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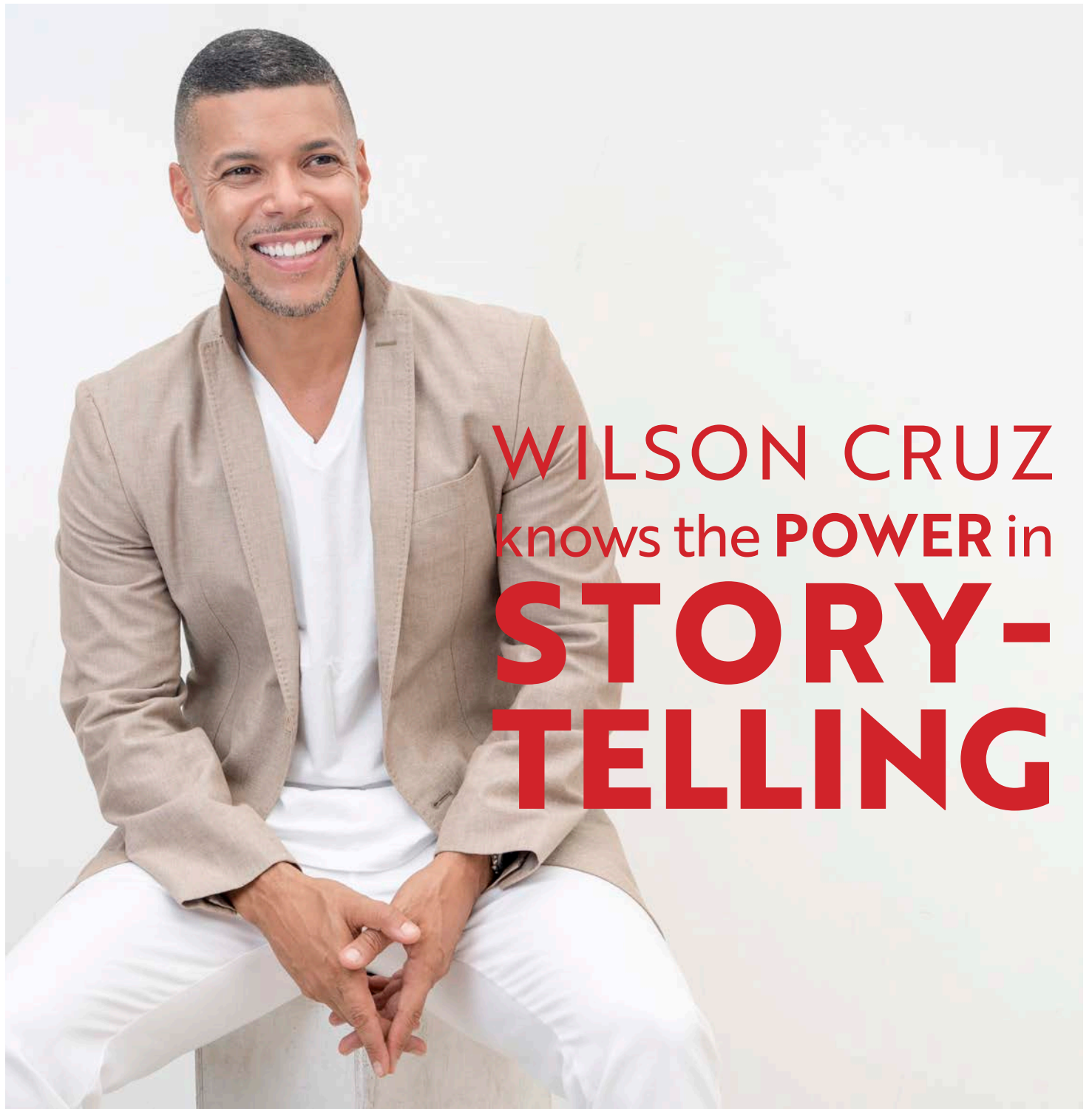
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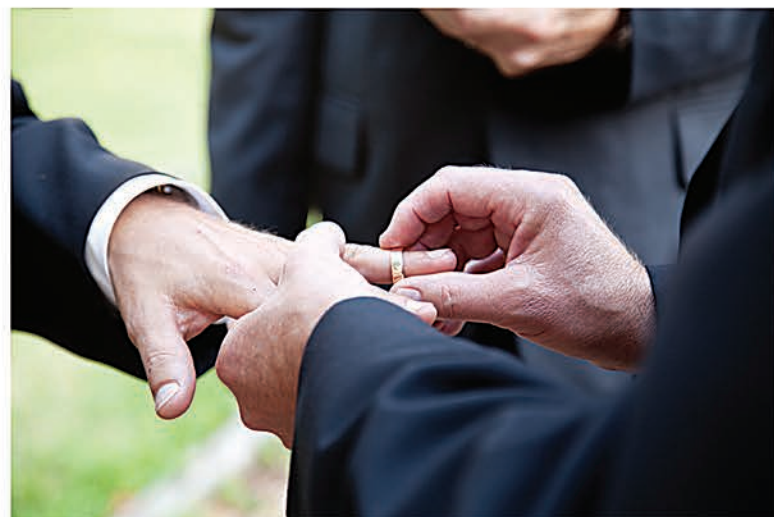


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- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
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GILEAD

Gov. Whitmer Expands Unemployment Benefits for Michigan Workers

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING — This week Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed Executive Order 2020-10 to temporarily expand eligibility for unemployment benefits. This executive order is effective immediately and until Tuesday, April 14 at 11:59 p.m.

Under the governor's order, unemployment benefits would be extended to:

Workers who have an unanticipated family care responsibility, including those who have childcare responsibilities due to school closures, or those who are forced to care for loved ones who become ill.

Workers who are sick, quarantined, or immunocompromised and who do not have access to paid family and medical leave or are laid off.

First responders in the public health community who become ill or are quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19.

"While we work together to mitigate the spread of coronavirus, we must do everything we can to help working families," Whitmer said. "This executive order will provide immediate relief to those who can't go to work, and who rely on their paycheck to put food on the table for themselves and their families. I urge everyone to make smart choices at this time, and to do everything in their power to keep themselves and their loved ones safe."

"We know that many families are and will experience economic pain as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Jeff Donofrio, Director of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity. "Our expansion of unemployment and workers' compensation benefits is designed to help provide emergency support to Michigan's working families."

The State is also seeking solutions for self-employed workers and independent contractors who traditionally do not have access to unemployment insurance.

Access to benefits for unemployed workers will also be extended:

- Benefits will be increased from 20 to 26 weeks.
- The application eligibility period will be increased from 14 to 28 days
- The normal in-person registration and work search requirements will be suspended.
- Eligible employees should apply for unemployment benefits online at [Michigan.gov/UIA](https://www.michigan.gov/UIA) or 1-866-500-0017.

Under the order, an employer or employing unit must not be charged for unemployment benefits if their employees become unemployed because of an executive order requiring them to close or limit operations.

See **Unemployment**, continued on p. 17

Emergency Financial Assistance for Ryan White-Funded Agencies Now Available

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Emergency Expansion of Ryan White Funding

In response to the recent outbreak of COVID-19, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Division of HIV and STD Programs is providing emergency financial assistance to Ryan White-funded agencies to support their clients living with HIV. Medicine, medical supplies and food — if the client is not currently funded for food bank services — are covered by this emergency funding. Items named in a letter addressed to program staff and clients include things such as hand sanitizer, household cleaning products, masks, gloves and fever reducers.

"Ryan White funding isn't usually allowed to buy cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer [or] food," said Kelly Doyle, CEO of CARES, a Ryan White funded-agency in Southwest Michigan. "So this really opens up for us being able to do things for our clients right now in this crisis to help them, whether people are quarantined or self-quarantined, to be able to clean themselves and clean their environment. Our clients are also family members who often take care of other family members."

MDHHS is currently working with Medicaid and Script Guide to secure an additional 30-day supply of medications for clients as well. It is recommended that pharmaceuticals be mailed or delivered to individuals' homes.

Additional funding to defray the cost of travel for the delivery of medicine, medical supplies and/or food will also be covered by MDHHS for people living with HIV

An Agency Responds

Community AIDS Resource and Education Services is a nonprofit AIDS organization serving 10 counties in Southwest Michigan. Approximately 400 clients are served by two Kent County locations. At present, CARES is not offering its clients particular guidelines regarding COVID-19 beyond what state leadership has suggested.

"I'm not advising the clients anything specific," Doyle said. "I'm letting the guidance from MDHHS come down. What I am doing is I'm having case managers call their clients to talk and listen to clients to keep them calm and hear what they need, and ... ask them, do

they need cleaning products or fever reducers or food — that kind of thing. So that's the guidance I put out to my staff Friday. They're going to start calling them in the next couple days to be able to keep them calm."

Doyle described precautions the CARES locations are taking in the face of the pandemic.

"Right now, everything's moved so quickly," she said, referring to the pace at which the public is receiving new information and recommendations. With the first reports of cases, she said they began with more frequent hand washing and by disinfecting surfaces in the office with bleach wipes on a daily basis.

"As this progressed, we started working towards meeting face-to-face only in emergency situations," Doyle said. "And most likely next week, we'll have a lot of our staff working from home to minimize having too many people around to create that issue of transmission."

For clients whose HIV is well-maintained, Doyle said it's likely they'll suggest delaying routine appointments at present because "it would probably be healthier for them."

"Now, if they are newer clients or they're having health issues, we have a clinic that we can have them come to," Doyle said. "And of course, we would try to screen for any of the COVID symptoms beforehand."

CARES' clinic is staffed by Western Michigan University School of Medicine clinicians who have their own policies, Doyle indicated. She added that they're working on a plan to use telemedicine when appropriate.

Gov. Whitmer's office addressed telemedicine's role during the COVID-19 pandemic in a March 12 statement that announced her administration would immediately begin allowing Medicaid beneficiaries to access the service. In Michigan, 3,931 clients of Ryan White-funded agencies relied on Medicaid alone for health insurance in 2018.

"When we expand access through telemedicine, we can help reduce the number of Michiganders who need to visit their health care provider in person, which will help slow the spread of disease and ensure our health facilities have adequate staff and resources to care for those who are sick," said MDHHS Director Robert Gordon, in the statement.

The Reality

For all expenses covered by the Ryan White

Program, CARES is reimbursed by MDHHS after purchases are made and paperwork is filed. That's what enabled Doyle to swing into action and shop for supplies over the weekend — or, at least attempt to do so.

"Because of the nature of people buying so much stuff so quickly, we just went out and stockpiled some things [earlier] to have that, to be able to this week provide," Doyle said. "And even with that, I wanted to be able to get thermometers and hand sanitizer and bleach wipes, and those are the things that I can't find. At all. Like, zero, which is frustrating."

As CEO, Doyle is looking ahead for her clients and staff. And she sounded satisfied with the way the state has stepped in to help her agency.

