

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



How Melissa Etheridge Learned to Let Go of Fear

The LGBTQ Icon Has Chosen to Focus on the 'Beautiful change' the COVID-19 Crisis Will Bring



81st Anniversary Sale

JUST IN TIME FOR
SPRING CLEANING!



81 years of trusted, quality service • Expert rug, carpet, tile, furniture, and air duct cleaning
Affordable, competitive prices • Highly experienced Cleaning Specialists
Incomparable Rug Care Spa • Rug restoration and repair by skilled artisans • Free repair estimates

RUG CLEANING

2 FOR 1

Bring your rugs to any of
our drop-off locations
and we'll clean every
other one **FREE!**

Must present coupon at time of rug drop-off.
Not to be combined with any other coupons/offers.
Expires 4/11/20.

CARPET CLEANING

\$99

Any 3 Rooms In-Home
Carpet Cleaning

Must present coupon. Up to 250 sq. ft. each room.
Not to be combined with any other coupons/offers.
Expires 4/11/20.

AIR DUCT CLEANING

\$100 OFF

State-of-the-art
Cyclone System
Air Duct Cleaning

Must present coupon. Some restrictions apply.
Not to be combined with any other coupons/offers.
Expires 4/11/20.

HAGOPIAN

Expect the Best... Expect the Purple Truck!

Oak Park • Ann Arbor • Birmingham • Clarkston • Grand Rapids • Novi • Plymouth • Utica

The Most Trusted Name in Cleaning Since 1939

1-800-HAGOPIAN (424-6742)

HagopianClean.com

Our BTL advertisers are what have made this publication possible for over 26 years. Some are closed during this health emergency. Please remember to support them when the economy reopens.



COVER

22 Melissa Etheridge

8 Detroit District Supporting National Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

8 Michigan's Meal Map Helps Students Eat During COVID-19 School Closures

8 ACLU, Activist Groups Urge MDOC to Work Proactively Against Potential COVID-19 Outbreak in Correctional Facilities

9 Pro-LGBTQ Campaign to Amend ELCRA Forced to Adapt to COVID-19 Constraints

10 'There is Still Service' Virtually at LGBT Detroit Says Executive Director

12 LGBTQ Catholic Group Stands Together Among Archdiocesan Order to Stop Meeting in Catholic Spaces

14 LGBTQ Advocacy Groups Sue Department of Health and Human Services at Critical Time

16 Paarting Glances: Spring Social Distances COVID-19

16 Viewpoint: My Time Incarcerated as a Transgender Woman

17 Creep of the Week: Perry Stone

18 Despite Call to Donate Blood Amid Coronavirus Crisis, FDA Firm on Gay Ban

19 Obituary: Terrence McNally

22 How Melissa Etheridge Learned to Let Go of Fear

26 The Frivolist: 6 Productive Ways to Spend Your Time During the Coronavirus Crisis

32 Deep Inside Hollywood

33 Q Puzzle Boys in the Band

34 Community Resources

VOL. 2814/15 • APRIL 2, 2020
ISSUE 1144

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152r
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

News & Feature Editor

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105
eve@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers

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

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists

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

Cartoonists

Paul Berg

Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Andrew Cohen, Roxanne Frith, Tih Penfil

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

MEMBER OF

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



"Between The Lines Newspaper"

Follow us @YourBTL

Email your op-eds to
editor@pridesource.com

Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

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

Copyright 2020

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/yellowpages. 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

www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW
wsujigsaw@gmail.com

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

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

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

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

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

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

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

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

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

Ties Like Me

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

Transgender

FtM Detroit

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

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

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

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



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

FtM A2 Ypsi

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

Transgender Michigan

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

Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

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

Ozone House

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

Stand With Trans

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

Find these resources online

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

**STAY SAFE,
STAY HEALTHY,
STAY HOME**

**We will get
through this
together!**

**Remember
Love is Love**

 Between  Lines™

Important Facts About DOVATO

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

What is the Most Important Information I Should Know about DOVATO?

If you have both human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) and hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Resistant HBV infection.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV infection before you start treatment with DOVATO. If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the hepatitis B virus can change (mutate) during your treatment with DOVATO and become harder to treat (resistant). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in people who have HIV-1 and HBV infection.
- **Worsening of HBV infection.** If you have HIV-1 and HBV infection, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking DOVATO. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Worsening liver disease can be serious and may lead to death.
 - Do not run out of DOVATO. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your DOVATO is all gone.
 - **Do not stop DOVATO without first talking to your healthcare provider.** If you stop taking DOVATO, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your liver.

What is DOVATO?

DOVATO is a prescription medicine that is used without other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults who have not received antiretroviral medicines in the past, **and** without known resistance to the medicines dolutegravir or lamivudine. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in children.

Who should not take DOVATO?

Do Not Take DOVATO if You:

- have ever had an allergic reaction to a medicine that contains dolutegravir or lamivudine.
- take dofetilide.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using DOVATO?

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- have kidney problems.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. One of the medicines in DOVATO (dolutegravir) may harm your unborn baby.
 - Your healthcare provider may prescribe a different medicine than DOVATO if you are planning to become pregnant or if pregnancy is confirmed in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.
 - If you can become pregnant, your healthcare provider will perform a pregnancy test before you start treatment with DOVATO.
 - If you can become pregnant, you should consistently use effective birth control (contraception) during treatment with DOVATO.
 - Tell your healthcare provider right away if you are planning to become pregnant, you become pregnant, or think you may be pregnant during treatment with DOVATO.

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you: (cont'd)

- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take DOVATO.**
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - One of the medicines in DOVATO (lamivudine) passes into your breastmilk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

Some medicines interact with DOVATO. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with DOVATO.
- **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take DOVATO with other medicines.

What are Possible Side Effects of DOVATO?

DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “What is the Most Important Information I Should Know about DOVATO?” section.
- **Allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with DOVATO. Stop taking DOVATO and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms: fever; generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters or peeling of the skin; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue; problems breathing.
- **Liver problems.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with DOVATO. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without a history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver.

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or “tea-colored” urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms that could be signs of lactic acidosis:** feel very weak or tired; unusual (not normal) muscle pain; trouble breathing; stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy or lightheaded; and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Lactic acidosis can also lead to severe liver problems,** which can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the signs or symptoms of liver problems which are listed above under “Liver problems.”** You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female or very overweight (obese).



©2020 ViiV Healthcare or licensor.
DLLADVT190035 January 2020
Produced in USA.



Learn more about
Leo and DOVATO
at DOVATO.com



For information on access and coverage to help
you get your prescribed ViiV Healthcare medications
Insured • Underinsured • Uninsured



1-844-588-3288 (toll free)
Monday-Friday, 8AM-11PM (ET)



www.viivconnect.com

SO MUCH GOES INTO WHO I AM

HIV MEDICINE IS ONE PART OF IT.

Reasons to ask your doctor about DOVATO:



DOVATO can help you reach and then stay undetectable* with just 2 medicines in 1 pill. That means fewer medicines[†] in your body while taking DOVATO



You can take it any time of day with or without food (around the same time each day)—giving you flexibility

DOVATO is a once-a-day complete treatment for adults who are new to HIV-1 medicine.

Results may vary.

*Undetectable means reducing the HIV in your blood to very low levels (less than 50 copies per mL).
†As compared with 3-drug regimens.

 **Dovato**
dolutegravir 50 mg/
lamivudine 300 mg tablets

What are Possible Side Effects of DOVATO (cont'd)?

- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking DOVATO.
- **The most common side effects of DOVATO include:** headache; diarrhea; nausea; trouble sleeping; and tiredness.

These are not all the possible side effects of DOVATO. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Where Can I Find More Information?

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to DOVATO.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

October 2019 DVT:2PI-2PIL

Trademark is owned by or licensed to the ViiV Healthcare group of companies.

LEO[†]

Living with HIV

[†]Compensated by ViiV Healthcare

Could DOVATO be right for you? Ask your doctor today.



Detroit District Supporting National Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

DETROIT — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, has assembled and deployed field assessment teams tasked with evaluating existing facilities in Michigan for the possible conversion into alternate care facilities as part of the nationwide federal, state and local effort to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under this planning mission assignment from Federal Emergency Management Agency, personnel from FEMA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state and local emergency management and medical personnel are conducting initial and in-depth site assessments at multiple locations as determined by state leadership. The teams are providing assessments to the State of Michigan that deliver information on the possible conversion of existing buildings into alternate care facilities in southeast Michigan.

“The State of Michigan has asked FEMA for assistance in responding to a critical shortage in hospital space due to the spread of this virus,” said Lt. Col. Gregory Turner, Detroit District commander. “We’re going to bring the full resources of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and our engineering expertise to bear against this problem. That’s our mission: to engineer solutions to the nation’s toughest challenges.”

To date, the USACE, Detroit District, has performed seven assessments on locations nominated by the State, including a 725,000-square-foot convention TCF Center, the Detroit Pistons Performance Center and two dormitories at Wayne State University. USACE is performing similar assessments in states throughout the nation.

USACE has received 6 FEMA Mission Assignments totaling approximately \$361 million, and USACE has more than 15,500 personnel engaged, across the enterprise, in its response effort across the nation. Two FEMA MAs (\$5.6 million) are for National Activation and to provide initial planning and engineering support nationwide to address possible medical facility shortages in the U.S. due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Information pertaining to specifications and implementation of the alternate care sites is available on the web here.

Contractors who may be interested in working on these sites throughout Michigan, should the need arise, are asked to review the memo from the USACE director of Contracting on what they can do to help here.

During emergencies, USACE is the federal government’s lead public works and engineering support agency, and given its extensive work in building medical facilities for its military stakeholders is uniquely qualified to tackle this engineering challenge.

Michigan’s Meal Map Helps Students Eat During COVID-19 School Closures

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Because of statewide efforts to “flatten the curve,” or slowing the exponential spread of coronavirus infection to aid health care workers and providers in treatment, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer closed Michigan K-12 schools until Monday, April 6. This action ensures that Michigan’s children will adhere to the guidelines set by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and won’t be subjected to gatherings over 50 people, and ideally no greater than 10. However, this also means that many children who exclusively rely on the lunches or breakfasts they receive at school will go without. To combat this, the Michigan Department of Education has posted an interactive map for its Summer Food Service Program, which is available to use now.

“The SFSP was created to ensure that children in lower-income areas could continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs,” the map’s description said.

The map provides the locations of hundreds of SFSP locations around Michigan that offer up to two meals daily for children aged 0 to 18 years old. Students with disabilities up to age 26 are also included in this program. An MLive report said that this map will be updated twice daily.

To find out more about coronavirus prevention tips, where to find resources and more, visit BTL’s COVID-19 Resource Guide.

ACLU, Activist Groups Urge MDOC to Work Proactively Against Potential COVID-19 Outbreak in Correctional Facilities

BY BENJAMIN DECKER

Due to the recent outbreak of COVID-19 in Michigan, specific orders to practice social distancing have been given to residents. In fact, today, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued a “stay-at-home” order to take effect across the state. Social interactions are to be limited, people are advised to only leave their homes if completely necessary and all large gatherings have been suspended. However, inmates who are stuck in overcrowded facilities do not have the luxury of taking these precautions.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, along with the help from Safe & Just Michigan and American Friends Service Committee, have acknowledged that most inmates do not have the privilege to partake in social distancing. They have created a document that both addresses concerns and lists proactive measures the Michigan Department of Corrections should take to prevent a COVID-19 outbreak among the incarcerated. This letter has been sent to the head director of the MDOC, Heidi Washington, as well as every county sheriff in the state of Michigan.

