

MICHIGAN'S LGBT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993



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# *A Comeback in Quarantine*

**Patti LuPone Talks 'Hollywood,' Her Basement Videos and Why 'Ladies Who Lunch' Will Never Be the Same**





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### PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP

20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152  
Phone 734.293.7200

### PUBLISHERS

Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

### EDITORIAL

#### Editor in Chief

Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102  
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

#### Entertainment Editor

Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106  
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

#### News & Feature Editor

Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105  
eve@pridesource.com

#### News & Feature Writers

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

### CREATIVE

#### Webmaster & MIS Director

Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

#### Columnists

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

#### Cartoonists

Paul Berg

#### Contributing Photographers

Andrew Potter, Andrew Cohen, Roxanne Frith, Tih Penfil

### ADVERTISING & SALES

#### Director of Sales

Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101  
jan@pridesource.com

#### Sales Representatives

Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103  
anncox@pridesource.com

#### National Advertising Representative

Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

### MEMBER OF

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## 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).**



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

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\*Undetectable means reducing the HIV in your blood to very low levels (less than 50 copies per mL).

†As compared with 3-drug regimens.

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### 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](http://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](http://DOVATO.com) or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

October 2019 DVT:2PI-2PIL

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<sup>‡</sup>Compensated by ViiV Healthcare

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







Photo : Andrew Potter

## Michigan Trans Rights Activist Aimee Stephens Enters Hospice Care

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Nearly seven years after being fired for coming out as transgender at R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Homes in Garden City, Aimee Stephens has stayed strong in a legal battle for LGBTQ rights that has made it all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States. Stephens undertook this fight despite facing health issues like breathing problems and undergoing dialysis. However, last weekend, Stephens' wife Donna shared that her wife had entered hospice.

"To all of Aimee's friends. It is with a sadden[ed] heart I must inform you that she has entered hospice care here at home," the post read.

Stephens' case could expand Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to definitively include protections for sexual orientation and gender identity. However, an opposing decision would mean far more rigid interpretations of the existing law that would exclude thousands in the LGBTQ community. Historically, Supreme Court decisions affecting the LGBTQ community are made in June. It is unclear if Stephens will be able to see the Court's ruling.

"Please put her in your prayers," Donna Stephens wrote. "Her best friend and soul mate Donna."

# Temporarily Shuttered, Menjo's Serves Community as Food Pantry

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

## Community Mainstay

Menjo's is perhaps the best-known gay bar in Detroit and has been a mainstay in the community for more than 40 years. Now, temporarily shuttered due to the new coronavirus pandemic, the adjoining theater has been transformed into a food pantry by manager Tim McKee-Zazo who sprang into action the day after he locked the doors on March 15. He was quick to explain how he saw his effort as history repeating itself.

"The reason I do it is — I'm 54 years old, so I clearly remember the original AIDS epidemic," McKee-Zazo said. "This is what we used to do: gay people taking care of gay people. When there were no government services, there was none of that stuff. It was literally us taking care of each other. I used to do this back in the '80s for friends that were [HIV] positive back then or had full-blown [AIDS]."

He described how friends would deliver groceries and other necessities to people's porches to limit exposure because they were immunocompromised and therefore susceptible to secondary illness.

McKee-Zazo said he goes to stores like Sam's Club and Kroger, searching for sales and purchasing a variety of items including produce and proteins — "not all junk and all sugar." Once bags are loaded up in the theater/grocery, which McKee-Zazo has sanitized, he hangs a sign outside reading "food pantry drop" for individuals in the service industry or those living in the neighborhood who are in need. To follow social distancing protocol, McKee-Zazo places a bag at the entrance on McNichols when someone comes by to pick it up an order to avoid person-to-person contact.

"We're not sponsored by anybody, except the community 100 percent," McKee-Zazo emphasized. "So far we've served over 1,200 meals. A lot of generous people out there. Like tomorrow, I'm driving to Bay City. One of my Facebook friends that works for S.C. Johnson Wax, he just retired, and apparently, they have a company store. So he bought me a whole truckload of cleaning products and stuff like that."

## How to Give or Get Help

There are various ways one can receive help from or give to the food pantry, McKee-Zazo said. For those who are able to give, using Cash App is one convenient way; check, cash or food donations are gladly accepted, too. McKee-Zazo suggested reaching out to him via Facebook Messenger to coordinate any drop-offs or pickups. Again, he said, individuals

are not allowed inside the theater where he assembles the bags.

McKee-Zazo explained how someone in the service industry who might earn \$400 per week can benefit from the food pantry.

"Whatever limited money you've got, that means you're covering your phone, your rent and stuff like that. Each bag averages about



\$27. I tell people, if you were to come in once a week and grab a bag, in a month's time, that would save you \$108 of your cash, which you could put towards another bill and thereby saved money by not spending it on food. [It's] not just to help people that are going hungry."

At a time when so many are out of work due to no fault of their own, McKee-Zazo stressed there is no shame in asking for help. He was emphatic on this point.

"Some people feel that there's a shame or a stigma along with using a food pantry," McKee-Zazo said. "And while it's very real that they feel that, it freaks me out that anybody would be more embarrassed than they are hungry. There's no shame."

"If anybody wants a bag, I will deliver it to your house. And I will put it on your porch. You don't even got to see me. I don't have to see you. You can put that in there, because I don't want anybody going hungry because they're embarrassed or somehow they've done something wrong," he continued. "Somebody told me that yesterday. And I told them, I said, 26 million people are out of jobs — that's why they're using food pantries."

## It's Personal

McKee-Zazo has been manager of Menjo's Entertainment Complex, which employs around 50 people, since 2013. He said the pandemic is taking a toll on his staff, not just financially but also emotionally. However, he's determined to take care of his "kids."

"When I get done with the food pantry, the employees that I know that don't have cars, this is their only source of income — I know that they're sitting there hungry. So about every three days, I'll take groceries and put them in bags and drop them off on their porches throughout Metro Detroit because I don't want — I don't want nobody going hungry but especially not — those are my kids. They ain't going hungry."

"I know some of them are struggling with the psychological stuff. A lot of these people, because of the industry that they work in, they're very outgoing, they're very personable. Now, all of a sudden, that whole contact has been cut off and they're just somewhat out of place," he continued. "So we're always checking on each other, making sure everybody's mentally in a good space. Just like you would care for any of your friends or family."

For his part, McKee-Zazo is, in his own words, a very "active, on-the-go person" who's always

looking out for others. But he explained the reason he does what he does is more than just that he has a big heart. It's kind of a calling.

"I'm a recovering alcoholic of 14 years and the biggest tenet of my sobriety is to be of service to others," McKee-Zazo said. "If I don't do that, my sobriety program doesn't work for me. I'm a firm believer that — I'll leave it at this: you should always give more to life than you take. If you don't give, there ain't nothing left for nobody else."

There may be an upside amid the fear and hardship so many are currently experiencing, McKee-Zazo said, and that's the feeling of community that comes from people putting aside their differences and helping one another.

"That's what makes it feel like the days of AIDS — there was something dire going on, but it made everybody kind of coalesce and come together. If there's any positive side to this virus thing, it's just like people have stopped being mean," he said. "Everybody's doing their part, pitching in in some way. And that's what's good about this, anyway, in my opinion."

To reach Tim McKee-Zazo via Facebook Messenger visit [Tim M. Zazo here](#). Donations can be made via Cash App at [\\$TimothyMcKeeZazo](#).



# Hitting the Ground Running: Kevin Kresch Touts Unique Experience as Boon for House Rep. Race

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

It's been 20 years since Kevin Kresch first began to take notice of the political arena. Like many passions, the catalyst for its start wasn't especially unusual but the lasting effects have stayed with him to this day. It was during the 2000 presidential race that Kresch attended a rally for Debbie Stabenow, who was then running for her first term as a U.S. senator against Republican incumbent Spencer Abraham. A single afternoon had the teenaged Kresch "immediately hooked."

"And I had the Gore sign on my bedroom door and balloons from the rally and I had a calendar counting down to election day," he said. "And then, of course, there was that whole debacle with the recall. And I continued to come home from school every day and put the news on and watch."

From there, Kresch's interest only grew, and by the time he started to major in political science at Oakland University, he said it "felt natural." Today, the openly gay candidate is running as a Democrat for the 27th District

Michigan House seat. He took some time off from campaigning to catch BTL up on his goals if elected and some of his views on the hot-button issues of the day.



## Previous Experience

When asked why he feels qualified for this role over candidates, Kresch said that he feels his prior political experience gives him a unique edge. It started when he was majoring in political science at Oakland University.

"[In class] we had to do a mock campaign plan and act as if we were campaigning for a race that had happened in the previous cycle," Kresch said. "We picked [former state rep.] Lisa Brown's [2006 cycle] in my group. A friend of mine that I was hanging out with saw that we were doing this and said, 'Well, I know Lisa Brown and she's running again.' So I quickly met her and then started volunteering for the campaign."

Not only did Brown's campaign end up winning the primary but Kresch earned a job as a field director for "one of the most contested seats in the state."

"And really my focus was on constituent relations in her office. I spent the year there," Kresch said. "The reality is that you have six years and often there's a high learning curve, and by the time you sort of know what you're doing, you're almost already out the door. And I feel because I have that year in Lansing as a legislative aide and my legal education, I feel really ready to go to get up there and immediately be working."

He said that the relationship-building skills he learned during that job have followed him into his current profession as a lawyer and have only grown since. He added that his daily experience interpreting the law will only be a boon to the role, too.

"I think that's going to be really key to my success if I am so fortunate to get up there. But also, my ability to read the bills and understand the impact they're going to have, what this might look like in a court system — I feel it's the right kind of experience to bring," he said.

## Priority Issues

For most LGBTQ voters, expanding the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity protections is the highest priority issue when examining a candidate. Currently, a ballot initiative created

by Fair and Equal Michigan is seeking to put that expansion in the hands of voters. Although an equality-minded move, this initiative has stirred some controversy by LGBTQ leaders who have questioned the ability of this plan to be successful. When asked his thoughts on the initiative, Kresch said he was hesitant, too.

"As far as the ballot initiative, if we are able to successfully amend the constitution to include it, that would be awesome. But I have reservations. I always have concerns about letting the majority vote on the rights of the minority," he said. "And further, I'm concerned about what will be the campaign against that ballot initiative. We've seen it in other states, particularly the way they target the transgender community is troubling and a concern. And if it fails, we are in worse shape than we were before."