"This is just the beginning, I think," Doyle said. "I feel more confident because Governor Whitmer has taken this on very strong. [She's] not messing around. I appreciate that."

For Reference

The federal government's Health Resources and Services Administration's Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides HIV primary medical care, essential support services and medications for low-income people living with HIV who are uninsured and underserved. The Program funds grants to states, cities, counties and local community-based organizations that serve people living with HIV to improve health outcomes and reduce HIV transmission among hard-to-reach populations.

It is estimated that 9,179 clients were served by Ryan White Program providers in Michigan in 2018. At that time there were 16,306 individuals living with HIV in the state, according to MDHHS statistics.

It should be noted that the impact of COVID-19 on people living with HIV is not yet known. However, many people who are HIV-positive may experience increased risk factors: these include advanced age, chronic medical problems and immune suppression — indicated by a low CD4 T-cell count or not receiving antiretroviral treatment.

For information on how to access emergency financial assistance, individuals served by Ryan White-funded agencies should contact their case managers or agencies. For regular updates on COVID-19: [Michigan.gov/coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus).



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“This isn’t exactly the first virus that the LGBT community has tackled together. And we got this. If we stay together, stay smart, stay safe, stay calm, wash your hands, we’re going to be fine.”

Affirmations Executive Director Addresses COVID-19 Concerns in Video Message

BY BTL STAFF

As infections in the U.S. rose past 1,500, three days ago concerns about the coronavirus, or COVID-19, resulted in a state of national emergency for the U.S. Because of this and advice like the recent recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to cancel events with more than 50 people, Executive Director of Affirmations Dave Garcia addressed changes to the Ferndale LGBTQ community center’s schedule.

Notably, Spring Bash, Affirmations’ annual spring fundraiser has been moved to the fall, and its fall wine event has moved to the summer months. As of the time of this article’s publication, the center’s doors will remain open for group meetings with some exceptions like the Senior Koffee Klatch, which is made up of high-risk members.

Smokers and those with compromised immune systems are also discouraged from visiting the center until further notice. Garcia added that video conferencing technology will be implemented to “mitigate” the social isolation that many seniors already feel during this time of social distancing.

“This isn’t exactly the first virus that the LGBT community has tackled together. And we got this,” he said. “If we stay together, stay smart, stay safe, stay calm, wash your hands, we’re going to be fine.”

Trans Sistas of Color Project Distributes Care Packages to Those in Need Because of COVID-19

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Taking Action

As of Saturday, in response to the threat of COVID-19, members of the Trans Sistas of Color Project have begun distributing care packages containing essential items to transgender women of color in need. Priority is being given to sex workers, those experiencing unstable housing and the elderly. Executive Director Lilianna Reyes explained that some members of the collective were in Chicago on business when news broke that cases of the virus had been diagnosed in Michigan. Realizing how hard-hit vulnerable populations like trans women of color might be, they cut their trip short and took action.

“Especially since many of our girls do contracting on the side to help support [themselves] and a lot of their contracts were canceled because of all the stuff going on ... we were like, ‘This is something we need to do,’” Reyes said. “And so, when we were driving back from Chicago, we stopped at all the little stores — we decided to make hand sanitizer and just pack bags as much as possible. With folks reaching out and giving us money, we were able to give at least 20 girls \$20 [each] in addition to everything else.”

Along with hand sanitizer, the care packages contain items like hand wipes, toilet paper, non-perishable food items such as granola bars and canned goods, plus over-the-counter drug store essentials and water. For the elderly, blankets are included as well.

Reyes said they expect they’ll need to assemble and distribute 20 additional bags this week. At the time of this phone interview on Saturday, she was shopping

for items and reported five board members were out making deliveries to 15 women. TSOCP is using social media and word of mouth to make their outreach known.



TSOCP Executive Director Lilianna Reyes makes hand sanitizer to include in care packages.

Fulfilling a Mission

This initiative aligns with the mission of TSOCP, Reyes explained.

“For us, anything to do with trans women of color — to uplift them, or to create a better space for them, is part of our mission,” she said.

For those interested in providing assistance, Reyes said the most helpful way is via monetary donations. With social distancing in mind and reducing the risk of spreading the virus being paramount, they are not seeking donations of items. For people unable to donate money, “We understand what that’s like,” Reyes said.

As an alternative, she suggested sharing “info from our [page] or any of the Trans Sistas board members’ Facebook [pages] and/or tell girls who they know who are trans women of color to reach out to us. I’m okay with folks

giving girls my number.” (see below)

A mobile payment service is being used for donations.

“We currently use Cash App with Ruth Ellis [Center] as our fiduciary,” Reyes said. “It will take some time to get to us, [but] most people have been comfortably Cash App-ing to me. What I do is I screenshot and I send it to the group.”

“Be mindful, when things like this happen, think about marginalized communities: LGBT people, women, trans folk — and know that if everyone is panicking and if people go jump in their car and buy stuff, some folks might not have that luxury. So think about what folks can do, in a safe way, to help out.”

She said that originally, they hadn’t expected cash donations to be part of the care packages; however, sufficient donations were quickly secured to enable them to distribute \$10 apiece.

“Then today, literally two hours ago, we had enough to give 20 girls \$20,” she said.

Reyes had a final word to share about caring for one another in these trying times.

“Be mindful,” she said. “When things like this happen, think about marginalized communities: LGBT people, women, trans folk — and know that if everyone is panicking and if people go jump in their car and buy stuff, some folks might not have that luxury. So think about what folks can do, in a safe way, to help out.”

To donate, Reyes can be contacted directly at 989-751-3740 or reach out to any of the TSOCP board members.

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Join the growing coalition of grassroots citizens, LGBTQ groups, businesses, labor unions and leaders from both sides of the political aisle to finally prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ people. We're taking a stand together to pass Michigan's first-ever citizens' bill for LGBTQ rights.

You can still be fired from your job or kicked out of your house if your boss or landlord discovers you're lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer. Fair and Equal Michigan is seeking to amend the state Elliot Larsen Civil Rights Act to

include protect LGBTQ people just like everyone else. The Act already protects individuals against discrimination in employment, public accommodation and housing based on 10 factors, including age, race, sex, and religion.

"Discrimination runs contrary to our most basic of American values." - Tim Cook, Chief Executive Officer, Apple, and supporter of Fair and Equal Michigan

For us to succeed, we must collect 340,047 signatures to send the citizens' bill to the Legislature where they will have

40 days to adopt or send the question to voters in November where a bipartisan majority of 77 percent of Michigan voters support this effort. This HUGE undertaking will require 10,000+ volunteers statewide to help gather signatures and spread the word about the fight for LGBTQ rights.

"It's important for all of us to come together, not with our politics but with and for people to move this work forward and finally right this wrong." - Jeynce Poindexter, Co-Chair Fair and Equal Michigan

Join the 125,000+ supporters at www.FairAndEqualMichigan.com

Jan 7: DTE Energy, Consumers Energy, Dow, Apple, Whirlpool, Herman Miller announce support for Fair and Equal Michigan

Jan 8: The Mining Journal, predominant newspaper of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, is first editorial board to fully endorse the strategy stating: "this issue should have been addressed ages ago."

Jan 10: The Michigan Chamber announced support for LGBTQ protections for the first-time. Rich Studley, Chamber President, called on the Legislature to act prior to citizens

turning in signatures.

Jan 27: A Detroit Regional Chamber survey published in The Detroit News found that 600 likely voters supported extending the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act 77% to 16%.

Jan 30: Rock family of companies, including Quicken Loans, announced a \$100,000 contribution to Fair and Equal Michigan.

Feb 12: 21 mayors announced support representing nearly 2 million residents including Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss.

March 1: Mayor Pete Buttigieg announced his support of Fair and Equal Michigan: "I stand with all the leaders and advocates in Michigan working to protect LGBTQ+ people from discrimination."

March 3: The Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber's Board of Directors voted to support Fair and Equal Michigan

March 9: Fair and Equal Michigan confirmed it collected its 100,000th signature; scaled from zero to 628 fully trained volunteers

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Corktown's LGBTQ Health Survey Reveals Alarming Needs

BY PATRICK YANKEE

DETROIT - March 23 through 29 is LGBT Health Awareness Week, the perfect time to bring attention to the cycle of discrimination and health disparities that affect LGBTQ people in Michigan and beyond, and to discuss how to improve LGBTQ health care. Just as our LGBTQ population often encounters discrimination in housing, employment and other aspects of their daily lives, the same applies to health care. Corktown Health Center is the state's only nonprofit medical center focused on improving the health of Michigan's LGBTQ community.

"The need for a clinic like ours stems from hearing horror stories from the LGBT community of their experiences with doctors who were insensitive and ignorant to their needs," said Anthony Williams, CEO of Corktown Health Center. "We provide a space that is welcoming to everyone, regardless of how they identify."

With so many in the community having past negative experiences due to doctors lacking the training to properly care for LGBTQ patients, it's no surprise that so many LGBTQ individuals will skip primary care and put themselves at risk for diseases that could have been prevented or caught in a more timely fashion.

There are other factors affecting LGBTQ health, too. A report released last year by the Williams Institute of the UCLA School of Law, *The Impact of Stigma and Discrimination Against LGBT People in Michigan*, noted that stigma and discrimination contribute to adverse health outcomes for LGBTQ people - such as major depressive disorder, binge drinking and substance use.

To determine the needs of our patients, Corktown Health Center recently conducted a Community Health Needs Assessment called *Shaping the Future of LGBTQ Health Care in Southeast Michigan*.

Among the highlights:

- Approximately 4/5 of participants reported having a primary care provider
- 70 percent reported that the provider knew their sexual orientation
- 86 percent reported their provider knew their gender identification.

Harsh Realities

- At least half of individuals reported that their sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status concerned them when seeking health care.



Dr. Latonya Riddle-Jones (left) medical director of Corktown Health Center, and Dr. Neelambuj Regmi, resident physician from WSU School of Medicine, work with a patient at Corktown Health Center.

"While these topics have traditionally been ignored by medical schools, it's helpful that schools like Wayne State University are starting to train their medical students about specific needs relating to LGBTQ patients, which can only help communication and make a visit to the doctor less daunting for an LGBTQ patient."

Dr. LaTonya Riddle-Jones, medical director at Corktown Health Center and an assistant professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at WSU School of Medicine.

- Concern about care due to race was highest among African Americans.
- Transgender participants reported high concern about discrimination due to gender identity, with 2/3 of transgender men reporting discrimination by a provider.

Alarming LGBTQ Health Facts

- LGBTQ populations have higher rates of tobacco, alcohol and other drug use.
- Transgender individuals have a higher prevalence of victimization, mental health issues, suicide, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, and they are less likely to have health insurance.
- LGBTQ youths are 2-3 times more

likely to attempt suicide.

- LGBTQ adults have double the risk of suicide attempts; and there is a 40 percent chance that transgender adults will attempt suicide in their lifetime.

