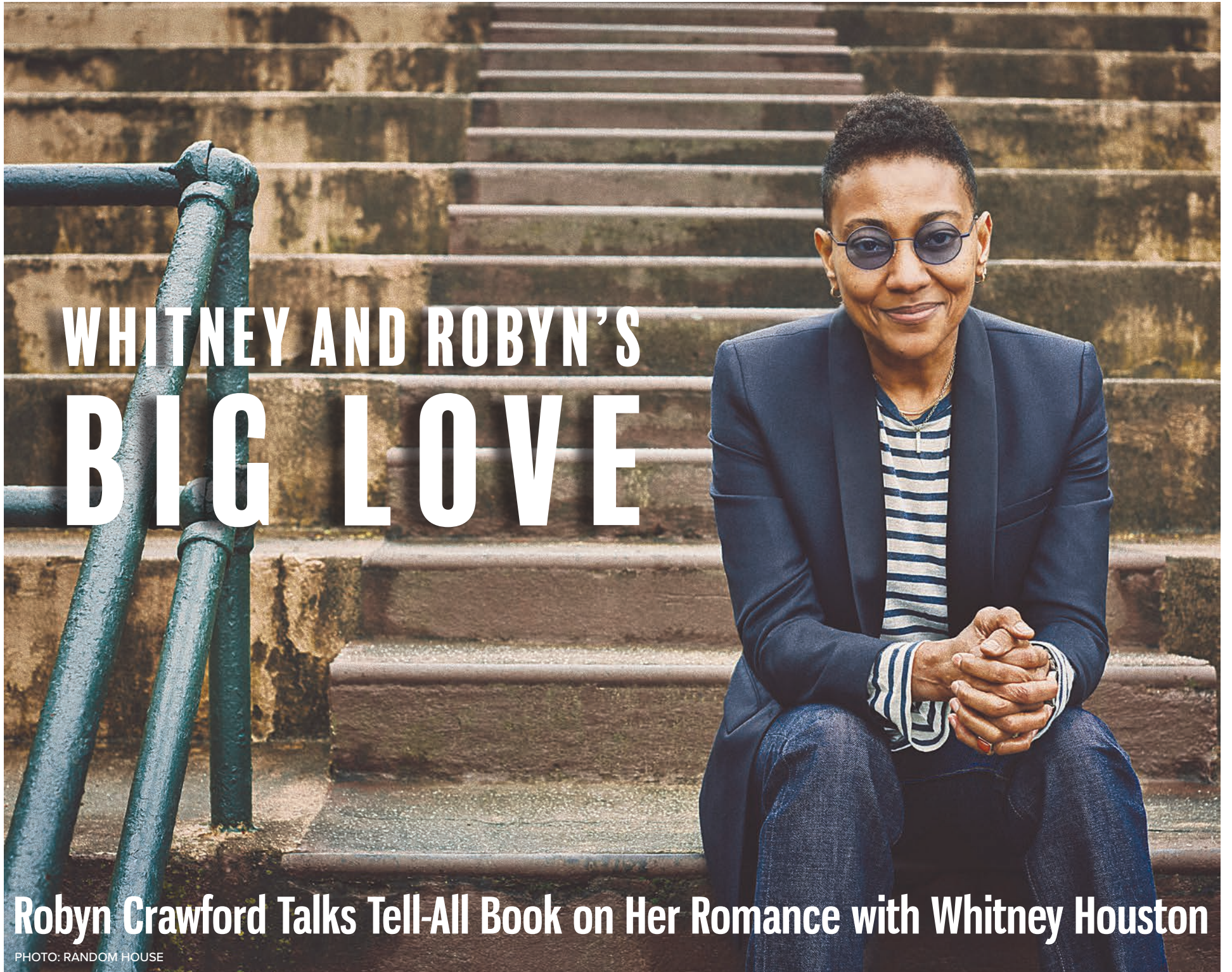


MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



Iowa Caucus: Buttigieg Declares Victory

Michigan Among Lowest-Ranking States in Annual HRC State Equality Index



WHITNEY AND ROBYN'S BIG LOVE

Robyn Crawford Talks Tell-All Book on Her Romance with Whitney Houston

PHOTO: RANDOM HOUSE



Whitfield Lovell, American, born 1959, *Epoch*, 2001, Charcoal on wood and found objects, 77½ x 55 x 17½ inches. Gift of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Richards, by exchange, 2002.13

COMMUNITY

through 4.19.20



Renée Stout, American, born 1958, *Marie Laveau*, 2009/2013, Color pencil drawing over lithograph proof on paper, 21 x 21 inches. Museum purchase with funds from the Collection Endowment, 2013.64.

Community features works in multiple mediums from some of the most important artists from the FIA's collection, including Jacob Lawrence, Kara Walker, Whitfield Lovell, and Renée Stout, exploring themes of history and place, identity and representation, and social justice and self-expression.

FIA Celebrates Black History Month

This exhibition of African American art from local collectors Anthony J. and Davida J. Artis highlights works that tell stories, especially as a means to educate, encourage, and engage the community. *Wonderfully Made* is centered around the themes of faith, family, and faces and includes pieces by Henry Ossawa Tanner and Winfred Rembert.

through 4.11.20

WONDERFULLY MADE

The Artis Collection of African American Art



Winfred Rembert, American, born 1945, *Miss Prather's Class*, 2014, Woodcut and silkscreen, 25½ x 29½ inches. The Anthony and Davida Artis Collection of African American Fine Art.



1120 E Kearsley St,
Flint, MI 48503
810.234.1695
flintarts.org



Free Admission
for Genesee County Residents
provided by the Arts Education &
Cultural Enrichment Millage



VALENTINE'S DAY

26 REC Partners to Present
Burlesque at The Motown Mansion

26 Building a W'All for Love

27 21 Years and Counting, Detroit
Dirty Show is Back Again

28 Reading About Love



COVER

22: Whitney and Robyn's Big Love

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 2020

NEWS

6 Michigan Among Lowest-Ranking States in Annual HRC State Equality Index

6 Grosse Pointe Pride Organizer Turns Symbol of Judgment to Acceptance

8 \$50,000 FCA Foundation Grant to AID Youth Leadership at Ruth Ellis Center

10 LGBTQ Center Affirmations 2020 Cash Update

10 A Driver for Change: Eric-John Szczepaniak Runs for Alpine Township City Clerk

14 Debunking BDSM/Kink Myths in Wake of Kevin Bacon's Murder

20 Iowa Caucus: Buttigieg Declares Victory

OPINION

14 Parting Glances

14 Viewpoint

15 Creep of the Week

LIFE

22 Whitney and Robyn's Big Love

30 Jax Anderson Talks New 'Heal' EP Before El Club Show Feb. 8

35 Nina West, Farrah Moan of 'RuPaul's Drag Race' to Appear at Andiamo's Drag Brunch

37 A Relationship With Crime

38 5 Retail Replacements That Should Satisfy Your Urge to Splurge

40 Deep Inside Hollywood

32 Trixie Mattel is All 'Grown Up' and Coming to Royal Oak

36 Happenings

41 Puzzle

VOL. 2806/07 • FEBRUARY 6, 2020

ISSUE 1140

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

News & Feature Editor

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105
eve@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers

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

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists

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

Cartoonists

Paul Berg

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Andrew Cohen, Roxanne Frith, Tih Penfil

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

MEMBER OF

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



"Between The Lines Newspaper"



Follow us @YourBTL



Email your op-eds to
editor@pridesource.com



Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

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

(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

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

ABOUT BIKTARVY

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

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

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

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

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

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

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

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

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

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

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

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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

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



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

LOVE
WHAT'S
INSIDE[®]

KEEP PUSHING.

Because HIV doesn't change who you are.

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

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

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

 **GILEAD**

Michigan Among Lowest-Ranking States in Annual HRC State Equality Index

BY BTL STAFF

Last week the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and the Equality Federation Institute released their 5th annual State Equality Index, a comprehensive report detailing statewide laws and policies that affect LGBTQ people and their families, and assessing how well states are protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination. Michigan falls into the category, “High Priority to Achieve Basic Equality.”

“As LGBTQ people continue to face an onslaught of attacks from the federal administration in Washington, the Human Rights Campaign’s 2019 State Equality Index documents how states were instrumental in advancing equality through pro-LGBTQ legislation, policies and proposals,” said HRC President Alphonso David. “In the absence of federal nondiscrimination protections for the LGBTQ community, states must put policies in place to ensure equality for their residents, workers and visitors. In 2020 and beyond, the Human Rights Campaign will continue to work with our partners to defeat anti-LGBTQ legislation in the states and secure new protections for our community, both at the state and federal level. Already, we see the promise of even more protections passing state legislatures in 2020, including action taken in Virginia advancing the Virginia Values Act.”

Due to the lack of explicit, comprehensive civil rights protections for LGBTQ people at the federal level, the rights of millions of LGBTQ people and their families vary depending on which state they live in. In 30 states, LGBTQ people remain at risk of being fired, evicted or denied services because of who they are. These top-rated states and Washington, D.C., have robust LGBTQ non-discrimination laws covering employment, housing and public accommodations.

The SEI’s assessment of statewide LGBTQ-related legislation and policies in the areas of parenting laws and policies, religious refusal and relationship recognition laws, non-discrimination laws and policies, hate crime and criminal justice laws, youth-related laws and policies and health and safety laws and policies has placed each state in one of four distinct categories:

Seventeen states and the District of Columbia are in the highest-rated category, “Working Toward Innovative Equality”:

California; Colorado; Connecticut; Delaware; District of Columbia; Illinois; Maine; Maryland; Massachusetts; Minnesota; Nevada; New Jersey; New Mexico; New York; Oregon; Rhode Island; Vermont; and Washington

Three states are in the category “Solidifying Equality”:

Hawaii; Iowa; and New Hampshire

Two states are in the category “Building Equality”:

Utah and Wisconsin

Twenty-Eight states are in the lowest-rated category “High Priority to Achieve Basic Equality”:

Alabama; Alaska; Arizona; Arkansas; Florida; Georgia; Idaho; Indiana; Kansas; Kentucky; Louisiana; Michigan; Mississippi; Missouri; Montana; Nebraska; North Carolina; North Dakota; Ohio; Oklahoma; Pennsylvania; South Carolina; South Dakota; Tennessee; Texas; Virginia; West Virginia; and Wyoming

Last year, the pro-equality majority in the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Equality Act, a bill to establish comprehensive federal protections for LGBTQ people. But as HRC and other civil rights organizations work toward establishing these critical federal protections, accelerating progress at the state level is vital.

HRC’s full State Equality Index report, including detailed scorecards for every state, and a preview of the 2020 state legislative session is available online at hrc.org/sei.



Photo by Andrea Joy.

Grosse Pointe Pride Organizer Turns Symbol of Judgment to Acceptance

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

In what looks much like a rainbow tree farm, 100 miniature Pride flags sprouted from the lawn of Grosse Pointe Congregational Church this month. Andrea Joy, chair of the annual Grosse Pointe Pride March, is the responsible party. She said that she hopes that her actions will catch on.

“It’s a common practice for schools to rent out space to churches on Sundays ... so they don’t have the overhead of a building,” Joy said. “We found out that churches that rent out space in both Brownell Middle School and Trombly Elementary School are anti-gay marriage, so for that [they] are actually anti-

LGBTQ. A lot of people were upset by it.”

By housing these churches, the schools are merely engaging in a rental agreement. However, Joy wanted to do something to send a positive message to young churchgoers.

“The thing that I thought of is kids driving in a car with their parents to a church that may not accept them when they grow up ... would see that visible support at another church, which happens to be the neighbor of Brownell Middle School,” Joy said, referring to Grosse Pointe Congregational Church.

Joy called pastor Richard Yeager-Stiver, and “he just thought it was an awesome idea.”

“We decided 100 flags would

represent that we want to decrease LGBTQ+ suicide by 100 percent by having visible community support,” Joy said.

The day after the flags sprouted, Yeager-Stiver posted photos and an affirming message on his personal Facebook page.

Joy admits she “stole” the idea of planting Pride flags from some churches that put up little crosses to protest abortion.

“I think it does make people look at their hypocrisy,” Joy said. “If you want to save an unborn child [when] we know — especially for transgender people — how high the suicide rates are.”

The fourth annual Grosse Pointe Pride March is slated for June 20.

DETROIT'S GOLDEN TICKET

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

ON SALE NOW

FEB 18 - MAR 1

DETROIT OPERA HOUSE • BroadwayInDetroit.com

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

AD  Feb. 23



Malandain Ballet Biarritz

Saturday, February 15 Only at 7:30 PM
at the Detroit Opera House

THE PERFECT DATE FOR VALENTINE'S WEEKEND!

TICKETS
START
AT JUST
\$30

Detroit Premiere!

This French contemporary dance company is known for their celebration of sensuality and humanity.

MICHIGAN
OPERA
THEATRE

2020 MOT Spring Dance
Season Sponsor:



MichiganOpera.org or 313.237.7464

THEATRE
& DANCE
at WAYNE

William Shakespeare's

THE WINTER'S TALE



February 7 to 23, 2020

Hilberly Theatre

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

Buy tickets at

theatreanddanceatwayne.com | 313-577-2972

Photo by Chuk Nowak Photography

\$50,000 FCA Foundation Grant to Aid Youth Leadership at Ruth Ellis Center

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Specializing in trauma-informed care for Detroit's LGBTQ runaway and at-risk youth of color, The Ruth Ellis Center has long focused on building strong relationships with the community it serves. Now, because of a \$50,000 grant from the charitable arm of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, the FCA Foundation, the nonprofit will have the tools to expand upon its existing career- and life skills-building services. Christine Estereicher is the FCA Foundation director of civil engagement and state affairs. She said that ideally the grant will help to "build strong and sustainable communities."

"Providing opportunities for young people to develop the skills necessary to succeed in school and life is key in this regard, and complements FCA's longstanding commitment to LGBTQ+ employees, communities, customers and issues," she said.

Executive director of REC Jerry Peterson said that this grant will help "push forward" REC's existing education and employment services.

"Most of the young people that we serve have experienced pretty high levels of trauma, and those trauma triggers become really serious



issues in their ability to manage their emotions at work and self-regulation," Peterson said. "They're very bright and capable people, so they're able to get jobs. But too frequently they'll lose the job or they'll drop out of an educational opportunity because of the more soft skills that are involved in how you build relationships and how you connect with people and how you

manage those relationships at work."

To combat that issue, REC has used its grant funding to create a three-tiered curriculum that focuses on building foundational work skills, skill-share education, includes a paid internship and opportunities for longer-term positions at the center.

Three Levels of Engagement

The program's first level focuses on foundational community work skills development. This level of the grant-funded program will allow REC to hire a person to focus primarily on soft-skill development like interviewing, resume-building, working through on-the-job conflicts and LGBTQ legal resources to aid employment. Participants will attend on alternating days from the REC Drop-In Center.

"Level one is really for any young person who wants to be engaged in these activities and move forward with their lives," Peterson said.

The next level progresses into a nine-week paid summer internship open to LGBTQ young people aged 16 to 30. Hard skills will be introduced in this portion of the program like team-building, working at REC's Drop-In Center and acting as staff in other capacities at the Center. Peterson said that those interested in participating in the program's second level do not have to have experience with level one.

"So, they will actually apply for the positions

See **REC Grant**, continued on p. 20

Out Loud LGBTQ Chorus Honored at 25th Anniv. by Statewide Officials

BY BTL STAFF

LGBTQ-affirming Out Loud Chorus kicked off its 25th anniversary season at Towsley Auditorium on Jan. 17 and 18 with accolades and commendations from numerous government officials. Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor presented OLC Vice President Cinda Hocking with a proclamation naming Jan. 17, 2020, as Out Loud Chorus Day. In this proclamation, OLC is recognized for its contribution as an LGBTQ chorus and the music experiences it has provided to Ann Arbor and surrounding areas.

State Sen. Jeff Irwin also presented a State of Michigan Special Tribute signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II, State Sen. Irwin and State Reps. Donna Lasinski, Yousef Rabhi, Ronnie D. Peterson and Rebekah Warren. This tribute called out OLC's dedication to fostering a safe and inclusive space for all who love to sing as well as the choir's mission to reduce bigotry and discrimination against LGBTQ people.

"It is a great honor to receive government recognition and commendation," Hocking said. "We are so grateful and impressed that these leaders took the time and effort to understand, support and share in our mission."

On Jan. 18, Out Loud Chorus was honored in a State of Michigan Tribute presented by State Rep. Yousef Rabhi. Washtenaw County Commissioner Jason Morgan presented additional accolades from Sen. Gary Peters and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell. Dingell entered a letter into the Congressional Record honoring OLC as "an indispensable asset to our diverse and vibrant community."

Sen. Peters' letter welcomed the audience to the concert and called out "Artistic Director Darin DeWeese for dedicating his time, talent and hard work to ensure the success and endurance of the group."

"It is truly an honor to serve at the helm of an organization that not only creates an affirming space for members of our community to gather and make

music," DeWeese said. "But also an organization that plays an active role in supporting and giving back to our brothers and sisters of the wider LGBTQ+ community!"