However, Kresch added that if the initiative does get the needed signatures to move forward with the vote, he will be as supportive as possible.

"I'll be out there making sure I do everything I can to get it passed, and if it doesn't then it forwards the opportunity to run and hopefully change some hearts and minds and realize this isn't an issue that we should even be

See **Kevin Kresch**, continued on p. 13

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# Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Activists Call for Stricter Prison Release Guidelines During COVID-19

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

As the novel coronavirus pandemic has spread across the world, the respiratory illness' hit to dense population areas has been especially devastating. And while rural areas are impacted, too, it's clear that maintaining ideal social distancing practices is vital to curb the disease's spread — something that's harder in populous areas.

"Keeping to more than one-meter distance between people coughing and sneezing, as recommended by the WHO, becomes more difficult with higher population-densities. Therefore, avoiding situations with higher population densities will be a necessary requirement to limit the spread of COVID-19," said a Swedish study from Umeå University.

But for populations of people who have to live in a communal setting like prisoners, that can be impossible.

"Only one sink has hot water, so we all line up tight to use it. We all eat together, four guys to a table. I don't have a cellmate right now and I'm trying to keep it that way, to keep a little distance," said Min Byung-Moon, an inmate in an Ontario prison. "There's no such thing as social distancing in here. That's not our reality."

And that lack of distancing has been the case outside of Canada, too. In the midwest, an Ohio prison has become one of the nation's hottest spots for the spread of COVID-19 and it's largely due to the unavoidable close contact inmates have with each other. And in Michigan, the state's Department of Corrections is facing a class-action lawsuit over the way it has handled the crisis. So far, of the roughly 37,000 prisoners, over 1,400 have been confirmed to have the virus and 41 have died in Michigan.

In an attempt to curb the virus's spread further, some states have taken to releasing prisoners early. Though that hasn't happened yet in Michigan, The Michigan Coalition to End

Domestic and Sexual Violence has warned that such an order could create dangerous situations for both former victims of such crimes and the general public.

"Our concern we have is that if we forget that perpetrators of domestic and sexual violence come in all age ranges and all health statuses and releasing somebody based on a health concern is the priority, we may be missing and losing track of the victim's safety and wellbeing through that," said MCEDSV Senior Program Director Erin Roberts. "And so, considering that even perpetrators of violence can be people who are physically unwell or may be older, they can still access and utilize power and control over their victims."

## Only 5,000 Eligible

And as it stands today, the Michigan Department of Corrections does not have an "early release" system in place, but it has

indeterminate sentencing, which means that most offenders are sentenced with both a minimum and maximum term. At the earliest possible release date, which is calculated by the court system, the Parole Board may deem an inmate eligible to be released "if the Board has a reasonable assurance the prisoner no longer poses a risk to the public."

"If the Parole Board does not parole the prisoner during their sentence, the prisoner will discharge from prison upon serving the maximum sentence. This date is called the Maximum Discharge," said the MDOC website. "Both dates are published on OTIS [Offender Tracking System] because both dates are very important to the prisoner's sentence. A prisoner may be paroled at any time between the minimum and maximum dates."

MDOC Public Information Officer Chris Gautz said that because of this policy, of the roughly 37,000 prisoners across Michigan, there are only 5,000 "who are technically eligible"



because only those who are aged 60 or older are being considered for release due to illness.

“And so, what we have started doing is we started cross-referencing them — the 5,000 — with prisoners over the age of 60 and/or who have medically compromised immune systems or have chronic care conditions — things like that — and we started looking again at those paroles,” Gautz said. “It’s hard to not use the term ‘early release,’ because these are prisoners who have served their minimum but there’s no such thing as ‘early release’ in Michigan prisons.”

Gautz added that normally, once someone is denied parole it takes a year before the Parole Board will examine the inmate’s case again. In light of COVID-19, many inmates’ cases are being looked at with health risks in mind.

“But we’re not releasing anyone that the board feels would be a danger to society. So, even if we find a 55-year-old prisoner who has cancer, we’re not going to release that person because based on those criteria they might be prone to get the virus,” he said. “We’re not going to release them if the board still feels like they would still be a danger and a harm to society if they were released because of whatever crimes they committed or whatever issues they were having.”

However, paroles have increased overall. During normal circumstances, Gautz said that there are roughly 140 paroles across Michigan. During the pandemic, there have been between 200 and 220 per week.

## An Imperfect System

Roberts said that as in-depth and lengthy as a Parole Board review may be, however, it’s clear that there are cases where paroled inmates have gone on to commit crimes against their former victims of violence. She cited an example case of MCEDSV’s Staff Attorney Heath Lowry.

“Spurred by COVID-19, the jail released the perpetrator for ‘time served,’ despite assurances to the contrary by the Sheriff’s office in the preceding days. The abuser was released seven weeks from the date of sentencing — he received a six-month sentence but served just a mere fraction of the limited justice my client received. He was not even able to complete the reformatory classes as required at sentencing,” Jordan said. “With the limited time served and limited access to reformatory resources, he poses a clear threat to my client’s safety. We are taking all steps possible to safety plan with her, but it would all be avoidable if meaningful and diligent review took place before release.”

MCEDSV Survivor Law Clinic Senior Program Manager Elinor Jordan also provided a statement calling it “negligent” to release inmates who still pose a threat to former domestic violence and sexual assault victims.

“In my client’s case, the abuser’s violent attack included an attempt to run her down with his vehicle, which she narrowly escaped with her life,” Jordan said. “At trial, the judge was dismayed by the unavailability to impose a

longer sentence, but the plea bargain between the prosecuting attorney and defense attorney reduced the crime to a domestic violence misdemeanor.”

When asked about the steps the Michigan Parole Board takes to secure a release, Gautz said that the process was lengthy and thorough and that each decision starts with a case-by-case examination in order to avoid as many instances of recidivism as possible.

“We don’t have a quota; we don’t have a number that we’re trying to hit. Every case is individual, because when you look at these cases that maybe say that they were convicted of a nonviolent assault but when we look at the actual file we can see that they just had a really good attorney or that maybe there was a plea deal because maybe the crime was actually very violent but they got it reduced down to a nonviolent sentence, we have to take all those things and actually look at the crisis and not what they were sentenced for,” Gautz said. “You have to take that into account.”

But the Parole Board can only do so much. Ultimately, a greater amount of effective inmate rehabilitation programs would offer longer-term solutions. Roberts said that she doesn’t have any advice for prisons and jails to implement programs like these because that’s not her specialty, but she makes the point that domestic violence shelters are suffering from many of the same COVID-19 overcrowding concerns as correctional facilities that could be temporarily exacerbated by more releases.

“That challenge right there is unique to this work in my lifetime here, and, certainly, in the movement to end domestic and sexual violence. We have shelters that were at capacity when COVID-19 came around, and that doesn’t mean six feet of social distance space in many shelters,” Roberts said. “So they’re already having to figure out very similar things, and what they’re not doing is sending victims out onto the streets.”

Gautz made sure to emphasize that each inmate who is released does not pose a public health threat and should not be “looked at with a scarlet letter” because of their health status.

“We’ve done everything we can to practice social distancing outside of the immediate living area. And so, just like when you go to the grocery store now, there’s likely markers showing you where six feet to stay apart is when you’re in line and things like that,” he said. “... We are also making sure that we are testing every person who comes out on parole for COVID-19 before they’re released, and if they test positive, we aren’t releasing them. We keep them with us for at least 14 days until they can be medically cleared and are past that contagious stage, so that we’re not just dumping people out because we don’t want them within our system. We are taking a very cautious approach so that we’re not spreading it out into the community.”



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## Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Editor's Note: This article originally ran in September of 2016.

### Five Arfs & a Who Cares? Purr

A federally funded study by People & Friends of Cats and Dogs (P-FCD) reports that “persons of rainbow personality make the best dog owners, but have little influence on cats, although this should not be misconstrued as homophobia on the part of America’s feline population.”

The P-FCD Study — “Are American Pets at Risk with Gay/Lesbian Owners?” — finds that “dogs owned by LGBTQ people are happier, better mannered, more likely to heel and to fetch than dogs reared by straights. They shed less — the dogs, not the heterosexuals — during summer months, and they do their gender sniffing and hydrant marking in a covert, more decorous manner.”

Interestingly, too, is the study’s finding that most breeds — with the exception of Pekingese, Chihuahuas and Dachshunds — show marked sporting instincts: catching Frisbees, treeing squirrels, chasing unmarked police cars and guarding unattended U-Hauls when raised by lesbians.

“Rottweilers, when dyke-raised, tend to be a one-owner breed. They are loyal to a fault. (The dogs, not the dykes.) Curiously, pitbulls become remarkably docile when trained by lipstick lesbian owners in suburban settings.

“Breeds raised by gay men seldom bark, or if they do, it’s barking in quieter tones, and they are less likely to eat ill-prepared dinner scraps or TV frozen dinner leftovers. They also show a preference for dog houses that are painted in warmer tones and edged with white lattice work. Collars are preferred with sequins and, in leather outings, studs or spikes.”

The old saying, “You can’t teach an old dog new tricks!” has been proven “to be utterly false and denigrating to aging canine populations. Old dogs — with gay owners as role models — are actually remarkably adept at doing new tricks.”

A big study disappointment is with finicky cat populations. It’s determined that cats raised by LGBTQ people are just as likely to be as independent as cats raised by straights.