- Lesbian and bisexual women are less likely to receive screening for breast and cervical cancer.

Training the doctors

Corktown Health Center's team believes that for the gap in health care for the LGBTQ population to close, it will require working with medical schools and professionals to help them understand and be responsive to the needs of the LGBTQ population. There are also issues

See **Corktown**, continued on p. 17



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Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

An Ex-Gay Fairy Tale

This is the story of Dorian Lavender who has vanished from the party scene of music, stimulants and sex, and is now ironically beyond the saving grace of suddenly discarded friends of which there are many. (Perhaps you knew him too.)

While no tracing of his family tree to Victorian times exists, it's rumored that Lavender is related to fabled youth made famous by Oscar Wilde in "The Picture of Dorian Gray." I, for one, believe it to be so.

Dorian Lavender was gifted of looks so well-proportioned, so stunning in effect, as to be spellbinding upon all who met him. (I was too old to consider inviting him out for an evening of adventuring.)

Surprisingly, Dorian was not spoiled by his looks.

"My looks are pleasant," he'd laugh. "If faces are fortunes, my bank account's modest but drawing interest at the ATM."

Dorian wrote poetry. Composed songs. Painted. He line danced superbly. His dinner parties were wonderful. He went to the gym three times a week. He was golden in the summer. Fashionably seductive in winter.

His fate was sealed at an office party.

"You're gay," said an artist whom he met. "Would you mind if I did a portrait of you, and how heaven must see you? I specialize in portraits of the soul. I'm sure you have one."

Intrigued, Dorian agreed. It was Dorian's undoing.

When the portrait arrived weeks later he was shocked. It was framed in mortice black and quite, quite ugly.

"Why have you done this to me," he iMessaged the artist.

"That, Dorian, is how God sees your soul," the artist responded. "You're lost, damned and must mend your wicked ways."

For weeks the portrait haunted Dorian. He was mesmerized.

"He's right," said Dorian, returning home from a night of dancing and ecstasy. "I'll pray. Go to church. Be born again. My gayety's over with."

Dorian proved resolute. The portrait scared him. He hid it away. Each day he prayed. Each day the portrait began to change. As did he.

It crossed my mind when passing his condo that I had not seen him in months. I buzzed. A vaguely familiar but hideous man appeared.

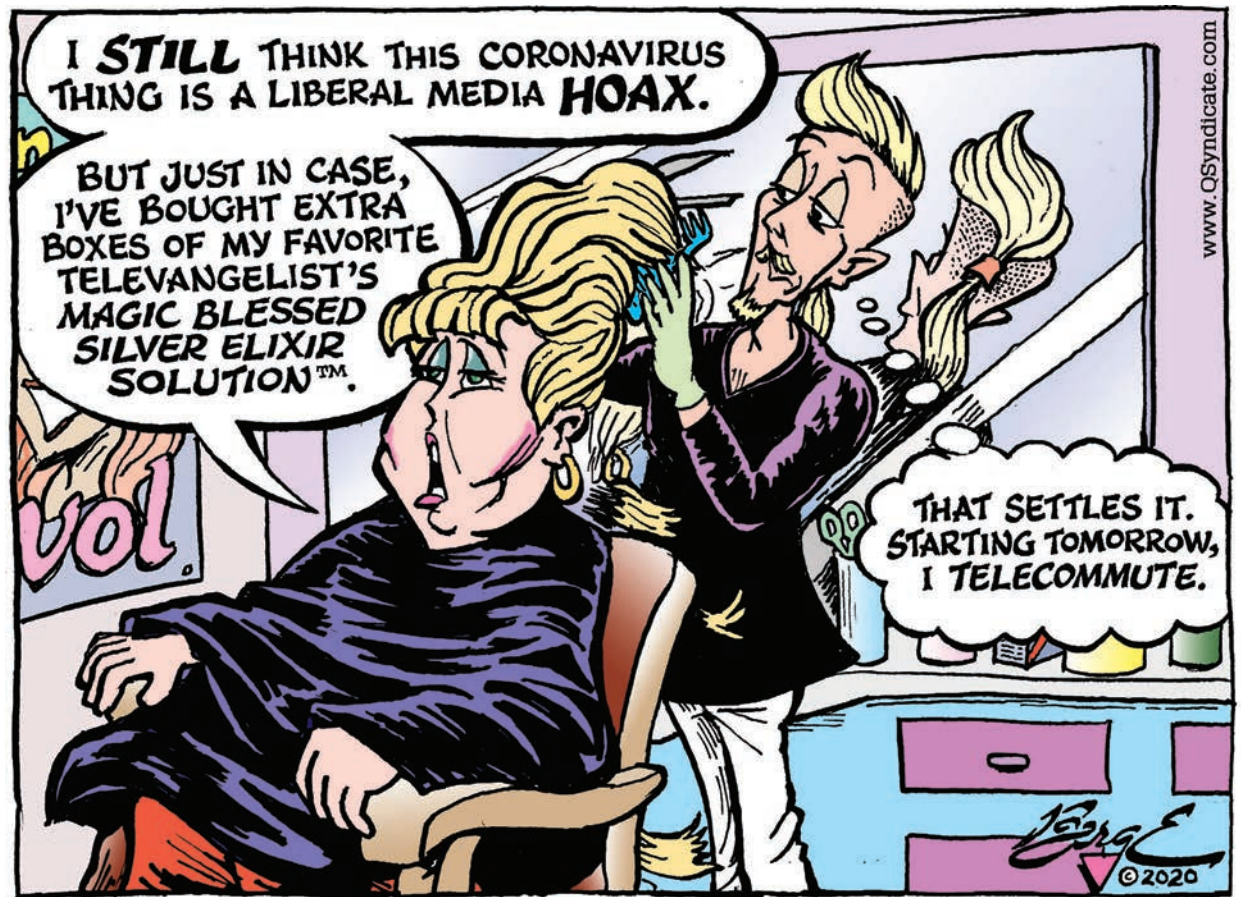
"Yes?" he hissed.

"Is Dorian home?" I asked.

"Dorian is banished forever!" he snarled. "Good riddance to my past forever!"

As I turned to go, the miscreant shouted, "Hey there! Wait. This image scares me. Take it."

Alone that night I opened the package. It was a portrait of Dorian. Young. Beautiful. Smiling. Serenely radiant. Obviously gay.



From BTL Publishers



BY JAN STEVENSON AND SUSAN HOROWITZ

A Message to BTL Readers and the Greater Michigan LGBTQ Community

The message could not be clearer: respond to the COVID-19 crisis by staying home whenever you can, wash your hands frequently and do whatever you can to not spread the virus. But there is also a much larger message to spread: take care of each other, reach out to people who are isolated and fearful, and let's open our hearts to each other – even if we can't physically open our arms.

The LGBTQ community is uniquely equipped to react to the COVID-19 crisis. We've faced a deadly virus before. We learned how to care for each other, advocate for each other and to think ahead to the physical, emotional, financial and household needs of infected and affected people. As the rest

of the country wakes up to the cascading effects of this health crisis, we already know the power of staying connected, reaching out, helping each other and caring about what happens to each person.

At BTL, we remain committed to publishing and using all our resources – print and digital - to connect our community to the needs and resources available, and to provide some level of comfort through connectivity. Fear can be paralyzing. Empathy, love, caring and support can and does mitigate some of that fear.

continued on next page

A Letter Concerning the Coronavirus and Michigan LGBTQ+ Communities

BY THE MICHIGAN LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY CENTERS NETWORK

The coronavirus poses an increased risk to the LGBTQ+ population and statewide leadership is helping to share organizational steps to address attempts to reduce its spread. Seven organizations have gathered to address the wellbeing of Michigan residents and the impact of the global concern of the coronavirus, or COVID-19.

Leadership from Michigan's newly established LGBTQ+ Community Centers Network is reaching out today to alert our communities regarding the increased vulnerabilities that exist within our populations.

LGBTQ+ people's increased vulnerability is a direct result of three factors:

- The LGBTQ+ population uses tobacco at rates that are 50 percent higher than the general population. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that has proven particularly harmful to smokers.

- The LGBTQ+ population has higher rates of HIV and cancer, which means a greater number of us may have compromised immune systems, leaving us more vulnerable to COVID-19 infections.

- LGBTQ+ people continue to experience discrimination, unwelcoming attitudes and lack of understanding from providers and staff in many health care settings, and as a result, many are reluctant to seek medical care except in situations that feel urgent – and perhaps not even then.

- LGBTQ+ seniors are a large segment

We will be providing information about how you can help. The HIV/AIDS organizations need help to protect and serve those with already compromised immune systems. Our LGBTQ community centers such as Affirmations, LGBT Detroit and The Ruth Ellis Center are responding to the physical and psychological needs of their constituencies. These important service agencies need all of us to support them now so they can continue to operate – and so they are still there after this crisis passes.

And it will pass. We will get through this

of our community and are at greater risk.

Each center is monitoring and assessing their own unique circumstances and local communities. Educational resources and opportunities will be available on various social media platforms, public forums and through one-on-one engagements as possible. Additional methods of communication may be available in the future.

Communities are encouraged to contact their local center directly for more information about upcoming programs and events. Contact information for the seven Michigan organizations that initiated this letter are as follows:

Affirmations (Ferndale): info@goaffirmations.org

LGBT Detroit: detroit@lgbtdetroit.org

OutCenter of Southwest Michigan: info@outcenter.org

OutFront Kalamazoo: office@outfrontkzoo.org

Perceptions (Great Lakes Bay Region): info@perceptionsmi.org

Polestar LGBT+ Community Center (Traverse City): info@tcpolestar.org

Ruth Ellis Center: info@ruthelliscenter.org

together. Please stay connected through the printed version of BTL and online at pridesource.com. Even though we can't tell you in person that we love our LGBTQ community and will do whatever we can to help through this surreal time, please know BTL's staff, writers and supporters are committed to service to our beloved community.

Stay safe. Stay healthy.

With love and support,

Jan Stevenson & Susan Horowitz

Co-Publishers

Creep Of The Week

COVID-19

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

There's a reason #StayTheFuckHome is trending. Because that's what we should all be doing.

As much as possible, of course. There are lots of people who can't, maybe because they have to work or have medical appointments they can't miss. In other words, good reasons.

If you're under 30, social distancing is probably making you feel like you're losing your mind. If you're over 30 you might be secretly thankful that no one is expecting you to go out. If you're over 60 then you're likely worried about dying. No joke.

Even if you feel fine, and I do, going out in public unnecessarily is a super selfish thing to do right now. The U.S. simply doesn't have the testing capacity to test everyone who might have COVID-19. There are likely thousands of people who are infected yet show no symptoms at all and by going out they have the potential to infect thousands more. So even if you feel fine, you aren't fine.

People with compromised immune systems, such as people with HIV/AIDS, need to be especially careful. If you love someone with a compromised immune system and you aren't practicing social distancing, then you could kill them. Full stop. Again, no joke.