According to ACLU-MI legal director Dan Korobkin, “Prisoners have the constitutional right to timely and adequate health care,” meaning they deserve to have immediate access to any testing kits and immediate treatment when given symptoms of COVID-19 arise.

“Prison and jail administrators must take preventive measures to prevent an outbreak, ensure that appropriate medical treatment is provided if illness occurs, suspend visitation and other privileges only when



absolutely necessary and work with the parole board and local judges to eliminate or drastically reduce the number of vulnerable people behind bars,” Korobkin said.

The letter also mentions that the incarcerated are one of the groups who are most susceptible to COVID-19, regardless of any underlying health conditions or age. Their close proximities play a large part in not only spreading the disease to fellow inmates but also to wardens and officers inside — some of the few jobs that cannot be done remotely.

The ACLU is also urging the MDOC to team up with the Michigan Emergency Operations Center too, in order to come up with a treatment plan that evolves as more cases of COVID-19 show up in those behind bars. They call for the education of both correctional staff and the incarcerated about the virus and prevention plans for its spread, along with continuous access to warm water and sanitation for inmates. Food preparation, which is primarily done by inmates, is to be kept highly sanitized and uninterrupted, and a clear plan needs to be developed that

demonstrates protocol if an inmate were to test positive, or be exposed, to COVID-19.

The ACLU also calls for all possibilities of reducing the number of people behind bars by working closely with the parole board. Any alternative to incarceration for inmates, starting with those who are at the highest risk for the virus, should be utilized in this pandemic. Possible alternatives suggested by the ACLU include early release, bond reduction, pretrial diversion, parole and medical clemency.

The ACLU also criticizes the statewide decision made by the MDOC to suspend all in-person visitation. Unless absolutely necessary and in extreme circumstances, in-person visitation should remain open and have extra precautions to be taken so that COVID-19 is not spread, through the separation of glass and no physical touching. However, for now, the best the ACLU says the MDOC can do is allow video visitation to be made free of charge for all inmates, as it is in their basic rights to be visited by their loved ones during their sentence.

Pro-LGBTQ Campaign to Amend ELCRA Forced to Adapt to COVID-19 Constraints

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Necessary Adjustments

It's not just individuals who have had to make drastic adjustments because of the COVID-19 outbreak. From business to government, innovations like working from home on a widescale basis and the temporary suspension of the Open Meetings Act are defining this uncharted territory in Michigan. And not only that, but for this election cycle, candidates are tasked with finding creative alternatives to in-person contact, just as signature-collectors for ballot campaigns scramble for ways to fulfill their mission without leaving home. With all of the above in mind, Between The Lines checked in with Fair and Equal Michigan to learn what's next for the campaign to amend the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act. It intends to put the issue before voters in November if the Michigan Legislature doesn't adopt the measure once the 340,000-plus valid voter signatures are collected by the May deadline.

On March 9, Fair and Equal Michigan held a fundraiser on the same day president Trevor Thomas reported in a statement that, "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."

A large signature collection effort took place at polling locations across the state the following day during the primary election. That day, March 10, the first case of COVID-19 was discovered in Michigan.

As the days unfolded and the coronavirus rapidly spread across the state, the state of Michigan and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines changed — and continue to change — day by day. A March 13 statement on the Fair and Equal Michigan website spoke of new precautions being taken: employees observing proper hygiene and those experiencing symptoms being asked to stay home. Soon, however, they transitioned to a canvass-by-mail strategy:

"In response to COVID-19, Fair and Equal Michigan assembled its team of advisers and is currently piloting several initiatives to continue garnering signatures by mail while keeping our communities safe," said Thomas, in a statement. "The initiatives include: social posts, coordinating with our allies, volunteer calls and automated direct-dials to targeted registered voters to ask if they'd like a petition by mail. We are closely monitoring guidance from the State of Michigan to help support the health of our employees, volunteer network and our public supporters — now at more than 150,000 Michiganders."

Other Campaigns, Other Responses

Other ballot campaigns in Michigan are responding in their own ways in the face of the pandemic. Fair Tax Michigan, the campaign for a graduated income tax, has called upon House Speaker Lee Chatfield and Senate Leader Mike Shirkey to allow online petition gathering. A response to their March 19 request has not been forthcoming.

Close Lansing Loopholes, the campaign to curb lobbying, folded as of March 20. A statement on their Facebook page indicates they will gear up for another campaign in 2022, "but during this time of national crisis, we are more focused on making sure everyone heeds advice from infectious disease experts and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and stays home."

A significant distinction between Fair and Equal Michigan and this campaign is that Close Lansing Loopholes sought to amend the Michigan Constitution and therefore faced a higher threshold of needed signatures.

In New York, which has been especially hard-hit by the pandemic, Gov. Andrew Cuomo made significant modifications to ease election rules. For example, the number of signatures required for ballot campaigns has been reduced to just 30 percent of those usually required by law. Between The Lines asked Thomas what avenues Fair and Equal Michigan was considering at this time.

"We're working with our legal counsel and campaign team to evaluate all options," Thomas replied via email. "Our current strategy is what's feasible right now, and that's what we're focused on."

He also said they continue to use both volunteers and paid staff.

Now, because of the statewide shelter-in-place order announced by Gov. Whitmer that went into effect March 24, it remains to be seen whether stay-at-home signature collection will enable the campaign to collect the required signatures within the next two months. However, Thomas seemed undeterred. He ended with a call to action to collect more than 200,000 signatures within the next two months. That number reflects the fact that the coalition will need to turn in well over the required 340,047 signatures to ensure a sufficient number are valid.

"Fortunately, the campaign surpassed 100,000 signatures back on March 9th but we still have work to do and need everyone to sign up on the website to participate in the mail-in signature collection effort to make sure our equal rights bill has the 340,000+ signatures required to go in front of the legislature."

www.PrideSource.com



**SEXUALLY
TRANSMITTED
INFECTIONS**
Treatment and Prevention

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

SERVICES INCLUDE

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


www.accesscommunity.org

Sterling Heights Center
4301 East 14 Mile Rd., Sterling Heights, MI 48310
586-788-6235

Part of the MetroCare Coordination Network

Our BTL advertisers are what have made this publication possible for over 26 years. Some are closed during this health emergency. Please remember to support them when the economy reopens.

‘There is Still Service’ Virtually at LGBT Detroit Says Executive Director

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

As news about coronavirus and the necessity for social distancing continues to develop, many community centers like LGBT Detroit are continuing to offer much-needed services like tobacco-cessation programs, sexual assault advocacy and more just in a different, virtual package. Executive Director Curtis Lipscomb said the nonprofit is working to replace formerly programmed face-to-face engagement with digital outreach.

“We are open for business, but we’re doing business differently,” he said. “Consider engaging with us virtually as we believe that we can still meet our deadlines and meet our goals.”

Lipscomb said that though there are few details to iron out in the center’s chosen means of community engagement during social distancing — like confirming whether certain telecommunications applications are HIPAA-compliant — LGBT Detroit is running much like before. He added that those who are eager to help the center during this time can do so in two ways: virtually volunteering and donating when possible.

“Give Out Day is probably more important than ever because there are a lot of new types of work that needs to be done,” he said. “And

if people can volunteer their time virtually to help us with COVID-19, we need people to help us craft language, help us develop policies and for various types of administrative duties that they don’t necessarily have to be here to do.”

Among its various programs, LGBT Detroit is also known for hosting the annual Hotter Than July celebration, “the longest-serving multi-day organized Black Pride celebration in the country.” When asked if preparations for that festival have been postponed, Lipscomb said not at this time, and he referred to LGBT Detroit’s press release about upcoming plans.

“At this point, the Hotter Than July Planning Committee foresees no change to the occurrence of Hotter Than July this year. The health and well-being of the movement remains our priority,” the release read. “We are watching closely the daily updated information and direction from city, state and federal government public health agencies for best practices to guide us. By mid-spring, we will examine the country’s public reassembly policy and share with you an update on the project at that time.”

To find out more visit lgbtdetroit.org.



I Stay Ready, I Stay **UNDETECTABLE**

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

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



U=U

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

Health
Department

Prism of Possibilities
Psychotherapy
Christine Cantrell, PhD
Fully Licensed Psychologist

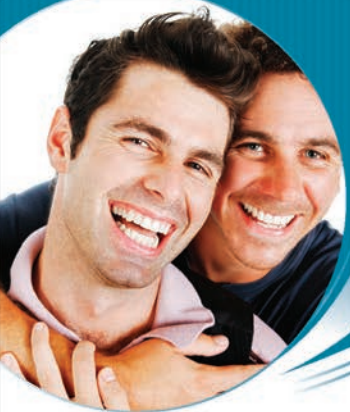


Give yourself an extreme self makeover ...

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

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

CALL NOW! 248-591-2888



LOVE THOSE RATES!
Save On Your Next LOAN.

Auto Loans, Personal Loans, Mortgages

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

GENISYS
 CREDIT UNION

NCUA f t i

**STAY SAFE
 ANN ARBOR,
 WE'LL BE
 BACK SOON!**

The Michigan Theater Foundation is a non-profit organization. We thrive on the revenue from our screenings, as well as generous support and donations from our community. It is because of gifts from donors and members like you that we can maintain the theaters at the museum-level quality that our community deserves. Please consider a donation at michtheater.org/support

We will continue to distribute news updates in our weekly email newsletter. Sign up at michtheater.org

THANK YOU!

MICHIGAN THEATER STATE THEATRE FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL TO STAY CONNECTED!
 @MICHIGANTHEATER @STATETHEATREA2 f t i



We're Smiling for Pride!

RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS

Dedicated to make our community brighter
One Smile At A Time
248-399-4455

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

Care Credit
 MasterCard VISA

1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4, Berkley, MI 48072
www.rontwilliamsondds.com Find us on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rontwilliamsondds)

Our BTL advertisers are what have made this publication possible for over 26 years. Some are closed during this health emergency. Please remember to support them when the economy reopens.

LGBTQ Catholic Group Stands Together Among Archdiocesan Order to Stop Meeting in Catholic Spaces

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

As coronavirus continues to alter the way life is lived across the globe, its impact has reached into all facets of everyday life, and that includes religion. Though virtual means of worship have been put in place for many, across the U.S. and beyond, the routines of thousands of congregations have been upset because of suspended services to prevent the spread of COVID-19. But for Southeast Michigan's LGBTQ Catholic community, this period has proved especially tumultuous because of a March 9 order from the Archdiocese of Detroit that prohibits Dignity/Detroit from offering LGBTQ-inclusive Catholic liturgy anywhere on Church property.

"As you know, Dignity Detroit has long operated its ministry in the Archdiocese of Detroit while rejecting some of the Church's teachings on sexual morality. These teachings, though challenging, promote human flourishing and bring joy when received with open hearts. This situation is thus a source of sadness, for those who reject the teachings deprive themselves of the blessings that come with living a life in Christ," read the letter from Bishop Gerard W. Battersby. "In response to Synod 16's call to offer the Holy Spirit our 'whole-hearted yes,' I wish to communicate through this letter that a Mass for Dignity Detroit members – one which rejects Church teaching on human sexuality – is not possible in any parish church, chapel, or diocesan facility, and is indeed forbidden everywhere in the Archdiocese of Detroit. This will no doubt be difficult for some to hear, but it arises from heartfelt pastoral concern for members of Dignity Detroit."