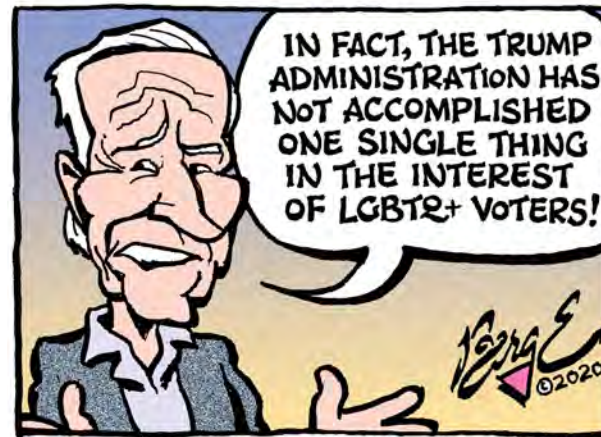
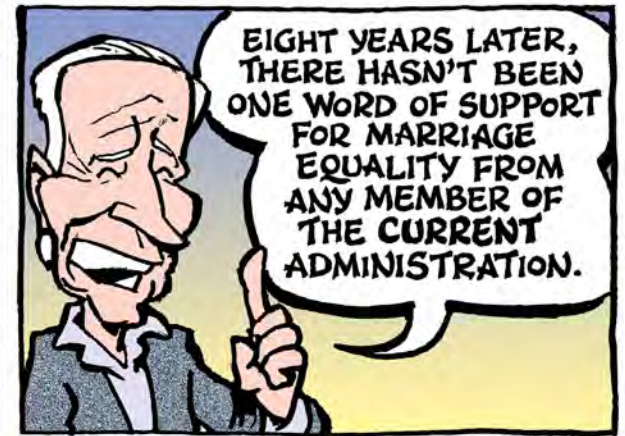
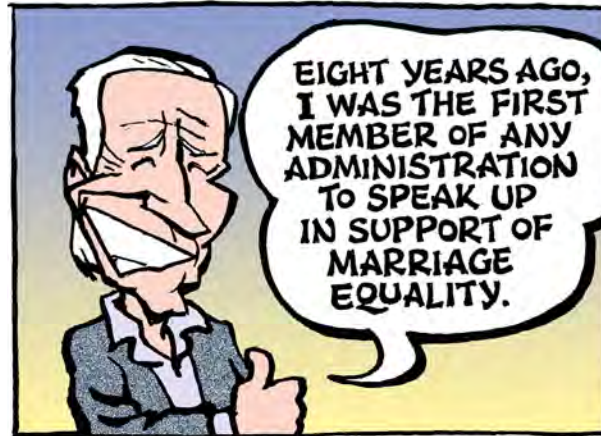
“The truth is that cats just don’t give a rat’s winkle if you’re straight or gay. If you feed them on time, they just couldn’t care less. And whatever you do, don’t smoke their catnip around them. And please leave their fur balls alone.”

There is a note of progress, however. For some reason “alley cats seem to live longer when kept by gay, single males. This applies whether neutered or not neutered.” (The cats, not the single males.)

Not everyone is pleased with the P-FCD findings. The Family Way, a right-wing, vigilante organization headquartered in Free-Fall, Montana, expresses outrage at the P-FCD in its monthly newsletter, “The Litter Box.” (Editorial correction: That should be Letter.)

“The Gay Agenda stops at nothing,” opines the editorial. “Not

Continued on next page



## Transmissions



BY GWENDOLYN ANN SMITH

### Trans Care, Trans Rights and COVID-19

I’ll admit: as I write this, I am quite out of sorts. Last week, a friend of mine died due to complications from COVID-19. Another friend’s mom passed of the virus. Yet a third friend of mine is presumed to have it, and I am most sincerely hoping that she will pull through.

This pandemic, as you can well imagine, is looming quite large in my psyche as I do my level best to keep both me and my partner safe, and I worry about so many others that I interact with on a day-to-day basis.

At the same time, I find myself wondering what could happen — perish the thought — I end up with COVID-19. How will I be treated by the medical professionals I encounter, and how will my treatment potentially differ because I am a trans woman?

It is quite common for transgender people to face discrimination in health care. While the Affordable Care Act specifically prohibits discrimination against transgender

people’s right to health care, it can and does still happen. We are refused treatment, we are treated as less than our peers and even in cases where our trans nature isn’t a factor, health care workers will often blame our transgender status for any health malady we face.

Add to this that most transgender people are living in poverty, making health care even more difficult to acquire. Further still, many face discrimination based on race, or over stigmas towards sex workers.

Right now, we are seeing increased numbers of positive COVID-19 cases among communities of color. While I can hardly claim any special knowledge, I cannot help but assume that the virus isn’t specifically choosing people by race, so much as those who aren’t being treated fairly simply have less avenues towards adequate care.

The National Transgender Discrimination Survey: Report on Health and Health Care, released jointly by the National

Continued on next page



## ► Transmissions

Continued from p. 14

Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality, found that one in five transgender or gender non-conforming people were refused health care, and 28 percent of those surveys faced harassment in medical settings.

Unsurprisingly, 28 percent also have reported delaying health care with sick or injured to avoid discrimination and disrespect from health care workers.

I have a list of minor maladies I would love to have a doctor check out some day. Various aches and pains, a wart or two, some dental work, and even a fairly unpleasant case of psoriasis. Yet I've made no appointments for any of this for months, even years, preferring to just deal with it all rather than face discrimination and harassment.

It's not a single bit healthy to put it off, especially as I get older and presumably require more care. Nevertheless, the expectation of poor treatment makes the alternative just a bit more appealing.

I'm clearly part of that 28 percent who is more than willing to delay matters — and yet, I know that this is not a good thing for me to do. All of this affects my quality of life, and it may shorten it.

In the case of COVID-19, however, we as a whole need to be testing and caring for all who may be affected. Aside from it being the humane and just thing to do, caring for all allows us to treat those who may be affected by the virus quicker and better.

All this said, the Trump Administration appears to disagree.

We all know that the executive branch has done just about everything wrong that they could. They delayed action for several critical weeks amid cries that the whole thing was a hoax that is “going to disappear” as soon as the weather warms up, then had more weeks of press briefings that were more about an oversized presidential ego than actually helping. Tests were not provided by the government, and valuable protective gear

was reportedly held, seemingly at ransom, by a president expecting people to say nice things about him to receive it.

This would hardly be the sort of environment that transgender people could expect a fair shake, but the story got worse this April, as the administration announced plans to roll back a vital regulation in the Health Care Rights Law — part of the aforementioned Affordable Care Act.

Yes, the very part I mentioned earlier, that protects transgender people from discrimination in health care and health insurance coverage.

It is part of the long-running attempt to destroy the Affordable Care Act, tinged with more than a little anti-LGBTQ sentiment. This all fits into a longstanding pattern of trying to remove transgender, gender non-conforming and general LGBTQ protections within this administration.

This move would be abhorrent at any time, but to do this in the midst of a global pandemic simply adds to the insult: at a time when tens of thousands of Americans have died due to COVID-19, this administration moves to bar more vulnerable people from the care that they need.

That all this is happening, too, as the Supreme Court of the United States prepares to potentially gut anti-discrimination protections for transgender people only adds another layer to it all.

The whole thing is the work of monsters in ill-fitting human suits.

I find myself, in a time when death has become an altogether too common acquaintance, enraged at this. I suppose I should not be surprised by it all, but there's just an extra layer of cruelty here. There's no attempt to hide this: the cruelty of it all is front and center.

Amid a pandemic, we need to continue, ever still, to protect our rights from those who seek to destroy us. It is that stark, that simple.

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*Gwen Smith doesn't even eat an apple a day. You can find her at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com).*

and eternal perdition. Heaven loves a cheerful benefactor.” How true!

Give a pup or kitten a loving home in 2016. Call the Michigan Humane Society today. Happy Arf! Mary Meow! And a Perverted Purr!

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*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](mailto:Charles@pridesource.com).*

## ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 14

only do they want special political rights, the right to marry and to adopt children, now they want to raise America's wagtail majority — our innocent dogs and cats — as same-sex, house-broken pets. Maybe a dry-blown, perfumed poodle or two, but not a born-again Boxer. Never!”

The editorial ends with the usual request for money in the “cultural war to save our four-footed friends from a life of pampering

# Creep Of The Week

## Republican Party

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

There is a lot to be worried about when it comes to the public health crisis we are currently in. The biggest worry is, of course, getting sick and dying. The second is getting someone else sick and killing them.

Or, at least, it is for most people. But there's a staunch bunch of morons who are fighting for the freedom to contract and spread a disease that has already killed nearly 80,000 people in the U.S. EIGHTY THOUSAND. That's a hell of a lot more than Trump promised us a couple of months ago. Remember when he said it would be just a handful of cases? That he had it all under control?

Well, he didn't. And doesn't. And so, the greatest health crisis this country has faced in my lifetime is being contended with state by state. And not every state has people in charge with brains. That means that Trump's “States Are On Their Own” non-plan is a super terrible strategy.

And so, states that have Democratic governors, like my home state of Michigan, are much more likely to have some measures in place to keep people safe and alive.

But that, my friends, is tyranny! Or at least that's what the people protesting efforts to keep them from getting sick and dying believe.

The protests are supposed to appear like a grassroots movement, but they aren't. In Michigan, for example, protests started with backing from the Michigan Conservative Coalition and the Michigan Freedom Fund, right-wing conservative organizations backed by the DeVos family. As in Betsy DeVos. You know, the woman Trump hired to supposedly be in charge of education in this country. The one who hates transgender kids? That one.

The protesters also like swastikas, Confederate flags, guns and Trump.

On Mothers' Day — and, yes, that's where the apostrophe goes in my family — I went for a walk and as I passed the nursing home on the corner I saw the windows had signs with black numbers written on them facing outward. For a moment I didn't understand what I was seeing. Then I realized: those are room numbers. So people can come up to the windows and “visit.”

My own mother came by my house clad in her mask to drop off a cake she'd made for me and my wife as a Mothers' Day present. When she comes by now she knocks not on the door, but on our large front window, and it never fails to scare the daylight out of me to look up and see this frantic masked woman on my porch.

So to everyone who refusing to wear a mask and demanding their right to go back to business as usual, I say [swear words]. Seriously. You know, “I would kill for a haircut” is supposed to be hyperbolic, not an ideology.

**In Michigan, for example, protests started with backing from the Michigan Conservative Coalition and the Michigan Freedom Fund, right-wing conservative organizations backed by the DeVos family. As in Betsy DeVos. You know, the woman Trump hired to supposedly be in charge of education in this country. The one who hates transgender kids? That one. The protesters also like swastikas, Confederate flags, guns and Trump.**

EIGHTY THOUSAND people in this country are dead. And Trump is complaining that testing, which is absolutely crucial to reopen the country, makes us look bad.

“If we did very little testing, we wouldn't have the most cases. So, in a way, by doing all of this testing, we make ourselves look bad,” he said out loud to reporters.

A couple things: First, we actually don't do much testing compared to other countries. Secondly, not testing is what actually makes us look bad. If we stop testing, the number of cases being verified might go down, but the number of dead will continue to go up.