There's a myth that the U.S. is the strongest, baddest, boldest country in all the land. The world's truck nuts, if you will. But this epidemic is quickly showing how weak we actually are. That our health care system is woefully inadequate to handle a crisis. That running our health care system as a lean and mean business rather than an essential service has left us unable to scale up to meet an overwhelming need. That unbridled machismo is not the same thing as leadership. That Donald Trump is not only an emperor with no clothes, at this point, he's lost his skin, too.

The federal government's response to COVID-19 has been abysmal, in large part because we don't have a real president. We have Trump. And this reality show is way too real for him. If only he could shout, "You're fired" at COVID-19.

And so states are largely on their own, making up the rules as we go along. Some states doing more than others. In Michigan where I live, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, a Democrat, has declared a state of emergency. All the schools are closed. All large events

are cancelled. Whitmer is showing true leadership and making hard choices. And if all goes to hell I would be willing to bet that she takes responsibility.

A far cry from Donald "I don't take any responsibility at all" Trump. He's not just an embarrassment, he's a clear and present danger to the country.

It's no wonder that there are still people flocking to bars and nightclubs across the country as if nothing is happening. Seeing photos of lines around the block at clubs reminds me that for too long selfishness and greed have been celebrated traits in America. There is no better demonstration of that than President Donald Trump and his Republican Party. On March 15, the same day health experts were practically begging people to stay home, Rep. Devin Nunes (R-California) told Fox News that people should "go to your local pub."

Why? Because he's worried that the COVID-19 pandemic will hurt the economy. And he's right. It will. But it will also kill people.

"One of the things you can do: if you're healthy, you and your family, it's a great time to go out and go to a local restaurant. Likely you can get in easy," Nunes said. "Let's not hurt the working people in this country that are relying on wages and tips to keep their small business going. So don't just run to the grocery store and buy \$4,000 of food."

A lot to unpack here, but I would like to say that Nunes is essentially yelling "fire" in a crowded theater here. A crowded theater he would no doubt urge you to visit.

Nobody wants to hurt small business owners or workers who rely on wages and tips. In fact, the Republican Party has spent decades waging war on those very people, so Nunes can STFU with his concern trolling.

Also, I'm not sure where Nunes shops, but \$4,000 worth of groceries? Maybe that's an exaggeration, but I am reminded of Lucille Bluth from Arrested Development when she says to her son, "It's one banana, Michael. What could it cost, \$10?" To which he responds, "You've never actually set foot in a supermarket, have you?"

Ignore morons like Nunes and Trump. Stay safe. Stay home. But most of all, be kind and patient with yourself and others. Wash your hands. This isn't going to be over any time soon.

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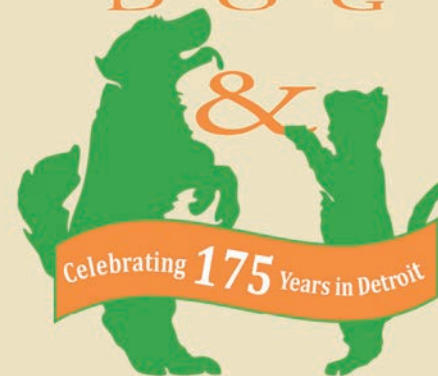
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- ✓ PrEP Education



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► Corktown

Continued from p. 13

in the legal landscape in Michigan - such as the exclusion of LGBTQ citizens from protection under the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act - that continue to exacerbate the disparity issues discussed here. In the end, it's about ensuring access to comprehensive health care for LGBTQ patients, and both patients and doctors being comfortable discussing all health matters.

"While these topics have traditionally been ignored by medical schools, it's helpful that schools like Wayne State University are starting to train their medical students about specific needs relating to LGBTQ patients, which can only help communication and make a visit to the doctor less daunting for an LGBT patient," said Dr. LaTonya Riddle-Jones, medical director at Corktown Health Center and an assistant professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Wayne State University School of Medicine. "But there's still lots of work to be done."

Patrick Yankee is the Chief Development Office at Corktown Health Center, a new medical home focused on serving the LGBTQ community in Southeastern Michigan. For more information go to corktownhealth.org or call 313-832-3300.

► Unemployment

Continued from p. 8

The order also expands the State's Work Share program. Employers are encouraged to implement the program that permits employers to maintain operational productivity during declines in regular business activity instead of laying off workers. More information about Work Share can be found here.

Additional unemployment resources for employees can be found here and for workers here.

Gov. Whitmer is also seeking additional solutions for small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Earlier this month, Congress passed legislation that makes \$1 billion available to the U.S. Small Business Administration to provide low-interest loans to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and nonprofits that have suffered substantial economic losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The governor has informed SBA that she is seeking an Economic Injury Disaster Loan Declaration for the state and has initiated the process to receive the declaration from SBA. Once granted, small businesses in qualifying areas will be able to access low-interest loans through the SBA. In the interim, the

government is encouraging small businesses that could benefit from SBA loans to start collecting the information they'll need to complete and submit their application. Examples of information needed can be found here. For additional information or to obtain help preparing the loan application in advance of the declaration, please contact the Michigan SBA offices in Detroit or Grand Rapids.

The governor has requested that President Trump issue a Major Disaster Declaration so that Individual Assistance and Disaster Unemployment Assistance through FEMA may be made available to additional Michiganders affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) call center stands ready to support businesses looking for assistance through other available state programs. For more information, visit MEDC's website: michiganbusiness.org or call 888-522-0103. The Michigan Small Business Development Center can also provide resources for small businesses impacted by COVID-19. Visit their website sbdcmichigan.org/small-business-covid19/ for additional information.

Patients with confirmed infection have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough

- Shortness of breath

The best prevention for viruses, such as influenza, the common cold or COVID-19 is to:

- If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19, call your health care provider. If you do not have a health care provider, call the nearest hospital.

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.

- Avoid contact with people who are sick.

- If you are sick, stay home, and avoid contact with others.

- Replace handshakes with elbow bumps.

- Stay at least 6 feet away from others when in a public setting.

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at Michigan.gov/Coronavirus and CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

For those who have questions about the state's actions to mitigate the spread of coronavirus, please call the COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-535-

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Marriage Equality Still Needs to Be Protected, Especially From Religious Exemptions

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Though far from ideal, it's clear that the perception of LGBTQ people and their right to marry in the U.S. has changed for the better. In fact, a 2019 Pew Research Center poll shows that 60 percent of Americans favor LGBTQ marriage equality, compared to 30 percent who oppose it. What makes this statistic even more promising is that in 2004, those numbers were flipped. Still, despite this positive push forward and the fact that the legal right for LGBTQ couples to marry has been secured, it's vital to stay aware of legal pushes and organizations working to dismantle those protections across the country.

Moves Against Marriage Equality

Last year, Tennessee Republicans Sen. Mark Pody and Rep. Jerry Sexton reintroduced the 2016 Tennessee Natural Marriage Defense Act that would prohibit government officials from facilitating same-sex marriages in the state. In an MSNBC article covering the story, Human Rights Campaign Press Secretary Nick Morrow called this move "disappointing" and called on the Tennessee government to think not only of the couples affected by a legal push like these, but local commerce, too.

"Marriage equality is settled law, and if Tennessee wants to continue to be a welcoming destination for businesses, tourists and transplants alike, our representatives need to join us in the year 2019," he said.

Beyond legislation, it's important to be aware of organizations that push legal arguments against equality like the Massachusetts Family Institute. This lobbyist group bills itself as a "non-partisan public policy organization dedicated to strengthening families in Massachusetts," and it

has actively worked against LGBTQ marriage equality since it was passed in the state in 2004, women's reproductive rights and the rights of transgender and nonbinary people to access public services. Though now retired, Evelyn Reilly was a lobbyist for the Institute, and she still strongly opposes marriage equality.

"If we do not reverse this through the constitutional amendment, this country is going to be in dire straits in the next generation," she was quoted as saying in an NPR report by Gabrielle Emanuel.

The report went on to say that because of the over 100 lifetime appointment of conservative judges across the U.S. by the Trump administration, Reilly feels more confident in its potential reversal.

Another group to be aware of is Alliance Defending Freedom. This conservative Christian nonprofit has been classed as an LGBTQ hate group by The Southern Poverty Law Center and has worked to dismantle religious freedom and sexual orientation gender identity laws or SOGIs.

"Religious liberty is a founding principle of our country, but SOGIs all too often trample this right. In the following three instances, SOGIs demand ideological conformity with the new sexual ethic, which results in Christians being punished for their beliefs and the actions they take based on those beliefs," read an ADF press release.

Notably, ADF has also worked on behalf of the baker who refused a same-sex couple in *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*.

GLAAD President and CEO Sarah Kate Ellis, along with other critics of the group, have called the push for religious exemptions a veiled attempt at dismantling equality.

"With their involvement with *Masterpiece Cakeshop*, the ADF is attempting to roll back our nation's progress by pushing discriminatory



"The milk didn't curdle in Massachusetts all of a sudden [when same-sex marriage was passed in 2004], that this was great for families and great for their children and provided security and stability. That began to change hearts and minds."

- Mary Bonauto

religious exemptions into law," Ellis said. "The twisted narrative they masterminded is part of an insidious strategy that has been pushed by the ADF for decades with the goal of unraveling hard-fought non-discrimination protections for the LGBTQ community."

Positive Developments

Still, despite these actors, there are advocates working to maintain the hard-fought improvements in the lives of LGBTQ people. GLAD Civil Rights Project Director Mary Bonauto is a lawyer who was instrumental in securing the 2015 marriage equality ruling. In Emanuel's report, she said she remains optimistic that marriage equality will remain intact.

"The milk didn't curdle in Massachusetts all of a sudden [when same-sex marriage was passed in 2004], that this was great for families and great for their children and provided security and stability," Bonauto said. "That began to change hearts and minds."

In the same report, Bonauto said that the focus of those looking to preserve the Supreme Court marriage ruling should look to equally expanding statewide protections for LGBTQ people across the country in employment, housing and more.

"It's great to be able to marry, and it's not a great thing to feel super vulnerable about what this means for your jobs, your housing or whether you can get health care for your child," she said.

Locally, the coalition Fair and Equal Michigan is working to put those rights into the hands of voters by taking LGBTQ non-discrimination rights to the ballot. So far, the group has collected 100,000 signatures and is one-third of the way there.

"This grassroots effort of Michigan citizens is now 100,000 people strong as we encourage the Legislature to prohibit discrimination of LGBTQ people. In just five weeks, we've scaled from zero to 628 fully trained volunteers along with a 145-person paid field team that led to our 100,000th signature collected. With broad support across the state, our effort continues to be on time, on budget and at signature quality. After 37 years of attempts, it is time for the Legislature to give all Michiganders a fair and equal chance to succeed," said Fair and Equal Michigan Co-Chair Trevor Thomas.