Though this decision came as a shock to many members of Dignity/Detroit, which has been operating for 46 years as a recognized LGBTQ-affirming Catholic entity, the organization has publicly pledged to "provide an affirming and welcoming Catholic liturgy to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) Catholics, along with their family members and supporters" in a statement.

Marianne Duddy-Burke is the executive director of DignityUSA, the national branch of the organization. She said that DignityUSA will support the Detroit branch in its decision, and noted that the timing of this order has been "terrible in terms of the pastoral responsibilities that the archdiocese has toward the people of the church."

"I don't think the archdiocese could have predicted how quickly [coronavirus] was going to move, but Lent is such a sacred time for all Christians," she said. "It really is a time



of reflection and deep connection with our faith and getting ready for the largest, most joyous mystery of our faith happening at Easter that I do think that more care should have been given. ... There is a level of pain that is inflicted by cutting people off from the sacraments or attempting to cut people off from the sacraments during such a pivotal season for our church."

She went on to say that the impacts of these actions extend far beyond directly impacting LGBTQ Catholics because of the domino effect on their Catholic family members and friends.

"We've seen so much public data that shows that Catholics are overwhelmingly supportive of LGBTQI people," Duddy-Burke said. "I think what's complicated about that is because of the public health crisis that we're in, it's hard for people to find ways to show their support. They can't turn out at a Dignity liturgy as they've done in the past when the chapter was under threat. There was a time when Dignity was going to celebrate its 40th anniversary and some of the right-wing groups in the Detroit archdiocese called for protest ... and hundreds of Catholics turned out to support the chapter."

In the Works for a While

When asked if she knew why the church put forth this hard-line stance, Duddy-Burke said she wasn't certain. However, she did point to

the beginning of 2020 when Dignity/Detroit President Frank D'Amore was "notified by Bishop Battersby that there were going to be changes coming."

"And that the archdiocese was really going to be taking really a harder stance on LGBTQI people to make sure that the official church teaching was being upheld," she said.

D'Amore said that it was mid-January when he first learned of these plans that revolved around a program called Unleash the Gospel, which does not use the term LGBTQ but refers to the community as "those who experience the challenges of gender identity and same sex attraction."

"It's all about evangelization and reaching out," D'Amore said. "... They're pushing a program called Courage and Encourage. Courage is for the LGBT person and EnCourage is for friends and family."

These two programs, D'Amore said, function largely as a support group with "no liturgy" and encourages celibacy for LGBTQ who do participate. He said that though he knew of the plans for the program earlier in the year, Bishop Battersby had scheduled a meeting with him for the end of March to discuss the new policy, but it was since moved to the middle of April.

"His first note was so cordial I really had high hopes we were going sit, we were going to talk, we were going to get to know each other," D'Amore said. "Well, before we even had

that meeting, on March 9 he sends this letter out to all of the clergy, whether it's diocesan or religious order, and says, 'You are hereby forbidden to say mass for Dignity Detroit and Dignity Detroit cannot meet on any Catholic Church property in the archdiocese, whether it's a church, a chapel, whatever.'"

At this time, D'Amore said Dignity/Detroit has not consulted a legal expert and that he still intends to meet with Bishop Battersby at the end of the month. He said that he "will not do" the Courage and Encourage programs. Duddy-Burke called the program "warped thinking" that "dehumanized and disrespected the reality of peoples' lives."

Between The Lines has reached out to Bishop Battersby for comment.

Part of National Trend

Duddy-Burke said that this action, though jarring to many locally, mirrors similar anti-LGBTQ actions across the U.S. by Catholic leadership in recent years, like the tightening on health restrictions at Catholic hospitals and the firing of LGBTQ employees.

"I can say in the national context that it is very, very clear that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is taking more and more aggressive action to limit the civil rights of LGBTQI people," she said. "For example, this *Fulton v. Philadelphia* case that's going to the Supreme Court where Catholic Social Services of Philadelphia is fighting for the right to discriminate against gay and lesbian couples or individuals or transgender individuals who want to apply to be foster or adoptive parents."

But just as there have been nationwide efforts to discourage LGBTQ Catholic worship, there have also been supportive causes. Duddy-Burke said that affirming priests have written letters to the archdiocese expressing concerns and that she foresees an "outpouring of support" from other chapters.

For now, though Dignity/Detroit is unable to meet because of coronavirus concerns, it is offering two virtual liturgies to its members.

"There's Dignity/Washington on Facebook Live at 6 p.m. on Sundays and Dignity/New York is doing a virtual liturgy that's going to be more of a modified liturgy that will allow for more time for people to share their thoughts, and that will be available both online and on telephone for people at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday," she said. "People just need that sense of being connected right now. And as more of our communities are able to pull something together, we're just going to keep widening the circle and inviting people in."



CORKTOWN
HEALTH CENTER

HEALTHCARE
FOR OUR COMMUNITY

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

313-832-3300
www.corktownhealth.org



at Hodges...

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

2020 SUBARU
CROSSTREK

SUBARU

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

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

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

EVERYDAY!

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



Affirmations provides a welcoming space where people of all sexual orientations, gender identities & expressions, and cultures can find support and unconditional acceptance, and where they can learn, grow, socialize and feel safe.

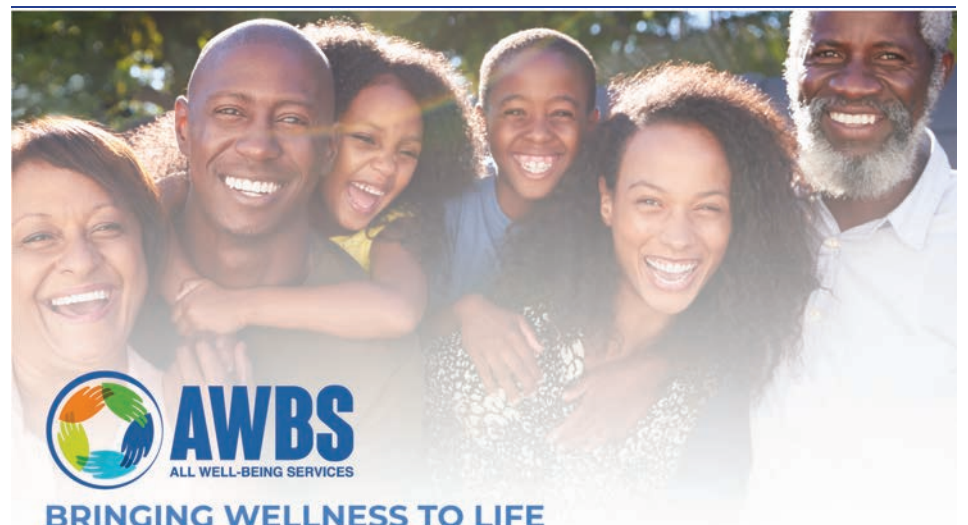
Get involved with your LGBTQ+ Community Center, right in the heart of downtown Ferndale!

There's something for EVERYONE.

Find out how by visiting GoAffirmations.org/Get-Involved or call (248) 398-7105 .

Affirmations
People Building Community

290 W. Nine Mile | Ferndale | MI 48220 | 248-398-7105 | www.goaffirmations.org



AWBS
ALL WELL-BEING SERVICES

BRINGING WELLNESS TO LIFE

AWBS MISSION: To meet the needs of individuals, families and the community by providing integrated health services which foster well-being and self-sufficiency.

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

SERVICES OFFERED: Mental Health Services, Substance Use Disorder, Prevention & Treatment, HIV Prevention, STDs Testing, Primary Care, Health Workshops, Intellectual Development Disabilities Services, Skill Building, Family Support and more.

TRAUMA INFORMED GROUPS: • Anger Management • Dialectical Behavior Therapy • Recovery • Smoking Cessation • Trans Trauma (T-TREM)

ASPIRE TO Excellence
carf
INTERNATIONAL

65
ANNIVERSARY

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

LGBTQ Advocacy Groups Sue Department of Health and Human Services at Critical Time

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

On March 19, three organizations serving the LGBTQ community sued the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services over its Nov. 2019 announcement that it would no longer enforce nondiscrimination protections against federal grantees that deny services or otherwise discriminate against individuals. Family Equality, True Colors United and SAGE are the plaintiffs in the lawsuit that was filed by Democracy Forward and Lambda Legal. The November rollback of the enforcement rule occurred when the Trump Administration bowed to taxpayer-funded, faith-based adoption agencies' pressure to permit them to discriminate against LGBTQ couples, under the pretense of religious freedom.

As the U.S. faces the COVID-19 pandemic, the timing of this lawsuit is somewhat coincidental — yet its urgency is heightened by the HHS's decision to fail to protect vulnerable populations like LGBTQ youth and elders at this time, according to Lambda Legal staff attorney Puneet Cheema. Access to homeless shelters, the delivery of Meals on Wheels and fostering a child are just some examples of what could be denied by this license to discriminate, already in place for four months now.

Effect on Elders

Angie Perone, Director of SAGE Metro Detroit, said that back in November the Notice of Non-enforcement “kind of left us in a lurch [because of] the possibility that other service providers that we rely on may deny services, because they can, or they think they can, at least.”

Perone was referring to service providers who receive grants from HHS that interact with SAGE Metro Detroit clients. The local nonprofit is an affiliate of SAGE USA, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit.

As other organizations are scrambling to transition the ways in which they provide services in this time of global crisis, Perone is concerned that her clients may be “erased” or suffer from gaps in services.

“We are very concerned, especially given the current pandemic,” she said.

There are two ways Perone said non-enforcement of protections can affect SAGE.

“Even with top-level organizations, there are individual service providers that work there that may not feel comfortable working with LGBTQ older adults,” Perone said. “It’s a really challenging time at SAGE to make sure



that everyone’s on board, making sure that everyone’s being culturally responsive, and that, of course, isn’t just for LGBTQ issues but for a variety of issues that are really specific to vulnerable older adults.”

She added that because of the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic, there may be less accountability within organizations because “there’s so many moving pieces right now.”

“And then there’s also just organizations that I think at a top level don’t want to provide services and think it’s okay to deny services to LGBTQ older adults based on this guise of religious freedom,” Perone added. “And that’s just really problematic. So that’s a really huge concern for us because some of these faith-based providers provide critical services like meals or medical transportation or [other] things that are really necessary right now, that folks are gonna have trouble accessing.”

Effect on Young People

At present, youth may be experiencing homelessness in greater numbers because many colleges have had to shut down student housing due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Without anti-discrimination protections, LGBTQ youth may be legally denied entry to a shelter that receives HHS funding.

“LGBTQ youth are 120 percent more likely to experience homelessness than their straight and cisgender peers,” noted Gregory Lewis, Executive Director and CEO of True Colors United, in a statement about the lawsuit. “Transgender youth are at especially high risk and face unique types of discrimination and trauma while experiencing homelessness.

Young people should never have to fear discrimination or violence in seeking services, and we must not fail them by rolling back the very policies meant to protect them.”

True Colors United is a national organization that implements innovative solutions to youth homelessness that focus on the unique experiences of LGBTQ young people. Many of their LGBTQ-friendly programs are funded by HHS grants. Prior to the Notice of Non-enforcement, True Colors United had relied on HHS’s nondiscrimination requirements in educating and training recipients of HHS’s Runaway and Homeless Youth grant awards about the importance of providing services that are safe for LGBTQ youth.