And the Republican Party's response to all of this dead is, “More death, please!” It's astounding to me that any Republican can claim they are a pro-life party while at the same time telling their constituents to just go out on the town to show this virus who is boss.

A word to the unwise: the virus is boss. With no vaccine, no cure and still very limited testing, humans are not in charge here. And, unfortunately, the dumbest humans in the country are often the loudest. And Trump is loudest of them all.

I heard a commentator somewhere say that COVID-19 is the first time a health crisis has been politicized. This is, of course, not true. AIDS was made a political rather than a public health issue by Republican leaders because the people who were dying were by and large gay men. And now Republican leaders are doing it again because so many COVID deaths have been people of color. It's a shame how little we learn from mass death in this country.

Stay home if you can. Stay safe. Stop voting for Republicans.



# Transgender Michigan Helpline Continues to Take Calls Amid Pandemic

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Rachel Crandall-Crocker is a licensed master social worker and the executive director of Transgender Michigan. In addition, she's the primary volunteer for the Transgender Michigan Helpline. She explained its function and that it serves a vital role in the transgender community, now more than ever.

"The helpline has been in existence for over 20 years," Crandall-Crocker said. "It is exclusively a trans helpline. We get calls from people wanting to come out and we get calls from professionals. And lately, we've been getting calls from people regarding being alone and isolated as a result of COVID[-19]."

"A lot of people in my community were so alone and isolated already," she continued. "Then all of a sudden, they're isolated completely alone."

She mentioned that she talked to one individual who hadn't talked live to another person for over a month.

As a psychotherapist with 40 years of helpline experience, Crandall-Crocker is well qualified for this work. Still, it's intended to be available 24/7.

"We have one other transgender person who has an awful lot of experience; however, I take the majority of calls," Crandall-Crocker said.

Although they may miss a call occasionally, Crandall-Crocker said they try to always be at the ready. She also stressed that it's not a suicide hotline.

"I'd like to add that we are a helpline," Crandall-Crocker said. "It's OK if people have an issue and they just want to talk about it. There are some lines that are specifically suicide intervention. That's not what we are. We are a helpline. If someone is real lonely, it's OK that they call."

## Strengthening Visibility for Women of Color Digital Event May 14

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Had the novel coronavirus pandemic not come to pass, this March five female Detroit activists would have attended the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women to talk about women's equality. Their event was to be a parallel event panel discussion titled "Promising Practices for Beijing+25: Strengthening Visibility for Women of Color," but just because it was canceled does not mean the message will not be heard. On Thursday, May 14, at 2 p.m. a digital Zoom event will be held in lieu of a physical panel.

"This is really our opportunity to be a part of that global conversation and it's connecting the local and global together. And I'm very excited. It's a wonderful opportunity, I believe, for all of us," said London Bell, panelist and founder and president of the Bell Global Justice Institute in a previous BTL piece. "I am particularly excited to be able to gather such a dynamic group of women who are incredibly busy, who have expertise [in their fields]; I'm excited for all of us to be there."

Also in attendance will be Deputy Director of the Ruth Ellis Center Pamela E. Alexander, REC Program manager at The Center for Lesbian and Queer Women & Girls at the Kofi House Kathie Griffin-Futch, Founder of the On My Detroit Everything Movement Deidre "D.S.SENSE" Smith and Founder of For the Love Of H.E.R. Famika Edmond.

To learn more about the event, its panelists and to register go online to [gaybe.am/7r](http://gaybe.am/7r).

# 'Stay Home, Stay Well' Initiative Aims to Address Mental Health Challenges During Pandemic

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

Stress from the stay-at-home order, growing fears of the unknown about one's livelihood or life itself — those are just some of the reasons the coronavirus pandemic is taking a toll on the emotional well-being of countless Michiganders. For that reason, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is promoting several easy-to-access resources that are designed to assist those in distress, which are all part of the state's "Stay Home, Stay Well" initiative. And while these resources aren't LGBTQ-specific, they are suitable for anyone dealing with mental health concerns as a result of, or exacerbated by, the pandemic and have staff trained to point individuals to other, more appropriate options if needed. Information about one such resource, the Transgender Michigan helpline, can be found at [transgendermichigan.org](http://transgendermichigan.org).

## Peer-Run Warmlines

Warmlines, in contrast to psychiatric hotlines, are designed to provide early intervention with peer specialists and avoid severe emotional distress that can lead to tragic outcomes. Individuals are connected with certified peer support specialists who have lived experiences of behavioral health issues, trauma or personal crises, and are trained to support and empower the callers. Dr. Debra Pinals, psychiatrist and MDHHS medical director for behavioral health, explained that the warmline is meant for people with mental health issues that pre-date the pandemic, such as depression, anxiety or a substance use disorder.

"The peers do what's called active listening for the most part in terms of their calls, where they would just talk to the person about what's going on for them and how that's a challenge," Pinals said. "In [a] scenario where they're saying they haven't seen their therapist they might direct them to resources to help them access more support and care."

Because of their lived experience, the peer professionals are trained to help others on their journeys of recovery from mental health and substance use conditions, Pinals explained. They are able to identify what type of response is needed in any given situation, be that support, help with wellness and coping skills or finding additional resources. And if a real crisis emerges where the person expresses suicidal thinking or other serious mental health concerns,

they would then be referred to other call centers that handle crisis calls.

Since the warmline was rolled out April 13, well over 2,000 Michiganders have received assistance. It operates seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. at 888-PEER-753 (888-733-7753).

## Crisis Text Line

To accommodate those who prefer to communicate via text for privacy or for any reason, Michigan residents are now able to have a confidential conversation with a crisis counselor by texting the keyword RESTORE to 741741. The text line is provided by Crisis Text Line, an organization established in 2013 that provides this type of support worldwide.

Trained counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to texts from Michigan residents who are facing a mental health crisis — everything from anxiety and financial issues to suicide and domestic violence. While the text line is starting during the pandemic, MDHHS intends to continue offering the service in the future.

"We on the back end are able to understand the types of texts that are coming through from people in Michigan in terms of level of distress and information that they're seeking," Pinals said. "The crisis text responder... will both be able to link them to national databases including databases in Michigan to show them where there's resources as well as help provide us at the state information about the nature of the texts that are coming through, in a global sense." None of the personal information is identifiable, she emphasized; it only serves to identify broad trends to better understand the needs of residents of the state.

## Headspace

Headspace is a global leader in mindfulness and meditation; many know of it as the first meditation app and available by paid subscription. Now, Michigan has partnered with Headspace to give residents free access to a curated selection of evidence-based guided meditations along with at-home workouts that guide people through mindful exercises. Sleep and kids' content is available, too.

"The app emphasizes these mindfulness exercises and helps people walk through guided meditation-like thinking, shorter or longer, Pinals said. "There's exercises you can do in the morning and exercises

you can do at night...to help you sleep. There is data that looks at mindfulness as a way of helping people relax, helping people deal with some anxiety symptoms, and this Headspace kind of operationalizes exercises to help people utilize mindfulness."

## Problem Gambling Help

Due to social distancing protocols, casinos are temporarily shuttered. And with decreased access to gambling, stress and anxiety can increase the urge to gamble for someone who struggles with a gambling addiction. Because the lottery, online gaming and sports betting remain concerns, those who head up the Michigan Problem Gambling Helpline want community members to know there is always help for anyone trying to manage urges to gamble.

Trained and experienced counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by phone or virtually to provide immediate help to address issues related to gambling disorder, including screening services and referrals to treatment or support groups. Call 800-270-7117 for crisis intervention and referral to treatment.

## National Resources

If you are thinking of taking your life, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24/7 at 1-800-273-8255, or text TALK to 741741. For more information visit [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org). For those who are deaf or hard of hearing, a video relay service is available. Call 1-800-273-8255 (TTY 1-800-799-4889).

The National Disaster Distress Helpline is intended for those experiencing emotional distress due to COVID-19-related issues. Individuals may call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-800-985-5950 or text the keyword TALKWITHUS to 66746.

For those seeking mental health assistance in their own communities, dial 211 or visit the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan directory at [cmham.org/membership/cmhsp-directory/](http://cmham.org/membership/cmhsp-directory/). All of the above Stay Home, Stay Well resources can be found here.

Read a recent interview with local LGBTQ mental health professional Dr. Joe Kort on our site at [pridesource.com](http://pridesource.com) about maintaining emotional health while social distancing.



# Whitmer Signs Executive Order Ensuring Equitable Access to Health Care During Pandemic

BY BTL STAFF

LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer today signed Executive Order 2020-64, which reaffirms the state's commitment to equitable access to health care, and requires health care facilities to develop protocols that ensure non-discrimination in the event demands for critical health care resources exceed availability.

"Michigan has one of the finest health care systems in the country, and our medical professionals are performing heroically under trying circumstances. But the unprecedented challenges posed by this pandemic have created a heightened need for clear, transparent protocols based on a common understanding of core values, including equitable access to care," Whitmer said. "Everyone, no matter who they are, deserves access to quality, affordable health care, especially during a pandemic. This executive order helps ensure all individuals, no matter their circumstances, have equitable access to these critical resources as we continue to fight this deadly disease."

The order affirms the right to receive medical care without discrimination based on stereotypes, assessments of the quality of life, or judgments about a person's relative "worth" based on the presence of disabilities or other factors. It also requires all health care providers to take steps to ensure non-discrimination and support individuals' functional needs to the

fullest extent possible.

Under the order, designated health care facilities must also:

Develop patient care protocols for when demand exceeds the availability of resources that prohibit discriminatory decision-making based on a number of factors. These protocols must be based on the best available medical evidence.

Provide sign language interpreters if requested, and provide interpreters with appropriate personal protective equipment.

Coordinate and share information about the availability of resources and the ability to transfer patients with the state Department of Health and Human Services.

Post protocols online and provide them upon request.

The requirement to develop these protocols that guide decision-making applies to hospitals and entities used as surge capacity for one or more hospitals.

The order is effective immediately, and it continues until Michigan's emergency and disaster declarations are lifted.

*Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly. The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](http://Michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](http://CDC.gov/Coronavirus). To view executive order 2020-64, visit [gaybe.am/Wt](http://gaybe.am/Wt).*

## ► Kevin Kresch

Continued from p. 7

considering, it should just be done," he said.