OLC President Annie Withers said, "It is such an honor and privilege to be recognized for doing what most of us just love doing: singing and making good music with friends. That we are also able to be a place in community that seeks to be inclusive, welcoming and affirming to those in the LGBTQ+ [community] and our allies is a testament to our success in our goal to decreasing discrimination through education."

Out Loud Chorus is a audition-free LGBTQ community chorus in Washtenaw County founded in 1995 comprised of more than 80 members. OLC is sponsored in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information please contact OLC at 734-265-0740 or outloudchorus@gmail.com.



State Rep. Yousef Rabhi and Washtenaw County Commissioner Jason Morgan presenting to OLC Vice President Cinda Hocking at "Legendary" on Jan. 18, 2020. Photo by Tim Howley.



Out Loud Chorus with Director Darin DeWeese, Accompanist Nicholas Roehrer, Mayor Taylor and Sen. Irwin. Photo by Tim Howley.

From The Best Selling Book

MURRAY & PETER PRESENT

PRAY  **THE GAY AWAY**

A TRUE LIFE COMING OUT COMEDY

starring

ZAKAR TWINS

Written by Zakar Twins & Bobby Brower

Directed by Joe Bailey



MARCH 5 - 8
BALDWIN THEATRE

415 S. LAFAYETTE AVE, ROYAL OAK MI 48067

ON SALE NOW

ZakarTwins.com @zakartwins @mppresent



NATIONAL TOUR

LGBTQ Center Affirmations 2020 Financial Update

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

As Affirmations celebrated its 30th anniversary last year, the LGBTQ community center in Ferndale also went through a slew of leadership and financial changes. With the appointment of Dave Garcia as its returning executive director, a restructuring of the board of directors, new donor and financial goals, its current financial statements show the center having increased its revenue to its highest point in years.

“In 2019 we actually turned a profit at Affirmations, in the black, above and beyond depreciation for the first time since I was here the last time,” Garcia said. “The 2019 audit will show that.”

Set to be completed by the end of this month, BTL will follow up with a more comprehensive breakdown of the center’s financial records since the start of its drastic financial upswing. In the meantime, we chatted with Garcia to answer some basic questions about the center’s currently released financial documents for 2019 leading into the start of 2020.

To date, the center reported a checking bank balance of \$199,868 at the end of December 2019, a significant increase from the \$131,405 total at the start of November 2019. To put that progress in perspective, in November of 2018, the center was facing financial shutdown and an inability to meet costs.

“Our 2020 budget is \$750,000 in revenue. In expenses it’s \$750,000, but remember it’s \$93,000 in depreciation, so at the end of the year you’re at plus \$93,000 if you raise \$750,000. And those monies, that depreciation of variance is supposed to be used to replenish the Building for the Future Fund, because the building is depreciating,” he said. “If we raise the \$750,000 that we told the board we will by the end of the year, then there will be a positive variance of at least \$93,000 on the books and we can put it into the BFF fund to continue to replenish for an emergency for the building. ... So if we come within depreciation we still pay all of our bills.”

One final line item of concern was a long-term liability of \$75,000 that remained unchanged for several years preceding Garcia’s tenure. When asked about it, Garcia said that this issue traced back to a pension plan that preceded several executive directors of the center before him.

“A long time ago before the crash in the market, a lot of nonprofits got together through the United Way and they paid, basically, a pension to their senior staff. It wasn’t just Affirmations, there were dozens. So, Affirmations had a pension for Leslie Thompson, the executive director, and a couple senior staff members,” Garcia said. “When 2008’s crash hit, basically the pension plan program folded, but they still owed those pensions. There’s an arm of the federal government called the PBGC — The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. So, the PBGC steps in and basically, they’re almost like the FDIC, so they cover the pensions. But then these nonprofits all worked out a deal with the PGBC to pay these back, because they did owe them.”

At the time, Affirmations owed roughly \$130,000. However, it was able to negotiate a price of \$75,000 with the federal government that was due to be paid within 10 days. What Garcia said still confuses him today is that a check was cut to pay back this debt, but somewhere in the process it was voided. And since the federal government never followed up on their end to make sure the payment was completed, the \$75,000 has remained on Affirmations’ books. Garcia said that immediately after he stepped into his returning role at the center he made plans with PBGC to pay this debt down — adding that the center is lucky that no penalties have been added on top of the owed debt.

“I think we’re going to get a payment plan probably over the next five years. But the fact of the matter is everyone was ignoring this until I got back here and now we’re actually dealing with it,” Garcia said. “Anyone sitting on the board of directors should have seen the audit from ’15 and ’16 and ’17 and seen that this pension obligation is still sitting there. And why?”

This is a developing story.

A Driver for Change: Eric-John Szczepaniak Runs for Alpine Township City Clerk

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Eric-John Szczepaniak was only 18 when, in 2016, he was elected to the Kenowa Hills School Board, becoming the body’s first LGBTQ and youngest elected official. Then, in 2019, Szczepaniak was also elected student body president at Grand Valley State University where he attends college full-time studying public and nonprofit administration. At both institutions, he has enacted policy that requires LGBTQ nondiscrimination in hiring and service practices for any private vendor that does business with either governing board. Now, Szczepaniak is running for Alpine Township City Clerk in the fall. He said that he was worked with community members to build “agency and ownership” in their communities.

“At age 17, I began regularly registering my classmates to vote and have been party to the efforts at GVSU over the past four years as well,” Szczepaniak said. “In September of 2019, Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson appointed me to the Collegiate Student Advisory Task Force to look into barriers that still exist for young people when it comes to voting and civic education. I realized that the position of clerk lines up with my passion to build agency and ownership in communities. This role has the potential to engage every citizen in their democracy, to work to make sure that more folks are using their voice, which means all the time and not only on election day.”

Plans for Office

If elected to office, Szczepaniak has ambitious plans. One of his main priorities centers around doubling the number of permanent absentee voters throughout the township because of the Constitutional changes voted on in 2018.

“Many forward-thinking clerks have already mailed all registered voters in their jurisdiction an application to be on the permanent absentee list,” Szczepaniak said. “This ensures that folks never miss an election since they will get their ballot by mail and access to vote-by-mail has been shown time and time again to increase voter turnout.”

On the campaign trail, Szczepaniak is often joined by his mother, who, herself, is running for Alpine Township City Treasurer.

“My mother, Sabra, makes me a better public servant,” Szczepaniak said. “I love her to pieces and know that this duo can help others work through their issues and make Alpine Township government feel like family.”

Political Beginnings

More dedicated to politics than most at his age today, Szczepaniak credits his time in high school with motivating him to become politically active.

“I think being involved in many extracurriculars and seeing how everything is linked together made me realize that I have immense potential to be a force for good,” he said. “An early experience that I am proud of was during my junior year at Kenowa Hills High School when my AP U.S. Government teacher required every student to address a Supreme Court decision that they feel was decided incorrectly and explain why.”

Szczepaniak chose the 2010 Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission as his case.

“It has proven disastrous for democracy and allowed millions of unreported dollars into the political system. At the time, I learned about various groups of individuals trying to amend the U.S. Constitution to state that money is not speech and that it should be limited in the political system,” he said. “I requested and met with my state representative who was sort of sympathetic but uninterested. because he said that I was the only person to talk to him about this issue.”

But Szczepaniak was undeterred.

“I went to every city and township that he represented and asked the local elected officials to ask this of him publicly. The City of Cedar Springs, a small town in northern Kent County, passed a resolution after I spoke at public comment to oppose Citizens United v. FEC and asked the state representative to address the issue. He did not address it before he was term-limited, but the City of Cedar Springs is now, on record, opposed to this terrible decision. That process made me realize that positive change requires more voices at the table, more input to get the attention of elected officials. I wanted to do more organizing and community building.”

So, when the opportunity arrived, the decision to run for school board, Szczepaniak said, was simple.

“I saw that there was no student representative for the Board of Education, so it was quite possible that they didn’t ever hear from student voices,” he said. “I had been very involved during my high school years, serving as a class officer for all four years, and I wanted to continue making positive change for other students in my school.”

That same drive for change, he said, is present in his campaign today.

Visit alpineforall.com.



You're Cordially
Invited
To

**Fight
For
Equality**

Become an ACLU member
at ACLUmich.org



Get the facts about
**ACTIVE
RETIREMENT
LIVING**
at Fox Run

FREE BROCHURE

Request your **FANTASTIC FREE BROCHURE**,
written by the retirement experts.

This comprehensive brochure is packed with information about
the carefree lifestyle at Fox Run, Novi's premier continuing care
retirement community for seniors 62-plus.

Call **1-877-356-4913** or
visit **FoxRunNovi.com**
to request your FREE
brochure today!



**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.

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

www.rontwilliamsondds.com

Find us on facebook



Debunking BDSM/Kink Myths in Wake of Kevin Bacon's Murder

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

When it was revealed that LGBTQ Michigander Kevin Bacon was mutilated and killed by a Grindr date over the winter holidays, his story not only made local headlines but national waves as well. In fact, it impacted communities that people might not initially consider, too.

"This has affected every ... aspect of the LGBTQ BDSM/kink community," said local physician Erik Wert, some of whose patients count themselves as members of that group. "Everyone's heart is going out for this person. Going out for their friends and family. They are more worried of, 'How did this happen?' and, 'Why did it happen?'"

Indeed, questions and grief, not to mention fear and misconceptions swirl around this case. Between The Lines thought it useful — if not sorely needed — to state the facts and dispel the myths about BDSM/kink and the LGBTQ community. And to clear up the conflation of some sources that the mental illness present in the perpetrator of this crime is related to BDSM.

Wert agreed. He said it's vital to understand that BDSM/kink is not practiced by exclusively LGBTQ people.

"It spans the entire sexual orientation, gender identity spectrum," he said. "It is not just an LGBTQ issue. Think about when you had the big outbreak of '50 Shades of Grey.'"

However, despite these facts, complicating factors are that BDSM/kink is often poorly understood by the general public. The term "BDSM" can mean different things, but it's usually translated as bondage, discipline, domination, sadism masochism. It's really a catch-all term encompassing a wide range of activities that can be described as an identity, fantasy, activity and culture.

Where BDSM Differs From Abuse

For all the variety and variations of BDSM/kink and the individuals who participate, three concepts are key that distinguish it from abuse: consent, communication and safety.

"Consent is the core of BDSM, truly," Wert said. "Communication and consent. And that means individuals engaging have to agree on what is acceptable, what is off-limits. And they have a shared power dynamic: each person equally empowered in this. And the other thing you have to remember, even though consent may be given, it can be withdrawn at any moment by either party. Either party can say, 'Nope, this ends.' That's why you always hear the term, 'safe word' or 'safe symbol.' ... People use different ways to say, 'This is something that we need to stop now.' And so, this is a constant communication between both parties. It's a check-in at almost all times."

In BDSM/kink culture, safety means a shared



understanding of the risk-benefit ratio of a particular behavior. That must be discussed upfront. Many behaviors, sexual or not, carry some risk, sometimes great. Wert mentioned the acronym RACK, or risk-aware consensual kink. Individuals have a responsibility to acknowledge the risk inherent to a particular behavior and to mitigate the risk as they see fit. Wert also explained the meaning of SSC, or safe, sane and consensual.

"That means everything is based on the idea of a safe activity," he said. "And each person is of sound mind and can consent to what's going to happen."

Wert explained why myths about BDSM/kink culture persist.

"People think there's a dark, grungy underside to it," he said.

Perpetuating that myth, Bacon's parents told the press that their son had 'a dark side,' upon learning the circumstances of his death.

"For a long time, this has all been pushed underground," Wert said. "No one wants to talk about it. Even the medical community doesn't want to talk about it. I try to educate other doctors on it. I try to dispel myths about it, I try to educate them that you need to talk to your patients about what they might encounter."

Unfortunately, "No one really studies it," he said.

And because of this "dark" reputation, "There's not much real, evidence-based information out there."

For example, the study cited in the following section is 12 years old.

Backlash

"The BDSM community is reeling from this just as much as the LGBTQ community," Wert said. "And they're all worried about this backlash."

A fear of backlash is well-founded. According to a 2008 survey by the National Coalition for

Sexual Freedom ncsfreedom.org, the majority of respondents were not out to family and work regarding their "sexual minority activities" and around 40 percent were not out to non-BDSM friends. The reasons included fears of disapproval, harassment and loss of custody of children; some stated the desire for privacy. Of those who were out, more than a third had experienced — in order of prevalence — discrimination, harassment or violence, which was slightly more common for LGBTQ people. Some reported loss of job or promotion; others, loss of custody of children.

Other negative consequences were estrangement or alienation from family. Finally, almost half reported discrimination by medical doctors and more than a third by mental health professionals. It should be noted that it wasn't until 2015 that that psychiatry's "bible," the DSM-5 reclassified "unusual sexual interests" in a way that distinguishes behaviors from mental illness.

The fears described above could be the reason that Bacon's murderer was not investigated or prosecuted sooner. There are two known instances this fall of men fleeing the murderer's home; they did not wish to file police reports. Whatever embarrassment or repercussions they feared, they chose to remain silent.

"This is the perpetuation of a very sex-negative, sex-phobic society that we live in," Wert said. "We are so sex-negative, and anything ... outside what 'the norm' is, looked down upon, is marginalized, and it makes people feel watched, [or] that these people are 'bad.' Some of the nicest people I take care of are into this, to be honest. They are very open, because they know I won't judge them."

The Law

Part of what fuels the fear and backlash surrounding BDSM is how it is defined by law, which is helpfully described by the NCSF.

The nature of criminal offense in BDSM is that one person has caused physical harm — injury and/or intense pain — to another person. The law sees this as causing harm, not engaging in mutually agreed-upon or beneficial conduct; therefore, BDSM is seen as violence, not as sex.

That explains why the issue of consent is different in BDSM cases than in rape cases. In a rape case, the sex act is not viewed as criminal unless it can be shown that consent was not given. In a case involving BDSM, however, causing physical harm is, in and of itself, criminal. However, if the participant consented to have the acts done to them, the question remains whether the "criminal conduct" can be excused.

Addressing Mental Illness


BDSM/Kink elements were present in the events leading up to Bacon's murder and it's clear the perpetrator was mentally ill. However, there is no known correlation between psychological dysfunction and violence perpetration by BDSM practitioners. And unfortunately, Bacon couldn't have known his date suffered from major depression with psychotic features, paranoid schizophrenia and personality disorders — according to court filings by his ex-wife, or that he had a history of not taking his prescribed medication.

Wert pointed out, too, that anyone outside of the LGBTQ or BDSM/kink communities could end up on a date with someone without knowing that they are mentally ill. Because of this, he stressed the importance of establishing a safety plan when meeting someone for the first time: only meet in a public place and check-in with a friend via texts, calls, etc.

Perhaps the most important thing to keep in mind regarding mental health and violence is that only 3 to 5 percent of violent acts can be attributed to individuals living with a serious mental illness. Further, people who have mental illness are 10 times more likely to be the victims of violent crime than the perpetrators, according to statistics from mentalhealth.gov.

Wert summed up the effects that Bacon's murder has had on the local community.

"There's no words to describe what his family's going through, his friends are going through, but it also raises good questions," Wert said. "How do we deal with mental illness? How can we demystify ... how humans express sexual desires, intimacy, relationships? All I know is this has sent huge ripples through the LGBTQ community. Everyone is talking about it; they're all feeling horrible about it. It's going to be hard for you to wrap this [article] up because this is going to have some long-term consequences. But we can also take it as a learning experience."




CORKTOWN
HEALTH CENTER

HEALTHCARE FOR OUR COMMUNITY



- | Primary Care
- | Behavior Health Services
- | HIV Care
- | Breast/Cervical Cancer Screening
- | Hormone Therapy
- | Insurance Navigation
- | Fully Integrated PrEP services and more!

313-832-3300
www.corktownhealth.org

No matter how you wear it  wear it proud.

Affirmations Presents the
Premier LGBTQ+ Black Tie Gala

Spring Bash

2020


31 YEARS OF QUEER

Saturday,
April 18, 2020, 7 PM

Dearborn Inn Marriott

Tickets:
General Admission \$250
VIP \$500

GoAffirmations.org/
spring-bash-2020



Affirmations
People Building Community

Original Design by Christopher Shields 2019

We are an Honest & Friendly Family Owned Business - Fair Prices Always!

Sears **Lift-Master** **Clopay** **GENIE PRO**
The Professional Line Garage Door Openers Garage Doors

MANY STYLES • GARAGE DOORS & OPENERS TOO!

