
www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit
@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)
CaucusoftheMDP
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

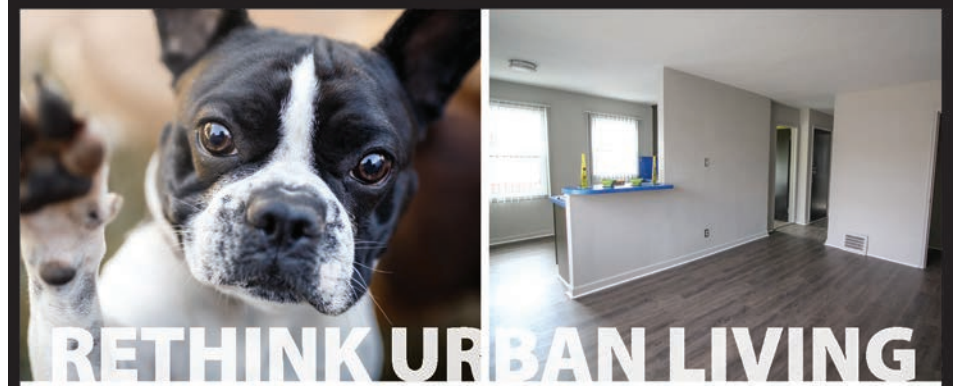
FERNDALE, MICHIGAN – FIREFIGHTERS



Department: Fire Department
Location: Ferndale Fire House
Salary range: \$47,550 - \$64,568 +6.5%
FLSA: Exempt
Employment Type: Full Time

The City of Ferndale is seeking firefighters—aka superheroes, lifesavers, educators, and general doers of awesome things! Firefighters serve and protect the community. Our firefighters are first responders, combating and extinguishing fires; performing rescues, hazmat responses, and life support functions; and engaging in other specialized duties under emergency conditions, frequently involving personal hazard and/or severe weather conditions. Must have completed the written firefighter test with EMPCO and have a valid CPAT. Preference will be given to those applicants with a paramedic license, valid in the state of Michigan. Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, FSA, and Retirement Plans are available.

For a full list of qualifications and to apply, go to <https://www.ferndalemi.gov/jobs>.



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



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

**CALL (248) 266-5545
MetroCareNetwork.org**

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

Are You Living with HIV, on HIV Medication, and NOT Undetected With Your Viral Load?

We are participating in a **CLINICAL TRIAL** and looking for volunteers who are:

- At least 12 years of age (with parental consent) OR at least 18 years of age
- Have been diagnosed with HIV-1 infection
- Receiving a failing antiretroviral regimen

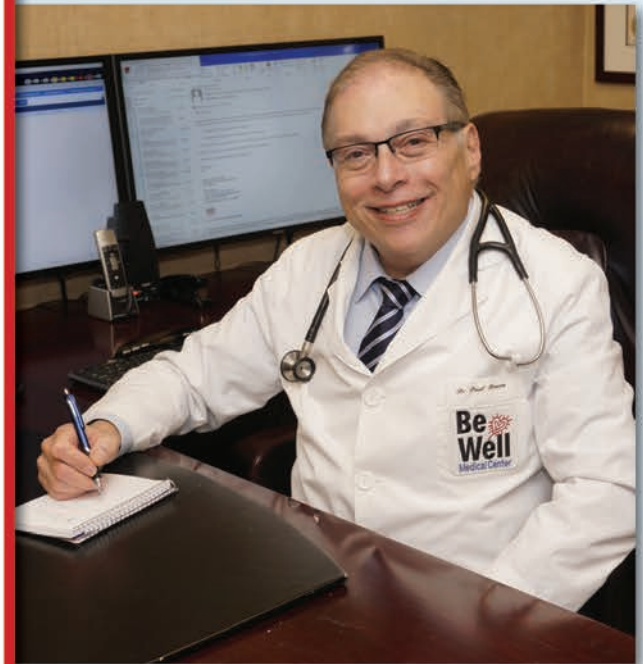
If you are accepted into the study, you will receive investigational medical product for at least 54 weeks and care at no cost to you while in the study.

The study is enrolling now.

Please contact us to learn more.

Choose Option #7 for the Research Office

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT
www.clinicaltrials.gov and search NCT#04150068



Most Experienced and Knowledgeable

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

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

by Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Center of Excellence.

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

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

Extensive Network of Sensitive Specialists

with an ongoing relationship to refer as necessary.

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

He leads our team of professional and talented Providers:

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

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



Caleb Youngblood, PA-C, AAHIV-S



Mark Rosen, PA-C



Leon Bullough, NP-F



Keyuna Nance, MSW