Kresch also emphasized that he would work to expunge the records of those people who have been convicted on nonviolent marijuana-related crimes.

"I am so glad that we have ended the prohibition of marijuana, and there's a great example of putting things on the ballot can create positive change," he said. "... [But] it's hypocritical for us to walk into a building and purchase marijuana when there are people who have that on their record and are still in jail for doing that very same thing."

On what could be considered the opposite end of that spectrum, Kresch said that he will focus on ending Michigan's drug industry immunity rule. It prohibits citizens from having a legal avenue within the civil litigation system to fight pharmaceutical companies if necessary. Lastly, he plans to work to repeal the senior retirement tax.

"It's just another example of having to take care of our most vulnerable. Our seniors, in a lot of cases, are our most vulnerable," he said. "... We have not seen Lansing balancing the budget for the rights of seniors and children and municipalities to get these tax breaks. ... So

those things work hand in hand, the expunging records and fighting for immunity."

## Securing Representation

Beyond specific campaign issues, Kresch also feels strongly about creating a government that highlights representation and inclusivity. He said that this House seat will provide the opportunity for him to do that, and in particular, to fight for transgender rights.

"One thing that I'm really, really passionate about is obviously the whole gamut of LGBT issues and having representation, but also being a big supporter of the transgender community. They're the first to get attacked and the last to get defended. And I think it's important that a voice up there [is LGBT] and an active member of the LGBT community," he said. "We currently only have two LGBT people in the state house, one of whom is term-limited — Jon Hoadley — I'm hoping to fill that and be his replacement. I know it's not for the same seat and he's a giant on his own, but I think that representation matters and me being up there and being a strong voice for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender, queer, questioning — the whole gamut."

*To find out more about Kevin Kresch, his district and stances visit [votekresch.com](http://votekresch.com).*

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# HRC Rolls Out Support for Biden on Anniversary of Marriage Endorsement

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

The nation's leading LGBTQ group has officially thrown its support behind Joseph Biden in the presidential election, drawing on the anniversary of his famous words in support of same-sex marriage on "Meet the Press" to make the case the candidate should unseat President Trump.

Alphonso David, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said Tuesday night in an interview with the Washington Blade that the board of directors voted unanimously to endorse Biden after an extensive review, which concluded the candidate had a commitment to LGBTQ people and other minority communities.

"We reviewed his record on marginalized communities," David said. "We reviewed his prior comments on LGBTQ issues as well as issues that affect people who bring intersectional identities to the table. As an example, I'm black, I'm gay, I'm an immigrant. All of those issues are for me and they happen to be for the Human Rights Campaign."

The announcement of the endorsement was timed to coincide with the eighth anniversary of Biden coming out in favor of marriage equality on "Meet the Press," which helped bring a once contentious idea into the mainstream and preceded former President Barack Obama's own endorsement three days later.

The Human Rights Campaign, unlike in 2016, during this election cycle had stayed out of the Democratic presidential primary. Even before Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) dropped out, making Biden the presumptive Democratic nominee, David said the Human Rights Campaign had been reviewing Biden along with other candidates and had planned "a few days and weeks" to make the endorsement announcement on May 6.

"We thought it would be most appropriate — both from a symbolic perspective, but also substantively — to make the endorsement and we made the decision that May 6 was the right date," David said. "It reminds us where we were several years ago, when same-sex couples could not marry in so many states in the country. And Joe Biden stood up, and was very vocal about his support of LGBTQ equality and that really changed the public discourse."

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his support of LGBTQ equality and that really changed the public discourse."

## David: Tara Reade allegations should be 'fully evaluated'

The endorsement also comes amid the emergence of sexual misconduct allegations against Biden from Tara Reade, a former staffer who worked for him when he was a senator in the 1990s.

The allegations have been picking up steam in the media and the public. A survey from POLITICO/Morning Consult— conducted in the days after Biden appeared on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" Friday to deny the charges personally for the first time — found 28 percent of Democrats "definitely" or "probably" favor replacing Biden with another nominee to take on Trump.

David struck a middle ground when asked if he believes Biden in his denial, underscoring the importance of listening to survivors who have made their voices heard in the "Me Too" movement.

"It is absolutely critical that we listen to

survivors, who for a long time, had to have their voices dismissed," David said. "Survivors should be heard, survivors should be listened to, taken seriously, treated with respect and dignity. And when these allegations came forward and allegations like these come forward, we need to make sure that they're fully evaluated — and I believe that is happening right now."

At the same time, David emphasized the importance of electing a candidate to unseat

Trump in the upcoming election.

"We cannot afford for LGBTQ voices to be marginalized in this election. We have six months, we cannot afford for Donald Trump to win this election in November, and every day his administration, as you know, rolls back our rights, and another queer kid contemplates suicide, another black trans woman is killed," David said. "So this election is life or death for us in our community and we chose to fight for our lives."

One distinction between the current presidential election and previous years is the contest is taking place amid the global pandemic of COVID-19, which makes grassroots organizing — traditionally a get-out-the-vote and door-knocking effort — difficult to say the least.

David, however, said the Human Rights Campaign will rise to the challenge with a focus on digital organizing as opposed to traditional methods.

Among other things, David said efforts will include use of the Team app to coordinate via text messages, Facebook Messenger, Instagram and Twitter, which he said is "nine times more effective than traditional door-to-

door knocking where you're engaging with strangers." Other efforts, David said, are phone banking and volunteer opportunities at virtual or remote events.

"We are actively and aggressively, doing political organizing virtually because we understand that COVID-19 has changed the way we live, it's changed the way we work, and it's changing political organizing as well," David said.

The Human Rights Campaign also launches its plan to elect Biden one week after confirming it had laid off 22 employees due to the coronavirus.

David, however, said that was the result of adjustments after initial projected growth for the organization and won't impact their work in the presidential election.

"In fact, we're going to be more effective because we have been planning and building a virtual network, which is why we're prepared to launch the Team, app, which is why we have community hub, which is why we're able to do virtual training, because the Human Rights Campaign is actually invested in this virtual infrastructure," David said. "But it's not going to affect our

political work."

The election of Biden to the White House, David said, would be a key victory for LGBTQ people hungry for change after four years of Trump.

"In addition to interacting with someone who's sane and rational, and not abusive, and not dismissive of LGBTQ people, I think we would have a president who understands and values LGBTQ people at its very basic level, someone who understands us and values us as human beings, understands the value that we bring to the table provides us with the dignity that we are hiding," David said. "And that is what we would expect of any human being but we would expect this of Joe Biden, and he's shown us time and time again that not only does he respect us, but he's going to make sure he protects and supports LGBTQ people."

The Washington Blade has placed a request with the Biden campaign seeking comment on the Human Rights Campaign endorsement.

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



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# A Comeback in Quarantine

## Patti LuPone Dishes on 'Hollywood'

Photos: Netflix

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

In Ryan Murphy's "Hollywood," the wife becomes the boss, the "black screenwriter" is simply a screenwriter, and the gay leading man is just himself. Naturally, it stars Broadway icon Patti LuPone, who, in conversations like the one we had recently, thrives on brazen authenticity.

In the seven-episode Netflix series, LuPone portrays Avis Amberg, the wife of a studio head whose work is relegated to the kitchen. But not for long, thanks to Murphy's 1940s corrective where power dynamics shift in favor of the underdogs and outsiders in this alternate reality, a fantasy depiction of Tinseltown's Golden Age reimagined as diverse, inclusive and unabashedly queer.

That LuPone, 71, portrays a grand Hollywood dame and housewife-turned-studio head – in, of course, only the most glam fur-fringed couture – should be no surprise given how she's been commanding the stage through a variety of extravagant personas for a half century. In 1979, as Eva Perón, she won her first Tony for "Evita"; her second win came in 2008, for her portrayal of Rose in "Gypsy." She's also been

nominated for roles in "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street," "War Paint," "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" and "Anything Goes."

On Broadway is where she was throwing back martinis in Stephen Sondheim's 1970 musical "Company," as Joanne, until the pandemic lockdown forced theaters to shut down.

Now quarantined in rural Connecticut with her husband, Matthew Johnston, and son Josh, LuPone has been doling out delicious bits on social media. In one video she posted to Twitter, she channeled Norma Desmond in "Sunset Boulevard," making a dramatic entrance from her basement steps (when Glenn Close got the role for the Broadway run of the show in 1994, LuPone said she reacted by trashing a dressing room). Other at-home videos of LuPone involve her giving aptly chaotic, hungover tours of her treasure-filled basement.

When we connect via phone, I tell LuPone that she might actually be happy that, for once, this conversation is occurring between phone lines, not on Zoom. "You're right," she says, roaring with laughter. "It really is the Brady Bunch."

**Do you have any more basement videos in the works?**

My problem right now is focus and structure. If I don't do something in the morning, I'm in bed till 4:30 in the afternoon. So my kid – we've come up with a couple more. We just have to get down to it. We have to get up in the morning and go, "OK, now we're gonna do the video." We have two plans. So we'll see.

The problem, Chris, is it has to be spontaneous. It's the only way it's funny. The day after my birthday when I was so hungover I went, half-asleep, (slurring, drowsy) "Let's ... go ... make ... a ... video, I'm ... re-a-dy." (Laughs.)

**If it weren't for COVID, you'd be throwing back martinis on Broadway in "Company." So I'm happy to hear you're still throwing back martinis – or something!**

Well, last night we had frozen strawberry daiquiris, but that was really the first time, because I was texting with a friend of mine and she said, "Go have a daiquiri," and I went, "You know what? That sounds like a good idea." And we seem to have all the fixings for it! So my kid made daiquiris for my husband,

himself and me. Then I had red wine, which wasn't too smart. What I'm drinking a lot of right now is red wine. And I'm just trying ... you know it's really easy to let yourself go!

**Have you completely let yourself go?**

No! No! I'm holding it together. I have to! (Laughs.) Years ago a friend of mine, when he was on unemployment, I said, "What are you doing, Tony?" He said I'm preparing for my comeback! So, Chris, I'm prepping my comeback!

**You made me teary when you recently sang "Anyone Can Whistle" for Stephen Sondheim's virtual 90th birthday party. Do you like performing virtually?**

What was difficult about it was the technical aspect. My kid was filming it and I had one AirPod in and I'm going, "I can't really hear," and then my kid said, "You're pitchy," and I was like, "WHAT DO YOU MEAN I'M PITCHY. I'm NEVER pitchy!"