On the local level, HHS’s Runaway and Homeless Youth Program provides grants to numerous Michigan agencies that serve homeless youth, of whom national statistics indicate 40 percent are LGBTQ. Grant recipients include Alternatives for Girls in Detroit, Common Ground, Catholic Family Services in Kalamazoo, and Child and Family Charities in Lansing, to name a few. Since the Nov. 2019 reversal, should any young person be turned away from one of these shelters because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, there has been no recourse. Because of this lawsuit, that could change.

For Reference

HHS is the largest grant-making agency in the U.S., administering approximately \$500 billion in federal grants. Most HHS grants are provided directly to states, territories, tribes, and educational and community organizations.

With 11 operating offices, HHS has eight agencies in the U.S. Public Health Service and three human services agencies. The Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are perhaps the best known of HHS agencies.

HHS grantees in Michigan — like all states — are affected by the Notice of Non-enforcement. In addition to those cited above, examples of HHS grants large and small awarded to Michigan entities include drug treatment courts in Genesee and Kent Counties and programs in Northwest Detroit and Allegan County that seek to prevent underage drinking. In 2017, HHS awarded \$15 million to residents of Flint affected by lead exposure.

By nature of it being so wide-ranging and well-funded, HHS is a powerful agency. It’s not difficult to imagine how the government-sanctioned failure to enforce nondiscrimination protections could impact LGBTQ people in far-reaching ways.

Cheema made it clear when she said in the press statement, “We are suing the Trump administration because of its cruel effort to make it easier for HHS grant recipients to discriminate against LGBTQ youth, families, and older people, in ways that put their lives at risk. At any moment, but especially at a time of a global pandemic, it is callous to expose already vulnerable populations to discrimination, and allow them to be denied basic, critical services.”

The case was filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. A judge has not yet been assigned to the case.

STD/HIV CLINIC



Health Department

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

Services Provided:

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



Testing and Treatment:

Confidential, Appointment Only, persons 12 and older

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

"We take pride in taking care of our residents"

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

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

New in-office procedures

Don't Suffer in Silence!

Now offering FemTouch™ Vaginal rejuvenation treatments.

Do you suffer from any of these symptoms?

- Painful intercourse / Vaginal dryness?
- Difficulty with bladder control?
- Urinary incontinence?
- Itching or burning sensation?



NO DOWNTIME.
NO HORMONES.
NO SURGERY.

Bring your life back to life!
with FemTouch™



GianClair Medical Spa offers a wide variety of new cosmetic services

- Botox
- Fillers
- Dysport
- Peels

• PRP - Platelet-Rich Plasma For Facial and Hair Rejuvenation
PRP Facial, combines plasma and platelets from your blood with other rejuvenation techniques.

PRP hair treatment is a promising treatment option for patients with thinning hair.



Watch our new video series to learn more about FemTouch, PRP, Midwives and our practice!

PartridgeCreek
Obstetrics & Gynecology

Call today 586-247-8609

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



Rhonda L. Kobold, DO, FACOG



#TIME2KNOW GET TESTED

NOW OFFERING INTEGRATED TESTING



- Rapid HIV
- Gonorrhea
- Chlamydia

CONVENIENT METRO DETROIT LOCATIONS

Matrix MAC Health in Ferndale & MidTown Detroit • Affirmations in Ferndale

ALSO TESTING IN BARS, CLUBS AND OTHER METRO AREA LOCATIONS

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-4:30PM
Walk-in or by Appointment

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-4:30PM
Walk-in or by Appointment

Affirmations
FERNDALE
5:30PM-8:30PM
Walk-in or by Appointment

Affirmations
Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-4:30PM
Walk-in or by Appointment

Matrix MAC Health
FERNDALE
9AM-4:30PM
Walk-in or by Appointment

Affirmations
FERNDALE
1PM-3PM
Walk-In
1ST & 3RD SATURDAYS
12:30-3pm

NO
SUNDAY
TESTING

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

1 (888) A CONDOM



MATRIX MAC HEALTH IS A PROGRAM OF MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES. LEARN MORE. GIVE. VOLUNTEER. DISCOVER MATRIX AT MatrixHumanServices.org



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Spring Social Distances COVID-19

The first day of spring, March 19, 2020, was a little early this year. As a matter of fact, 124 years early.

The vernal equinox — the astronomical alignment of earth and sun — opened the harbinger season early, early, early! The earliest debut in a century.

Spring's arrival was glorious and gently emphatic, if short-lived. The sun, perhaps polished to perfection, was radiant. By noon the temperature saluted Detroit, Dearborn, and Michigan, at 65 degrees.

I sat outdoors for about two hours of lucid breathing, reverie and contemplation. Alas, it was not to be, because the next day was filled with the media shockwaves of news about the devastation of the coronavirus, COVID-19.

If spring 2020 was special by 124 years, the coronavirus was horrific by 102 years, when the influenza epidemic took the lives of 50 million men, women and children worldwide. The avian killer was later designated H1N1.

The influenza outbreak of 1918 was dubbed the Spanish Flu.

By the early 1920s, it is estimated that 500 million persons globally had been infected by this pandemic. An estimated 675,000 deaths occurred in the U.S.

Mortality was high in people younger than 5 years old, the 20- to 40-year age group, and those 65 years and older.

Perhaps this year's Spring 2020 may someday — weeks, months a year or two later (who at this precarious moment in time knows?) — be known as The Spring of Social Distancing.

The time when civilized, reasonably comfortable daily life came within a hair's breadth of shutting down totally. And the watch word of survival was avoiding others.

Speaking of social distancing, we who are LGBTQ know perhaps better than most the full extent and import of what that term of avoidance really means.

For decade after decade we who have struggled with being gay, lesbian, bisexual and more recently transgender, have faced social distancing from us by government, religion, the judicial complex, the general heterosexual community and, sadly often to say, family, friends and loved ones.

In the 1970s we were ostracized with universal social distancing by the AIDS crisis, initially called GRID: Gay-Related Immune Deficiency. At its onset, social distancing was critical because doctors, scientists and nursing professional hadn't as yet a clue to the AIDS origin.

AIDS was a disease that drug addicts and gay men contracted, and, a majority of Americans thought, deservedly so.

In the long-run of about 30 years that followed, the AIDS crisis brought our rainbow community together in caring for its many victims, practicing safe-sex condom usage and raising millions of dollars to fight the HIV disease and find its cure.

See **Parting Glances**, continued on p. 17



Viewpoint

My Time Incarcerated as a Transgender Woman

BY KORRA SATSUKI

Incarceration can be a traumatic experience for anyone, even if the time behind bars is short. But as a trans woman, the seven months I spent last year locked up inside the Mason County Jail were truly torture.



Now 34, I'm lucky and grateful to still be alive.

There are two primary factors that made my experience different from that faced by most other prisoners.

One is that I was locked in a cell by myself, forced to sit alone in solitary confinement on 24-hour lockdown.

It was not because I was a disciplinary problem, or a threat to other inmates. No, the only reason for the forced isolation was the fact that I am transgender, and my jailers didn't want me sharing a cell with men or with other women. I was told that I could sue the county if anyone harmed me, but if I harmed myself, I could not.

That sort of isolation is truly torturous, especially for someone who has lived their life being treated as an outcast. Left alone with nothing but your thoughts, the ingrained feelings that society wants no part of you gets magnified; you're not even good enough to be with other people society also treats as outcasts.

Greatly compounding my despair was the fact that the jail physician heartlessly cut off my doctor-prescribed hormone treatments. Without that medication, my already severe anxiety skyrocketed as I began going through puberty a second time, only much, much worse. The physical pain was immense. I became super-sensitive to light. My weight started fluctuating wildly. Worst of

See **Transmissions**, continued on next page

www.PrideSource.com

► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 14

all was the feeling that more than my freedom had been taken away. I was deprived of being who I am.

Combined with the isolation, it was almost impossible to endure. Thoughts of suicide were frequent. Left alone with nothing but my tortured thoughts, I plotted out exactly how I'd take my life.

Desperate for help, I reached out early on to Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT Project. He quickly wrote a long, detailed letter to the Mason County sheriff on my behalf. Among other things, Jay provided research showing that, among transgender people who were incarcerated at one point, the suicide rate is a staggering 52 percent. As for denying me my hormone therapy, Jay explained that the jail was clearly violating my well-established constitutional rights.

The letter had limited success. I was forced to remain in solitary confinement but could start attending some group sessions – the men-only groups. These were unguarded and dangerous for me. I was also consistently denied food. As for my hormone treatments, the jail eventually relented, but not until my last week of incarceration.

One tangible effect, however, was that Jay's compassion and attempt to help let me know that someone actually cared whether I lived or died. Somehow, I found strength to endure.

Now out, I feel grateful and lucky to have survived. As an experienced rock climber, I liken my situation to falling off a cliff, saved only by the good fortune of being able to grab onto a ledge at the last moment, stopping me from plummeting to my end. It terrifies me now to think how close I came to dying alone in that jail cell. Just as terrifying, though, is the thought of every other transgender person who will be locked away in isolation without access to their medications, wondering if they'll be lucky enough to grab a ledge when they inevitably fall.

The trauma and risk faced by incarcerated trans people is all too real. People need to be made aware. And change must occur. Specifically, all prisons and jails should consider the individual circumstances of each transgender inmate. Housing decisions should address both safety concerns and the individual needs of the inmates. Solitary confinement because an inmate is trans should never be an option.

We who are LGBTQ have been through a lot as far as social distancing is concerned. In this time of unprecedented COVID-19 crisis, we will do our collective and individual parts as needed to bring this disease under control and hopefully to speed its horrific end.

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

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 16

The search is ongoing.

These days the social distancing of LGBTQ people continues as right-wing religious bigots like Franklin Graham, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell Jr. and AFA's Gary Glenn try to scapegoat us for being Jehovah God's way of punishing America with COVID-19.

The truth of the matter is that we are all in this coronavirus crisis together. No heavenly personage is going to bail out anyone heavenward as part of an End Times biblical scenario.

Creep Of The Week

Perry Stone

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Well, it was only a matter of time before it was revealed that LGBTQ people are responsible for the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak. It turns out that God is mad about gay marriage.

So file COVID-19 under Things LGBTQ People Have the Power to Unleash, right alongside hurricanes, floods, tsunamis, recessions, climate change, terrorist attacks, divorce, autism, dementia and naming your pronouns. And it goes without saying that the anti-gay right is most upset about that last one.

According to Perry Stone, a Tennessee pastor, he heard from God himself that "this is a moment of reckoning."

"I know what I heard, I did not make that up," he tells his congregation. "I audibly heard the phrase, a male voice speaking, and I believe it was the Holy Spirit."

Oh, a male voice, huh? That's sexist. Then again, men are more prone to violence, so I guess it makes sense that he would imagine a male Holy Spirit striking down everyone in your local nursing home and making all of the toilet paper and hand sanitizer disappear just to punish you for being LGBTQ.

"Why is there a reckoning?" Stone asks. "Because we have by law forced God out of our country and basically told him, 'In public places, you're not welcome.' You're not welcomed in our schools, so our schools are now shut down. No prayer in public school, no Bible reading in public school. Now, are you with me? They're telling kids to stay home for who knows how long, so our schools are shut down."