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“It’s always very nerve-wracking making a life change or life decision, but to be honest, I was nervous and excited at the same time, and you have to embrace that excitement and set your nerves aside, and do what you feel is right in your heart. I am not looking back at all.”

- Ross Owens

‘Embracing the Excitement’ of Wedding Planning

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

When Ross Owens went on vacation to Provincetown, Cape Cod, he was looking forward to a few days of sleeping in. So when his boyfriend, Rob, begged him to wake up at 4:30 a.m. on the first morning there to see the sunrise, he was less than pleased. Still, he got up right on time and followed Rob out to the sand dunes.

“And he had already gone there and buried the ring box. So we climbed the dunes, sat there for a little while during the sunrise, and he pointed out the box and said, ‘What’s that.’ He even took it out of the sand and proposed,” Owens said.

After saying a heartfelt “yes,” Owens said he was thankful he didn’t choose to sleep in that morning.

That vacation was three years ago, and just this past November the couple officially tied the knot at The Plymouth Meeting House. Owens said that the location seemed like the perfect place to celebrate their love.

“I grew up in Plymouth and we had attended probably four different weddings at The Meeting House, two of which Rob stood up in,” Owens said. “And it was a wonderful room and wonderful staff and it really felt like home. And I guess the fact that I grew up in Plymouth, it was an easy decision to say that, ‘This looks like a really nice place.’ They were really welcoming.”

Once the location was set, it was time to start creating the guest list. Initially, when the couple began their planning, they had their sights set on a small, very intimate ceremony.

“That’s what we had planned for, but then when we started to actually names on a spreadsheet it was very apparent that we are not going to have a small wedding,” Owens said. “We had around 200 guests.”

The wedding’s colors were pale blue and white, but Owens made sure to add a little autumn twist in the mix, too, with fallen leaves scattered down the aisle and ballroom.

“Pale blue and white was the main part of the venue, but then in the smaller section, we incorporated a Halloween theme because that’s my favorite holiday,” he said. “As you walked in there was a little bit of Halloween and fall, and as you went into the ballroom there was the pale blue and white [and] wintery [theme].”

When asked about the process of choosing vendors to create



Rob and Ross Owens

the couple’s wedding experience, Owens said that both he and his husband felt apprehensive at first about sharing that the wedding was for a gay couple. All that hesitation went away, however, when they received excellent service.

“We didn’t know any vendors and if they would be willing to partake and serve us, and I have to say that it was a very warming experience,” he said. “There was not a single vendor or person that we spoke with that was not supportive of our community.”

Now happily married, when asked if Owens has learned any lessons from the experience of planning his ceremony, he said that it was to enjoy the excitement of the moment.

“It’s always very nerve-wracking making a life change or life decision, but to be honest, I was nervous and excited at the same time, and you have to embrace that excitement and set your nerves aside, and do what you feel is right in your heart,” he said. “I am not looking back at all.”

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“It’s just the excitement of it all. It’s the stuff you dream about as a kid growing up, like what kind of dress you’re going to wear, what your wedding is going to look like and it’s all coming to reality for the first time ever.”

— Amy Balich



Savanna Wojtanowski proposed to longtime girlfriend Amy Balich at one of her softball games.



The Perfect Meeting

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

They say love comes at unexpected moments; it certainly did for Savanna Wojtanowski and Amy Balich. Though they were both Division I athletes in college, each played a different sport — soccer and softball respectively — for Michigan State and Ohio State Universities. However, despite their slim odds of ever meeting, fate aligned in their favor during one of Balich’s softball games.

“The way the facilities are set up in Michigan State involves a lot of interaction between visiting teams and Michigan State,” Wojtanowski said.

So it was during an Ohio State away game at MSU’s campus that Wojtanowski met Balich. Wojtanowski struck up a conversation about a tattoo Balich had on the inside of her arm, and before long the two began to message each other on Instagram. Soon after, the two became a couple. A year-and-a-half in, Wojtanowski knew she had met the one and made plans to propose.

“I got things started and planning in June of 2018 and started to think, ‘OK, I definitely want to propose and how can I do it?’ I got the ring in July and I thought it would be an amazing opportunity [to propose] when Ohio State does a Charity Classic every year in the fall,” she said.

It’s tradition after every game for the teammates to sing “Carmen Ohio” toward the stands, so, with permission from the coaches, Wojtanowski made her way up to the pitcher’s mound during the song and surprised Balich.

“And that’s how I proposed,” she said, “in front of all of her teammates. And her family was present and my family was present.”

After that perfect fall moment, the two set upon planning the ideal ceremony. The fiances have set upon a date in summer of 2021 and have plans to marry at Willowbrook Mill in Northport.

“We wanted a barn/rustic theme and Willowbrook Mill was perfect for us. So we’re going to do charcoal and burgundy as our colors, and we want to do very casual in the sense of barbecue is our catering but we have a black tie dress code,” Wojtanowski said. “So we want classy but also very rustic, because we’re both very laid back people. Our ceremony is going to take place on the beach in Northport, Michigan, and then we’ll finish up at our venue.”

And before the 2021 deadline rolls around, the couple is eager to start building their lives together — literally.

“We purchased, this past summer, 2.7 acres of property in Traverse City to build a house on,” Wojtanowski said.

Wojtanowski graduated in 2017, while Balich finished school this past December. Because of that, until very recently, the fiances had a long-distance relationship. Still, Wojtanowski said it was the traveling that they did together during that time that brought them together.

“I loved being able to support Amy through her softball career. Unfortunately, I was a senior when we met, so she didn’t get the opportunity to do so, but I used to have a job where I worked from home primarily, so I never missed a weekend, and I traveled every weekend all over the country for her softball,” she said. “So we visited a multitude of places. We love traveling, so we’ve been to a few countries together, [and seen] quite a few states together.”

Balich agreed. When asked if she’s had a favorite moment leading up to the big day, she said she’s embraced the whole experience.

“It’s just the excitement of it all. It’s the stuff you dream about as a kid growing up, like what kind of dress you’re going to wear, what your wedding is going to look like and it’s all coming to reality for the first time ever,” Balich said. “I don’t think I ever had a favorite part, I think our whole experience together is just super exciting and a lot of fun.”

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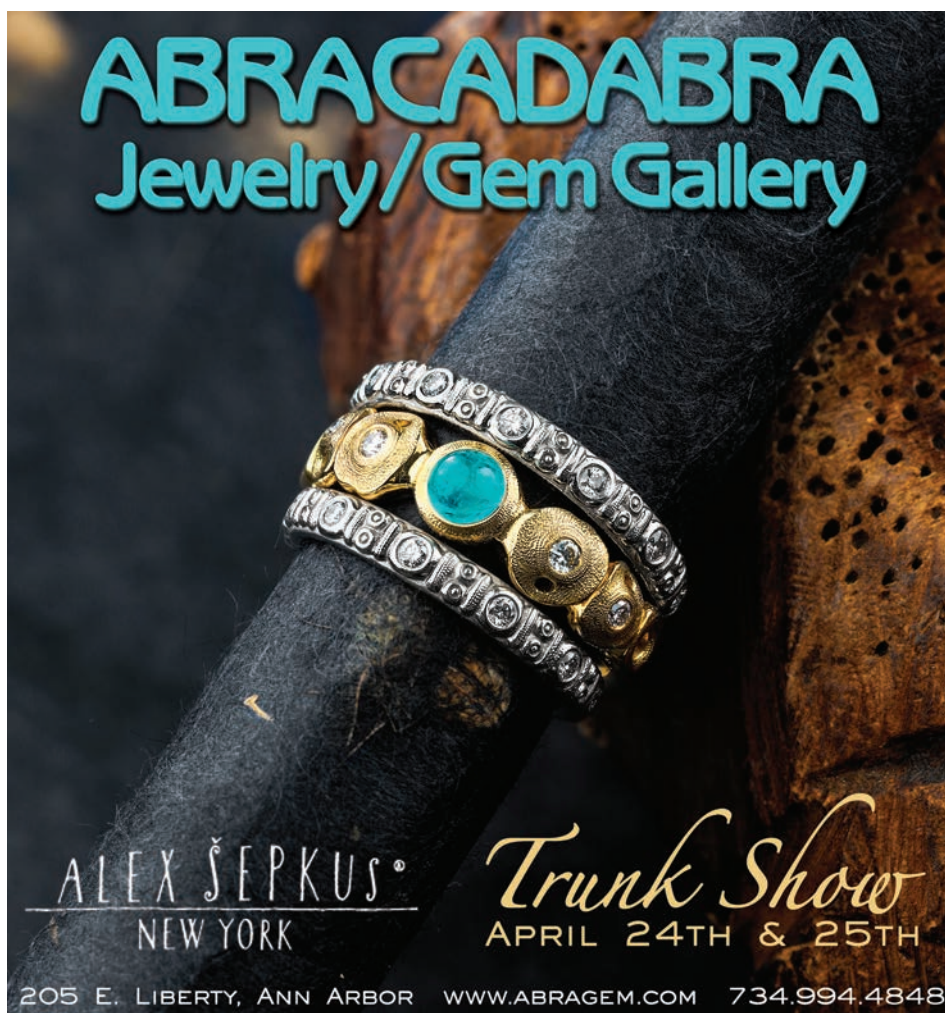


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Wedding Trends to Spice Up Your Ceremony

Planning a wedding at any stage can be tricky, and one of the most difficult parts is creating a ceremony that's uniquely one's own. To help with that struggle, Between The Lines has collected a list of 20 popular trends this year that might make planning easier.

1. Micro Weddings

For those looking for an intimate ceremony but not interested in running away to elope, micro weddings may be the answer. These ceremonies include a small number of guests, roughly 20 or fewer, and are intended to create a shorter and more relaxed atmosphere than an event with hundreds of attendees. In fact, many couples opt for this option because it provides a more cost-effective alternative to a large event.

Still, a smaller event doesn't have to mean skimping on the details. Many couples use the tiny guest list as an opportunity to splurge on gourmet food, a favorite band and more all at the cost of a regular event.

2. Barrettes and Combs

According to The Knot, brides are opting for more than just veils in 2020: barrettes and combs are becoming increasingly popular.

"These wedding hair accessories are often adorned in pearls, rhinestones and colorful enamels. They're great for holding back natural curls or creating a second style for your wedding reception," the site says.

3. Edible Florals

Flowers are always a wedding staple, but in 2020, more couples are opting to make them part of the menu, too. A naturally beautiful addition, they can be flavorful, too; flowers can be readily incorporated into cocktails, appetizers, salads, main courses, desserts and, of course, the wedding cake as well.

4. Unique Wedding Dress Codes

Creating a stellar wedding party often starts with a flawless dress code for one's needs. So often weddings are assumed to be "black tie" affairs, requiring tuxedos and cocktail dresses, but what about taking it up a notch to "white tie" or even down to a "beach casual" invite?