There's always the fear that, you know, you're gonna sound like shit. And Stephen's thanking everybody who partook, and I wrote him back and I said, "The rub is that we



all wish we could've done better." It's true. I'm sure everybody thought, "Damn, if only I was in costume and makeup and on the stage at the Philharmonic with a full orchestra behind me."

**You were singing "The Ladies Who Lunch" in "Company," which Meryl Streep, Christine Baranski and Audra McDonald performed during that same birthday celebration. What did you think of their version?**

(Explodes into a thunderous, dragged out cackle.) When it was over, I went, "I'll never be able to sing 'Ladies Who Lunch' again!"

**Yeah? Because they set the bar?**

No. I don't think they set the bar – I think they trashed the number!

**They set the bar for trashing the number?**

Yeah, exactly! That's what I think! I mean, I say that with great humor, but I'm not going to be able to sing it without thinking of them doing it. (Laughs.) This is all joke, by the way! This is all humor!

**Let's talk about "Hollywood." Does it feel good to be part of a project that's beaming with hopefulness in a time when hope seems harder and harder to find?**

Yes, yes, yes. And I hope that is translated across the board. It's hard. It's really, really hard. I mean, I'm having a hard time. We all are. I'm not unique. And my problem is, I don't know who to believe anymore. I'm so confused by what everybody's saying. It's just ... I just ... ahh. And you can't stick your head in the sand because any minute now we'll be "hi Hitler"-ing (President Trump). So I'm just really confused. I'm confused, I'm lost.

**So how do you keep your mind straight? By drinking strawberry daiquiris?**

(Laughs.) How do I keep my mind straight? That's the question! Because my problem has been structure, and I'm the kind of person that goes, "OK, you have to be on the set or you have to be at the theater – OK, great. I know what my schedule is." But without a schedule, I'm lost. I'm going, "I don't know what to do." I guess I am my work.

**For structure, what's the first thing you do in the morning?**

I started working out remotely with my trainer. Just to do something, just to feel like something is done. And then as soon as the weather gets really nice I'm gonna walk up our road, which is part of a mountain, and walk back down. And I have shows coming up, unless they're going to be canceled, in January. I haven't done them in a while, so what I started to do, because the weather still isn't that great where I am right now, I'm listening to the shows that I have to sing in January, just to remember them. I haven't sung them in a while. Then I'll feel like I've accomplished something in the day and it hasn't been – this is our lives! And our lives

are being wasted! Not that work is the only thing, but if we can't figure out what to do in the time that we have been given, that's pathetic! It's a blessing, really!

**If you were running Hollywood right now, what changes would you make?**

I would listen to the artists, I would listen to the writers. And I would not greenlight pictures because of statistics. I would ignore the statistics, and I would greenlight films and television shows that I thought were going to be beneficial for education and for parents as opposed to, "Well, that was a big hit; let's make 9,000 more of those Marvel comics."

**Would you let them make another "Mamma Mia!" movie?**

(Deliberates, speaks flatly, deadpans.) No.

**We don't need a third?**

I hate ABBA. I have *always* hated ABBA. I will not go see "Mamma Mia!" because I hate ABBA. And I've hated ABBA since I was a kid, because I'm a closet rocker; when ABBA came out, I went, "Oh, you've got to be kidding." My favorite band is The Band, and so if you're a rocker, and if you're a rocker and The Band is your favorite band and ABBA comes along, there's no way. And so I don't support ABBA at all.

**So you haven't even seen the "Mamma Mia!" movies?**

No. Can't support ABBA!

**Is "Hollywood" the gayest thing you've ever been a part of?**

Is it? Let me think.

**Consider that pool party scene – all those naked men, penises hanging out.**

Yeah! And the thing that was kind of distressing to me when I was shooting it was: Why am I going home?! Why is Avis going home?!

**Yeah. Why doesn't Avis get to go to the party?**

(Feigns weeping.) Why couldn't she just sit there and ogle the penises? No. I go home early.

**Didn't you talk to Ryan about that?**

Trust me, I thought about that. But no, I didn't. That was in the script and I went, "OK, I gotta leave the party." But I'm trying to think – is that the gayest thing? Maybe it is. I'm trying to think of anything I've done. I can't remember anything that I do and that I've done. Maybe. I don't know.

**That party that Avis doesn't get to go to – have you ever gone to an industry party like that in your life?**

No. I mean, I've gone to pool parties with tons of Broadway dancers who were gay, but they kept their clothes on.

See LuPone, continued on p. 18

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## ► LuPone

Continued from p. 17

### That seems less fun.

Well, their bodies were incredible to look at, but they were all clothed. Well, *barely* clothed! Everybody had a speedo on!

### If someone decides to reimagine your life in 70 years, what parts of it would you ask that they keep factually intact and which parts would you allow them to reimagine?

All of it! I think they should keep it all factually intact! It's been a rebellious life. And it's been interesting. I hope it's not over – the rebellion part, and the interesting part. No – they don't have to reimagine anything. It's been a lot of fun.

### You've turned down diva roles in the past, like one that Ryan offered you on "Glee." Avis does have some diva qualities, though. What about her divaness made you say yes to playing her?

I hadn't read any scripts when Ryan pitched it to me. All Ryan said was that I was going to be the wife of a studio head and I would inherit the studio and make movies for gays, minorities and women. That's all he told me. But Ryan is such a champion, and I'm not offered a lot of roles, and I'm not going to turn down Ryan or a role that he offers me. He expanded the role for me in the process, and of course it's the most stunning era for women. Every time I would go to a costume fitting I was reeling with delight because the stuff was stunning. You feel so glamorous in that time period. I felt really, really glamorous, and I'm just thrilled.

I'll tell you, even though I knew from a very early age that I was born for the Broadway musical stage, I was one of those kids who wanted to go to Hollywood and be a movie star. Who doesn't? If you're in the business, who doesn't want to be a movie star, especially when you go to a movie theater and see your idols up on the silver screen? When I was 12, I saw Disney's "Swiss Family Robinson" with Tommy Kirk and marched out of that movie theater determined to go to Hollywood and be his leading lady. At 12!

### To be challenging the patriarchy like Avis does – was that cathartic for you?

Yeah, I think so. Any time a woman gets to push back on any kind of male authority, it's cathartic. Push back *and* succeed. But I seem to have done that all my life, just in life, and then in my career. But I've always kind of pushed back because authority needs to be explained to me. I need to understand, "Why do you have authority? If it's something you want me to do as a human being, I'll do it; but if you are authoritarian about it, I need to understand why."

### When in your career have you felt slighted or like you didn't get what you deserved because you're a woman?

Hmm. A lot of times. I would say the majority of my career – not necessarily on the musical stage. You know, I think I got what I deserve as far as roles are concerned. I think I've had a varied career. But in the development of them, I think that I've been stifled because I was a woman. The opinion that you have is not valued because you're a woman. That kind of stuff. I've always questioned authority and I've always spoken up for what I perceived as injustice. Always. I think it's just in my DNA. That's just how I thought. And it has nothing to do with being a woman or a man – it has to do with me being Patti.

### It was different to watch you have that rough sex scene with actor David Corenswet because I was like, "Oh, wait – we don't typically see this." We don't get to see a woman over 50 go at it in full view like you two do.

Yeah!



*"I think that I've been stifled because I was a woman. The opinion that you have is not valued because you're a woman. That kind of stuff. I've always questioned authority and I've always spoken up for what I perceived as injustice. Always. I think it's just in my DNA. That's just how I thought. And it has nothing to do with being a woman or a man – it has to do with me being Patti."*

### Did you relish that moment because for whatever stupid reason it's still so rare to see that onscreen?

Yep, are you kidding? Gimme more Gina, as they say! I had a sex scene with Dylan McDermott that was rougher but that was cut! Yeah. That was sad. (Laughs.)

### What advice did the intimacy coach give you? How does that even work?

He was a great guy. And he was always there to make us comfortable. I don't know what other intimacy coaches do, but I don't think I need an intimacy coach. I think I know what I'm doing. I'm certainly not uncomfortable, and if I was uncomfortable, I would talk to the director or the actor I was working with. As long as the coaches don't interfere with acting, I'm fine with them. But if they start to interpret for us, then I'm not happy.

### As we near the upcoming presidential election, I was curious: What advice do you have for LGBTQ people who struggle with the fact that some of their family members are still supporting and voting for Trump?

Oh, I'm having a real hard time with that, Chris. I don't have family members necessarily that I discuss it with, so I don't know if they do. But I have close friends and I actually had to cut one loose. It's heartbreaking. But I'm thinking of my own mental health and I'm not going to get into an argument with anybody about that Piece. Of. Shit. I'm just not. I can't. I have very dear friends; they're Republicans; it's really hard. It's really hard to talk to people. I don't even *want* to talk to these people.

*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.*



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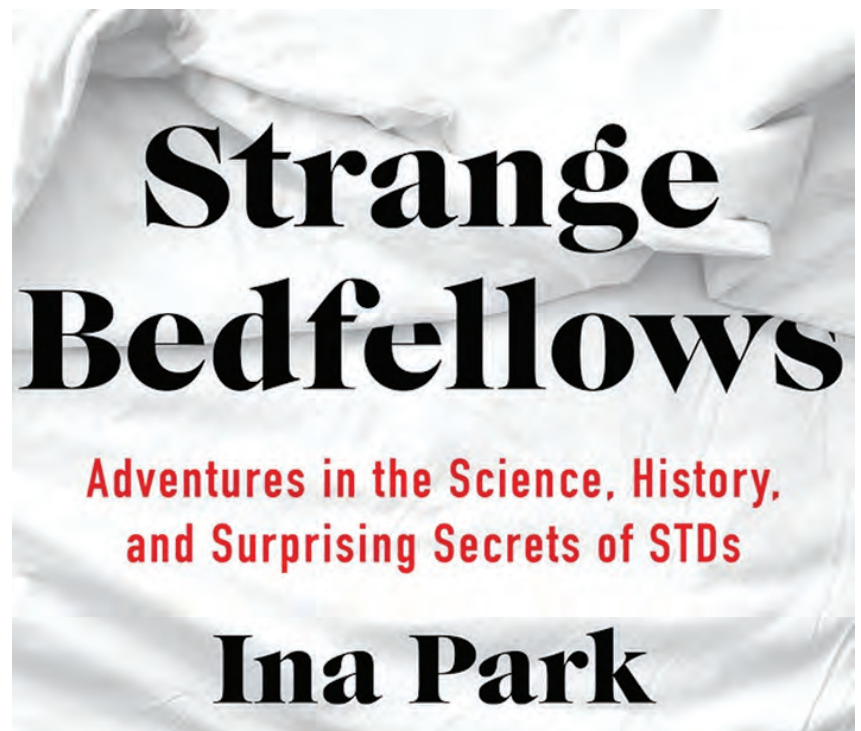
## Review: 'Strange Bedfellows' by Ina Park

BY JONATHAN W. THURSTON

As someone living with HIV in their 20s, I find myself constantly intrigued by books on STIs. I've read "And the Band Played On" and "On Borrowed Time," but there really hasn't been any larger cultural study of STIs in general, much less a comprehensive history of them. That is, until Ina Park's "Strange Bedfellows" came along. I received an advance reviewer's copy from Flatiron Books, and the book is slated for release this fall!