- Residential Experts ■ We Sell New Garage Doors
- Cable & Roller Replacement ■ Openers Repaired & Installed
- All Types Of Garage Door & Opener Repairs ■ Spring Replacement

We Service All Makes & Models

NO Extra Service Charge For Evenings & Weekends

We Fix Broken Springs FAST 24 Hr Emergency Service

✓ Check Our Prices On Broken Spring Replacement



SNAPPED CABLE HIT DOOR BROKEN SPRING BROKEN OPERATORS TRANSMITTERS

TOWN & COUNTRY DOOR LLC

Over 500 Five Star Reviews

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

If We Can't Fix It... Our Service Call Is Free

All Work Warranted In Writing

248-600-4683

WWW.TOWNANDCOUNTRYDOOR.NET





Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Doppelgangers, Big 10 and Me

As a recent resident of the Henry Ford Senior Retirement Village Community, consisting of some 800 units — I live in Berkshire Gardens — I have had some interesting, shall we say, metaphysical, perhaps psychic experiences.

At separate dinner times, for starters, I've encountered three fellow diners — the food served at the St. Clair and Windows restaurants is excellent and varied — who are double takes for friends I have known for some time. MCCC associate pastors Revs. Jim Lynch and Deb Cox, and trans person and uptempo personality MsVal. (I have iPhone pictures to prove likenesses).

The odds concerning another recent encounter — actually last week — must be, well, astounding, amazing and unbelievable. But it did happen to me.

It all started a few weeks or so ago. In a satiric mood I thought of Charlton Heston starring in "The Ten Commandments," a powerful, biblically butch movie about the heroic Prophet Moses, who led his enslaved nation and people to freedom from the oppression of Egypt.

I saw the film in 1956 when it debuted, budgeted at \$13 million. I was an impressionable 20 then. As Hollywood visual reparative therapy, it failed completely in my case.

My touch of creative mentation led me to a moment of satire. If Moses were indeed to descend from the thunderclouds of biblical Mount Sinai he would not be carrying the twin tablets of THE LAW! but an iPhone in his right hand and an iPad in his left! Or, vice versa.

This bit of satiric whimsy made me curious about the number of artists who over the centuries have used the Moses on the mount mythos to inspire their visual and aesthetic — or lack thereof — renditions and interpretations.

A check of Wikipedia shows samples of dozens of well-known and lesser-known artists working in a variety of media: oils, etching, lithography, stained glass, pencil, watercolor and sculpture.

I spent a good half hour in my research, while relaxing after yet another delicious meal at the St. Clair Dining Room. I was amused, edified by my precursory look-see. And then! Dumbfounded by what happen next.

I looked up from the well-cushioned chair I was sitting in and saw, walking toward me a fellow HFV residents, wearing a black sweatshirt with a message in white letters that read — my new glasses ensured me that I was seeing on target — "Moses was the first person with a tablet downloading data from the cloud."

Kindly, this unexpected, unintentional messenger let me take a proof picture. Oh, yes. I think I'm safe in speculating. There is an 11th Cpmmandment: "Thou shalt keep thy cellphone charged at all times."

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



Transmissions



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

A Hair-Raising Talk of Race, Sex and Gender

While I typically write about trans issues, this particular column will not start with a story about a transgender or nonbinary person. Rather, it begins with a story about hair. Specifically, DeAndre Arnold's hair.

Arnold is a senior at Barbers Hill High School in Mont Belvieu, Texas. The irony of the school's name is not lost on me, nor will it be on you. Arnold has found himself afool of the school's dress code because he has lengthy dreadlocks.

For him and his family, his dreadlocks are a large part of Arnold's identity: Arnold's dad hails from Trinidad, and wearing dreadlocks is a part of the culture. It is a sense of pride.

The school, however, disagrees.

"Male students' hair will not extend, at any time, below the

eyebrows, or below the earlobes," reads the school's current handbook, according to USA Today. "Male students' hair must not extend below the top of a T-shirt collar or be gathered or worn in a style that would allow the hair to extend below the top of a T-shirt collar, below the eyebrows or below the earlobes when let down."

Similar policies on hair length are not in place for female students.

Even though Arnold has taken pains to wear his dreadlocks up, keeping them off his shoulder and out of his eyes as stipulated by the school dress code, he has nevertheless been threatened with in-school suspension and told he may not be allowed to walk during graduation ceremonies later this year.

See **Transmissions**, continued on next page

Creep Of The Week

Steven Hotze

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

When I went to the library recently there was a black man, maybe in his 30s, standing outside collecting signatures. Being civic-minded and nosy, I approached him to see what the signatures were for.

"I'm running for Congress and I am collecting signatures to get on the ballot," he said.

"Ah," I said. "I see. Are you a Democrat?"

"No," he replied. "I'm a Republican."

I waited a beat, expecting him to say he was kidding. "Seriously?" I asked.

"Yes," he said, smiling. "A lot of people are asking me if I'm joking for some reason."

For some reason, huh? Whatever could that reason be?

Now, sure, this is a lesson about how we shouldn't make assumptions based on stereotypes. We shouldn't. I did and I was incorrect.

But also, I'm not surprised a lot of people were asking him if he was kidding. A young black man running as a Republican? Especially now, during the reign of Trump, a racist who Republicans are holding up as an infallible God?

Look, I understand the argument that in order for the Republican party to stop being a non-stop racist/sexist/homophobic/misogynist/Islamophobic horror show where everybody dies but the super rich, they need people working for change on the inside. It's the whole "big tent" philosophy. It makes sense in theory. In practice? Well, look at the Republican party today. The proof is in the pudding that poor people can't have pudding because if they wanted pudding they should have worked harder and have had a daddy who would have given them a million dollars as a "small loan."

Which brings us to the Log Cabin Republicans. Ugh. If the Republican Party wasn't literally trying to dismantle any gains LGBTQ people have made — and that's not to mention their rampant racism, voter suppression and inhumane treatment of immigrants and asylum seekers — then it might actually be kind of pitiful how Log Cabin Republicans keep begging their party for love and acceptance. But considering how high the stakes are, it's actually kind of frightening.

Recently, LCR asked members of the State Republican Executive Committee to let them have a booth at the Texas GOP Convention, something for which they've applied "for at least 20 years without success," according to the Houston Chronicle.

State party officials said, "No. Homo."

Which surely made Steven Hotze, the CEO of the Conservative Republicans of Texas,

very pleased.

Hotze, called a "Republican kingmaker" by LGBTQ Nation, has a long reputation as a foe of LGBTQ people in Texas.

According to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Hotze sent emails calling on the State Republican Executive Committee to reject LCR.

"The Log Cabin Republicans should not be accepted as an auxiliary of the Republican Party of Texas, because they are part of the radical, homosexual political movement," Hotze wrote.

And just what do those radical homos want?

"The homosexual political movement wants minority status to be granted to individuals based upon their immoral and perverted sexual proclivities," Hotze wrote, and they want to teach "children in the public schools that transgenderism and other perverted sexual activities are acceptable and laudable."

Do LGBTQ people want civil rights and also to be protected from discrimination? Yeah. Is it because we're perverted? No. Do we think that transgender people should also be treated like the human beings they are, especially trans youth who face so much ugliness and hatred? Yes. Again, sans the pervert stuff.

In case he hadn't convinced his reader that LGBTQ people are evil, he wrote, "The radical, ungodly homosexual political movement is seeking to create moral anarchy and insanity in our society."

Whew, that's a lot and it sounds EXHAUSTING. But quite a take that WE are the ones creating moral anarchy and insanity from a guy whose party literally just told the president that he can crime all he wants because laws are for suckers.

But don't worry. Hotze may talk a big game, but what he really wants is to save us from ourselves.

He says "we need to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those individuals who are entrapped in this sin, so that they may repent."

In other words, the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas are welcome as part of the Republican Party of Texas just as soon as they pray to Jesus to forgive them for being such disgusting perverts and to make them heterosexual cowboys.

Of course, there is the Democrats, a party that accepts LGBTQ and advocates for their civil rights. But also a party that wants everyone to have health care and a living wage and for some people it's "woah, woah, woah, that's going too far. I'll stick with the party that literally hates me."

► Transmissions

Continued from p. 14

School Superintendent Greg Poole, via CNN, claimed that the policy has been as is for 30 years. In its defense, Poole claims that the code was an "expectation of the community," and that such expectations lead to success.

Arnold's mother, Sandy Arnold, disagrees wholeheartedly, noting that the only issues her son has had in school has been because of the length of his hair. She feels that the policy is racist and violates her family's beliefs.

"This is his belief," Ms. Arnold told KPRC-TV. "This is a part of who he is. This is his culture. This is what we believe."

As I mentioned, DeAndre Arnold is not transgender nor nonbinary. His issue is not specifically a trans issue — but there remains a large double standard when it comes to his hair: if he was a girl rather than a boy, the length of his hair would be moot.

Now I'm not saying that Arnold should transition. Far from it. If anything, he needs far fewer people in his life right now telling him what to do. In that way, he has a lot in common with every trans student who is right now facing bills that will restrict trans athletes from participating in school sports in their preferred gender, as well as far worse ones that seek to criminalize care for trans and nonbinary students altogether.

The same sort of gender bias routinely affects transgender people, but DeAndre Arnold didn't have to be trans to face regulations about the length of his hair. He faced them over his race and nationality, with the policies of the school violating his beliefs over an otherwise harmless thing: the length and style of his hair.

I often talk about issues where forms of bias cross, and this is one of those times. While Arnold is not being discriminated against as a trans person, we can certainly see echoes of what we face in his story. This is why, to me, we need to be there to stand up against gender-based injustice whenever it rears its head.

Consider what Caster Semenya has had to go through. Semenya, a South African middle-distance runner, had had a long fight over being able to compete. After

some success, the International Association of Athletics Federations changed its rules, demanding that Semenya chemically alter her body to reduce the natural testosterone in her system in order to compete.

Semenya is not transgender, though, she is presumed to be intersex. Nevertheless, it is Semenya's name that comes up frequently when people speak of trans athletes.

She is also black.

Bias against transgender people affects people who are not transgender. Bias against people of color, especially blacks, often goes hand in hand with gender biases. All of these things intersect in different ways, much as Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, a black feminist scholar discussed when she coined the term "intersectionality" in 1989.

This is why anti-trans violence predominately affects trans women of color, and why caricatures of black and other minority women often focus on "masculine" characteristics. Consider stereotypes of Serena Williams, who in addition to racist cartoons and other forms of anti-black, anti-woman bigotry, has been labeled and mocked as masculine. She was even accused of being trans.

Or consider Michelle Obama, for whom a whole branch of conspiracy theorists claim she is transgender, or others who once again considered her physique to be masculine.

The biases that Obama, Williams, Semenya and yes, Arnold, are ones we should all be aware of. When we see the actions that this administration is undertaking against transgender people, or the legislation being pushed by so-called religious conservatives against trans rights, understand that these bills are not solely going to affect transgender people. They will be used against anyone who doesn't fit into a perfect box labeled "male" or "female," and they will most likely focus most of their ire on anyone who belongs to other so-called minority group.

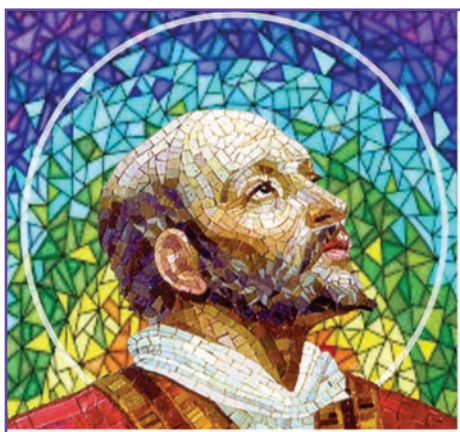
The hair of a non-trans boy in Texas is, nevertheless, a trans issue, and those of us who are trans need to be there to stand up for him.

Gwen Smith's was never allowed long hair before transition. You'll find her at gwensmith.com



ANY CHILD, ANY PARENT, ANY TIME.

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



**Queer Ignatius
Spirituality Series**
with Rev. Dr. Laura Grimes

**Saturday, March 7th - 10am-1pm
and Wednesdays,
March 11th, 18th, & 25th - 7-8pm**

Embrace the extravagantly loving God who embraces you in the glorious queerness She/He/They created you with! Rev. Dr. Laura Grimes will share the liberating practices of Ignatian Spirituality for celebrating and healing your life story, and exploring next steps on your sacred journey.

To register or for more information, please visit our website 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

Tennessee Governor Signs Anti-LGBTQ Adoption Bill Into Law

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee has signed legislation into law that would enable taxpayer-funded adoption agencies to refuse placement into LGBTQ homes over religious objections, making it the first anti-LGBTQ bill to become law in 2020.

The act of signing the legislation, HB 836, was immediately rebuked by LGBTQ rights groups, who say it amounts to legalized discrimination against LGBTQ families seeking to adopt.

"We are extremely disappointed that Gov. Lee signed HB 836 — the first anti-LGBTQ bill to be signed in 2020," Rebecca Isaacs, executive director of Equality Federation, said in a statement. "Tennessee will now allow service providers to turn away qualified adoptive and foster parents simply because they do not meet an agency's religious or moral litmus test while thousands of children in Tennessee's child welfare system are waiting for a loving home."

The Tennessee state legislature sent the measure to the governor's desk earlier this month after Senate approval. The House had passed the legislation in April 2019.

Lee's signature was expected. His office had signaled he'd pen his name to the legislation immediately after the state legislature approved it.

According to the Associated Press, the bill was quietly signed into law "with no fanfare or announcement from Lee's office." It's the first piece of legislation to become law this year in Tennessee.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. Paul Rose (R-Covington), prohibits requiring private licensing child-placement agencies to participate in child placement "that would violate the agency's written religious or moral convictions."

Rev. Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, executive director of the Campaign for Southern Equality, said in a statement the new law will lead to harm for families and children throughout Tennessee.

"We strongly oppose Gov. Lee's decision and urge him to deeply and prayerfully consider the damage and harm of this bill, which could do a colossal disservice to the many children in Tennessee waiting to be adopted by safe and loving families," Beach-Ferrara said. "It opens the door to taxpayer-funded adoption agencies turning away potential parents just because of who they are. It's bad for kids, bad for LGBTQ people and bad for the state overall."

According to the Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, an estimated 230,000 LGBTQ adults and 11,000 same-sex couples are living in Tennessee. Of those same-sex couples, 20 percent are raising children and 6 percent of the same-sex

couples there are raising adopted children, compared to 4 percent of different-sex couples.

Although nothing in Tennessee state law or federal law previously stopped adoption agencies from refusing placement into LGBTQ homes, the measure could compromise municipal ordinances against anti-LGBTQ discrimination. According to the 2019 Human Rights Campaign Municipal Index, Tennessee with bans on anti-LGBTQ discrimination in municipal services are Chattanooga, Clarksville, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville.

"It's disturbing that Gov. Bill Lee signed legislation that will harm children in Tennessee," HRC President Alphonso David said in a statement. "Elected officials should protect all of their constituents, not just some. Now, Tennessee has the shameful distinction of being the first state to pass an anti-LGBTQ bill into law this year. This bill does nothing to improve the outcomes for children in care, shrinks the pool of prospective parents and is a blatant attempt to discriminate against LGBTQ Tennesseans."

The new Tennessee law is similar to laws recently enacted in other states at the behest of religious-affiliated adoption agencies, such as Catholic charities, who believe LGBTQ homes are inappropriate for raising children. States with these laws are Virginia, Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Alabama, Michigan, Mississippi, North Dakota and South Dakota.

But some states are beginning to approach the issue differently. In Virginia, legislation has been introduced that would reverse the state law allowing religious-based discrimination in adoption. In Georgia, House Speaker David Ralston, a Republican, said he opposes an anti-LGBTQ adoption bill and would block its movement.

Meanwhile, the major focus of anti-LGBTQ bills in state legislatures in 2020 is transgender youth. Several states are considering legislation that would ban transition-related care for transgender youth, including South Dakota, which is considering a bill that would criminalize such treatment. Other states are considering that would inhibit transgender kids from participating in school athletics.



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



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



Health Department

STD/HIV CLINIC

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

Services Provided:

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



Testing and Treatment:

Confidential, Appointment Only, Persons 12 and Older

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

"We take pride in taking care of our residents"

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

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



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

CALL (248) 266-5545
MetroCareNetwork.org

Iowa Caucus: Buttigieg Declares Victory

BY LISA KEEN

Openly gay Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg declared his campaign to be “victorious” following the caucus voting in Iowa Monday night, even though a huge controversy was unfolding because the Iowa Democratic Party could not report results due to a “quality control” issue.

But news coverage by major broadcast and cable media outlets throughout the night seemed to support a conclusion that Buttigieg did very well, perhaps even a second-place finish.

“Pete has shattered expectations for his candidacy throughout the campaign, and he will continue to do so in the primary states ahead,” said Annise Parker, president of the LGBTQ Victory Fund, which endorsed Buttigieg last July. “Tonight’s strong showing provides the publicity and momentum he needs to head into New Hampshire. The many undecided voters who are out there will take a first look, or another look, at Pete, and they will like what they see.”

At most caucus sites covered by CNN, MSNBC and others, Buttigieg supporters consistently had large turnouts, with crowds that appeared to approximate those of Iowa

front-runner U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders. Supporters of U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren occasionally fell short of the numbers needed to advance, and the turnout for former Vice President Joe Biden seemed frequently well short of a “viable” 15 percent required to secure state delegates.