In 2020, more and more couples are focusing on tailoring the dress code — formal or not — to suit their themed ideas. And if you're a wedding guest who is in doubt, renting wedding attire from a site like Rent the Runway allows both couples and guests to get high fashion for low cost.

5. Uncommon Party Favors

Gone are the days of exclusively sugared almonds and candles, couples are taking their party favors up a notch to fit both their theme and personality. Ideas for a fresh take on the traditional post-party gift are personalized stemless wine glasses, bottle openers, customized pastries, drinks with personalized labels, coasters, playing cards and more.

6. Non-Traditional Flowers

Peonies and gardenias are always lovely, but they don't have to be one's exclusive choice. In 2020, couples are opting for choices like wildflower, succulents and more.

"I think the biggest trend this year is the non-traditional flower," said Mindy Weiss, a Los Angeles-based wedding planner in a BRIDES.com piece. "Instead of fresh flowers, dried flowers are in—sometimes painted or bleached and, sometimes, left natural."



7. "Green" Weddings

As environmental consciousness grows so has the tendency for couples to forego wasteful or potentially environmentally harmful practices on their big day. A few ways to cut down on eco-harm is by avoiding single-use papers and plastics, renting linens, using potted plants and water-saving succulents as decor, composting the wedding's waste, and being mindful of the sustainable practices of the chosen venue. Couples can also take steps to buy food and beverages in bulk from local vendors, caterers and farms.

8. Rethinking the Traditional Bridesmaid Look

Picking the bridesmaids' dresses is often difficult between finding the right colors, style and fit. This year, wedding planners are urging couples to forego the traditional dress and perhaps give the bridesmaids a theme around which to choose their clothes.

"Non-traditional bridesmaid looks — think eclectic over matchy-matchy," said wedding planner Sunna Yassin in a Brides article.



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Songs to Consider and Ditch When Making a Wedding Playlist

BY BTL STAFF

Whether your wedding is a grand ballroom affair or an intimate close family gathering, it's almost guaranteed that music will play a major role in creating the perfect ambience. To help with any prospective big day playlists, Between The Lines Consulted FiveThirtyEight's "Ultimate Playlist of Banned Wedding Songs" to advise away from potentially groan-inducing tunes, along with a few wedding planning sources for advice on picking crowd-pleasing must-haves.

1. Check What's Trending

It's easy to get stuck in a rut when planning out a wedding day playlist, so using resources like Spotify and other music streaming platforms can help. Simply searching up publicly created playlists on the platform will provide thousands of choices to include. And it never hurts to ask your wedding band or DJ what they recommend.

2. Ask Your Guests

One way to quickly build an overall appealing playlist, especially for larger ceremonies, is to ask each guest to submit a song to play. Of course, there's no obligation to agree to each and every pick — especially if there are repeats.

3. Don't Be Afraid of Multiple Genres

Whether it's in the realm of country, pop, rock or hip-hop, it's never a mistake to spend a little time venturing outside of your musical comfort zones. And when creating a playlist, putting in a little bit of every style is bound to have mass appeal and be massive fun.

4. Avoid Crowdpleasers That You Hate

If popular songs, old or new, that simply set your teeth on edge make their way into your special day's music selection don't be afraid to cut them out. Even if most of the guests are fans of a particular tune, it's your day and it's important to make sure every detail is to your preference.

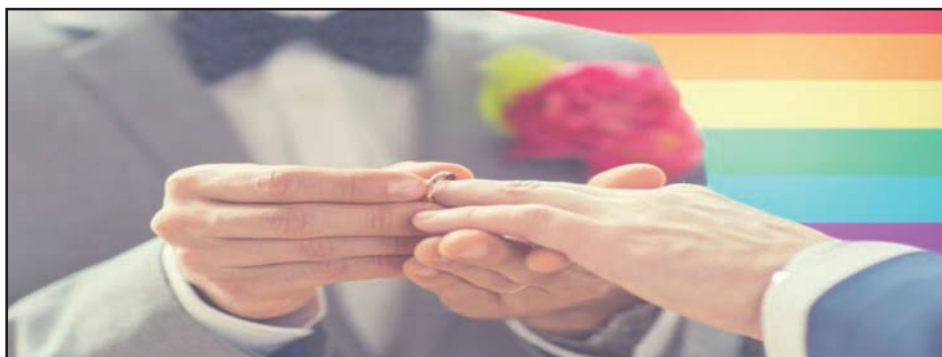
The Overplayed

Polling website FiveThirtyEight sampled 182 playlists of professional DJs in 2017 to get a taste of what "the most commonly prohibited songs and artists" by couples. Here's a taste of 15 selected from that list:

1. "Chicken Dance"
2. "Cha-Cha Slide" - DJ Casper
3. "Macarena" - Los Del Rio
4. "Cupid Shuffle" - Cupid
5. "YMCA" - Village People
6. "Electric Boogie (Electric Slide)" - Marcia Griffiths
7. "Hokey Pokey"
8. "Wobble" - V.I.C.
9. "Happy" - Pharrell Williams
10. "Shout" - Isley Brothers
11. "Blurred Lines" - Robin Thicke
12. "Bohemian Rhapsody" - Queen
13. "Get Low" - Lil Jon
14. "You Shook Me All Night Long" - AC/DC
15. "Total Eclipse of the Heart" - Bonnie Tyler
16. "What Do You Mean?" - Justin Bieber

Making the Perfect Picks

It's impossible to create a playlist that will please everyone attending a wedding, but it's certainly easier if one bears in mind these four tips.



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Photo: David Miller

'Visible' Exec Producer Talks New LGBTQ Docuseries, His Gay Teen Role and What He'd Tell His Younger Self

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

The first openly gay actor to play an openly gay series regular in a leading role on TV, Wilson Cruz has witnessed firsthand the changing tides of TV representation. Cruz paved the way for shows such as "Will & Grace" and "Ellen" with his portrayal of Rickie Vasquez, the troubled gay Latino high schooler on the teen drama "My So-Called Life," which ran for one season in 1994. Cruz was 21 when he played Rickie.

Now 46, the actor reflects on the role as one of the interviewees in the new Apple TV+ five-part documentary, "Visible: Out on Television," which, along with Wanda Sykes, he also executive produced. Emmy-nominated filmmakers Ryan White and Jessica Hargrave directed the series.

Through a wide range of archival footage and interviews with actors, journalists and activists, the docuseries investigates how TV has shaped the American conscience. During it, Cruz recalls auditioning for "My So-Called Life"

and turning back to late veteran casting director, Mary Goldberg, and telling her: "I don't know if I'm ever going to see you again, but please tell whoever wrote this that it means a lot to me, that it would have made a difference if I had seen this when I was 15." Then, as Goldberg replied, the twist he didn't see coming: "Don't worry," she said, "you're going to be able to tell it yourself."

Here, Cruz talks about the docuseries' evolution, Rickie as his own personal catharsis, and his issue with studios casting straight actors to play gay as awards bait.

How did you get involved with "Visible"?

Seven years ago (political activist and "Visible" producer) David Bender, who had been working on this project for many years, reached out to me because he was interested in interviewing me for the documentary, for obvious reasons (laughs). We had a long lunch and it became pretty clear really quickly that I had a passion for this subject matter, but also that I had access to many of the people

he wanted to interview just because of the nature of my career and my relationship with GLAAD for over a decade, and so I could be very helpful to him. That's how it happened.

Eventually we interviewed 60 people on our own, and it became clear that this was going to be more than two hours and that we were going to need some help. We came to Apple and Apple brought on two amazing documentary filmmakers, Ryan White and Jessica Hargrave, in order to finish the film and really mold it. Then I came back on to help them continue to bring them who they needed to speak to, and also to make sure that we always had an eye on this not just being a documentary about the LGBTQ movement but really about how television was used as an agent of change by the movement.

How do you think "Visible" broadens the historical perspective of the LGBTQ experience?

I think that there's a lot that we forget just because that's the nature of the human

experience. But what the series does really well is to remind us of what happened just within some of our own lifetimes – that, yes, we have come a long way and a lot of work went into getting us here. A lot of people risked a lot in order to have this conversation. It wasn't just LGBTQ people – it was LGBTQ people and the people who love them who took up the baton when we were unable to, when we weren't being hired to tell our own stories or we were afraid to come out and be public about it. We needed people who were willing to take on those roles.

More recently, we forget that the way the network news was talking about HIV and AIDS during the height of the epidemic was incredibly problematic, and that the only people who were going to save us at that time was us. That's when GLAAD was created. That's when ACT UP was created. It was this community that really started to say, "If you're

continued on p. 36



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► Visible

Continued from p. 30

not gonna save our lives, we're gonna have to save them ourselves and we're going to have to demand that we be seen." We could no longer afford at that time to be invisible and that's where visibility started to really begin in earnest.

things I ask myself is, "What is the message that this is going to leave an audience member with? What are we offering through this?" The other thing that it is for me is that so many actors are like, "Oh, I don't want to play too many gay roles (laughs) because I just don't want my career to be about that." Whereas I have gone out of my way to look for roles that I feel will add to the conversation. I've wanted to have those opportunities.

Why do you think that is when so many other actors go in the other direction?

Because, with the first role I had on "My So-Called Life" as Rickie, I got to see how powerful that story could be and I wanted to continue to tell stories like that, and I felt like there were few people who were willing and excited to take on those roles and here I was.

As for your part in Hulu's "The Bravest Knight," the first children's animated series to have openly gay characters, what about that spoke to you?

My brother who's also openly gay and married to his husband had just had a baby or was pregnant when they approached me to do "The Bravest Knight." I thought it was a great opportunity for me to give a little gift to my nephew. On top of that, I think there aren't enough children's programs that depict families like the one we do on "The Bravest Knight," because there are thousands of LGBTQ families in this country who would love to see their lives reflected back at them and their children so they know they're not alone and that their families are just as valuable as anybody else's.