As Park says in the introduction to her book, "having sex is much easier than talking about sex, especially its least pleasant consequences." This rang particularly true for me: before Michigan changed its disclosure laws at least, I was required by law to disclose my HIV status to all sexual partners, even though I was undetectable and could not spread HIV. And that is never a pleasant talk, as Park says. So, Park acknowledges the core challenge of her book: how can we talk about STIs in such a way that doesn't just generate what she calls the "ick" factor? Her answer? "[S]torytelling, science and humor."

Each of the chapters of the book focuses on a different STI or STI phenomenon. We see talk about herpes, HPV, "sex detectives," and of course HIV, the chapter I'm focusing on in this review. Park's main chapter on HIV closely examines PrEP. As she tracks the mythos of "Truvada Whores," the derogatory term for people on PrEP believed to be overly sexually active because of that protection, she



looks back to when HIV really became an epidemic in the '80s and moves to show how far medicine really has come. Then, she shows some of the common debates about PrEP and what the future looks like for it.

What I love about this chapter is the way that Park flows so fluidly between scientific facts and statistics, personal and intimate anecdotes, and histories of social movements. She even gets into the U=U campaign toward the end of the chapter. For people looking to study and

write about STIs, it is a frequent instinct to associate STIs with "evil" and hence vilify sex itself. Park never falls into this trap. As a person living with an STI, I felt like Park had written in such a way as to include people like me. She's not writing about people living with STIs as these exotic outsiders to be gazed at as carnival oddities; she demystifies and decriminalizes STIs while also saying,

See 'Strange Bedfellows', continued on p. 23



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## Go Comedy! Improv Theater Interviews BTL Co-Publisher Jan Stevenson

By BTL Staff

As part of its LGBTQ True Colors series, the Go Comedy! Improv Theater has over the past several months collaborated with Between The Lines contributors and staff to host a unique improv experience. Because of the new coronavirus pandemic, however, the live show has switched to a digital format. Catch the April 29 interview with BTL Co-Publisher Jan Stevenson and True Colors' host Scotty Myers on YouTube at [gaybe.am/Nj](http://gaybe.am/Nj).

### ► 'Strange Bedfellows'

Continued from p. 20

"There are such fascinating stories and histories here."

This level of attention to rhetoric and audience pervades throughout the book. I found myself learning a lot about the cultural histories of many STIs that I knew little about. Some of it is fundamental, and some of it is just fun trivia. But Park manages to communicate all of this without droning on, and she implements the right amount of humor throughout. Humor is so important when it comes to talking about STIs. Growing up, people are taught that having an STI is the worst thing ever, and hence STIs are often the butt of jokes. But in "Strange Bedfellows," it's often the serophobic, conservative mindsets that become the ignorant ones. Her book is unashamedly progressive, and it's a refreshing sexual study that anyone could easily get into and enjoy.

In each chapter, there is this very clear narrative, and it's framed with a question for the reader. She constantly begs readers to ask themselves what they think from the get-go. Then, Park shows how complicated that seemingly simple question really is. She goes to the discourse's origins and then tracks multiple historic moments in the conversation. The reader constantly feels like they are going on a journey, and that is a tough task when it comes to a nonfiction task like this.

Park is a doctor and professor at the University of California, San Francisco, and yet, much of what we see in this book is cultural studies. What Mary Roach is to science in her sex book "Bonk: The Curious Coupling of Science and Sex," Ina Park is to cultural history and current affairs. And she still gets fascinating science in there!


All in all, I would — and will — recommend "Strange Bedfellows" to many of my queer friends. This is a very sex-positive text that celebrates sexuality, works to destigmatize STIs and informs the general public about this often taboo subject. Whether you have an STI or not, whether you have sex or not, whether you're queer or not, this is a must-read book for 2020s America.

Find out more about "Strange Bedfellows" at [us.macmillan.com](http://us.macmillan.com).

[www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)

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PUZZLE P. 25



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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## 'One Day at a Time' turns 'toon

Pop TV's series "One Day at a Time," like so many other projects, came to an abrupt production standstill in mid-March, with about half of the season's episodes wrapped. What to do? Scrap the season? Wait it out until production picks up again? Or... turn it into a cartoon! Well, that's what's going to happen for at least one upcoming special episode – due to air later this spring – where the beloved and queer inclusive sitcom becomes entirely 'toon. The cast – Justina Machado, Rita Moreno, Stephen Tobolowsky, Todd Grinnell, Isabella Gomez and Marcel Ruiz, alongside some as-yet-unnamed special guest stars – will record their vocal performances, the action will be created by animators, and we will be the grateful recipients. The episode is apparently election-themed (Remember that? There is one happening this year allegedly.) because in early March that thing you were already exhausted by now feels, in early May, like a welcome reprieve from constantly wondering if that guy who jogged by you too closely without a mask is an asymptomatic carrier. Stay inside and watch this show, folks!



## Janelle Monae's 'Homecoming'

Based on the podcast of the same name, the Amazon sci-fi series "Homecoming" takes place in a secret government facility that runs tests on American soldiers with an experimental PTSD therapy. Season one of the hit show starred Julia Roberts, but season two will be all about Janelle Monae. Although the details are more or less under wraps, it's known that Monae's character will have nearly complete memory loss, a person who doesn't know her own identity. This, in turn, leads her to the Homecoming Initiative, and the discovery of nefarious goings on within the program. The only first season returnees known at the moment are Hong Chau ("Downsizing") and Stephan James ("If Beale Street Could Talk"), but that's not to say that other regulars like Sissy Spacek, Bobby Cannavale, and perhaps even Roberts, won't be involved. If you'd like that mystery solved, you can tune into Amazon Prime on May 22.

## 'P-Valley's hustlers are coming to Starz

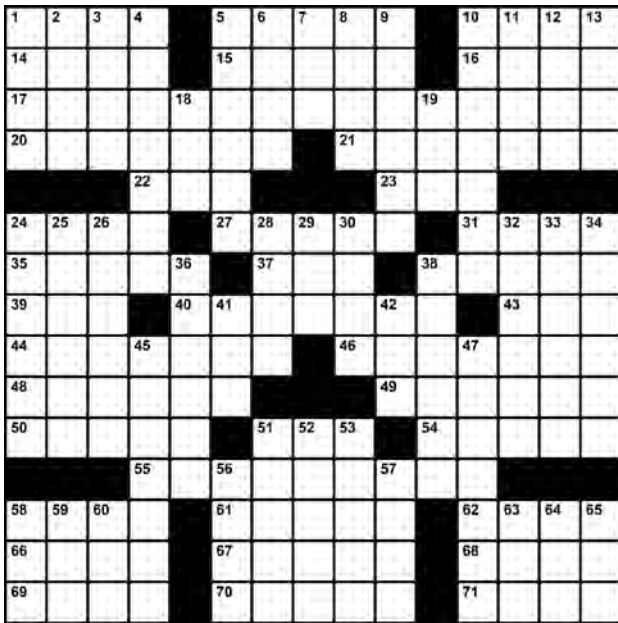
Heard of Katori Hall yet? Well, here's where you get familiar. She's an Olivier Award-winning playwright, whose most famous work, "The Mountaintop," a fictionalized account of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s last night alive, opened on Broadway in 2011. She's the bookwriter and co-producer of "Tina: The Tina Turner Musical," and now she's the showrunner of the new Starz drama, "P-Valley," a series based on her play "Pussy Valley." (TV is somewhat more skittish than the theater about that word, it would appear.) It concerns strippers in the Deep South, their complex lives and dreams, and according to advance press it's a moody and atmospheric piece of work. Furthermore, putting its money where its mouth is, so far every episode in the can has been directed by a woman, including Kimberly Peirce, Tamra Davis, and "Empire" star Tasha Smith. It drops this summer, a time when clothes come off, which is only appropriate.

## 'Yossi & Jagger's Eytan Fox has a new film and it's under quarantine

Director Eytan Fox ("Yossi & Jagger," "Cupcakes") has a new film, "Sublet," and he wants you to see it. Unfortunately, you can't do that just yet. "Sublet" was scheduled to have its premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival, but thanks to... well, you know... that didn't happen. Like Fox's earlier work, it deals with queer subject matter and how the LGBTQ population of Israel lives their lives. John Benjamin Hickey ("Love! Valor! Compassion!") stars as a depressed journalist visiting Tel Aviv. There he rents an apartment from a young gay man (Niv Nissim) whose life is considerably messier, and the two develop an intergenerational friendship. Now, unlike, say, a film like the "Wonder Woman" sequel, whose release would seem to be on hold indefinitely, indie and arthouse films are experiencing a smoother transition to the streaming model. Distributors are forming alliances with arthouse theaters for collaborative release and box office profit sharing, and depending on the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic, "Sublet" might wind up finding its audience in that way. Keep your eyes open for this one.