So God is mad about separation between church and state. Got it. But is Stone saying that the reason schools have been shut down is part of a plot to make sure people don't start praying in them again? Or is he saying that God blew coronavirus in all of our faces because he's mad about the lack of school prayer? Has God never heard of Christian schools? Because those are a thing. You can send your kid to a school where they have to pray.

It isn't gays alone that have brought on a worldwide epidemic. It is by the power of gays and women who have abortions combined.

"We have said to God, 'The infants that you put in our wombs, we don't respect them, we don't want them, we will get them out of our bellies through abortion,'" Stone continues.

Who is going to tell him that the only way a baby ends up in your belly is if you eat it?

It isn't gays alone that have brought on a worldwide epidemic. It is by the power of gays and women who have abortions combined.

"If you watch the women who are pro-choice, the majority of them have a spirit about them where there is no love. When you watch them on the media pump their fists," he says and then launches into an obnoxious imitation of what he imagines a feminist sounds like: "It's our body. We will do what we wanna do. You're not gonna tell us what to do with our body.' I got news for you ladies, it ain't your body there's another body living inside your body."

So women who support abortion rights are loveless shrews who anger God because they don't want to be human incubators? Got it.

"The Bible talks about going after 'strange flesh,'" Stone says and then launches into the tale of Sodom and Gomorrah. You know, the one where Lot invites a couple of angels into his house and then his neighbors are like, "Give us those angels to rape!" and Lot is like, "No. Take my virgin daughters instead" and then he tries to run away with his wife but she turns back to scope the destruction and gets turned into a pillar of salt. And that's why processed food has mad amounts of sodium.

"So why is there a reckoning?" Stone continues. "There is a reckoning because the courts of the land passed a law to take an infant's life, that it was OK, and for marriage as we have known it to be changed into something we have never known. Both of their laws, biblically in Leviticus and Deuteronomy, are what God calls an abomination. And the Bible teaches us that God is long-suffering, he is not willing that any perish, he wants everyone to come to repentance, but there will be a time when the Lord says, 'Enough is enough.'"

And when the Lord is at his wits end he kills a bunch of people at random and hopes that people will figure out what it is he really wants. That must be where Donald Trump learned it from.

HER MUSIC IS EPIC
HER STORY INSPIRES



SUMMER

THE DONNA SUMMER MUSICAL

FISHER THEATRE • JUNE 9-21

BroadwayInDetroit.com | ticketmaster.com | 800-982-2787
Groups (12+) Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com (subject: Summer)
AD and OC June 14 7:30pm

Photo: Francesco Scavullo



Despite Call to Donate Blood Amid Coronavirus Crisis, FDA Firm on Gay Ban

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Despite calls for increased blood donations amid the coronavirus crisis, the Food & Drug Administration is staying firm on its ban prohibiting gay men from donating blood.

“At this time, FDA’s recommendations regarding blood donor deferral for men who have sex with men have not changed, but we will continue to reevaluate the situation as the outbreak progresses,” a spokesperson told the Washington Blade Thursday.

The FDA is sticking with the ban, which prohibits men who’ve had sex with men in the past year from donating blood, in the aftermath of an impassioned call from U.S. Surgeon General Jerome Adams for blood donations.

“One thing we should all consider, especially our millennials and Gen Z, is donating blood,” Adams said. “As an anesthesiologist who still practices at Walter Reed, taking care of our wounded warriors and our soldiers, I know donated blood is an essential part of caring for patients, and one donation can save up to three lives. Blood centers are open now and in need of your donation.”

In 1983, the FDA has implemented a lifetime ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men. During the Obama administration in 2015, that policy was eased to a ban on donations from men who’ve had sex with the men in the past year — but restrictions nonetheless remain in place.

Among those calling on the FDA to take action amid the calls for blood donations was

Sarah Kate Ellis, CEO of the LGBTQ media watchdog GLAAD.

“The antiquated ban that still prevents gay and bisexual men, and men who have sex with men from donating blood must immediately be lifted by the @US_FDA,” Ellis tweeted.

Proponents of lifting the gay blood ban have said the policy isn’t necessary because advanced testing would screen blood from HIV-positive people. Further, they say the policy is stigmatic toward gay men and diminishes the blood donation supply.

The FDA is sticking with the ban, the spokesperson said, at the same time it needs increased blood donations amid the coronavirus crisis as well as heightened concerns about the lack of available hospital beds and equipment.

“FDA is aware there has been a dramatic reduction in blood and plasma donations around the country,” the spokesperson said. “The agency is working with the blood banking and source plasma industries to encourage healthy people who wish to help to donate blood. People who donate blood are like those people working in a critical infrastructure industry.”

According to the FDA, the 12-month deferral period currently in place is “a first step” in a process of evaluating blood policies for all potential donors.

A blood safety surveillance system, per the FDA, is looking at whether more than half of the blood collected in the United States is fully operational and providing data that will inform additional changes in policy.

In March 2019, FDA’s Blood Product Advisory Committee held an open session to discuss blood donation policies regarding MSM. The committee reviewed information, but it didn’t vote on specific issues.

The White House didn’t respond to the Washington Blade’s request to comment on whether President Trump would call on FDA to lift the ban amid the coronavirus crisis.

In terms of Democratic presidential candidate, former Vice President Joseph Biden has said in LGBTQ policy platform he’d implement a policy “based on science” with regard to gay blood donations, but stopped short of calling for lifting the ban. Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), a spokesperson told the Blade, would “end the ban, period.”

Obituary: Terrence McNally

BY JASON A. MICHAEL



Terrence McNally, writer of such plays as “Love! Valour! Compassion!” and “Master Class” died March 24 of complications from COVID-19 in a hospital in his home state of Florida. Labeled by The New York Times as a “playwright of gay life,” McNally, who won four Tony Awards throughout his career, was 81.

McNally was born Nov. 3, 1938, in St. Petersburg, Florida to a couple of transplanted New Yorkers. After a hurricane destroyed the seaside bar they ran, The Pelican Club, the family moved to Port Chester, New York, then onto Dallas and, finally, Corpus Christi, Texas. After high school, McNally moved to New York City to attend Columbia University in 1956.

It was in his second play, “And Things That Go Bump in the Night,” that McNally began exploring the issues of homosexuality. Bump bombed and received bad review from the New York press. But McNally was undeterred. He would return to the subject matter time and time again in such shows as “The Ritz” and “Kiss of the Spider Woman.”

McNally would be greatly affected by the AIDS epidemic. In the play “Lips Together, Teeth Apart,” two married couples spend the Independence Day weekend at a house on Fire Island. The house, which has been willed to character Sally Truman by her brother who has just died of AIDS, features a pool that the guest are afraid to use. In 1990, McNally won an Emmy Award for best writing in a miniseries or special for “Andre’s Mother” that tells the story of a woman trying to cope with her son’s death from AIDS.

McNally’s biggest successes would come later in his career. In 1994’s “Love! Valour! Compassion!” McNally explores the relationships of eight gay men. The show won him his second Tony Award. In “Corpus Christi,” which debuted in 1997, McNally offered a modern-day retelling of the story of Jesus, in which both the son of God and his disciples were gay. Its debut was met with great controversy and large protests.

McNally was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 1996. He had a civil union ceremony with his partner Tom Kirdahy, a Broadway producer, in 2003 and the couple officially married in 2010 in Washington, D.C. Five years later, following the Supreme Court’s decision to legalize marriage equality, McNally and Kirdahy renewed their vows at New York City Hall with Mayor Bill de Blasio, Kirdahy’s college roommate, officiating on June 26, 2015.

In 2018, McNally was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The following year he received a Tony Award for lifetime achievement.

“McNally’s work offers a bittersweet, often satirical picture of life in America from the turbulent 1960s to the early 21st century,” said John Clum, author of the book “Terrence McNally and 50 Years of Gay American Drama.” “While he often focuses on homosexuality and homophobia, his plays also focus on his characters’ desire for some form of spiritual renewal. They are also celebrations of various forms of love – of family, friends and lovers.”

McNally had overcome lung cancer in the late 1990s, which cost him portions of both lungs. He was living with COPD at the time of his death, which made him particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus. He died in Sarasota where he had lived for many years.

Choose the REALTOR® who has the experience of more than 600 personal closings.



Gerry Banister
REALTOR®
248.521.4407
gerrybanister@aol.com
gerrybanister.com
RE/MAX NEXUS
248.541.4900
Each office independently owned & operated.

TRIANGLE CHIROPRACTIC

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

JOHN TSAKOS, DC
MOST INSURANCES
ACCEPTED

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

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

Isabella & Gisell
CONSTRUCTION

Licensed Builder
Insured
Home Remodeling
Home Inspection

LIC #241900190 256-694-6841

Shop The
Rainbow

BTL
Between Lines

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

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

RAINBOW



Give the Ultimate Gift of Love.

For those who love you, planning your final arrangements says to them: “I love you, too”.

Pre-planning not only helps to avoid placing an undue financial and emotional burden on your loved ones, but it is also a critical step in ensuring your final wishes are met (which is especially important for members of the LGBTQ+ community).

Call **734-783-2646** to learn more and speak with one of our experienced, compassionate representatives today.

Or, visit us online:
www.MiMemorial.com

MichiganMemorial™
Funeral Home • Park • Crematory

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

Come as you are
to be loved as you are...

...and gather with the Peeps (online!)
to share the wonder of Easter together!



WORSHIP LIVE: <http://dearbornfirstumc.org/live.html>

PALM
SUNDAY
April 5, 10 a.m.

MAUNDY
THURSDAY
April 9, 7 p.m.

GOOD
FRIDAY
April 10, 7 p.m.

EASTER
SUNDAY
April 12, 10 a.m.



DEARBORN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
22124 GARRISON | 313.563.5200 | DearbornFirstUMC.org
"Like" us on Facebook for more updates and links!

Wherever you are,
God will meet you there.
JOIN US ONLINE:



Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit

205 N. Main St, Clawson, MI 48017 | 248.399.7741

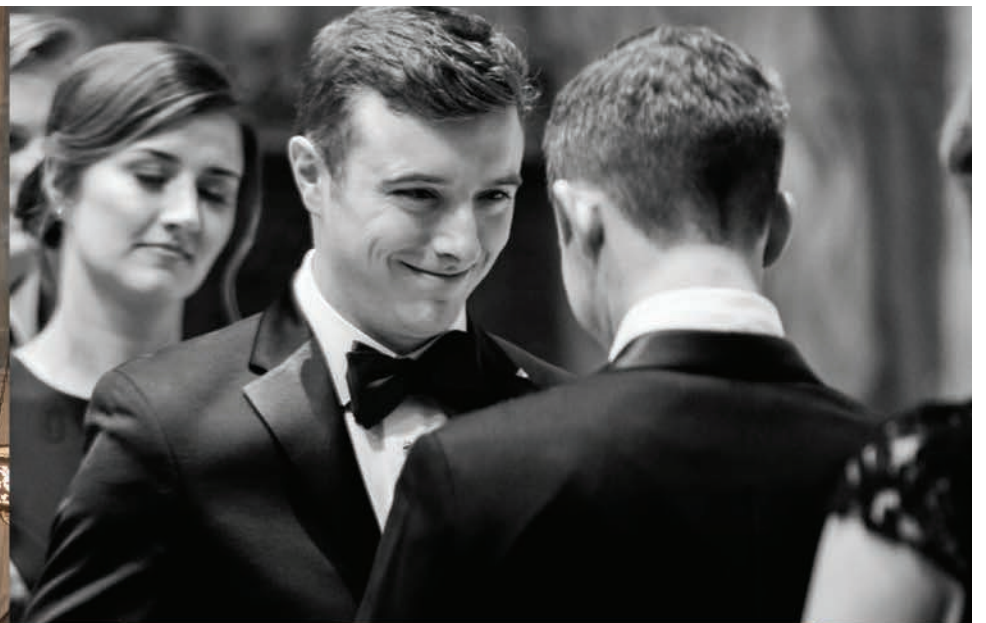
A diverse, inclusive Christian church serving the
LGBTQ and ally community since 1972.