Three sets of data were counted Monday night at each of 1,638 caucus gatherings: how many people stood with a candidate initially, how many stood with a candidate in a final count, and how many state delegates each candidate secured based on that “final alignment.”

Caucus officials were supposed to download a phone app and report the data to the state party office. But the app failed and a backup plan — to phone in results — left captains on hold for hours. Eventually, the state party issued a statement saying it was seeing “inconsistencies” in the results reported and that the data would not be released publicly until it was confident of the results.

As the failure to report the results dragged on, it unleashed a firestorm of criticism of the state party, the caucus process, and even Iowa’s status as the first-in-nation voting. The Iowa party said it did establish a paper trail that will ultimately provide a reliable count but gave no

indication of when that might be.

But Buttigieg expressed confidence.

“We know by the time it’s all said and done, Iowa, you have shocked the nation, because by all indications,” he said, “we are going on to NH victorious.”

Sanders was more cautious, saying that, “when those results are announced, I have a good feeling we’re going to be doing very, very well here in Iowa.”

The Warren campaign told reporters in Iowa that the campaign’s data is showing a “tight race” between Sanders, Warren and Buttigieg.

There was some evidence that LGBTQ support was also closely divided. Openly lesbian Iowa State Rep. Liz Bennett of Cedar Rapids endorsed Warren last July. Openly gay Polk County Supervisor Matt McCoy of Des Moines endorsed Buttigieg in September.

Elsewhere, the LGBTQ vote seems split, too.

There have been at least two attempts to quantify LGBTQ support for Buttigieg and other Democratic presidential candidates, with no consistency.

Equality California announced Jan. 30 that it is endorsing Buttigieg. The group is the largest statewide LGBTQ political organization in the nation. In a joint statement with Nevada’s group, Silver State Equality, it said Buttigieg has the “boldest, most comprehensive agenda



to achieve full, lived equality for all LGBTQ people of any presidential candidate in the nation’s history.”

The groups said that, while they were “impressed” with Warren and businessman Tom Steyer, they felt “Mayor Pete is the best candidate to take on Donald Trump, win back the White House and help lead the fight to create a world that is healthy, just and fully equal for all LGBTQ people.”

The groups emphasized that they did not endorse Buttigieg “simply because he’s gay” but that they feel his candidacy “has already had a transformational impact on the LGBTQ community.”

In his post-caucus rally speech late Monday night, Buttigieg thanked his mother, his late father and “the love of my life,” husband Chasten Buttigieg. When he asked the crowd to give a hand “for the future First Gentleman of the United States,” the crowded room cheered wildly.

► REC Grant

Continued from p. 8

that are available, and those positions will be stipended positions,” Peterson said. “And then people who have gone through the summer internships have the opportunity to apply to the peer leader program, which is a two-year more intensive engagement of up to four or so young people who become actual part-time employees of the Ruth Ellis Center.”

That peer leadership program is the third level, and it will build significantly on the skills-building and requirements of level two.

“Once you move into level two and three, the expectation is that you’re going to be connecting with case management and you’re going to be working with case management to develop individualized plans of service. And it really is that individualized plan of service that derives the kinds of experiences and so on that the internship and the peer leader program incorporate,” Peterson said. “So, every year those programs might look at little bit different depending on the goals of the people who are participating, because this is really about maximizing their success.”

A “Person-Centered” Approach

Peterson emphasized that both the

customizability of the program and its gradual increase in requirements is vital to its success.

“I think really, one of the most important things is to understand that young people who don’t, in their lived experience, live with a lot of structure really struggle with structure. And gradually, the reason this is a three-tiered program, we’re introducing higher levels of structure and helping young people think through how they navigate those structures and how they show up and how they relate to structures,” he said. “And in ways that’s not harmful to who they are and also allows them to be successful in the world. And navigating that kind of code-shifting process can be challenging.”

Peterson added that those who will excel in this grant-funded program will be people eager to grow their marketable skills while connecting with others around them.

“So the people who move through all three levels here are going to be people who really want to both become really confident in their own identity and own skills and be ready to connect with the general workforce population and figure out how to make that transition successfully.”

To find out more about this program and REC visit ruthelliscenter.org.

DETROIT REGIONAL LGBT CHAMBER'S
ON THE MENU: *Equity in Development*
BREAKFAST SERIES



Chase L. Cantrell
Building Community Value



Tanya Saldivar-Ali
AGI Construction



Darnell Adams
Invest Detroit



Bryan Waldron
Bedrock Detroit



Michael Coffindaffer
Stylish Turf

- IS GENTRIFICATION GOOD OR BAD?
- WHAT DOES EQUITY IN DETROIT LOOK LIKE?
- HOW DO WE DEVELOP WITH THE COMMUNITY IN MIND?

RSVP: DETROITLGBTCHAMBER.COM/ONTHEMENU

SPONSORED BY



AFFIRMATIONS
THURSDAY, FEB 13TH
7:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M.



Affiliate Chamber



DETROIT REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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.

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.

Supporting the Community Since Before it was Cool.

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



Sandi & Linda
www.trilliumrealtors.com

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





WHITNEY AND ROBYN'S BIG LOVE

Photo: Random House

Robyn Crawford Talks Tell-All Book on Her Romance with Whitney Houston

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

After four decades of speculation that they were romantically involved, Robyn Crawford has spoken her truth: She loved Whitney Houston. In her heartfelt autobiography released late last year, “A Song for You: My Life with Whitney Houston,” Crawford shares that their love was real but stifled, a romance that, at first intimate and sexual, wavered as Whitney rose to fame in the ’80s.

Whitney and Crawford became friends as teenagers, during the summer of 1980 while both working at the East Orange Community Development Center in New Jersey. Their relationship deepened into romantic love, and finally, with Crawford as Whitney’s assistant, a trusted professional alliance.

A loving, dignified tribute buoyed by Crawford’s generosity of spirit through her many grievances, including the loss of Whitney, the autobiography is the first time Crawford has disclosed the extent of their relationship. It reveals in intimate, evocative detail many lesser-known facets about how Whitney operated and their supportive, tumultuous shared experiences on tour and at home: the rise, the fall, the fallout. The tragedy of Whitney’s death.

Crawford, as depicted in the book, is no saint, either. She’s remarkably forthcoming about the drugs she and Whitney did when they were teenagers. But beyond their longtime relationship is the life story of Crawford, whose tabloid-spun persona was limited to her association with Whitney.

Now, Crawford takes her story back, her remarkably candid tell-all illustrating her loyalty to the troubled icon but also serving as a deeply moving rumination on loss: in addition to Whitney, Crawford lost her brother and mother, both to AIDS-related illness. As much as Crawford expands the narrative of Whitney Houston’s life beyond its tragic end, she also lovingly memorializes her mother – the book’s real hero, she tells me.

From New Jersey, where she lives with her wife Lisa Hintelmann and their twins, Crawford spoke about Whitney’s relationship with her LGBTQ fans, how she doesn’t think the legendary singer was experiencing self-hate related to her sexuality, and the influence of Whitney’s song “The Greatest Love of All” on Crawford’s daughter.

I’m happy that we know your story, not just the story the media’s been telling us all these years.

I had a life too, right, Chris?

You did, and so much of it is in the book, it seems. But as a longtime Whitney fan who grew up with Whitney’s music, the book made me sad. It made me sad for what we lost, when it seems it didn’t have to be that way. As you were writing this, what emotions were you wrestling with? What was that process like?

Shoot. There were many different emotions. Sometimes I felt sad, sometimes I laughed. It was like an emotional rollercoaster. I was reliving the ’80s and the ’90s like I was there. I was in it. I just... I felt like I could keep writing. I couldn’t see an end.

Because there were so many more stories?

Yeah. It was huge: the experiences on aircrafts, and feeling like the plane was gonna drop out of the sky. The first award show and what that was like. And when it was just us, and not so many people, what that was like. I wrote a lot. I had a very good editor in Jill Schwartzman, but there was so much more of the journey that’s not on the pages.

How did you manage to stay silent on your relationship with Whitney for so long? Was it challenging not to speak out sooner?

I mean, no. I cherish those years. We had a bond of trust and loyalty from the get-go, from the very beginning. And we made a pact to support each other. I felt good about what I had experienced and the love that I had for Whitney and that we shared. It was always there.

I guess what I’m asking is, because we never heard your side of the story until very recently, and knowing there was so much tabloid talk about the kind of relationship you had with Whitney, was it challenging for you to keep that inside all these years?

Honestly, I didn’t read a lot of the stuff. People called me and said, “Robyn, did you hear this? Did you see this?” I did not see the documentaries (two documentaries on Whitney’s life were released in the last few years: “Whitney,” in 2018, and “Whitney: Can I Be Me,” in 2017), I haven’t even seen “Sparkle” (Whitney starred in the 2012 remake of the 1976 drama-musical). I had twins and that kept me busy.

I’m guilty of staying focused on where I am, and I did get angry when I heard stuff. Like when Whitney passed, I really was angry and frustrated every time I heard something that was said (about us), but I didn’t know what to say or

who to say it to. Once you start talking, you're just out there, and that wasn't a comfortable feeling.

So during that period, were you tracking your experiences in a journal? Or did the writing for this book happen all at once?

No, I did not keep a journal. I did have notes and books along the way when I was touring. I kept those books and they were incomplete, but there were some things I had written down. But no – all of that came from inside, from what I felt.

The book is so vivid, in a way that I'm just like, there's no way I would remember all of that. But I also didn't tour with Whitney Houston. Ha!

(Laughs.) And you didn't live with her either, right? My wife often says, "Robyn has an unbelievable memory;" and you know, I do. Those were great times. I didn't talk about my mother and my experience with my brother to really anyone that I've worked with, people that were around me, and I didn't talk to people at Nippy, Inc (Whitney Houston's New Jersey-based management company once run by her father, John Houston). They knew what was going on, but I kept it all with me. And that's where it's been.

Did it feel like a burden to have to keep your sexuality on the down-low because Whitney couldn't be out about your relationship?

I've been saying this: That we never looked at our friendship and our experiences as anything other than, this is me. You were you. And when I say it was open and honest, I mean, we could say anything to each other or just look at each other and we just knew exactly... we were communicating. But the '80s were the time where you were either this or that, and my world at that age was so much bigger as far as adventurous. I had a boyfriend growing up and I talk about him in the book, and I loved him. We were like brother and sister, that close. He respected me.

With Whitney, she was perfect in every way. Someone that I met and everything we were doing together was beautiful; it really was. We were having a good time. And I never felt like... I mean, I knew musically and show business-wise, that was a world that we wanted to learn more about and be prepared and ready for, and with that thought, I could see more of, "Boy, if people find out we're doing this..." because that's just how it was. And obviously her mother (Cissy Houston) made her feelings clear about our closeness. She didn't even know how deep we were; she just made it clear that she didn't like how close we were.

Whitney didn't seem to mind when you were romantically involved with a man, but when she learned that you were linked with other women, she became jealous and furious. Did you ever question that logic?

Whitney didn't explain things. She just would let me know if she didn't like something and she didn't have a problem asking me to tell this person to leave. I think she felt a certain possessiveness,

and it wasn't like Whitney had a lot of friends. Her life was so like... it was just really me. She was a very private person who didn't have a lot of friends, who didn't want a lot of friends. She couldn't have them if she wanted to. She didn't like to do a whole lot, she was a homebody. So I look at it like that: She was possessive. Because, really, all she had to do was say, "OK, it's me and you" (laughs) and it would've been, "OK." But that's not what she wanted. She didn't want it like that. And who wants to be with someone or wants to harbor those kinds of feelings when they don't want that? You better get yourself together. And our love was bigger than that.

Do you think that if she were a part of today's music landscape, with so many out artists, life might've been different for Whitney?

Well, you've heard Whitney speak and how she always said "I'm not gay" and she was tired of answering that question.

She was, but I wonder if that was her self-hate and internalized homophobia speaking.

From her?

Yeah.

(Mumbles in disagreement.) There was nothing partial about Whitney in her thoughts of people; she just resented folks trying to put her in a box with categories. She pushed back on that with music. She hated that. She was the type of person that loved people for who they were, she had no problem. We had lots of gay people around us, whether it be makeup, hair people, you name it. They were beautiful people, and they were close to us. I mean, (her makeup artist) Kevyn Aucoin...

You recount her 2000 Out Magazine interview with Barry Walters in the book. After being asked about the lesbian rumors, Whitney said, "I ain't suckin' no dick. I ain't gettin' on my knees. Something must be wrong: I can't just really sing. I can't just be a really talented, gifted person. She's gotta be gay." You say in the book her response was "uncalled for and wrong." But you never felt her own struggles with her sexuality caused her to spew anti-queer vitriol?

You are absolutely right. And no, I do not believe that she was internalizing and projecting – no. Absolutely not.

I think that's important to clarify.

She was asked that question from the beginning of her career. I mean, that rumor followed her forever. And she rejected it. She rejected *all* labels. Even calling her a "diva" and the way she felt about her colleagues, the female so-called rivals. Every single last one of them, including Mariah, will tell you that Whitney treated them with the utmost respect and love and admiration. They will tell you.

I remember gay fans were especially happy to see them present together at the MTV Video Music Awards in 1998.

Whitney called Mariah her "little lamb." That's

See **Robyn**, continued on p. 24

FEB 21-22

ums
BE PRESENT

Photo by Matthew Murphy

**Dorrance Dance
Myelination**

Michelle Dorrance, artistic director and choreographer

Dorrance Dance honors tap dance's uniquely beautiful history in a new and dynamically compelling context, pushing it rhythmically, aesthetically, and conceptually.

Fri-Sat
2/21-22
8 pm

Power
Center

734.764.2538
— UMS.ORG

Lead Presenting Sponsor: **Renegade Venture Fund**, established by the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation

Patron Sponsors: Agnes Moy-Sarns and David Sarns and Valerie and Jeff Wilpon

Presenting Sponsors: **Matt and Nicole Lester Family**

Funded in part by: National Endowment for the Arts and Arts Midwest Touring Fund

Supporting Sponsor: **Kathy Legatski**, in memory of her late husband, Leo

**TONY AWARD WINNER!
BEST MUSICAL REVIVAL!**

THE COLOR PURPLE
THE MUSICAL

**ON SALE NOW
APRIL 21-26
MUSIC HALL**

BroadwayInDetroit.com, ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office
Info: 313-872-1000; Groups (12+) Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com (subject: The Color Purple)

AD and oc Apr 26

THE AUSSIE SMASH HIT, DIRECT FROM VEGAS!



BroadwayInDetroit.com, ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office
Info: 313-872-1000, Groups (10+) Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com (subject: The Naked Magicians)

Blind Date with a Book



Feb. 1–15 • Open Hours

Check out a book from our special display—you may find your perfect match and an exciting prize!

Some restrictions may apply.



**Capital Area
District Libraries**
Everything...right here.

Find details at any CADL
branch or cadl.org/date.

► Robyn

Continued from p. 23

how she spoke about her. Whitney was not anything that she was branded for. She wasn't black enough; she was cool as can be. And she was not raw, or edgy, or ghetto either. All the stigmas and labels that people say you are, she was none of those things. She refused to take on what others wanted to saddle her with.

Did Whitney know she was loved by her LGBTQ fans?

Yes, absolutely. Her mother had a huge gay following and they were always there. And, yes, Whitney knew that the LGBTQ community had love for her, without a doubt. And she loved them.

Having been with her for so long, do you remember the moment where it first dawned on her that, "The LGBTQ community, they're really showing up for me"?

The one experience where the whole world was there was Gay Pride down on the pier (in New York in 1999). I write about it and I remember that night: We had been touring and touring and touring and, finally, there was a date, and she was on the books for it. I mean, dance music, club music, that was what Arista (Whitney's label at the time) did more than anything. The clubs. And they remixed every record that you could name. "The Greatest Love of All" has a remix. And (music executive) Hosh Gureli was at the helm of that (album), and we went to the Paradise Garage (also known as the "Gay-rage," a now-defunct discotheque frequented by LGBTQ clubgoers) with (DJ) Jellybean Benitez.

The clubs were big back then. Studio 54. We went through there. She didn't perform at Studio 54, but we went through there and we talked about Sylvester and just how he could *sing*, and how beautiful he was. I mean, there was none of that (internalized homophobia) from Whitney. I put my hand on the Bible and am very comfortable making that clear.

Do you still listen to Whitney?

I do, I do. I do listen to "The Preacher's Wife" and "Dancin' on the Smooth Edge." I do. I had not listened to a lot of her music after she passed. But one day I was talking about friends with my daughter, because my daughter is loaded with empathy and did not have any friends, and I told her, "Don't give your friendship away. You make them earn it." I played "The Greatest Love of All" for her one time, and I came into her room and she had printed out the lyrics and had them on her wall.

That's sweet. So many of Whitney's songs, after reading your book, have taken on a different life for me. For instance, knowing you were on set during the filming of "The Bodyguard," I can't help but hear Whitney singing "I Will Always Love You," a song about a love that could never be, to you. Did you ever think of that song in the context of your relationship?