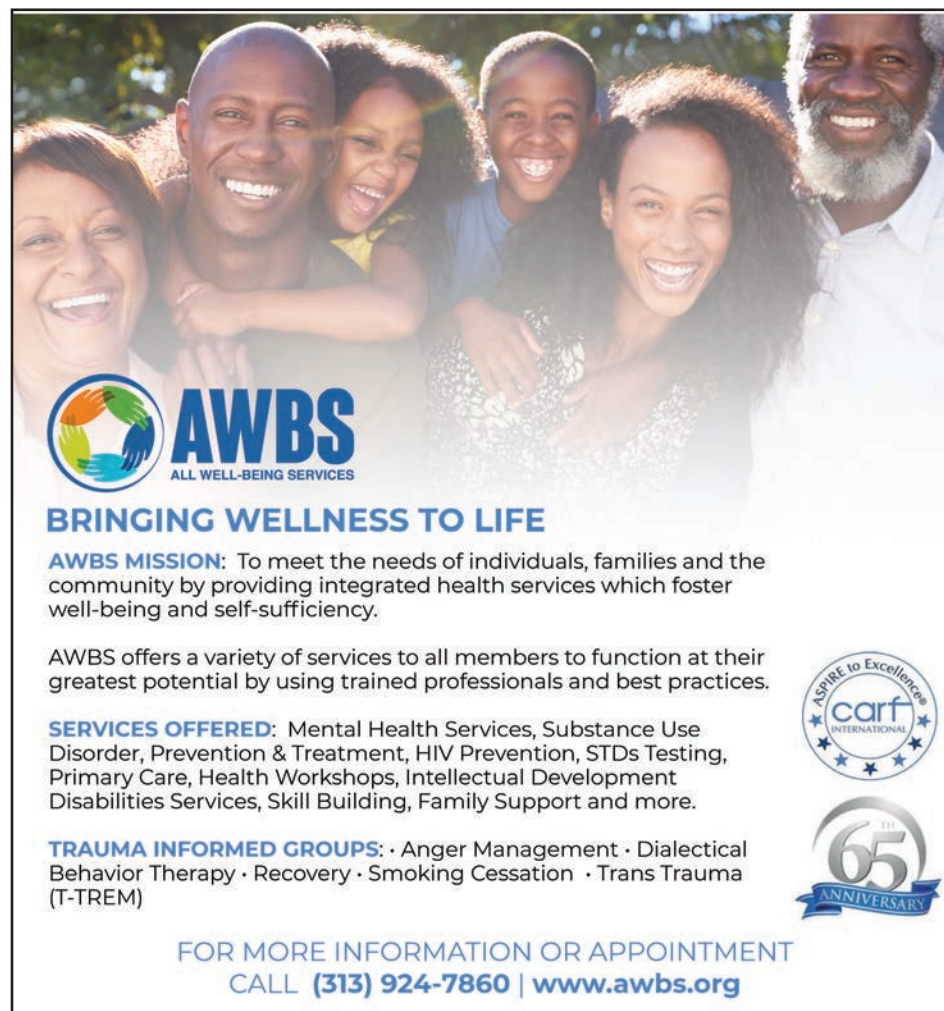

Have you been able to gauge what it means to "Star Trek" fans to have a more LGBTQ-inclusive "Star Trek"?

Yes. For 52 years people have been clamoring for real LGBTQ representation on "Star Trek," and to be a part of the couple who actually gives that to an audience is overwhelming.

continued on p. 39

Looking at the work that you've taken on, from "Noah's Arc" on through "Star Trek: Discovery," the transformative power of representation seems to be something you still believe in.

Whenever I take a project on, one of the first



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The LanSINGout Chorus Announces Spring Fundraiser: 'Spring Sing Thing'

Proceeds to Support Participation in the 2020 GALA Festival

The LanSINGout Chorus invites the public to their spring fundraiser, "Spring Sing Thing." The event will feature the 45 voices of the chorus, including a sneak peek of pieces from the anticipated May 2020 concert. The live singing event will be accompanied by food and drinks on Saturday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the historic Potter House in Downtown Lansing.


"The chorus has grown so much in talent and enthusiasm over the past year. We are eager to bring the Lansing community together and showcase a glimpse of all we've been working on," said Peter Hobson-Morse, director of the LanSINGout Chorus. "We are so grateful for our community supporting us and our dream of going to Minneapolis in July."

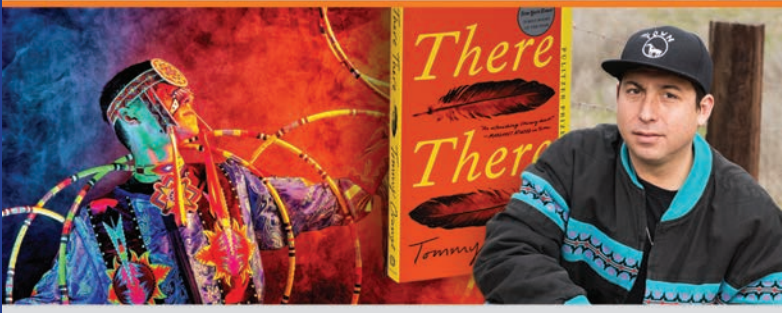
In July, members of LanSINGout Chorus

will travel to Minneapolis to perform at this year's GALA Festival. Funds raised from the \$25 ticket prices will support the chorus's participation in the the quadrennial international celebration of the LGBTQ+ choral movement. The GALA Festival is a five-day event of singing, community-building, dancing, workshops and networking.

"We are proud to be a part of 7,000 delegates from more than 150 LGBTQ+ and allied choruses from around the world that gather for the 2020 GALA Festival," said Ben Boerkoel, president of the LanSINGout Chorus. "Through this event we can raise our voices together as a unified, supportive and caring community."

For more information, email fundraising@lansingout.org.





For this year's community reads project, we're encouraging people to read *There There*, an award-winning debut novel by Cheyenne and Arapaho author Tommy Orange.

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► **Visible**

Continued from p. 32

People reach out to us all the time, and I'm excited for people to see season three because we're expanding it in a very special way.

In a very special gay way?

That's all I'm gonna say. (Laughs.) I want to keep my job! But there is a lot to look forward to in season three for LGBTQ fans, that's for sure.

You've known Anthony Rapp since "Rent." Rapp originated the role of Mark Cohen on Broadway, and you later joined as Angel Dumott Schunard. What's been the best part about getting to work with Anthony, who plays your lover in "Star Trek," all these years?

Well, first of all, he's one of the most supportive actors that I've ever worked with. We are a team, we are a unit. But the best thing about working with him is that, because we find this couple in the middle of their relationship, there was very little work we had to do in order to get to know each other. We brought with us a 22-year history of friendship, and so I feel like it comes across on screen that these two people know each other and genuinely love each other, because we do.

Since you're both gay men playing gay men on "Star Trek," I wonder: Do you think LGBTQ roles should go to exclusively LGBTQ actors?

No, I'm not going to say that we should only be the ones allowed to play them. But I will say that I think what an LGBTQ actor brings to an LGBTQ role is different; there's just something innate and lived-in that comes across, but that's not to say that a straight actor cannot give a powerful performance. What is worrisome to me is when a production will hire a straight actor to play that role because of some notion that because they're a straight actor that it's that much more difficult to take on this role. So it's awards bait. These are our lives. These are experiences for a lot of people. And if you're a straight actor playing these roles, I think it's important that you acknowledge and understand that.

I will say that in terms of trans actors playing trans roles, I think that is incredibly important because there are so many trans actors out there who are just waiting for the opportunity to be able to tell their own stories. Especially in terms of trans people of color and trans women of color and trans men of color, we need to see more of them.

In the doc, actor Ryan Phillippe, who played a groundbreaking gay character on "One Life to Live," reads a letter from someone changed by his character. Where do you keep the letters you've received?

Well, seeing how I live out of a suitcase these days (laughs) ... actually, I don't have a lot of the stuff from the old days anymore. I have to tell you that most of the young people who watched "My So-Called Life" back in the day didn't really reach out to me until years later when I would see them out publicly and in person, when they were adults, because so many people were processing their own stuff when that aired. But the onslaught (laughs) and the daily messages I received from people who felt and feel it necessary to reach out to me to tell me how powerful it was for them is very real. It happens almost daily on social media. It's just a trail of tears.

When was the last time you revisited episodes of "My So-Called Life"?

It's been a while. I think it's hard for me to watch myself, and I think the last time

I watched it was about 10 years ago with my brother at home, but I think that was it.

I ask because I've noticed that Rickie is so embedded in your identity that you get choked up just talking about him. What about him gets you emotional even now?

(Sighs.) I think what's important to me about it is he was a way for me to process my adolescence, which wasn't easy. I think that's probably why I haven't watched it too, because when I did it I literally saw it as a way to walk through those experiences again and leave them there on that stage and then be able to walk away from them and move on. But for me, when I think about him, and if I do see an episode every now and then, it's visiting your teenage self. You just want to hug them. You just want to say to them, "It's going to be all right." And I just want to grab him and say, "I'm gonna be fine."

But he does - he means everything to me because without him none of this would have happened. He set the trajectory for my career and also gave me my life's passion of making sure our stories are told, and part of his legacy is "Visible."

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.

"I think what an LGBTQ actor brings to an LGBTQ role is different; there's just something innate and lived-in that comes across."

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Puzzle on page 41

Theatre NOVA Announces Postponement 'Arabic to English' World Premiere

BY BTL STAFF

ANN ARBOR - In a statement released by Ann Arbor's Theatre Nova, David Wells' "Arabic to English" will be postponed from its initial March 20 opening to Aug. 7.

"In light of the rapidly developing COVID-19 situation and in line with WHO and CDC guidance to limit the interaction of people in larger groups to diminish disease transmission, Theatre NOVA will postpone its production of 'Arabic to English,'" Organizers wrote. "... [It] will now run Aug. 7 through Aug. 30.

Artistic Directors Diane Hill, Carla Milarch and David Wolber released a further statement explaining this decision.

"Yesterday we made the difficult decision to interrupt our work on David Wells' wonderful new play 'Arabic to English' to protect our actors, our staff and our audience, and to help 'flatten the curve' as COVID-19 spreads across the country," it read. "We believe it is essential for all community organizations to do their part in slowing the spread of this virulent disease. Many arts patrons fall into the high-risk

category, and the CDC has recommended that people over 60 do not attend public gatherings in order to safeguard themselves. We are saddened to have to interrupt work on this important and exciting world premiere. However, we look forward to bringing it to the public at a time when all of our community members, young and old, healthy and vulnerable, can fully participate. We want to especially thank our wonderful cast and crew for being flexible and willing to make themselves available for our alternate dates."

At this time, the Michigan Playwrights Festival, April 22 through April 26; "Relativity," May 8 through May 31; and "God Kinda Looks Like Tupac," June 26 through July 19, remain as previously scheduled until further notice.

Current ticket-holders for "Arabic to English" will be contacted this week to reschedule their tickets for August. For regular updates visit theatrenova.org.

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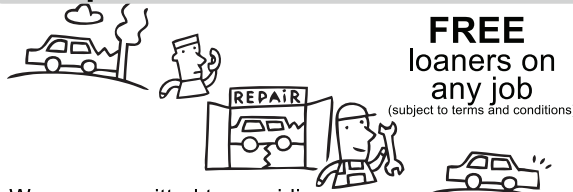
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Diana Davies, Gay Rights Demonstration, Albany, NY, 1971, 1971. Digital print 14 x 11 inches (36.58 x 27.94 cm). Photo by Diana Davies/© The New York Public Library/Art Resource, NY

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The Frivolist: 11 Smart Ways to Use Spare Change at the End of the Month

BY MIKEY ROX

Some might consider those loose pennies, dimes, nickels and quarters annoying, but money is money. Save it for a month and see what you can do. Here are a few ideas.

1. Treat your bestie to lunch

Call that queen who's always willing to lend a hand – like when you needed help moving into your ex's apartment (and then out of it six weeks later) – and treat her to a casual lunch to say thanks for being a friend.