Sunday Service at 11am on YouTube


Virtual Bible Study at 11:30am

www.mccdetroit.org



CHRIST CHURCH CRANBROOK

Whether it's in person or in the midst of a pandemic, we're here for you.
Affirming of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

 www.christchurchcranbrook.org

470 Church Road, Bloomfield Hills 48304



Christ is Risen!

Alleluia!

Though our church buildings are currently closed due to the pandemic, a number of our churches continue to worship online and remote access may be found on their respective websites. We look forward to welcoming you to our churches soon.

**This is Christ's church.
There is a place for you here.**

Blessed Easter - Stay Safe & Healthy

• **Ann Arbor**
Lutheran Campus Ministry
Lord of Light Lutheran Church
801 S. Forest Ave.
www.lordoflight.org

King of Kings Lutheran Church
2685 Packard Rd.
www.kingofkingslutheran.org

Trinity Lutheran Church
1400 Stadium Blvd.
www.trintyyaa.org

Zion Lutheran Church
1501 W. Liberty St.
<https://zlc-aa.org>

• **Battle Creek**
Trinity Lutheran Church
2055 Columbia Ave. E.
www.tlcbattlecreek.org

• **Burton**
Our Risen Lord Lutheran Church
4040 Lapeer Rd.
www.ourrisenlordelca.com

• **East Lansing**
University Lutheran Church
1020 S. Harrison Rd.
www.ulcel.org

• **Farmington Hills**
Antioch Lutheran Church
33360 West Thirteen Mile Rd.
www.antiochelca.org

Hope Lutheran Church
39200 West Twelve Mile Rd.
www.hope-lutheran-church.com

• **Ferndale**
Zion Lutheran Church
143 Albany St.
www.zionlutheranmi.org

• **Freeland**
Zion Lutheran Church
545 7th. St.
www.zionfreeland.org

• **Grand Rapids**
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
250 Commerce Ave. SW
www.bethlehemchurchgr.org

• **Kalamazoo**
Lutheran Church of the Savior
3616 East G Avenue
www.lcoskzoo.com

• **Kentwood**
Ascension Lutheran Church
4252 Breton Rd. SE
www.twochurches.org

• **Mount Pleasant**
Immanuel Lutheran Church
320 South Bradley St.
www.immanuelmp.com

• **Okemos**
Faith Lutheran Church
4515 Dobie Rd.
www.faithlutheranokemos.org

• **Rochester Hills**
Abiding Presence
Lutheran Church
1550 Walton Rd.
www.AbidingPresence.org

• **Saginaw**
Our Saviour Lutheran Church
2525 Hemmeter Rd.
www.oursavioursaginaw.org

• **Saline**
Holy Faith Church
6299 Saline-Ann Arbor Rd.
www.holy-faith-church.org

• **Trenton**
St. Philip Lutheran Church
1790 Fort St.
www.stphilipelca.com

• **Toledo, Ohio**
St. Lucas Lutheran Church
745 Walbridge Ave.
www.stlucastoledo.org

• **Waterford**
Christ Lutheran Church
5987 Williams Lake Rd.
www.christwaterford.org

Our BTL advertisers are what have made this publication possible for over 26 years. Some are closed during this health emergency. Please remember to support them when the economy reopens.



Photo: Lauren Dukoff

How Melissa Etheridge Learned to Let Go of Fear

The LGBTQ Icon Has Chosen to Focus on the 'Beautiful change' the COVID-19 Crisis Will Bring

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Throughout her dynamic three-decade career, Melissa Etheridge has beat cancer and weathered the devastating emotional toll of the AIDS crisis. Having overcome her own battles, the music legend consequently became a beacon of strength, resilience and survival and has turned her tribulations into musical catharsis.

Given her collective courage in facing life's most unexpected challenges, I decided to turn to her recently. I wrote to the music legend and LGBTQ activist on Twitter to ask if she'd be willing to speak to me about how she's handling the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic and its resulting fallout the day after a national shutdown that closed schools, workplaces, restaurants and forced promoters and artists to cancel tours. Etheridge was about to play a long stretch of shows in the United States and Europe, but that was canceled too.

During our interview, Etheridge brought her cool head and optimistic outlook as we discussed the unsettling state of our dramatically changed world.

How are you? And I mean that.

You know, we are all well. We're in the new day, the new world, like all of us, and trying to figure this all out, but we're all good.

Considering everything, I'm glad to hear that. This is our new not-normal normal, isn't it? And it's like, how do we shift to this new life that we will be living for probably quite some time.

Yeah. Well, one, the music industry's been hit so hard. I try not to worry, but it's like ... I worry. My whole crew and band – I'm not making any money, and it's like, Whoa. All of a sudden it really hits you, and it's like, Come on, is this two weeks? One month? Two months? How long am I not gonna make any money? I can certainly get by for a while, but my crew and stuff – I try not to worry. But it's going to be a big, fat hardship.

You were about to go out on tour when some shows began being canceled because of COVID.

Yeah, yeah. Well, it was gonna go till May and then I was gonna have a little bit off in May and June, and then I was gonna go over to Europe at the end of June and come back to America.

And you thought, for a time, that you'd brave it.

(Laughs.) Yeah. I was like, "No, no – I'm not scared of nothing!" But then, all of a sudden, it was like, "Oh, no, never mind. I get what we're doing now." It became that the thing that we can do to keep this from spreading is to keep away from each other.

I took a run today and I don't usually run, but I had your song "I Run for Life" on and it was getting me through so I just looped it. I just played it four times in a row and ran through my neighborhood. It was a great feeling. And I'm realizing that we have to look to small joys right now. For me, that was a small joy. Where are you finding your small joys right now?

I'll tell you what I'm doing and I just finished: I've been going live on Facebook every day at 3 o'clock PST. It just helps me so much. I do two or three songs and just say hey to people. We kind of meet together at the same time and thousands of people all over the world are joining me and it really means a lot.

You said it helps you – how so?

Oh gosh, yes. 'Cause that's what I do. I sing for people. And when a body sings, it heals. It brings just as much joy to me as it does to other people.

So in addition the financial impact of canceling your tour, it sounds like there's also a personal loss for you.

Oh yeah. I had taken a big break the last time. I was on the road in November and I was like, "I'm gonna take the holidays off and really not get that going until March." That's a big, long break for me, and I like to get up in front of people and I like the adoration of thousands of people, you know (laughs). It makes me feel good! I'm a road person. I love gettin' on the road with my crew and my band and playing music. I just love it. I do that. That's what I do. I love it.

What's so hard to come to terms with is that in times of crises, live music has helped heal. But we don't have that now, and might not for a while.

Oh, it's just awful.

But you're doing what you can to connect with fans on social media. How about connections in your personal life? Is your family with you?

Yes. My two older kids – one is in New York City and she got out and went to a friend's in Washington D.C. and she's staying there. I have another in Denver and he's OK. I wish they were all here. My two little ones are here with my wife, so we're camping out here. And we take walks and do stuff – and we're six feet from our neighbors, but we're all much more friendly because it's that connection that we miss.

I remember you told me about three years ago when Trump got elected, "I will not fear." With this, are you scared? Do you fear? And if not, how did you get to that place of fearlessness?

It started 15 years ago with cancer, how I understood fear and how I understood what our everyday is made of, what our world and reality is made of and all its choices and that choice always comes down to two basic emotions: love or fear. All the other emotions can be categorized in there.

I have many choices of how to respond or react to this virus, to everything that's going on with it. I could be very fearful. I could be fearful for my health, fearful for our system. I could choose fear. Or I could look at it and go, "OK." And sometimes it's hard to do this, to say, "I'm going to look at this and I'm going to see what is the loving outcome that can happen here." And I choose to do that every day.

Like I've said, I look at my neighbors and all of a sudden I'm looking them in the eyes, all of a sudden people are wanting that social connection. Take that away from us and all of a sudden we're like, "Wait a minute. I want that." I think this is going to change our whole system. It's going to change our education system, it's going to change our health system, it's going to change because there's going to be such a humongous economic crash that we're going to have to change the way our system is set up.

We will be forced to make major shifts in these various paradigms once we get through this.

Yeah. Big corporations are not gonna have anybody to buy their products soon if they don't look and say, "Something's gotta change." And we're going to change leadership. I truly believe that. I truly believe there will be a huge leadership change and it's gonna be people with new ideas and new ways of doing this. So this sort of quantum leap that we all felt could come since 2012, there's big change coming, and we all wanted it. It's sort of like this big bow that's been pulled back really far and finally there's gonna be so much desire for that change now because of

understanding how interconnected we are. We're gonna see that change, and 10 years from now we're gonna look back and go, "Wow, it was really, really hard but I'm glad it happened because these changes were made." So that's how I don't fear. I constantly think, What's the good? Look for the helpers. Find the Italians singing on the balcony. There's beautiful things that show what our humanity is. That's what we can do now. That's how you don't fear.

And I think you're right: This will bring us into unity.

And it starts with leadership change and that's going to come in a few months. I think it's going to be huge. People are going to go, "That sucked, and we're not going to go through that again." (Laughs.)

What did you learn about pandemic panic from living through the worst of the AIDS pandemic?

That there are really good, smart people in the world who were made for this, who were made to make change and to put pressure on government and institutions to change. Really smart people that were born for this. And they're rising to the occasion right now.

How did the first live stream go?

Aww. It was so, so sweet. It felt so good, and it was so great to see people from all over the world. And that's the thing: The whole world is going through this. The whole world! And music really goes beyond language and goes straight to the heart and I love that. I feel being a musician is being a healer.

A song that helped get you through your battle with cancer is helping me get through this, and it's Patty Griffin's "When It Don't Come Easy," from her album "Impossible Dream," which I've had in heavy rotation while physically distancing. Where does a song like that take you?

Sometimes I don't know what it is about a song that can do that, but a song can just hit a part of your emotional center and it can be in the voice, it can be in the music, it can be when she just sings, "If you get lost, I'll come out and find you; if you forget my love, I'll try to remind you, stay by you when it don't come easy." Just knowing that one human being sang that to another human being, and then just knowing that it exists in our emotional world can fill that part of you up. So, I'm so grateful for all the other musicians who have inspired me and do that because that's our job, and it's our time to do our

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



Diana Davies, Gay Rights Demonstration, Albany, NY, 1971, 1971. Digital print 14 x 11 inches (35.56 x 27.94 cm). Photo by Diana Davies/© The New York Public Library/Art Resource, NY

On View March 6 – May 31, 2020

Art after Stonewall, 1969–1989

One of the most
important exhibitions
of the decade.
– ARTnews

CMOA Columbus
Museum of Art

480 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215
columbusmuseum.org

“It’s like an entire store filled with treats for people!”