*Romeo San Vicente longs to touch you.*





39 Family magazine  
 40 Rupert of "Stage Beauty"  
 43 One of two NT books  
 44 More of the quote  
 46 More of the quote  
 48 First year in a gay decade  
 49 Gives the slip to  
 50 George of "It's My Party"  
 51 Russian assents  
 54 "\_\_\_ Male War Bride"  
 55 End of the quote  
 58 Rubber stamp  
 61 Cukor's "\_\_\_ and Juliet"  
 62 "The Music Man" setting  
 66 Indiana neighbor  
 67 Redirect, as eyes in the shower  
 68 Nureyev's refusal  
 69 Appear to be  
 70 Parts of hard heads  
 71 Program with Chris Colfer

13 S&M unit  
 18 "East of Eden" role  
 19 Brian of glam rock  
 24 "Send in the \_\_\_"  
 25 "House" star Hugh  
 26 Thespian activity  
 28 Nice zip  
 29 Blow it  
 30 Drag queen's application  
 32 Bug with a shrill call  
 33 Atlantic archipelago  
 34 Weatherspoon once of the LA Sparks  
 36 Sink to the bottom  
 38 Wonder of Motown  
 41 "Oy" follower  
 42 Fill in \_\_\_ blank  
 45 Say "Ooh! Long!" here  
 47 With mouth wide open  
 51 Teed off, for Sheehan  
 52 Anouk of "Lola"  
 53 Sailor's rear  
 56 Stole at the Oscars, e.g.  
 57 Rug rats  
 58 Canon camera  
 59 Antonio's "Evita" role  
 60 Hurry, to Shakespeare  
 63 Duvall's "Popeye" role  
 64 Pee-\_\_\_ Herman  
 65 Serviced orally

**Down**

1 Top  
 2 Oz creator  
 3 Gaelic tongue  
 4 Slaves row it for a master  
 5 Former justice Antonin  
 6 "Peyton Place" producer Jerry  
 7 "Lord of the Rings" extra  
 8 Take for a sucker  
 9 Doc Brown  
 10 Clown accessory for Cam  
 11 Don't get caught in it  
 12 "Why should \_\_\_ you?"

**Q Puzzle**

17 Start of a Stephen Sondheim quote  
 20 City hue in Oz  
 21 Orton's Halliwell  
 22 Sara Gilbert, for one  
 23 In addition  
 24 Closemouthed type  
 27 More of the quote  
 31 "Beat it!"  
 35 Loafers lack them  
 37 Land of S. O'Connor  
 38 Take forcibly

**If at First You Don't Succeed**

**Across**

1 Aid's partner  
 5 Gave a damn?  
 10 Where a trolley goes "Clang, clang, clang"  
 14 Singer Vikki  
 15 Pool shot hitting two balls  
 16 Enchanted Disney girl

Clues P. 23

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877-931-3248  
248-266-5545  
[Metrocarenetwork.org](http://Metrocarenetwork.org)

### UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond

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313-446-9800  
[www.miunified.org](http://www.miunified.org)  
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<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](http://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](http://www.accesscommunity.org)

## Advocacy

### Equality Michigan

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[equalitymi.org](http://equalitymi.org)  
[Facebook.com/equalitymichigan](https://www.facebook.com/equalitymichigan)

## Campus

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

### U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center  
[Spectrumcenter@umich.edu](mailto:Spectrumcenter@umich.edu)  
<http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu>  
734-763-4186

### Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

[gsc@oakland.edu](mailto:gsc@oakland.edu)  
[www.oakland.edu/gsc](http://www.oakland.edu/gsc)  
248-370-4336

### Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center  
[emich.edu/lgbtrc](http://emich.edu/lgbtrc)  
734-487-4149

### The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

[ltu.edu/student\\_affairs/lgbt.asp](http://ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp)  
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[Facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW)  
[wsujigsaw@gmail.com](mailto:wsujigsaw@gmail.com)

## Community Centers

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

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Ann Arbor, MI  
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### LGBT Detroit

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

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Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project  
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[www.aclumich.org](http://www.aclumich.org)  
313-578-6800

### Fair Michigan

PO Box 6136  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
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[fairmichigan.org](http://fairmichigan.org)  
[Facebook.com/fairmichigan2016](https://www.facebook.com/fairmichigan2016)

### Know Your Rights Project

Outlaws U-M student group  
[outlawslegal@gmail.com](mailto:outlawslegal@gmail.com)  
734-995-9867

## Older Adults

### SAGE Metro Detroit

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[sagemetrodetroit.org](http://sagemetrodetroit.org)  
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

## Political

### The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

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

## Professional Groups

### Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 32446  
Detroit, MI 48232  
[detroitlgbtchamber.com](http://detroitlgbtchamber.com)  
1-800-DET-LGBT

### Ties Like Me

Professional networking events  
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.  
[TiesLikeMe.org](http://TiesLikeMe.org)  
Suits And The City  
Lansing, MI  
[suitsandthecity@gmail.com](mailto:suitsandthecity@gmail.com)  
[www.suitsandthecity.org](http://www.suitsandthecity.org)

## Transgender

### FtM Detroit

<https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/>  
[ftmdetroit@gmail.com](mailto:ftmdetroit@gmail.com)

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[www.transgendermichigan.org](http://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](mailto:info@tscopdetroit.org)  
[www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/](https://www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/)

## Youth

### Ruth Ellis Center

77 Victor Street, Highland Park, MI 48203  
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Facebook: Ruth Ellis Center  
313-252-1950

### Ozone House

102 N. Hamilton Street  
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734-662-2265  
734-662-2222

### Stand With Trans

Farmington, MI  
[www.standwithtrans.org](http://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
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- Labor Union
- Legal Organizations
- Museums
- Music Groups
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- Sports
- Substance Abuse
- Transgender Groups/Services
- Women's Health
- Youth Services



## FERNDALE, MICHIGAN – POLICE OFFICER



**Department:** Police Department  
**Location:** Ferndale Police Department  
**Salary Range:** Officers at Academy, \$45,000  
Officers in Field Training, \$49,000  
Patrol, \$51,127.15 - \$68,869.00  
**FLSA:** Non-exempt/Union  
**Employment Type:** Full Time

The City of Ferndale is currently looking for the best of the best. We are not looking for just anyone, we are looking for the right one. If you believe that is you, we are now accepting applications for the position of Police Officer. Interested parties will first need to complete the EMPCO test and profile. For testing dates, please visit the following website [www.empcoco.net/testing](http://www.empcoco.net/testing). Candidates must have two years of college credit (60 credits), or four years of active military duty with an honorable discharge, or an acceptable combination; must be in excellent health and free from criminal background. Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, FSA, and Retirement Plans are available.

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

## FERNDALE, MICHIGAN – POLICE DISPATCHER



**Department:** Police Department  
**Location:** Ferndale Police Department  
**Salary range:** \$37,390.94 - \$47,479.69  
**FLSA:** Non-exempt/Union  
**Employment Type:** Full Time

City of Ferndale, population 21,127, is seeking a Police Dispatcher to take calls for assistance and dispatch police, fire and rescue units. Responsible for monitoring City radio networks to receive, relay and transmit messages; conducts record checks, maintains radio logs, and performs clerical duties. Minimum qualifications include at least one year (30 credit hours) of college coursework completed and one-year communications or clerical experience. Preference will be given to candidates demonstrating prior 911 dispatch experience. Position will remain open until filled. Medical, Dental, Vision, Life, FSA, and Retirement Plans are available.

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



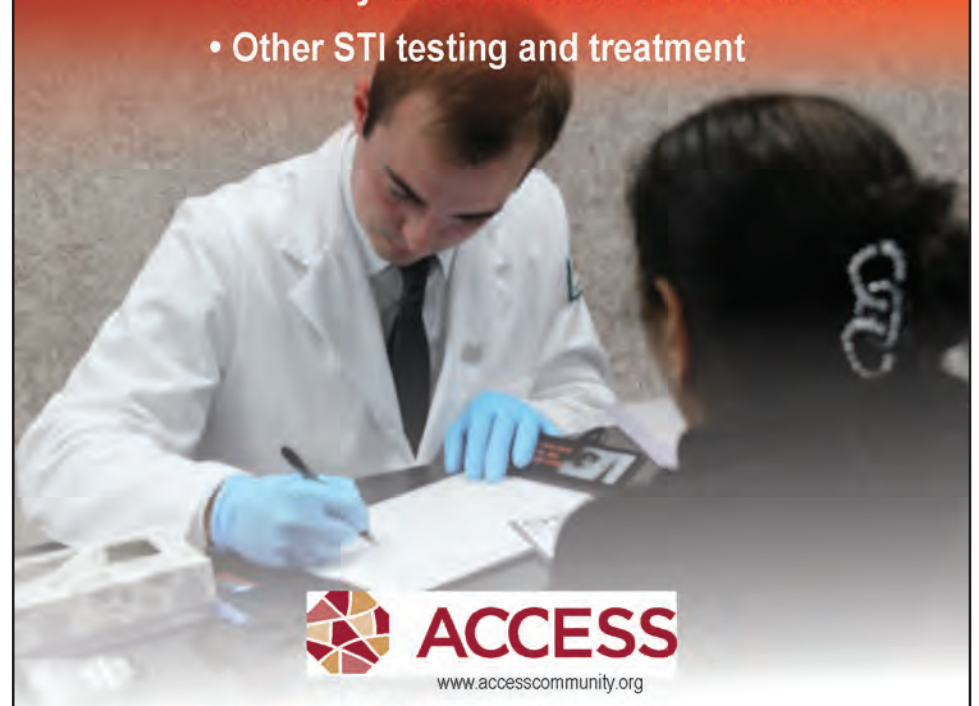
## SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Treatment and Prevention

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

### SERVICES INCLUDE

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



**Sterling Heights Center**

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

Part of the MetroCare Coordination Network



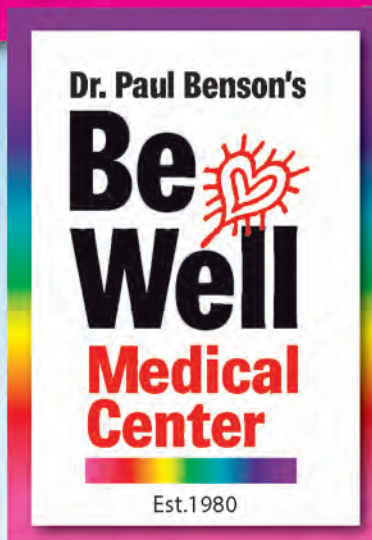
# On the Edge of Primary Care PODCASTS with Dr. Paul Benson



**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**