I didn't. I'm being honest, I didn't. But you know what, when I hang up from you, I'm going to listen to it that way. I'm going to listen to it with that in mind. But "A Song For You" is one that I really felt, when I listened to the last album, she was talking to me.

What made you think that?

Because I write in the book about a moment where music held us together. We talked about it a lot, and I played that ("A Song From You") from The Temptations album, and then she performed it one time, and then she recorded it the last go 'round (for the album "I Look to You," in 2009). I know that was her idea. She never told me, and I've never spoken to anyone about that – and it may not have been her idea to do the club mix on it – but I know she wanted to record that song.

That is the most covered song ever, and when you listen to each cover, they all bring a different interpretation to the song. And Whitney uses the word "friend" I don't know how many times. So that really captured me. And you know, I've been in the studio with her so many times that the way she approached it, I was right there. It was like I was in the studio with her listening to it.

Clearly that song meant a lot to you – enough to make it the title of your book.

Music is in the book. My brother was big into music; my mother and my father had a love for music. So "A Song for You" encompasses all of them. But I dedicate the title of the book to Whitney in my heart.

Did you hear Kygo's version of "Higher Love" that was released last year?

I didn't hear the full version, but I did click on my Apple iTunes and listened to part of it, yes.

Why didn't you listen to the full song?

Maybe because I would've rather heard "I'm Knockin'," which was the track that Whitney had on that "Baby Tonight" album. When I heard "Higher Love," I knew that it came from the Japan album of "Baby Tonight." It wasn't something new that they found in a vault.

Were you in the studio when she recorded it?

I was. So I knew where it came from. What I did watch was the video. I watched the video and I did not like the video. Sorry, but I didn't.

What didn't you like about the video?

It was missing her.

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.

MURRAY & PETER PRESENT



DRAG BRUNCH

WITH NINA WEST & FARRAH MOAN

HOSTED BY CRYSTAL HARDING

+ FIERCE LOCAL QUEENS PERFORMING

• GRAND BUFFET • MIMOSA BAR •

SUN FEB 23 | 11AM - 3PM

Andiamo
CELEBRITY SHOWROOM

7096 E 14 MILE RD | WARREN, MI 48092
RESERVATIONS 586-268-3200

TICKETS PLUS VIP MEET & GREET ON SALE **NOW**
UPCOMING BRUNCH DATES MARCH 22 & APRIL 26

DRAGFANS.COM @MPPRESENT

REC Partners to Present Burlesque at The Motown Mansion

BY BTL STAFF

So often Valentine's Day centers around giving love to others, but this year a combination event sponsored by The Ruth Ellis Center and Queen of Cups Burlesque flips that idea on its head. The Burlesque: Love Yourself True inaugural event happening this Feb. 14 at The Motown Mansion encourages everyone, and especially women, to take time to love themselves.

"Mark your calendars for what we know will be one of the most talked-about events of the year! Burlesque: Love Yourself True presented by Bad Bunni Life, is a one-of-a-kind event produced by women, for women – with all proceeds benefiting Kofi House: The Center for Queer & Lesbian Women and Girls, a core program of the Ruth Ellis Center," wrote event organizers.

Featured at this 21-and-up night will be burlesque performers Gala Delicious, Caffeyne Luv, Eartha Kitten, Mila DeLuna, Lottie Ellington and will be emceed by Dottie Monroe. Guests can also expect go-go dancers, a live DJ and more. Whatever one's interest, above all, organizers made sure to emphasize that love and inclusion are the main drivers in the upcoming evening.

"While the emphasis of this event is focused on creating a safe space for queer & lesbian women and allies this Valentine's Day, all allies, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, are welcome to attend," organizers said.

Find out more about the Feb. 14 event on its Facebook page. The show starts at 7 p.m. and will last until 11 p.m. The Motown Mansion is located at Boston Blvd. E in Detroit. This event is not ADA Accessible.

Forum Foundation Presents its Valentine's Ball

The Forum Foundation has been working for decades to provide educational forums for students and scholarships, too. Now on Friday, Feb. 21, it will be hosting its Valentine's Ball. This event is a great way to learn more about what the Foundation does as well as to support education.

This event will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. and will include an open bar, family style dinner, 50/50 raffle and dancing. Music will be by Double Play DJ Services. Tickets may be purchased online at brownpapertickets.com or by calling 586-573-9932.

Stand With Trans Share the Love Event Feb. 14

Stand With Trans is a nonprofit organization based in Southeast Michigan dedicated to helping transgender children get resources to feel secure in their identities. On Feb. 14, the organization will hold a program targeted especially for middle and high schoolers called How to do Life: Taking care of YOU. This program begins at 6 p.m., with a yoga and mindfulness session, discussion and support and more. There is a \$25 stipend for all participants.

All attendees are encouraged to wear red, pink or rainbow colors. This event will be held from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Orchard United Methodist Church located at 30450 Farmington Road in Farmington Hills. Register online at bit.ly/37FOZeI

Building a W'All for Love

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Few forces in the world are as powerful or as visceral as the reaction one has to great music. Regardless of genre, when either words, melody or both align the right way, emotions of all kinds can be stirred — not least of which being love. That's why Austin-based nonprofit The W'All chose the month of love to launch its LGBTQ-focused campaign of inclusion. Starting Feb. 10, the participatory art installation that stands for "we all" is asking people around the United States to submit meaningful song lyrics to its website free of charge. Those lyrics will be added to the thousands of other submissions to create a literal wall aimed at showing connectivity and commonality rather than divisiveness.

Jeremy Klitzman is a director at W'All. He said that anyone is free to share any lyrics of their choosing, so long as they're not hateful.

"Obviously, we screen it to make sure they're not

music industry has in many ways led the push from an entertainment standpoint on normalizing and accepting and really promoting LGBTQ+ personalities and causes. So, we wanted to continue that, and give a platform for musicians to spread that message and continue spreading it."

Klitzman said that partnerships between the nonprofit and players in the music industry have allowed for hugely successful fundraisers. For instance, openly lesbian artist Brandi Carlile sits on the board of advisers for Soundwaves and is one of its main ambassadors regarding LGBTQ issues. Her own Looking Out Foundation has helped move forward philanthropic work to aid LGBTQ-supportive causes, and Klitzman said he's hopeful that spreading participation in The W'All to more fans and other musicians will be a great step in getting more support for causes around the world.

"[Brandi Carlile] has been leading the push, introducing some of her friends and some of her contacts that want to support her mission. So there's a lot of folks out there that we know that love her work that are passionate about this that we're basically trying to bring into the fold who maybe are vocal on social media but maybe never asked their fans to donate to LGBT causes," Klitzman said. "Or maybe they are a great ally, but they don't actually know what The Trevor Project is. So bringing people into the fold and educating them and bringing people in and spreading their message to their massive, massive social media audiences."

Those social media audiences easily number into the hundreds of millions between each artist-W'All partnership. Still, it's not enough that audiences simply see a message, the causes chosen must be ones that appeal to the fanbase of certain artists. When asked how charities are chosen for celebrities to promote, Klitzman said it has

to do with what they feel passionate about themselves, because it's only through that authenticity that campaigns are effective. For 2020, The W'All hopes to focus not only on LGBTQ equality but issues like environmental protections and improving treatments of refugees coming to the U.S.

When asked why The W'All values inclusion and equity in the causes it supports, Klitzman said that first, it's "the right thing to do."

"Because being inclusive, accepting and celebrating diversity and doing what we can to encourage further acceptance and bolstering of diverse communities and diverse services is not only the right thing to do but it makes us a better country, a better neighborhood, a better nation," he said. "It makes you a stronger community."

Beyond that, he said it's simply much more fun to do an art project that includes everyone.

"If we were saying, 'We're doing this art project and we only want to focus on the people who have the money to participate or people that share our political views or people in this one specific space,' it really limits us," he said. "And if our goal is to build a movement and an incredibly large and sprawling participatory art project, we want to make sure everybody can come to the table and participate."

To find out more about The W'All, details about submitting lyrics and more visit wallaustin.com.



Soundwaves has partnered with artists like Brandi Carlile. Photo: Catherine Carlile.

hateful or racist or things like that, but anybody can put a lyric, whether it's a lyric by The Beatles or a lyric from an unreleased album that their dad wrote. It doesn't have to be something incredibly thoughtful. I submitted a 'MMMBop' lyric by Hanson that's already on the wall," he said.

He added that it's a great way to donate to good causes, too, because of its roots within the Soundwaves Art Foundation.

"Our mission has always been to combine music and art for social good. So, Soundwaves does that by creating digital artwork based on the soundwaves of songs," he said.

Soundwaves has partnered with artists like Sam Smith, Elton John, Brandi Carlile and more. In doing so, it not only sells the artwork via the artist's social media channels but it raises money and promotes awareness about good causes around the world. This February, The W'All is furthering that goal by allowing people who submit lyrics to donate to LGBTQ-affirming charities like The Trevor Project, Highest Hopes and GLSEN.

"Obviously, I think there has been amazing progress in the last decade in the states on that topic and about making marriage equality and the equality of love kind of a forefront social issue that's gaining a lot of traction. We wanted to push that traction forward, but also acknowledge that there's still a lot to be done," Klitzman said. "And the



Niagara is the Dirty Show's special guest artist. Photo by Boswell.

21 Years and Counting, Detroit's Dirty Show is Back Again

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

For more than a decade, the Dirty Show has been considered one of the largest and most important erotic art exhibitions on the planet. Each year, the exhibit features hundreds of quality erotic works, in virtually every imaginable media, from all over the world. It has become an immersive experience, with world-class performance artists on the stage and in the audience. The 21st installment of The Dirty Show will take place over two weekends this year: on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 7 and 8, as well as Friday and Saturday, Feb. 14 and 15, at the Russell Exhibition Center inside the Russell Industrial Center just north of downtown. Tickets for the popular show start at \$40 per night with combined night packages at discounted rates and are selling fast.

And because of the innovative performances and popularity, each year it attracts a diverse and cutting-edge audience of free-spirited Detroiters, whose yearly attendance has continued to grow into the thousands.

"It was really hard to get truly dirty art for the first show," said show founder Jerry Vile in a Detroit News article. "Maybe there'd be a breast or two peeking out here or there, but most galleries didn't let that kind of work in shows. The late Pablo Davis was almost in tears because he finally got to exhibit this one piece he'd painted in the 1970s, which today we could probably print in a newspaper."

Not just an art show, though that's of course a big part of it, The Dirty Show is an immersive art experience. In addition to the traditional show, there will be what is being billed as a

"tantalizing" burlesque show guaranteed to delight any burlesque or strip tease devotee. There will also be a Cinerotic Film Festival showcasing scintillating erotic art film projects, go-go dancers, a spanking booth and more.

The 2020 Dirty Show special guest artist will be Niagara. A painter, performer and personality, Niagara has been one of the strongest voices from Detroit art since she began creating girl power themes with her pop-influenced paintings. As the front person of Destroy All Monsters, both an avant-garde band and art collective, she helped define the music and visual styles that would overthrow the status quo internationally. Featured artists include Darron Copeland, Francois Dubeau, Pauly M. Everett, Claudia Hek, Mallory Jarrell, Candy Wild and Marty Winters.

There's also food and drink available, including beer from local distilleries and arguably some of the best people watching around as attendees can contribute to the show with their own "dirty" outfits. The Dirty Show encourages those who attend to let their freak flags fly.

"We get visits from the cops and fire marshals every year," Vile said. "But we know what we can do and what we're not allowed to do. We've also had the liquor control commission show up with the state police. They think it's some sort of orgy or something. Then they look around and say, 'Oh, this is mostly normal people looking at art.'"

But that's not all it is.

"No. We have a lot of really kinky, pervy patrons, too," Vile said.

ENTER TO WIN TWO TICKETS AT PRIDESOURCE.COM/ENTER-TO-WIN

THE AUSSIE SMASH HIT, DIRECT FROM VEGAS!



NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. ENTER BY FEBRUARY 26, 2020. WINNER WILL BE RANDOMLY DRAWN FROM ALL ENTRIES.

The Forum Foundation Presents
Valentine's Ball

FRIDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, 2020
7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m.

Open Bar-Family Style Dinner- Dessert-50/50 Raffle & Dancing!
Music by Double Play DJ Services

The Ukrainian Cultural Center
26601 Ryan Road, Warren, MI 48091

Tickets are \$50 in advance \$60 at the door (if available)

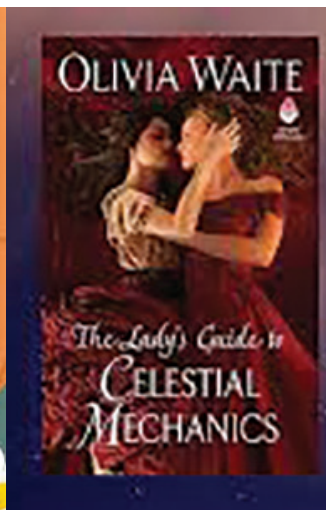
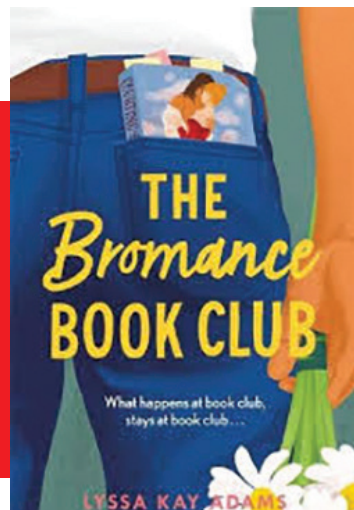
Tickets may be purchased online:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4444069
General Information/Phone Ticket Orders (586) 573-9932

Please order your tickets quickly!

Time is running out, the dance will be here before you know it!



Reading About Love



BY JESSICA TROTTER

The romance genre is a billion-dollar-plus industry, and it's finally starting to look like there's a little something for everyone. That includes new adult — post high school/early college protagonists — more mature adults and second-chance love stories, LGBTQIA relationships and protagonists who are people of color.

Representation matters, and while it still has issues, the genre has come far. Need examples? Here are a few recent and popular favorites to spice up your reading list.

Michigan author Lyssa Kay Adams knocked it out of the park with her series starter “**The Bromance Book Club**,” featuring a second-chance romance between a major league second baseman and his wife on the brink of divorce. Enter the book club — a group of alpha men reading romances to better understand women. The next title, “Undercover Bromance,” is due out in March.

“**The Kiss Quotient**” by Helen Hoang is the first of series featuring protagonists of Asian descent as well as lead characters on the autism spectrum. In the first book,

mathematician with Asperger's Stella Lane hires escort Michael Phan to teach her about sex. Follow it up with 2019's “The Bride Test.”

“**The Lady's Guide to Celestial Mechanics**” by Olivia Waite is not your traditional historical romance. This one features the brilliant daughter of an astronomer left without her work at her father's death, along with a widowed countess with ties to the scientific community and a French astronomy text in need of translating.

“**Red, White, and Royal Blue**” by Casey McQuiston was named to numerous end-of-the-year lists for its smart enemies to

friends to lovers story, featuring a fictional first son and a British prince. I appreciated the bisexual and multicultural representation and the refreshing way it tackles several serious topics.

If these suggestions don't hit the spot, visit a Capital Area District Libraries branch or check out cadl.org/recommendations.

Jessica Trotter is a collection development specialist at Capital Area District Libraries and a co-host of the “Reader's Roundtable” podcast.

Hodges...

We know that moving forward means remembering where you came from. That's why we're proud to say that Hodges is celebrating nearly 90 years in Ferndale, Michigan; and over 40 years as Hodges Subaru. Since we may have had the pleasure of helping your grandparents purchase their first Subaru 360, or helped your parents pick out that blue GL, we would love the opportunity to find the perfect Subaru for you. We'll help you get where you're going, because you've helped us get where we are. Thank You!

2020 SUBARU
OUTBACK

SUBARU

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!

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

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

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!

GianClar
MEDICAL SPA
AT PARTRIDGE CREEK OBGYN

Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOG

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

LIMITED TIME OFFER
SPECIAL SAVINGS
UP TO 40% OFF*
*FemTouch Package purchase.

CERTIFICATE SPECIALS

you will fall in love with

1.80% APY¹
18-month Certificate

2.40% APY²
7-year Certificate

Open your Certificate today!
msufcu.org • 517-333-2424



NCUA

Annual Percentage Yield (APY) of 1.80% for 18-month Certificate and 2.40% for 7-year Certificate effective 2/1/20. Rates subject to change. Rate is fixed for the term of the Certificate at the time the Certificate is opened. Federally insured by NCUA. ¹ Minimum opening deposit of \$500. Early withdrawal penalty of 180 days of dividends if funds are withdrawn prior to maturity. Early withdrawal could reduce initial investment. Upon maturity, Certificate will renew into 1-Year Add-On Certificate at the then 1-Year Add-On Certificate rate. ² Minimum opening deposit of \$2,500. Early withdrawal penalty of 365 days of dividends if funds are withdrawn prior to maturity. Early withdrawal could reduce initial investment. Upon maturity, Certificate will renew into 5-year Certificate at the then 5-year Certificate rate.