2. Pay off a small debt

We all have that one little debt – like a library fine or dry cleaning bill – that we keep putting off for no reason at all. Round up your change and purge this expense from your life once and for all.

3. Pay for the person behind you

Once in a while we hear a news story about how a Good Samaritan bought a cup of coffee or paid the toll for the person in line behind them – and the good deed sparks a trend. Today that random act of kindness can start with you using the change you've saved.

4. Update yourself professionally

Does your resume need updating? Could you use a new look for an interview? Give yourself a better shot at getting the job by spending your change savings on items that will enhance your professional persona.

5. Fill up your gas tank

We all have somewhere to go. Instead of taking it out of your regular monthly budget, pay for your fill-up with the shiny stuff. Roll the coins first though; nobody has time to count \$30 worth of loose change at the counter.

6. Trade it in for a gift card at Coinstar

Did you know that if you let Coinstar count your change that you can trade it in for no-fee eGift Cards from one of its participating partners? It's true. Find a Coinstar location near you.

7. Turn it into donations to a local shelter

Food banks, children's homes and domestic violence shelters in your area are always in need of supplies. Call your local organization, determine their needs and turn your change into a helping hand.

8. Support your local LGBTQ center

Local LGBTQ centers don't receive much funding – many are struggling to stay open at all – so do your part for our community to keep resources available.

9. Stock up on household supplies

One of life's greatest tragedies is running out of toilet paper and having no reserves in the closet. Keep it clean by stocking up on bathroom and household essentials with your end-of-the-month change savings so you're never left in the lurch.

10. Throw it in a jug for long-term savings

At the end of the month, take all your change and transfer it to a large jug for safe keeping while you save for a loftier goal, like a vacation. Empty water-cooler jugs – especially those with small mouth openings (so you can't easily cheat and dip into your stash!) – are great for this purpose.

11. Take it to the casino

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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Drew Barrymore and Ellie Kemper 'Stand-In' at Netflix

An actress and her stand-in trade places. Sure, why not? It's not like anyone's going to mistake them for each other, unless this is a "Freaky Friday"-style body switching scenario. Oh, wait, it kinda-sorta is? Well now we're on board, but we're also getting ahead of ourselves. In "The Stand-In," coming soon to Netflix, Drew Barrymore plays a famous comedic actress who yearns to live a simpler existence and decides to switch places with her stand-in, also played by Drew Barrymore. And when the celebrity version finds herself usurped of her uniquely privileged life, that's when things go off the rails. "The Stand-In" is written by Sam Bain ("Four Lions") and directed by "But I'm A Cheerleader's" Jamie Babbit, and co-stars the wonderful Ellie Kemper ("The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt"), "Chicago Fire" regular Charlie Barnett, Michael Zegen ("The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel") and the hilarious Holland Taylor, whose long and regal career as a character actress is the very definition of Legendary Lesbian. We'll watch twice.

Lee Pace stars in Asimov's 'Foundation'

Let's just say that ever since "Pushing Daisies" we've had a serious but not at all obsessive thing for Lee Pace – even when he was a bit caught off guard at being accidentally outed by Ian McKellen a few years back (a definite oops senior moment for Miss McKellen) and even when it seemed like we were the only ones watching "Halt and Catch Fire." OK, we might have actually been the only ones. Anyway, our fandom continues stronger than ever and now Pace has a new project, "Foundation," that we'll probably stan just as strongly. Based on a series of sci-fi novels by Isaac Asimov, "Foundation" is a thousand-year saga about a group of exiles battling for the survival of a galactic empire, one ruled by an emperor named Brother Day that Pace will play (this makes sense to us because he's very tall and no, don't ask us to explain that logically in any way, thank you). It co-stars Jared Harris ("Mad Men") is set for Apple TV+, and if it all sounds a little like "Star Wars" that's because it pre-dates that George Lucas-created juggernaut by a few decades and was probably a heavy influence. In other words, respect your elders for once.



Luke Evans summons 'The Angel of Darkness'

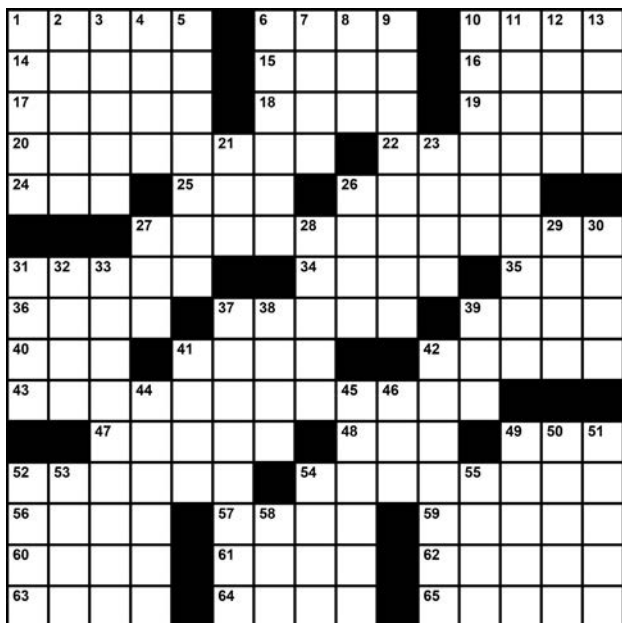
Right now we're a little obsessed with "Fast and Furious" franchise co-star Luke Evans going adorably "Instagram Official" with his boyfriend. It could be argued that we have simple, some might say "basic" taste, but we're just sort of thrilled that "tough guy" action stars have same-sex smooching rights in public now, too. What

does this have to do with "The Angels of Darkness"? Nothing, really, but the upcoming TV series does star Evans, along with Daniel Brühl and Dakota Fanning. If those names all seem familiar together, it's because they're returning to characters they played before in this sequel to "The Alienist," the series based on Caleb Carr's psychological thriller about a serial killer terrorizing New York in the late 1800s. A disturbing and frightening thing it was, too, which is why even though we're absolutely watching this next installment of creepy mayhem, we're happy that Evans is balancing out the dark career choices with lots of cute online vacation photos.

More lesbian 'Beauty' from Lena Waithe

Lena Waithe, Emmy-winning queen of queer-everything lately, has another movie in the pipeline. "Beauty," written by Waithe and directed by acclaimed filmmaker Andrew Dosunmu ("Mother of George"), stars up-and-comer Gracie Marie Bradley as a rising pop star in a relationship with a butch lesbian (Aleyse Shannon, "Black Christmas"). And in spite of the fact that that's everything we know about the plot, *that's totally enough*. There are so few romantic dramas centering black characters ("The Photograph" was lovely), and even fewer with queer characters and even "fewer" featuring butch women, that we're already thrilled this project even exists. "Beauty" co-stars Sharon Stone, James Urbaniak ("Difficult People") and Joey Bada\$\$ ("Wu-Tang: An American Saga"). So when this one hits whatever platform hosts it – a theatrical experience, a streaming service, we don't mind where – we're going to be unavailable and very busy cheering on lesbian romance.

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Q Puzzle

The Purpose of Homosexuality

Across

- 1 Chef Des Jardins
- 6 Shuttlecock
- 10 Tops cakes
- 14 Quinn of _Practical Magic_
- 15 Personal lubricant ingredient
- 16 "South Park" cocreator Stone
- 17 Public spectacle

- 18 "Boys Don't Cry" character
- 19 Ask for it while kneeling
- 20 Start of the purpose of homosexuality, per 58-Down
- 22 Sequence of unknown length
- 24 Suffix with profit
- 25 Dickinson's howe'er
- 26 Words of empathy
- 27 More of the purpose

Down

- 1 "Queer Eye" discernment
- 2 Nouveau ____
- 3 Maria's "Do" equivalent
- 4 Relief of Lincoln
- 5 Staying power?
- 6 Weapon to use against Trump in November
- 7 "Now ____ me down to sleep ..."

- 31 Mapplethorpe's "Dark ____ Rose"
- 34 Steed stopper
- 35 "In Cold Blood" writer, informally
- 36 "Take a crack ____"
- 37 Bugs or Erin
- 39 One with a foamy head
- 40 Went down on
- 41 Cocksure Aesop character
- 42 Composer Copland
- 43 More of the purpose
- 47 Queens in Las Vegas
- 48 Essen exclamation
- 49 TV spots
- 52 Baum's good witch
- 54 End of the purpose
- 56 "WKRP" actress Anderson
- 57 Poet Kitty
- 59 Remarkable hole
- 60 Quiche ingredients
- 61 Make money
- 62 Pirate's stash
- 63 Enjoy an Oreo
- 64 Nemesis of Tinkerbell
- 65 Return key on a PC
- 8 Political analyst Reagan
- 9 Clark Kent portrayer on TV
- 10 Tainted
- 11 "Top of the World" singer Karen
- 12 It comes at the bottom of a list
- 13 Lid problem
- 21 TV trigram
- 23 Mountain pool
- 26 It comes out of your head
- 27 "Scram!" to Gomer
- 28 Goofed up
- 29 Bite it
- 30 Alternative to "Go straight"
- 31 Swedish import
- 32 Caesar's invite to a threesome?
- 33 Navel adornments
- 37 The guys you're seeing?
- 38 Unrefined metals
- 39 Ebenezer's exclamation
- 41 Bunch of stallions
- 42 Button or Bean
- 44 Like Hans Christian Andersen
- 45 Polynesian woman
- 46 Here to Rimbaud
- 49 Inside tongue?
- 50 Dig (into)
- 51 Look from Snidely
- 52 One side of Ed Wood
- 53 HRC's equal sign
- 54 Treat meat
- 55 "Nuts!"
- 58 Composer/lyricist Austin

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

Toyota

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

CALL (248) 266-5545
MetroCareNetwork.org



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

AIDS/HIV

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

Metro Care Coordination Network

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

UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond

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

Matrix MAC Health

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

Macomb County STD Clinic

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

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA)

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

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service (ACCESS)

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

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

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

Campus

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

U-M Ann Arbor

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

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

Eastern Michigan University

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

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

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

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

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

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

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

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

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

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

[Facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP)
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

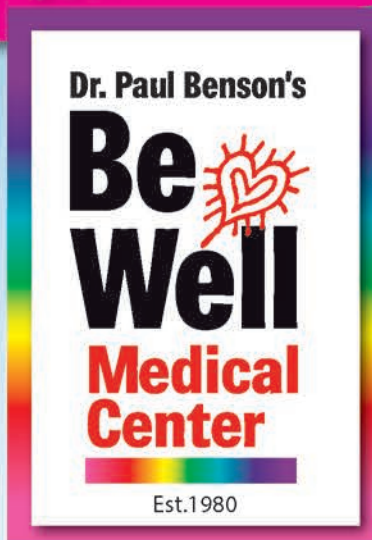
On the Edge of Primary Care PODCASTS with Dr. Paul Benson



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.



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