*-Billie Jean
(The Miner’s Den Dog)*



Miner's Den
JEWELERS

(248)-585-6950

WWW.MINERSDEN.COM

3417 ROCHESTER RD. ROYAL OAK, MI 48073



► **Melissa**

Continued from p. 23

job now.

You're feeling the call?

It's funny: I'm feeling the call to perform. I'm a little overwhelmed by the writing right now because I'm right in the middle of it. You sit down and you go, "It's too big to look at, it's right in front of your face." There needs to be a little distance. Maybe in a few days, maybe when I see what this really is.

Then you might start jotting down some song lyrics?

Oh yeah. I was already in my writing mode. I was already starting to write for my next album. This is going to be a very interesting album. (Laughs.)

What are you listening to right now in your place with your family to help get you through this?

Reggae always makes me happy. Bob Marley. Some old-school stuff. But my wife and I watched "West Side Story" and then we watched Barbra Streisand in "On a Clear Day You Can See Forever." Barbra Streisand just makes you feel good. So we're kind of finding comfort in that.

And I saw you were playing Monopoly.

Oh, yes. The kids love that. They love it a little too much (laughs).

It's a long game, but you have a lot of time now.

We have a lot of time, and they are fierce – they're not gonna quit. They play it till the end.

And toilet paper – you good?

It's funny: Just a few months ago we were saying, "Why don't we make hemp toilet paper? Wouldn't that be great?" And I wrote to my friend and went, "Why didn't we listen to ourselves? Why didn't we start making hemp toilet paper?"

What were your quarantine essentials? Did you make a run over the weekend?

I actually just went this morning because we have a really great pantry. Because I have two kids, I kind of keep things stocked, so we were fine. But the thing that we always like to do is go to the market a lot because we like really fresh produce and fresh food and that's the hard part. But I can't find brown rice anywhere! So I'm hoping we can replenish and everybody will be OK. And I have to make sure we have salad every day because this is not the time to not be healthy, so fresh produce is the thing.



What are you most grateful for right now?

My wife. Social media. I'm glad I got Netflix. And I'm really grateful for the neighborhood I live in. If I gotta be here every day, I'm grateful for my yard and my house.

Is there a song you sing while you're washing your hands?

Some people are doing "Bring Me Some Water." If you sing the first verse and the first line of the chorus. "Bring me some water, I gotta wash my hands." Bring me the water! (Laughs.)

What words of wisdom would you like me to send out to the LGBTQ community?

I would say a couple of things. Just because we're isolating, don't emotionally isolate. It's easy for some of us in the LGBTQ community to do that. Find a way to connect with people. Find the people you can check in with every day and do that. Telephones, social media, whatever the way. And take care of yourself first. Stressful times really lower our immune system, so it's super important to drink a lot of water and to stay hydrated and exercise. Taking a run, taking a walk. Really, really important. And also know that change happens – change always happens. And we're in the midst of it. These are historical times. Come from love. And be smart and stay healthy but understand that this too shall pass. It always does, and it will. And there's great change coming because of it. Good change. Beautiful change. For all of us.

As editor of Q Syndicate, the 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.

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



MANY STYLES • GARAGE DOORS & OPENERS TOO!

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

We Service All Makes & Models



SERVING WAYNE, OAKLAND, MACOMB & WASHTENAW COUNTIES

NO
Extra Service Charge For Evenings & Weekends

We Fix Broken Springs

FAST

24 Hr Emergency Service

✓ Check Our Prices On Broken Spring Replacement



TOWN & COUNTRY DOOR LLC

Over 500 Five Star Reviews



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

All Work Warranted In Writing

248-600-4683

WWW.TOWNANDCOUNTRYDOOR.NET

Supporting the Community Since Before it was Cool.

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



Sandi & Linda
www.trilliumrealtors.com

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



TRILLIUM
REAL ESTATE



Give the Ultimate Gift of Love.

For those who love you, planning your final arrangements says to them: "I love you, too".

Pre-planning not only helps to avoid placing an undue financial and emotional burden on your loved ones, but it is also a critical step in ensuring your final wishes are met (which is especially important for members of the LGBTQ+ community).

Call **734-783-2646** to learn more and speak with one of our experienced, compassionate representatives today.

Or, visit us online:
www.MiMemorial.com

MichiganMemorialTM
Funeral Home • Park • Crematory

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



The Frivolist: 6 Productive Ways to Spend Your Time During the Coronavirus Crisis

BY MIKEY ROX

As we all hunker down to mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus, here are a few ways you can cope and stay productive for sanity's – and humanity's – sake.

1. Take free online classes

Your mediocre SAT scores may not have gotten you into the Ivy League school of your dreams (don't feel bad – mine didn't either), but the internet doesn't give a hoot about aptitude tests. You now can take online courses from the likes of Harvard, Columbia and Princeton, among other top institutions, without paying a dime or leaving the comfort of your home. More than 450 free courses are available in a collection on Class Central (classcentral.com), in categories that range from computer science and engineering to humanities and art and design. Learn about the United States health policy (which is more topical than ever in these wild times we're living in), take an intro to classical music, or brush up on Buddhism and modern psychology. You'll also find LGBTQ courses, including the titles "Queering Identities: LGBTQ+ Sexuality and Gender Identity" and "Monitoring the Human Rights of LGBTI Persons."

2. Get a head start on your taxes

The IRS is expected to postpone the tax deadline (that announcement was not made as of press time, however), but that doesn't mean you shouldn't use your time off to get your financial life in order. Doing it now will help avoid the crunch later, provide your accountant a head start before everyone makes their own mad dash, and it'll be one less burden hanging over your head during this already stressful time of extreme uncertainty. You likely won't get much assistance from library resources this year considering the wide-ranging closures, which is something to consider if that's help you typically rely on.

3. Hit some of your local trails and practice other self-care

Curfews have been instituted in several states already – and that practice shows no sign of slowing as COVID-19 continues to spread widely and rapidly. While social distancing has been encouraged, it doesn't mean you have to lock yourself in the house for the foreseeable future. There's always nature, and it'll do you good to get out and stay active so long as you're not spreading germs with person-to-person contact or congregating in groups of more than 10, per instructions from the White

House. Take a private hike, clear your mind, and recognize that this temporary interruption in our lives is just that – temporary. Fresh air and sunshine will be necessary to fight the doom and gloom of news and social media. Other self-care to practice includes getting regular exercise (gyms like Planet Fitness are offering free streaming workout class to members and non-members alike), maintaining proper hygiene (take a shower and get dressed every day), and treating yourself to mind- and body-soothing activities like at-home facials, partner massages, meditation and yoga.

4. Update your resume and plan new goals

If you've been considering a career change, take this time to update your resume and set new goals. It may take a while for the economy to get back on track after this crisis has ended, but we will bounce back, and there's no reason you shouldn't be prepared to hit the ground running when we do.

5. Finish your home projects

Have any half-finished projects around the house? Most of us do. Grab what you need from the hardware store and get to work.

6. Unplug from all your devices a few hours every day

The worst way to spend your time during this recommended period of self-isolation is with your face buried in a phone or television while your hands are shoveling snacks. Constant inundation of negativity combined with inactivity will only make you feel worse – if not increase your paranoia – and nobody needs that. Limit yourself on screen time (sex apps are {ITAL not} the answer to your boredom right now, by the way), look around to see what you can accomplish in your safe space (a clean, organized home will immediately improve your mood – I promise), and resolve to focus on the positive. It may not seem like it on the surface, but there's still plenty of that left if you look for it right where you are.

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

ABRACADABRA
Jewelry/Gem Gallery

ALEX ŠEPKUS®
NEW YORK

Trunk Show
APRIL 24TH & 25TH

205 E. LIBERTY, ANN ARBOR WWW.ABRAGEM.COM 734.994.4848

Wolverine
Human Services
Helping Children to be Victors

ANY CHILD, ANY PARENT, ANY TIME.

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

METRO CARE
COORDINATION NETWORK
ACCESS. Matrix Human Services. OLHSA

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

CALL (248) 266-5545
MetroCareNetwork.org

BTL Cool Cities Royal Oak

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

NAGLREP MEMBER

Your Personal Advocate



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

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



Michigan's Largest Real Estate Company



ROYAL OAK BTL ADVERTISERS

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



C & N PARTY RENTALS

**5140 Meijer Drive,
 Royal Oak, MI 48073**




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

We have Beautiful Linens for all events and budgets!

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

Our BTL advertisers are what have made this publication possible for over 26 years. Some are closed during this health emergency. Please remember to support them when the economy reopens.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

DON'T DRINK THE WATER
 may be cancelled, but
YOU can still wash your hands
 and practice social distancing 👍

Stagecrafters
 THE BALDWIN THEATRE | ROYAL OAK, MI

CAGE FREE 24 / 7 HAPPY HOUNDS
 BOARDING IN COMFORT Day & Overnight Care!

FOR DOGS

WHO DON'T LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE ANIMALS

GROOMING *pet care extraordinaire* BOARDING

A SECOND HOME FOR YOUR FURRY FRIEND 1 ACCOMMODATIONS



Happy Hounds®
 Dog Day Care & Lodging
 24/HR SUPERVISION

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

673 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan



Holiday Market
**IS OFFERING
 JOBS
 — TO —
 AWESOME
 PEOPLE**

COME JOIN THE HOLIDAY MARKET CREW!

What once started as a small neighborhood butcher shop and specialty store in 1954, grew each year, aisle by aisle, from our loyal customers' requests. Holiday Market focuses on high quality products coupled with friendly neighborhood service. We are voted one of the best markets in Metro Detroit, year after year.

FAMILY OWNED,
 FUN ATMOSPHERE

★★★
 BENEFITS
 AVAILABLE

★★★
 APPLY IN PERSON
 OR ONLINE

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



**Grab a coffee,
take the survey,
make a difference.**

**Take the 14th Annual
LGBTQ Community Survey®**

LGBTQsurvey.com

LGBTQ research helps non-profits, universities
and businesses better understand and
serve our community.

Download survey results free of charge
at cmi.info.

 **CMI Community Marketing & Insights**
Leaders in LGBTQ Research since 1992

Your information is confidential, used for research purposes only.
You will not be contacted for marketing purposes.

Proudly LGBTQ-Owned and -Operated
A pioneer in LGBTQ research since 1992.

Our BTL advertisers are what have made this publication possible for over 26 years. Some are closed during this health emergency. Please remember to support them when the economy reopens.

Join Fox Run for a
Saturday Open House

Get an inside look at vibrant retirement living in Novi. Come and tour our beautiful campus and maintenance-free homes. Experience top-notch amenities and learn about all Fox Run has to offer. Plus enjoy event-day-only specials.

Saturday, March 14, 2020
 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
41000 13 Mile Road,
Novi, MI 48377
Call 1-877-356-4913
 for more information
 and to RSVP.



Novi
 FoxRunNovi.com



/ therapy for today's world

Lori Edelson, LMSW, LMFT

2075 West Big Beaver Road / Suite 520 /
 Somerset Corridor /
 Troy Michigan 48084 / 248 646 6659 /

Birmingham Manle Clinic

THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!