W
H
A
R
T
O
N



THRILL ME: THE LEOPOLD & LOEB STORY

Book, Music and Lyrics by Stephen Dolginoff
Directed by Bert Goldstein
A WHARTON CENTER PRODUCTION

"A brilliant, unforgettable
musical... Intoxicating.

-Talkin' Broadway

FEB 12-16

WHARTONCENTER.COM
1-800-WHARTON

Sponsored by University Outreach & Engagement with additional support from April Clobes & Glen Brough; and Jack & Susan Davis.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
WHARTON
CENTER
FOR PERFORMING ARTS



I Stay Ready. I Take

PrEP

PrEP is a pill that can prevent HIV if taken every day.
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.



detroitmi.gov/health

Jax Anderson Talks New 'Heal' EP Before El Club Show Feb. 8

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Regular self-reflection might seem like it's part and parcel of being a musician, but as with any career, it's easy to get bogged down by the everyday responsibilities. Things like touring, writing music and planning future projects might be exciting, but they can be mentally taxing, too. For Jax Anderson, the Detroit-based musician and artist behind Flint Eastwood — an alternative pop group with hits like "Queen" — that's exactly what happened. Years of almost non-stop work left Anderson feeling burned out and in a creative rut. It was only after she decided to slow her pace, reassess her creative goals and take a moment to enjoy career successes that she started to "feel like myself again."

At the end of last year, Anderson broke new creative ground and released her first EP "Heal" under her own name. Between The Lines chatted with Anderson about the process of healing, unlearning bad mental health habits and feeling comfortable in one's skin again ahead of her upcoming Detroit show on Saturday, Feb. 8, at El Club.

What prompted you to move away from being called Flint Eastwood and start doing shows as Jax Anderson?

With Flint Eastwood I toured non-stop. I toured for years on end with little spurts of being home and also having to write and rehearse and never actually being able to sit still for more than a couple of days and there was a moment last year after South by Southwest where I had just gotten off of a tour straight to Australia and went from there to South by Southwest and went to LA to do a writing camp. And at the end of that writing camp I ended up having to cancel the last two days because I was just so burned out. I was just emotionally, physically completely spent. So, one of my friends who is a painter and amazing muralist, she was like, 'Hey, do you want to drive back from LA with me? It's going to take like a week and we're just gonna make art on the way back and not really have a plan and go and see what happens.' And I think

during that process during that road trip I turned my phone off and I had moments of just being there. And I realized I had to stop doing what I was doing, which was saying yes to everything and going and going and going without taking care of myself. I wasn't allowing myself to heal from everything.

Has that change impacted the way that you play live shows at all?

I've always really, really loved touring and playing live. And I feel like it's just been a natural progression over the last few years and it just became more and more of a place that I just felt like it could be my own personal outlet. So, I feel like, if anything, changing the name isn't going to change the live shows as much. I might feel a little bit more relaxed, but it's been nice. Again, I've always loved it and it just felt like a natural progression to continue the same path that I've always been on before and just evolve it a little bit.

What did you learn about yourself when writing the EP?

I wrote it during the entire evolution of wanting to drop the name and wanting to become more myself, and that came with a lot of wounds, and that came with a lot of moments that I needed to grieve, and moments that I needed to evolve. And a lot of unlearning that needed to happen. You know, whether that'd be unlearning that I convinced myself that I couldn't do things on my own, or relearning that I can have a vision as an artist that's separate from everyone else and I can be the only voice in the room and that's OK. And so, with "Heal," I just really wanted to write a piece of music that kind of just told the story of that moment of transition. Because I feel like a lot of people have to go through that moment of just healing in order to move on from things. So this is just kind of my stamp in time of learning how to heal from a bunch of stuff.

You said that the song "Scared to Death" was your favorite on the EP. Why was that?

I feel like "Scared to Death" was one of those

songs that felt like a turning point. To me, this EP, all my previous releases were pretty poppin', pretty 808-heavy and had a lot of synths, and I kind of wrote them with the intention of people dancing to them. Whereas I felt like with this EP I wanted to write something where people could feel a little bit more reflective. And I feel like a lot of people need to know that a lot of the things they were taught as kids might not be accurate, and that's OK. And for me, I was raised in religion, and for my whole life I was told certain things and as I grew older, I just found that a lot of them just weren't true. And so I kind of just wanted to write a song that exemplified that feeling of nothing is as it seems, but everything is OK.

You also cut your hair and changed your physical look. Was that symbolic of the change, too?

When I cut off my hair, I mentioned in the ["Heal"] video that it was the first time I recognized myself in years. It was just this moment of, 'Whoa, that's the person I want to be and that's the person I want to recognize.' It was a really moment and this is my first record where I feel like there's a lot of reflection happening but a lot of celebration happening internally. It was a very cathartic record to write.

Is it freeing to just step on stage now as yourself?

Yeah, for sure. I think before, with Flint Eastwood, I would also try and create a character. And a lot of times people would talk about how I would do a certain voice on stage that didn't sound like my normal speaking voice and I felt like I was always — Flint Eastwood felt like a character. And I got to the point where I didn't want to be somebody else. And I don't want to write music and be somebody else, and I don't want to be on social media and be somebody else and I just want to be myself. And it's like, my listeners that have been with me since the beginning, and I feel like the reason why



they've been with me for so long is that I've shown them that personal connection and they've always known me as Jax. So, to be able to be open and honest with everyone all the time is just so much more freeing and it's so much less of an emotional burden to feel like I have to hold up this character to a certain standard.

What are your goals moving forward?

I think, for me, just trying to be present, trying not to look that far forward. Still having a generalized plan of what to do with your life and still having a generalized plan of what you want, but I feel like I was so focused on the end product all the time that I think I lost it. I'm just trying to enjoy the process in every way. I'm just trying to enjoy the photos I take for any social stuff, I'm trying to enjoy the videos that I make, I'm trying to enjoy the process of the music that I'm making and I'm trying not to rush it.

Jax Anderson will be performing on Saturday, Feb. 8, at Detroit's El Club with Shortly and Who Boy. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 to \$22. 4114 W Vernor Highway in Detroit. Find out more online at elclubdetroit.com.

All-Around Limos LLC

Mon-Sat: 9AM-9PM | Sun: 12PM-7PM

5576 E 10 Mile
Warren MI
48091

586.303.7303

**Red Carpet Wedding Specialists • Anniversaries
Birthdays • Nights Out • Bachelor/ette Parties
Sports • Concerts • Prom & Homecoming Dances**

State Licensed
& Insured
w/Annual MDOT
vehicle inspections

Professional
Chauffeurs

100% Customer
Satisfaction

All credit cards
accepted

RONORA


**Lodge & Retreat Center
Watervliet, MI**

OVERNIGHT WEEKEND WEDDINGS

RETREATS • REUNIONS

CABINS • LAKE • TRAILS • MEALS

RonoraLodge.com 269.463.6315



HOME **HOME**


Presented by Liberty Dental

1 in 4 youth that come to Ozone House are LGBTQ+ seeking support and are often kicked out of their homes because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

Help us ensure that ALL LGBTQ+ youth receive the safety and support they deserve.

February 13th, 2020
6:30pm
Zingerman's Greyline


Register at www.ozonehouse.org
\$75 per guest*



* See our website for special pricing for social workers, teachers, volunteers and more.

205 E. LIBERTY, ANN ARBOR

ABRACADABRA
Jewelry/Gem Gallery
custom design & repair



734.994.4848 WWW.ABRAGEM.COM

Discover your style at Jacob Matthew Jewelers!



Jacob Matthew Jewelers features over 3,000 square feet in our showroom, nearly double the size of most jewelry stores in metro Detroit. Jacob Matthew Jewelers is owned and managed by Tammy A. Haggerty, G.G. and features one of the area's largest and widest collections of jewelry.

20% OFF
ANY PURCHASE

OFFER EXCLUDES PANDORA®,
LOOSE DIAMONDS, AND SWAROVSKI.

JM
Jacob Matthew Jewelers, Inc.

(734) 207-1906 | www.jacobmatthewjewelers.com
6673 Canton Center Rd. | Canton, MI 48187

Trixie Mattel is All ‘Grown Up’ and Coming to Royal Oak

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

She won our hearts – and the \$100,000 – as “RuPaul’s Drag Race” All Stars 3 winner in 2018, became a makeup mogul with her line of Trixie Cosmetics and shot to internet fame with her co-host role on “UNHhhh.” Within the drag world, Trixie Mattel has always been something of an oddity. Not in the Yvie Oddly kind of way. In a wholesome, Dolly Parton circa 1975 in her big blonde wigs and glittering outfits kind of way. Perhaps it’s because of that unique sense of style and glam that Mattel has been able to turn her entertainment brand into something closer to an empire.

In-between a jam-packed touring schedule of Trixie Mattel: Grown Up, her latest tour that will be at The Royal Oak Music Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 13, the queen of country folk drag sat down with Between The Lines. Mattel filled us in on what makes this show special, the joys of doing stand-up and polishing a brand-new set of jokes.

The Rhythm of Touring

This tour follows in the wake of several similar and successful ones over the past few years. Mattel first appeared on “RuPaul’s Drag Race” before her All Stars appearance in season 7 where she came in sixth place. Following her season on the show, Mattel began recording music and traveling to support it. Grown Up is a 30-city tour, less than half the size of 2018’s Now With Moving Parts. But that’s by design, Mattel said. She said many dates do not always make for a perfect show. It’s about finding a golden medium.

“I love touring because it really gives my life meaning and purpose,” Mattel said. “Being home all the time, I have a million different projects and I’m being pulled into a million different places. When I am on the road I am singularly focused.

“My whole day is about my show and I love that. It gives me rhythm,” she continued. “Each day I get into a new city, go to a new gym on a day pass. The part I don’t like about touring is that I’m sort of a loner and I’m sort of antisocial. So, I need to strategize to make sure I get time to myself. And if I can go on stage and make a little money every night and have fun doing it, that’s the sweet spot.”



Developing New Styles

With Grown Up and her third and latest album “Barbara,” Mattel has moved further away from the country and folk path she has forged in recent years.

“I was writing this show and these songs and kind of conceptualizing it while on my last tour,” Mattel said. “I had early inklings. When I get an idea, I don’t get a full idea but I get pieces of it. So, I was definitely feeling like the ‘60s with my look. I knew I was kind of stepping out of the cowboy boots and into the go-go boots.”

That goes for sound and style, too.

“Barbara’ is my third record and this one is sort of a concept album,” Mattel explained. “Side A is sort of a day at the beach, bright and sunny, early ‘70s pop AM radio sort of sound. And then side B is a little more around the campfire with a guitar, maybe somebody drinking and smoking weed. It’s a little more storytelling. So those are kind of the two vibes. People know me for my folk music, so side B ties that in and that way I can get them to listen to side A, which is new ground for me.”

Like, totally new ground.

“Side A of this recording you would have never thought listening to my older music that it’s the same artist,” Mattel said. “You can tell the songwriting is me because it’s very guitar-driven and very lyrically driven.”

When asked about her process, Mattel said she doesn’t write songs like a lot of songwriters do, starting with a hook or a beat.

“I know that this unique, but I basically write top to bottom,” she said. “I write the song first, lyric first. I write it linear, which is kind of weird. I know a lot of people don’t do that.”

Other Creative Priorities

Just released, “Barbara” is already making iTunes charts for pre-sales. But music is just one small part in the Trixie empire. She’s just released a book and runs a successful cosmetics line.

“The book is called ‘Trixie and Katya’s Guide to Modern Womanhood.’ It’s basically a home economics textbook and etiquette guide for young women. We talk about things like hair and makeup, but also things like being broken up with. You know, life essentials.”

Between all the projects Mattel has started, it’s no surprise that it’s difficult to keep a balance between them.

She said that running Trixie cosmetics from the road can be something of a challenge.

“I’ve been doing a lot of extra time at the office trying to get ready for tour,” she said. “I’ve hired some great new staff this year, so I feel like it’s in very good hands while I’m gone. But we have weekly meetings via Skype. I’ll still be in the office. I’ll just be in the office while on a tour bus.”

On stage, Mattel is not only an artist, she’s a crowd-killer, too, combining her charming tunes with standup.

“In the beginning, you’re a little uncertain, you’re kind of dabbling and finding out what gets laughs,” she said. “Now, my vision of Trixie is so clear. I know exactly what kind of jokes work. I know exactly what the appearance of Trixie allows me to do and say. I’m very aware of how the look permits me to do and say certain things.”

Mattel said her work on her YouTube series and Netflix special has also contributed to making her more polished.

“You really get better every time you get in drag. I wasn’t even doing standup five years ago. When I first started doing drag, I was a drag queen who was a funny person. But I had a career lip-syncing, so it didn’t even occur to me to be a comedy drag queen,” Mattel said. “When I finally started doing stand-up it was like, ‘Oh, my God! How have I never done this? I was made to do this.’”

TITANIC
FRI. FEB. 14 7 PM
Was there room on the door for Jack?
Join the debate!
MICHIGAN THEATRE 603 E LIBERTY ST DOWNTOWN ANN ARBOR · MICHTHEATER.ORG/TITANIC

Trixie Mattel: Grown Up will make a stop at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, Thursday, Feb. 13. Tickets are \$39.50 and can be purchased at royaloakmusictheater.com.



Welcoming,
loving & affirming
of **all people.**

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. | Food and Fellowship 10:30 a.m.

21220 W. Fourteen Mile Rd. (between Evergreen & Lahser)
Bloomfield Twp., MI 48301
248-646-4100 | www.nativityepiscopalchurch.org

NOIR LEATHER
Tickets & Attire
On Sale Now at Noir!
Dirty Show &
Erotic Poetry
& Music Fest
Get 15% Off
Your Most Expensive Item
With Your Ticket Purchase
Cash or Credit!

124 W 4TH ST ROYAL OAK 248-541-3979
MON-TH 12-8 FRI 12-9 SAT 11-9 SUN 12-7
MODEL-BRITANY BELLUS STYLING-LETHAL LA FORD PHOTO-SEAN GRAHAM

BIDWELL TOVAREZ PLLC
PROVIDING BANKRUPTCY SOLUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES



For a Fresh Start and
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

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

What clients say about Bidwell Tovarez:

"Most trustworthy and experienced"

"Outstanding representation"

"Services with a personal touch"



Bidwell Tovarez PLLC

353 W 7th St., Ste. 140 432 N. Saginaw, Suite 800
Royal Oak, MI 48067 Flint, MI 48502
248-270-3333 810-222-6422

www.bidwelltovarez.com

david@bidwelltovarez.com

Call 248-270-3333

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



ENJOY OUR

World Class Grocery

THIS VALENTINE'S DAY



HEART SHAPED CHEESECAKES AND
CHOCOALTE DIPPED STRAWBERRIES

A ROMANTIC ASSORTMENT OF
FLOWERS, BOUQUETS AND ARRANGEMENTS

PREMIUM CHARCUTERIE BOARD INGREDIENTS
FROM OUR SUPERIOR CHEESE MONGER

VAST SELECTION OF WINE AND CHAMPAGNE

CERTIFIED PREMIUM TENDERLOIN AND PRIME RIB

THE FRESHEST SALMON, CRAB LEGS AND
OTHER SEAFOOD FAVORITES



HOLIDAY MARKET • 1203 S MAIN ST ROYAL OAK

248.541.1414 • HOLIDAY-MARKET.COM • CONNECT WITH US

BTL Cool Cities Royal Oak



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



Your Personal Advocate



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

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



Michigan's Largest Real Estate Company



ROYAL OAK BTL ADVERTISERS

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



C & N PARTY RENTALS

5140 Meijer Drive,
Royal Oak, MI 48073



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

We have Beautiful Linens for all events and budgets!

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

Nina West, Farrah Moan of 'RuPaul's Drag Race' to Appear at Andiamo's Drag Brunch

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Alongside co-star Farrah Moan, Crystal Harding and an array of "fierce local queens," "RuPaul's Drag Race" Season 11 Miss Congeniality Nina West will be starring in a Drag Queen Brunch on Feb. 23 at Andiamo's Celebrity showroom in Warren. Catching a moment to chat with between tour stops across the U.K., the Columbus, Ohio, native talked about her time on the show, life post-"Drag Race" and her extensive philanthropy.

You auditioned nine times before you were cast on Season 11 of Drag Race. What took you so long?

I think part of it is I was presenting myself as a version of what I thought the producers wanted instead of just being my authentic self. I also believe everything happens when it's supposed to, so it wasn't my time yet. I'm benefiting it from being it being my time now.

Once on the show, how did filming it meet your expectations? Or did it not?

I don't know if it was the filming of the show or just that the situation itself was so different from anything I was expecting it to be. It's reality television. I had never filmed reality television before. I just went into the experience ready to try my best.

How do you feel about how you did on the show?

I'm thrilled with the outcome. I'm thrilled the world got to see who I really am. I'm thrilled I got to do the things I did on the show and show my creativity. I think the show did me justice. The show takes what you give them and tells your story however you let it unfold, and I was lucky enough to have my story told.

Were you surprised to win Miss Congeniality or you knew you had it in the bag?

I was surprised. After knowing that I wasn't going to be in the final four I wanted it but I didn't think necessarily that I had it locked down. So I was thrilled my fellow cast members thought that I deserved it and gave me that award.

Your season aired just a year ago, and you've been very busy since. I saw you in December hosting "A Drag Queen Christmas," which was a big tour. Now you're in Europe traveling

extensively with "The Magnificent Nina West Show." How are you finding life on the road?

I love it. I love being able to see the world and have these really unique experiences with fans. I'm finding out more about myself and my drag. I never thought I'd go abroad and here I am opening a show in London tonight. So it's surreal and amazing and I love every minute of it.

You're quite the philanthropist. How did you come to create the Nina West Foundation?

The charity aspect really started when I first had a platform to stand on in Columbus. When I got my first big show I incorporated charity and that's been 18 years ago. After about a decade, the Nina West Foundation came into place and to ensure that my giving was legitimized and seen as a tremendous value to the community. I've given to organizations all over the world

And to date you've raised over \$2 million?

It's a little bit more now. That was what the accurate figure was about two years ago when I left for filming. And I'd say it's far surpassed that now. When I was eliminated on season 11, funds came pouring in from all over the world because people were upset by my elimination. My charity fund has really been impacted and grown because of my time on "Drag Race."

I was also impressed that the first thing folks see when they visit your website is the opportunity to purchase a T-shirt to benefit wildlife rescue in Australia.

I partnered with a local T-shirt brand in Columbus, Ohio, called Homage. I had worked with them before on other projects but I wanted to collaborate with them to do something about the bush fires. I was in Australia last year for the tour and I was just deeply impacted hearing about all these bush fires and how many people have been affected. And particularly, the animal community has been so affected. So I went into my rolodex and called Homage and it turned out to be a great thing.

Drag Queen Brunch at the Andiamo Celebrity Showroom in Warren on Sunday, Feb. 23. Tickets available from ticketmaster.com.



KARL SYDOW
PRESENTS
STING
STARRING IN
**THE
LAST
SHIP**
THE MUSICAL

ON SALE NOW
APRIL 22-26 DETROIT OPERA HOUSE

BroadwayInDetroit.com, ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office
Info: 313-872-1000, Groups (10+) Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com (subject: The Last Ship)
and oc April 24.

Photo: Jaime Travezan

SHELTON & DEON Low Group
Anticipate
Innovate
Advocate

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

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

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

The Ark

where music lives

Saturday, 2/15, 8pm



Joshua Davis

The "Voice" of Michigan

Thursday, 2/20, 8pm

**Cheryl Wheeler
w/sg Kenny White**

"Strong poetry, complex melodies,
clever wit." --*Sing Out!*



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

734.763.TKTS
316 S. Main, Ann Arbor, MI
www.theark.org



Happenings

Photo: Vance Aung

KING PRINCESS AT THE ROYAL OAK MUSIC THEATRE FEB. 7

Having hit the music world by storm with singles like "1950" and "Talia," King Princess is now touring with her debut album "Cheap Queen." Catch her performance on Friday, Feb. 7, at The Royal Oak Music Theatre at 7 p.m. Tickets for this all-ages show start at \$29.99. Find out more online at royaloakmusictheatre.com.

skills improves leadership style and relationships. Guests (and allies) are always welcome. An event every month that begins at 7 p.m. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867 lawrencemoeb@gmail.com

Sunday, February 16

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

MUSIC & MORE

Martin Katz & Friends – What's in a Song: Hugo Wolf's Complete Mörike Song February 5, 8 p.m. There are many important art song composers, chief among them Schubert, Schumann, Brahms, and Richard Strauss, but Hugo Wolf occupies his own special place. Although Wolf composed in other forms, his fame rests almost entirely Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University, Ann Arbor. 734-763-3333

Cecile McLorin Salvant February 6, 7

p.m. Though only 29 years old, Cécile McLorin Salvant has spent the last decade evolving from a darling of jazz critics and fans to a multi-Grammy Award winner and a prescient and fearless voice in music Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University, Ann Arbor. 734-763-3333

Mandy Patinkin in Concert: DIARIES February 6, 8 p.m. Mandy Patinkin in Concert: DIARIES, presents the acclaimed actor / singer / storyteller in his most electrifying role: concert performer. "Mandy Patinkin is in the business of showstopping," raves The New Yorker, and that's exactly Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000 <http://broadwayindetroit.com>.

Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan February 14, 8 p.m. No other mariachi in history has had a trajectory or influence remotely comparable to theirs; they are widely considered the finest in the world. Founded in a small city near Jalisco by Don Gaspar Vargas Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave, Ann Arbor. 734-764-3464

Angélique Kidjo's Remain in the Light February 16, 7 p.m. Global pop star Angélique Kidjo has partnered with super producer Jeff Bhasker (Rihanna, Kanye West, Harry Styles, Bruno Mars, Drake, Jay-Z) and an international band to create Remain in Light. This new project finds the Benin-born Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 <http://ums.org>

Dorrance Dance: Myelination February 21, 8 p.m. Founded in 2011 by MacArthur "Genius" Award recipient Michelle Dorrance, Dorrance Dance honors tap dance's uniquely beautiful history in a new and dynamically compelling context, not by stripping the form of its tradition, but by An event every day that begins at 8:00pm, repeating until February 22 Power Center, 121 Fletcher Street, Ann Arbor. (734) 647-3327

HD Broadcast: Bolshoi Ballet Giselle February 23, 7 p.m. In this brand new production by the Bolshoi Ballet, renowned choreographer Alexei Ratmansky brings a fresh perspective to one of the oldest and most iconic ballets. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 <http://ums.org/performance/hd-broadcast-bolshoi-ballet-giselle/>

West-Eastern Divan Ensemble with Michael Barenboim February 26, 7:30 p.m. Twenty years ago, the famous Israeli conductor and pianist Daniel Barenboim and the Palestinian-American writer and academic Edward Said organized an orchestra that brought together aspiring Israeli and Arab musicians who otherwise would have had Rakh a.m. Auditorium, 915 E. Washington St, Ann Arbor. (734) 764-

OUTINGS

Friday, February 7

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. Community Health Center, Lansing, 2316 S Cedar, Lansing. 517-887-4597 cwheeler@ingham.org

Saturday, February 8

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

Monday, February 10

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Macomb County 6:30 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this FREE group. Come and meet other trans* youth and teens and support each other through your journeys. We meet the 2nd Monday of each month, Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700

Wednesday, February 12

Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genesee 6:30 p.m. Free to all, Trans Youth Support Group meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month @ Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint. 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy. 810-232-4023 uuflint.org www.standwithtrans.org

Thursday, February 13

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting 7 p.m. LGBTQ Toastmaster Club focusing on professional and personal communication skills development. Better communication

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

See **Happenings**, on p. 39

www.PrideSource.com

A Relationship With Crime

Wharton Center's 'Thrill Me: The Leopold & Loeb Story' Takes on the Crime of the Century

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Mystery, murder and the age-old question of “why?” Each of these criteria are met in Stephen Dolginoff’s crime musical “Thrill Me: The Leopold & Loeb Story.” Recounting the tale of what was the “murder of the century” in 1924, “Thrill Me” takes audiences into the minds of the then teenaged killers Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb. However, “Thrill Me” contains a twist: it focuses more on the development of the relationship between the closeted young men than other works that focus exclusively on the crime.

To find more about the work, what to expect on stage and what it’s like to recount this tragic story before it hits Lansing’s Wharton Center on Feb. 12, Between the lines caught up with Director Bert Goldstein, Wayne Shuker who will be playing Loeb and Mark Ryan Anderson who will play Leopold.

Beyond the musical format, what’s different between this portrayal of events and the actual crime?

Bert Goldstein: It starts after they’ve graduated college in the spring before they go to law school, which was actually true. Richard left the University of Michigan and went elsewhere and then they got together again during the spring of 1924 and that’s when they started to be in this little plot to do crime and eventually do a murder. For audiences that don’t know the play, I think it’s giving something away to say what happens. It’s a psychological thriller, it’s a bit of a mystery, it has a surprise ending, so I would say see it (laughs).

In this story, Richard Loeb acts as more of the mastermind and Nathan Leopold as more of the conscience. What is it like to portray those personalities in this piece?

Wayne Shuker: I think for Richard, it’s interesting to find the balance between how much he actually loved Nathan and how much needs Nathan and how much he uses Nathan. Because if it was just him using him all the time it wouldn’t be anything interesting, and it wouldn’t be true. There’s an element of him needing Nathan for companionship and he cares about him in some weird, twisted way. So, it’s kind of an arc of reconciling of where did he find love for Nathan and where does he find uses for Nathan.

Mark Ryan Anderson: I think Steven made the problem for Nathan’s character a lot easier in the sense that it’s a lot more of a

humanizing quality to do this for another person. The structure play starts off with him as a 55-year-old man applying for parole his fifth time. He’s asked by the parole board, ‘Why did you do it?’ And essentially, he says, ‘I did it for Richard.’ And the entirety of the play starts back when they were 19 going through that. And when they meet in the park again



Mark Ryan Anderson plays Nathan Leopold.

Nathan decides in that moment, ‘I’m going to be with him no matter what, and I’m never going to let him get away again.’ And what I don’t think Nathan realizes in that moment is how far he’s truly willing to go for that goal.

In reality, it’s hard to say why Leopold and Loeb committed the crime, because they never really admitted their reasoning. People speculate about their philosophy, privilege and upbringing as factors. Do you think a similar crime could happen today, or was this just the perfect recipe?

BG: Yeah, the perfect recipe. The fact that they were privileged, the fact that they had a relationship, the fact that the relationship had to be closeted, their past, I think what the guys have told about who they are and what they want was a perfect storm things coming together that created this terrible incident.

WS: That being said, I do think that one question the show asks and everything about Leopold and Loeb asks is: Why? And I mean we have to answer that for ourselves as actors, but that’s also up to the audience. So that element of ‘Why?’ is open to coming to the show and seeing what you think what you leave.

MRA: I think is absolutely is something that

See **Wharton Center**, continued on p. 39

ORCHESTRA HALL 100

DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

LEONARD SLATKIN *Music Director Laureate*

A COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED ORCHESTRA

CLASSICAL SERIES

DEBUSSY AND RAVEL

Thomas Søndergård, *conductor*
Bertrand Chamayou, *piano*

Fri., Feb. 14 at 10:45 a.m. 🎧
Sat., Feb. 15 at 8 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 16 at 3 p.m. 🎫

STRAVINSKY *Symphony in 3 Movements*
RAVEL *Piano Concerto for Left Hand*
POULENC *Les animaux modèles*
DEBUSSY *La mer*

SPONSORED BY

PFS Chemicals, Inc.

CLASSICAL SERIES

BEETHOVEN'S SIXTH

John Storgårds, *conductor*
Alisa Weilerstein, *cello*

Fri., Feb. 21 at 8 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 22 at 8 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. 🎫

OUTI TARKIAINEN *Midnight Sun Variations*
BARBER *Cello Concerto*
BEETHOVEN *Symphony No. 6, "Pastorale"**

SPONSORED BY

PFS Chemicals, Inc.

PNC POPS SERIES

FROM BROADWAY TO HOLLYWOOD

Robert Bernhardt, *conductor*
Carole J. Bufford, *vocalist*
Blaine Krauss, *vocalist*

Fri., Feb. 28 at 10:45 a.m. & 8 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 29 at 8 p.m.
Sun., Mar. 1 at 3 p.m.

Musicals such as *West Side Story*, *Chicago*, *The Sound of Music*, *Les Misérables*, and more all became hits both on Broadway and in Hollywood. Enjoy a program of music that has thrilled audiences of the stage and screen, including beloved songs like “My Favorite Things,” “I Dreamed A Dream,” and “All That Jazz.”

TITLE SPONSOR: PNC BANK

SPONSORED BY KPMG

dso.org/jader

DETROIT WELCOMES

JADER BIGNAMINI

Detroit Symphony Orchestra's new Music Director

2020-2021 Classical & PNC Pops Concerts Just Announced

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

ORDER YOUR TICKETS NOW!

dso.org or 313.576.5111

GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE CALL 313.576.5130

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

OH 100 * PERFORMED DURING ORCHESTRA HALL'S FIRST SEASON IN 1919-1920.

LIVE WEBCASTS AT DSO.ORG/LIVE

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

PROGRAMS, PRICES, AND ARTISTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

The Frivolist

5 Retail Replacements That Should Satisfy Your Urge to Splurge

BY MIKEY ROX

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to live better but spend less, consider these retail replacement tips that accomplish just that.

1. Private Label Organic Food vs. Major Brand Organics

I buy organic when it makes financial sense or when it's the only choice I have, but I don't seek organic labels. Mostly because national-brand organic options are still quite expensive compared to their conventional counterparts, and I've eaten non-organic food for the past 38 years of my life so the proverbial "damage" is done at this point. If you're an organic-food loyalist, however, shopping at discounts grocers like Aldi will help you cut back on the high cost of certified foods – despite that you might have to dig through the expiring produce to find an edible specimen.

2. Expanding Your Search Area When Buying a New Home

I'm not someone who's going to advocate renting over buying in any case; I wholly believe that home ownership and real estate is one of the last bastions of the American dream. Instead, when searching for a home that has everything you could want, including a sky-high price attached to it, why not consider something equally attractive (if not better) in a different market with lower prices?

Compare property rental and buying prices per square foot between the first-choice location and the bordering cities or counties (or state, if practical) then calculate transportation costs to work, amenities, family and friends. For



example, many people who work in Baltimore City or Baltimore County actually live in Pennsylvania, where they can purchase more house and upgrades for the same or less money than comparable homes and neighborhoods in Maryland.

3. Home Furnishing Resale Shops vs. Major Furniture Retailers

Before you head out to the big-box stores for your new bedroom or living room set, take a stroll through some of your local furniture resale shops. Sometimes they have hidden gems – better-quality pieces for a fraction

of the cost – that can save you a bundle over higher-end retailers' prices. I always hit up stores like HomeSense and Big Lots, and check the clearance section of IKEA and browse Facebook Marketplace before I ever step foot into a dedicated furniture store. The result is often something much quirkier, cooler and cheaper than I would have found at a warehouse or department store.

4. Stocking Up on Quality Meats and Champagne During Holiday Sales

Want to dine like a prince all year round on the budget of a pauper? Stock up on indulgent

food items like premium cuts of meat, seafood and champagne during sales, which are popular around the holidays, including after the upcoming Valentine's holiday.

Holiday sales events in grocery stores offer you an average of 67% savings on those decadent steaks, whole rib roasts, shrimp, lobster and champagne. These are often loss leaders and featured on the front page of the sales circulars during the week leading up to the holiday. Enjoy the week the sale hits for the holiday event, plus stock your freezer with savings for more splurges in between.

5. Pre-Owned Electronics vs. New-in-Box Devices

Is it important for you to have a new-in-box phone or tablet, or can you handle a previously owned version, which is in like-new condition, for a huge percentage less than the never-been-used version? If you want to save a substantial amount of money, you'll opt for the latter. One outlet where you can score previously owned, in-excellent-condition devices is Gazelle.com.

These gently used devices go through a 30-plus-point inspection process to make sure that they are as like-new as possible, and can be purchased for a significant savings when compared to buying new. For example, Gazelle is selling an iPhone 11 64GB starting at \$549. New from Apple, the same device would cost \$699. Decent enough difference to consider the refurb.

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and LGBT lifestyle expert whose work has been published in more than 100 outlets across the world. He currently lives in his van, saving money and traveling the country. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @mikeyroxtravels.

LOVE THOSE RATES!
Save On Your Next **LOAN.**

Auto Loans, Personal Loans, Mortgages

Apply Online, Anytime, Any Device
at www.genisyscu.org

GENISYS
CREDIT UNION

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

PUZZLE P. 37

► Wharton Center

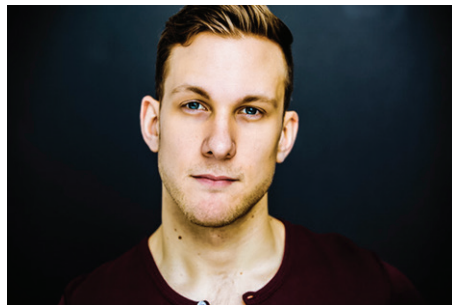
Continued from p. 37

could happen in present day. I think we have a plethora of people like they were, have their lives set up like they were born with a silver spoon in their mouth. And, I mean, the real mystery of the murder is: Do they do it for the thrill? Were they just so bored with their life, that they had conquered everything that they had no more adventure to it? They had to come up with what ended up happening, because that can absolutely end up happening. And that question of nature versus nurture, parenting and the stories that we tell our kids.

What drew you to this work?

WS: For me it's very rare that you get this type of material to play with, especially in musical theater. We were actually talking about this today that sometimes an audience can be fooled into thinking that because it's a musical you're going to get a happy-go-lucky score about killing someone, and that's not what this is at all. This is a dark and kind of twisted [show] that is interesting from an actor's point of view to get to jump into.