BUY
ADULT DVD'S
STARTING AT
\$5.95

EVERY TUES & FRIDAY
NEW
RELEASE
DAY

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



UPTOWN SALE
JOIN OUR VIDEO CLUB
AND RECEIVE
5 FREE RENTALS
MAR 13-22, 2020

\$10 OFF ANY \$50 PURCHASE
\$20 OFF ANY \$100 PURCHASE
REGULAR PRICED MERCH ONLY!
APRIL 1-5, 2020

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

UPTOWN
BOOKSTORES
ADULT VIDEO
2 LOCATIONS
WWW.UPTOWNADULT.COM

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

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

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

Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Gaston and LeFou are back

Think back to that flash of a moment in 2017's live-action remake of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," the one where it seemed that Gaston's (Luke Evans) sidekick LeFou (Josh Gad) was, in effect, coming out as gay. We call it a flash because if you blinked you missed it – that is, if you don't count the constant thread of LeFou having a wild crush on Gaston – but that's another complaint for another day. It's canon now: LeFou is gay (but keep up, Gad is heterosexual and Evans is the gay actor, just for the record). Now that you have all that background you can know that Disney+ is developing a six-part prequel series about the two characters and how they came to be such a villainous team. It'll also be musical, with songs from veteran "Beauty" composer Alan Menken. And we're just telling Disney now, because we'll all be watching from the social-distancing comfort of our homes and paying very close attention that LeFou better stay very, very, very gay or there will be a riot.



Luke Evans. Photo: KathClick

'American Gigolo' calling for Showtime

Feeling a sense of deja-vu? Well, it's because "American Gigolo," the stylish 1980 male escort drama starring Richard Gere and Lauren Hutton, keeps promising to become a TV series and then just... not. In its day, the film was obsessed over for its fashionable details, as well as for its strange straddling of queer panic and queer pleasure, all while objectifying its occasionally nude star. But now comes another chance of resurrection at Showtime, where Jon Bernthal ("Ford v Ferrari") will star as the sex worker who was framed for murder. David Hollander ("Ray Donovan") is penning the script that updates the story to present day (and yet set only 18 years after the original story, so good luck keeping your mind wrapped around that), as the older, wiser Gigolo struggles to find his way in the modern sex industry of Los Angeles, all while trying to sort out the truth about who framed him so many years ago. We're not holding our breath for this one because we were promised it before, but now that Showtime's delightfully trashy reality series "Gigolos" is no more, there's a vacant space in our hearts waiting for a hero.

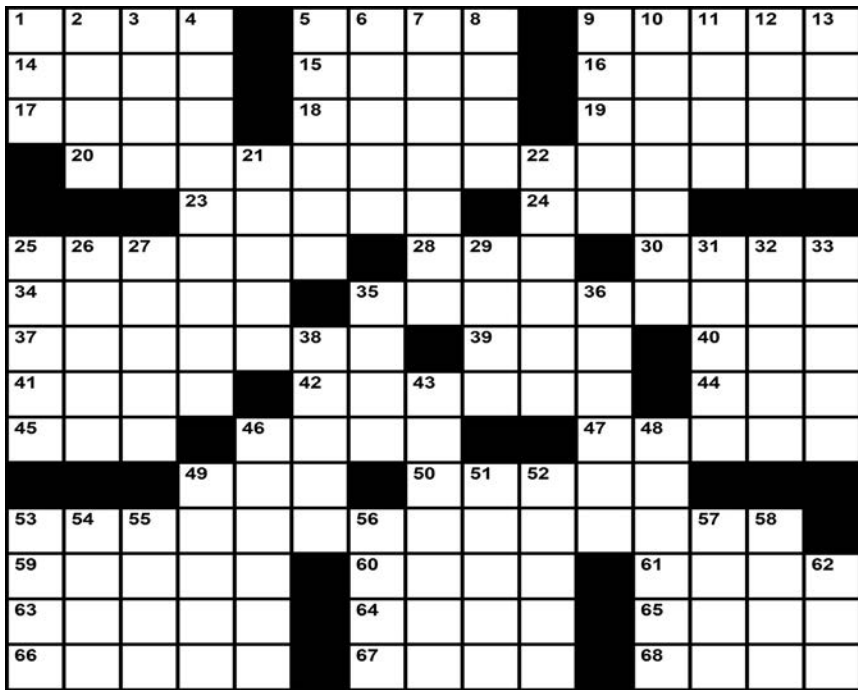
Joel Kim Booster's 'Trip' to Quibi

Actor and stand up comic Joel Kim Booster ("The Other Two," which he co-produces) is taking his new project to Quibi, the streaming platform for short-form series. It's called "Trip," and he'll write, produce and star in it, a mini-sitcom about two gay friends on vacation in Fire Island. The twist here is that "Trip," while ostensibly about gays doing typical gay things in a gay place, is inspired by Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" (can't wait to see who the Mr. Darcy turns out to be). This will mark Booster's debut as a series creator, and we're looking forward to seeing how much of his stand-up material – which sometimes involves discussions of his religious upbringing and always includes details of his life as a gay, Asian man – will make it into the final product. No matter what, it's a trip we're ready to take.

Romeo San Vicente is a full round trip all by himself.

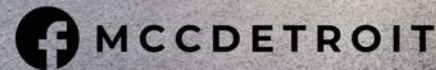
'The Baby-Sitters Club' comes to Netflix

Kids' literature is no stranger to independent-minded tomboy characters created by talented and thoughtful lesbian authors, such as "Harriet The Spy" by Louise Fitzhugh and "The Baby-Sitters Club" by Ann M. Martin. But unlike Harriet, whose adventures spanned just two novels, "The Baby-Sitters Club" became an enduring series throughout the '80s and '90s, with a feature film version in 1995. And now comes a series from Netflix – same name, naturally – that will bring the girls up to date for a new generation. The four mains are all relative newcomers: Sophie Grace as Kristy, Shay Rudolph as Stacey, Malia Baker as Mary-Anne, and Momona Tamada as Claudia, with Alicia Silverstone and Mark Feuerstein providing grown-up support. There's no drop date yet, but that's Netflix for you. And while you're waiting, there are quite literally a couple hundred books in this series, waiting to satisfy your childhood nostalgia urge.



Wherever you are,
God will meet you there.

JOIN US ONLINE:



Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit

205 N. Main St, Clawson, MI 48017 | 248.399.7741

A diverse, inclusive Christian church serving the
LGBTQ and ally community since 1972.



Sunday Service at 11am on YouTube

Virtual Bible Study at 11:30am

www.mccdetroit.org

The Boys in the Band

Q Puzzle

Across

- 1 Masticate
- 5 Leathermen ride them
- 9 Banana treat
- 14 Jamie who cross-dressed on "M*A*S*H"
- 15 Current Amsterdam currency
- 16 Linney of "Tales of the City"
- 17 Early Ron Howard role
- 18 ___ all-time high
- 19 Spear of Minnesota
- 20 Start of a quote by Mart Crowley (1935-2020)
- 23 Out on a limb
- 24 Club where you can dance with a sailor
- 25 "The Rose" star Bette
- 28 Month in Madrid
- 30 ___ & the Gang
- 34 Erotic diarist Nin
- 35 More of the quote
- 37 More of the quote
- 39 Org. in many spy movies
- 40 Always, to Emily Dickinson
- 41 Math subject
- 42 Avoided going straight
- 44 Inventor's monogram
- 45 Velvet finish
- 46 Poet ___ Wu
- 47 Jeremy of "M. Butterfly"
- 49 Press package from HRC
- 50 Kofi Annan's home
- 53 End of the quote
- 59 Kahlo portrayer
- 60
- 61 Historic Stonewall event
- 63 One with a holey bottom
- 64 Depp's cross-dressing role
- 65 Locker room emanation
- 66 Where to start out
- 67 Since, to James M. Barrie
- 68 Say, "We're just friends..." perhaps

Down

- 1 Handler of big bucks, in brief
- 2 Drag queen ___ Phace
- 3 Julia Roberts' Brockovich
- 4 Sweaty guys embracing in a ring
- 5 Eavesdropper, e.g.
- 6 Bellybutton type
- 7 2015 Tomlin movie
- 8 Carol, for example
- 9 Puts in stitches, like Wanda Sykes
- 10 Boxer of the comics
- 11 Knockout
- 12 Coward's confession?
- 13 Tart taste
- 21 Pink Triangle ___
- 22 "G'day!" sayer
- 25 Dull surface
- 26 Harden
- 27 "Queen of the Hop" singer Bobby
- 29 Env. fattener
- 31 The ___ beat (passive partner?)
- 32 Rehoboth Beach setting
- 33 Pluck 'em!
- 35 "Tales of the City" character
- 36 On the decline
- 38 Good to eat
- 43 Club dancer
- 46 Box office buy
- 48 Boston leather bar
- 49 He stole the tarts of the Queen of Hearts
- 51 Iroquoian tongue
- 52 Cell component
- 53 Facetious "I see"
- 54 Gladly, old-style
- 55 Seaman's pair
- 56 ___ guys (Robin Hood's men?)
- 57 Baldwin staffer
- 58 Time for cowboys to shoot off
- 62 "I'll ___ anything once"

PrEP Clinic

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

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

UNIFIED
hiv health and beyond
LIFE CONTINUES. LIVE HEALTHY.

In partnership with
Sinai Grace Hospital

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

WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG



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

PrEP must be taken every day to be most effective.

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



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

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

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

AIDS/HIV

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

Metro Care Coordination Network

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

UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond

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

Matrix MAC Health

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

Macomb County STD Clinic

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

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA)

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

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service (ACCESS)

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

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

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

Campus

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

U-M Ann Arbor

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

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

Eastern Michigan University

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

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

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

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

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

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

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

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

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

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

[Facebook.com/TheLGBT-CAUCUSoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/CaucusoftheMDP)
Stonewall for Revolution
www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

Ties Like Me

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

Transgender

FtM Detroit

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

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

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



Find a digital version of PrideSource Magazine online under Our LGBTQ 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



**Grab a coffee,
take the survey,
make a difference.**

**Take the 14th Annual
LGBTQ Community Survey®**

LGBTQsurvey.com

LGBTQ research helps non-profits, universities
and businesses better understand and
serve our community.

Download survey results free of charge
at cmi.info.

 **CMI Community Marketing & Insights**
Leaders in LGBTQ Research since 1992

Your information is confidential, used for research purposes only.
You will not be contacted for marketing purposes.

Proudly LGBTQ-Owned and -Operated
A pioneer in LGBTQ research since 1992.

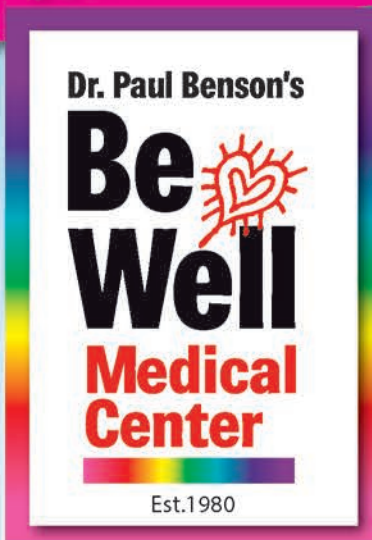
On the Edge of Primary Care PODCASTS with Dr. Paul Benson



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

3 On the Edge: Transcending the Standard of Care

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

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

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

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

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

5 Sexual Health and HIV Prevention

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

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

6 Living Well Over the Age of 50

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

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



1964 Eleven Mile Rd • Berkley, MI 40872

@bewellmedicalcenter



(248) 544-9300 • doctorbewell.com

Our BTL advertisers are what have made this publication possible for over 26 years. Some are closed during this health emergency. Please remember to support them when the economy reopens.