MRA: What drew me to this show was that I had the pleasure of performing it about eight years ago. But [also] what drew me in and what was interesting was the psychology of these different characters and the human condition. And from the curtain to the lights out at the end of the play, if things go right, you are essentially forcing a willing audience



Wayne Shuker plays Richard Loeb.

to be in a room with two terrible people, and you're forcing them to ask the same question as the parole board asks Nathan at the start of the play, "Why?" I hope they have to think.

BG: For me, I saw it at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival about four or five years ago and it was interesting then. I think the story is fascinating still. People are writing stories about it, there's documentaries about it, this is over 100 years ago and they're just fascinating. And then, for me personally I've never directed something in this genre, a psychological thriller. We're doing the play entirely in black and white to try and capture a 1930s, 1940s film being lit that way by our lighting designer. So this is all intriguing theater. And I have to take my hat off to Steven Dolginoff, I think he's done a great job in writing this. And he's been very open and helpful to us on a number of occasions and he's open via email and I think he's written an intriguing musical here.

To find out more about the show, find showtimes and purchase tickets visit whartoncenter.com.

► Happenings

Continued from p. 36

8572 www.rackham.umich.edu

Emanuel Ax, piano, Leonidas Kavakos, violin and Yo-Yo Ma, cello March 3, 7:30 p.m. World-renowned musicians Emanuel Ax, Leonidas Kavakos, and Yo-Yo Ma unite to perform an evening of trios by Beethoven. Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University Ave, Ann Arbor. 7347643464 <http://ums.org/performance/emanuel-ax-leonidas-kavakos-yo-yo-ma/>

Midwest RAD Fest March 6, The 11th Annual Midwest RAD Fest is a juried contemporary dance festival which will feature over 200 professional dance artists from all over the world performing in 5 different concerts, presenting site specific works, teaching South Kalamazoo Mall, 359 S Kalamazoo Mall Suite 204, Kalamazoo. <http://www.midwestradfest.com> <http://midwestradfest.org>

The Naked Magicians March 6, 7 p.m. Seen on London's West End, the Las Vegas strip, in 250+ cities around the world, and by over 50 million on TV (NBC, ABC, FOX, iTV) – The Naked Magicians is undoubtedly the world's funniest March 7 at 10 p.m. Detroit Music Hall, 350 Madison St., Detroit. 313-887-8501 www.musicall.org

THEATER

White Feminist February 3 - 9, 7:30 p.m. Gender and privilege collide in this scathing comedy that will grab you by

the pussy hat. As the host of a morning talk show, "Becky's Time," Lee Minora skewers and dissects the failings of non-intersectional. An event every day that begins at 7:30pm, James and Anne Duderstadt Center, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd, Ann Arbor. 734-763-3266/

Jesus Christ Superstar February 4 - 9, 8 p.m. Jesus Christ Superstar is an iconic musical phenomenon with a world-wide fan base. In celebration of its 50th Anniversary, a new mesmerizing production comes to North America. Originally staged by London's Regent's Park Open Air Theatre. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 313-237-SING <http://broadwayindetroit.com>

Robert Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Feb. 18 - March 1, Roald Dahl's amazing tale is now Detroit's golden ticket! It's the perfect recipe for a

delectable treat: songs from the original film, including "Pure Imagination," "The Candy Man," and "I've Got a Golden Ticket," Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. 313-237-SING <http://broadwayindetroit.com>

HD Broadcast: Bolshoi Ballet Giselle February 23, 7 p.m. In this brand new production by the Bolshoi Ballet, renowned choreographer Alexei Ratmansky brings a fresh perspective to one of the oldest and most iconic ballets. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. 734-668-8397 <http://ums.org/performance/hd-broadcast-bolshoi-ballet-giselle/>



Editor's Pick

GABRIEL IGLESIAS AT MASONIC TEMPLE

On the "Beyond the Fluffy" tour, Detroit fans get to see Fluffy himself hit the Masonic Temple stage on Friday, Feb. 28. Beyond developing his comedy chops, Gabriel Iglesias has also made a name for himself in TV and film, appearing in such hits as "Coco," "Modern Family" and "Narcos." Doors open for this comedy show at 7 p.m. Find out more online at themasonic.com.



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

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, AND LOTIONS
FEB 12-15, 2020

\$10 OFF ANY \$50 PURCHASE
\$20 OFF ANY \$100 PURCHASE
REGULAR PRICED MERCH ONLY!
FEBRUARY 2-8, 2020

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

UPTOWN
BOOKSTORES
ADULT VIDEO
2 LOCATIONS
WWW.UPTOWNADULT.COM

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

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

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

Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Josie Totah joins 'Saved By The Bell' reboot

Now this is news we like: Josie Totah, who gets our vote for funniest, most effervescent young actor, transgender or otherwise (though she is trans), and whom we've admired since first seeing her slay her way through a few scenes in the indie comedy "Other People," is going to star in a reboot of the early '90s tween sitcom "Saved By The Bell." Original cast members Mario Lopez, Mark-Paul Gosselaar and Elizabeth Berkley will headline the new series, as the adults shepherding a new class of kids through wacky high school hijinks. Meanwhile, Totah will play a sharp-tongued cheerleader who rules the school. That's all we know about the kid end of things this time around, but honestly, right now, that's enough for us. It'll show up soon on the new NBCUniversal streaming service, Peacock, which launches in April.

Tan France and Alexa Chung are 'Next in Fashion'

Maybe you still watch "Project Runway," maybe you don't. But even if you've abandoned the long-running design competition, it's quite likely you're watching Netflix's highly emotional "Queer Eye." It's also quite likely you have opinions about Tan France's fashion choices for the people he helps on that show. And that kind of makes him the perfect co-host, alongside model Alexa Chung, for his next series for Netflix, "Next in Fashion." Like "Runway," "Next" will be a high-stakes competition, but stocked with people who are already hard at work in the fashion industry and want to take their careers to the next level. Some are stylists and some have worked for major brands, and all will compete for a \$250,000 grand prize and their own line for Net-a-Porter. It drops on Netflix any minute now, so binge away.



Tan France. Photo: Kath Clark

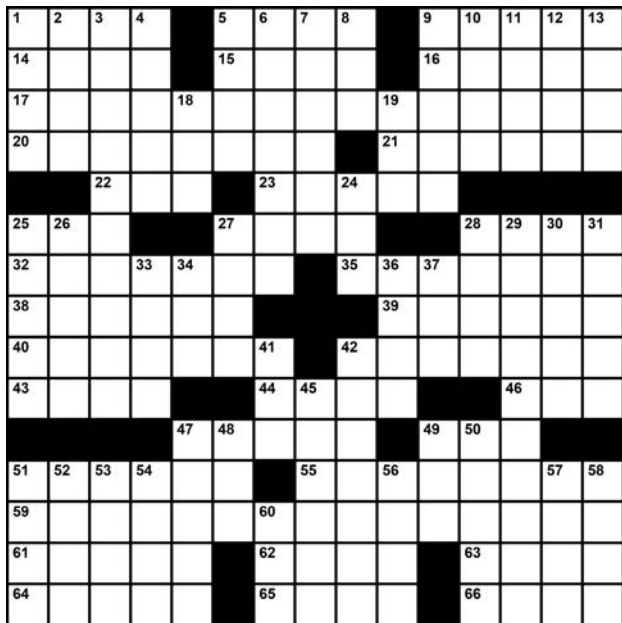
TLC gets sickening with 'Dragnificent!'

You knew any reality series featuring former "RuPaul's Drag Race" contestants would come equipped with its own exclamation point, and that's the case with "Dragnificent!" The new TLC make-your-life-different-with-new-clothes-and-stuff series will star "RPDR" alums BeBe Zahara Benet, Alexis Michelle, Jujubee and Thorgy Thor, who'll band together to perform miraculous makeovers on non-drag-queens who just want to feel a little more fierce. Alexis is the makeup and hair queen, Bebe is an experienced event planner, Jujubee will handle fashion, and Thorgy is a classically trained musician who'll most likely function as the culture expert on this galaxy-brain version of the "Queer Eye" success formula. In early episodes they'll help a woman preparing for her high school reunion and another one getting ready for a wedding after a 130-pound weight loss. It debuts in April on TLC and we're already tucking in a regular helping, provided there's not too much crying on the makeover menu.

Romeo San Vicente makeover talent is buying the donuts.

Ben Wishaw takes 'Surge' to Sundance and beyond

We have a thing for Ben Wishaw. We'll follow his career anywhere, whether it's to wondrous, life-affirming films like the "Paddington" movies (seriously, adults, you'll cry) or to brazenly wicked queer series like "A Very English Scandal," where respectability politics go to die. And it's choices like these that make us excited to see "Surge." The feature debut of UK television director Anil Karia, it stars Wishaw as an empty man beaten down by work and an emotionless life. A momentary act of rebellion jump starts a much wilder side to his character, and he then careens through London looking for sensation wherever he can find it. The thriller will take its bow at the Sundance Film Festival before hitting theaters or streaming (who can say anymore where movies will find their audience, really) after that.



- 42 Tinkerbell portrayer Julia
 43 “___ small world”
 44 “Now and ___”
 46 Verb ending
 47 Gomer’s “not at all”
 49 HRC, e.g.
 51 Kidron of Wong Foo fame
 55 “Hairspray” actor
 59 Venue for The Grande Ole Opry
 61 “... who ___ heaven”
 62 Chance beginning
 63 Beat, but barely
 64 Like Albert, in “The Birdcage”
 65 Getting on in years
 66 Manhandle, with “with”

Down

- 1 Chemist’s condiment
 2 Rubber stamp
 3 Lots of people go down on them
 4 Pantywaist
 5 Bone in a limp wrist
 6 Joins the team
 7 No more than
 8 Tennessee’s country, once (abbr.)
 9 Ophelia and Hamlet or Claire
 10 SALT subject
 11 Visit Barneys, e.g.
 12 Part of Batman’s costume
 13 Hoover hookup that sucks
 18 Suffix with project
 19 “___ be my pleasure!”
 24 Hrs. in P-town
 25 Disney deer
 26 Say without thinking

- 27 Iwo ___
 28 Put in a position
 29 Lube brand
 30 Historic Stonewall disturbances
 31 Saint-Saen’s “___ Macabre”
 33 TV actress Dietrich
 34 Lemon that isn’t a fruit
 36 Second word of a fairy tale
 37 Snatch
 41 Math degree
 42 Second draft
 45 Meat on a bun
 47 Fran Drescher show, with “The”
 48 “Cat ___ Hot Tin Roof”
 49 Egg head?
 50 Composer Ned
 51 Kid needing a butt-whipping
 52 Brontë woman
 53 Respondents to 911
 54 Tease
 56 Not much, to a Lincoln kid?
 57 Harbor pushers
 58 “My Cup Runneth Over” singer Ed
 60 Poet Dorothy ___ Ratcliffe

Dolly Would!

Q Puzzle

Across

- 1 Untouchable head
 5 Gomer Pyle’s branch
 9 Thomas who wrote “334”
 14 Beginning of “Wicked”
 15 Cause of Pinocchio’s 8-incher
 16 Sound of a facial discharge
 17 With 38-Across, with “The,” venue for Dolly memorabilia
 20 Superman’s beard?

- 21 Part of the head
 22 Seed spilled on the farm
 23 Gay ski weekends rides
 25 “Lip Service” network
 27 Sources of delight
 28 Like an erect nipple
 32 Disney lamp rubber
 35 Barbary Coast country
 38 See 17-Across
 39 Dolly of this puzzle’s theme
 40 Fraser of “The Mummy”

TRIANGLE CHIROPRACTIC

INTEGRATE MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT VIA NATURE AND CHIROPRACTIC MASSAGE AND NUTRITION

JOHN TSAKOS, DC
 MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED

GROSSE POINTE OFFICE PLAZA
 1-94 SERVICE DRIVE AT ALLARD EXIT

OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY
 313-885-9496
 WWW.TRIANGLECLINIC.COM

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!

LOVE Wins

Between THE Lines™

Find solution on page 34 and at www.pridesource.com

#TIME2KNOW GET TESTED
 NOW OFFERING INTEGRATED TESTING

- Rapid HIV
- Gonorrhea
- Chlamydia

CONVENIENT METRO DETROIT LOCATIONS
 Matrix MAC Health in Ferndale & MidTown Detroit • Affirmations in Ferndale

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NO SUNDAY TESTING
Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-4:30PM <i>Walk-in or by Appointment</i>	Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-4:30PM <i>Walk-in or by Appointment</i>	Affirmations FERNDALE 5:30PM-8:30PM <i>Walk-in or by Appointment</i>	Affirmations Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-4:30PM <i>Walk-in or by Appointment</i>	Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-4:30PM <i>Walk-in or by Appointment</i>	Affirmations FERNDALE 1PM-3PM <i>Walk-In</i> 1ST & 3RD SATURDAYS 12:30-3pm	

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

1 (888) A CONDOM

MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES

MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES

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
[@LGBTDetroit](https://www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter)
or follow them on Twitter @JimToyCenter.
319 Braun Court
Ann Arbor, MI
734-995-9867

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

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

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

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

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

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

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

Ties Like Me

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

Transgender

FtM Detroit

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

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

You can add or update any listing by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information.

You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to www.PrideSource.com and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to editor@pridesource.com



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

FtM A2 Ypsi

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

Transgender Michigan

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

Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

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

Ozone House

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

Stand With Trans

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

Find these resources online

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

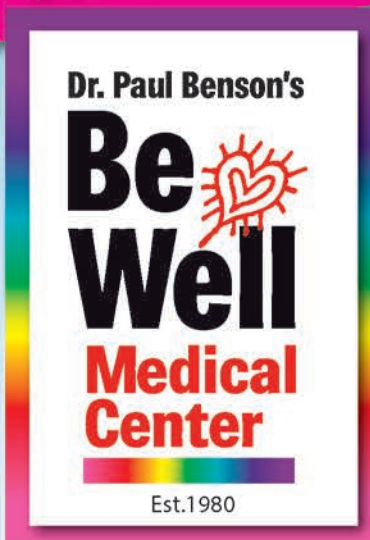
On the Edge of Primary Care PODCASTS with Dr. Paul Benson



Dr. Benson is launching a new podcast series for 2020!

Use your cell phone to capture the QR code above, or visit our website, Spotify, Apple, or Google for access.

Since 1980, our medical team has been committed to providing compassionate, sensitive care for all lifestyles. The topics and specialists featured on the podcast will help you keep pace with the most up-to-date info to improve your health!



1 Why We Sleep? (Dr. Benson) Release: **1/2/2020**

Sleep is one of the most important, but least understood aspects of our lives and wellness.

2 Living with HIV in the 21st Century (Dr. Benson & Caleb Youngblood) Release: **1/16/2020**

HIV is a chronic manageable disorder, perhaps easier to live with than Heart Disease or Diabetes. Learn the latest about the HIV virus, new therapies, and the lessons learned from our history of dealing with HIV and its social stigma.

3 On the Edge: Transcending the Standard of Care

(Dr. Paul Benson, Dorea Shoemaker & Gretchen Haughton) Release: **1/30/2020**

Take matters into your own hands and become an active participant in your health. We'll discuss Cannabidiol (CBD) and its properties to improve and manage health with an expert, Dorea Shoemaker. CBD may be a new and safer alternative for pain instead of Tylenol or ibuprofen. We'll also discover benefits of whole food supplements to keep us healthy.

4 The Transgender Population – Understanding and Embracing this Population (Leon Bullough) Release: **2/13/2020**

A report from the World Professional Association on Transgender Health's (WPATH) Annual Conference. Hormone Replacement therapy is only a part of the transitioning process. Community and mental health support is essential for success. Individualized care plans based on evidence based

medicine and created to match each individual's desires and pace is essential to make the transition process a safe and healthy journey.

5 Sexual Health and HIV Prevention

(Dr. Paul Benson & Mark Rosen) Release: **2/27/2020**

We'll discuss sexually transmitted infections and their prevention. Many healthcare providers sweep this topic under the rug, but outcomes improve when we talk about how to stay healthy and infection free. Sexual health is not simply the absence of disease. It's living comfortably without fear or stigma; and embracing your sexuality while living day to day in your comfort zone.

6 Living Well Over the Age of 50

(Dr. Benson and Colin Colter) Release: **3/12/2020**

We'll discuss simple steps you, with the assistance of your doctor, can implement to live longer and healthier. Proper health maintenance makes a big difference at any age, but becomes even more important as the decades pass. We'll talk about prevention and aggressive strategies to manage co-morbidities sometimes encountered as we age. We can't turn back the clock, but you *can* improve your heart, liver, brain function, kidneys, and virtually every organ system.



1964 Eleven Mile Rd • Berkley, MI 40872

@bewellmedicalcenter



(248) 544-9300 • doctorbewell.com



Diversity makes for a better cocktail party.

* TitosVodka.com * Crafted to be savored responsibly. DISTILLED & BOTTLED BY FIFTH GENERATION INC. 40% ALC./VOL. © 2019 TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA.