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Andrew Gillum has come out as bisexual. (Photo to public domain)

Some of our latest online-only pieces:

Andrew Gillum Comes Out as Bisexual
By Chris Johnson

Ric Grenell Snaps at Reporter Asking About Decriminalizing Homosexuality
By Chris Johnson

Pop-Up for a Cause: 2 Environmentally Minded Michigan Companies to Host Product Showcase
By Eve Kucharski

Also, make sure to check back for our LGBTQ Voter Guide at mivoterguide.com and continuing COVID-19 coverage.

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LGBTQ Activists Condemn U.S. Rep. Fred Upton for Homophobic Attacks on Jon Hoadley

BY JAN STEVENSON

U.S. Rep. Fred Upton (R-Michigan), one of the longest-serving members of the U.S. House of Representatives, has burnished a reputation for decency and civility. That's why it is especially alarming that his reelection campaign would resort to assaulting the first openly LGBTQ candidate for Congress from Michigan with time-worn homophobic tropes. Upton is using thinly veiled accusations that Jon Hoadley is a pedophile and a sexual predator to besmirch the reputation of Hoadley, his Democratic challenger in the Nov. 3 election.

It is ironic that Upton's unfounded attempts to assassinate the character of a rising star in the Democratic Party comes just three weeks after he and U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Michigan) participated in a virtual conversation Aug. 18 on civility and collegiality in politics and government.

"We're tired of the vitriolic rhetoric and mean-spirited language used in our political discourse, and so are the American people. That's why Debbie Dingell and I are proud to serve as vice chairs of the Problem Solvers Caucus, and why we do events like today's show – to show that civility and bipartisanship still work and should still be valued," Upton said.

Dingell agreed and said that name-calling, punching back and personal attacks and threats are dividing the nation. She'd challenged viewers to remember there's more that unites us than divides us. So, Between The Lines Newspaper contacted Dingell about the recent mailings and TV ads attacking Hoadley.

"I just talked to Fred and he swore he didn't have anything to do with this," she said. "Fred says his campaign has only aired two TV ads and neither are the ones we're talking about. The NRCC [National Republican Congressional Committee] is an independent entity — but I hold Fred accountable for messaging and I have complained about the NRCC many times, although the NRCC doesn't listen to me at all."

The LGBTQ Victory Fund, a national organization dedicated to electing LGBTQ leaders to public office, issued a scathing press release today condemning Upton for the attack ads and calling on him to apologize.

"Fred Upton is resorting to digging up Jon's puerile college blog posts and pulling together out-of-context words and phrases because he can find nothing else to criticize about Jon's public service record," said Annise Parker, president and CEO of LGBTQ Victory Fund.



Jon Hoadley is an openly LGBTQ candidate running to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Fred Upton (R) in Michigan's 6th congressional district.

The release went on to say that for weeks, the NRCC has repeatedly referred to Hoadley as a "pedo sex poet" – a startling and defamatory use of homophobic tropes about gay men as pedophiles and sexual deviants. It also successfully pitched a political hit piece to the New York Post that purposely took phrases out of context from a 15-year-old LiveJournal Hoadley wrote while an undergraduate student. The NRCC then used those phrases to make outrageous claims about Hoadley – all of them aimed at perpetuating homophobic stereotypes about gay men. Campaign mailers sent to voters' homes used the same phrases to attack Hoadley.



One of several anti-LGBTQ propaganda piece mailed to voters by supporters of U.S. Rep. Fred Upton's reelection campaign. It attempts to paint Hoadley as anti-woman, pro-pedophilia and a sexual predator. All quotes are from 2004 blog posts and taken out of context to contort their meaning.

Sean Meloy is a senior political director at the LGBTQ Victory Fund. He said that Fred Upton "wants it both ways."

"[Upton]'s trying to talk about civility while

calling his opponent a pedophile and drug user," Meloy said. "Upton could call an end to this

See **Hoadley**, continued on p. 7

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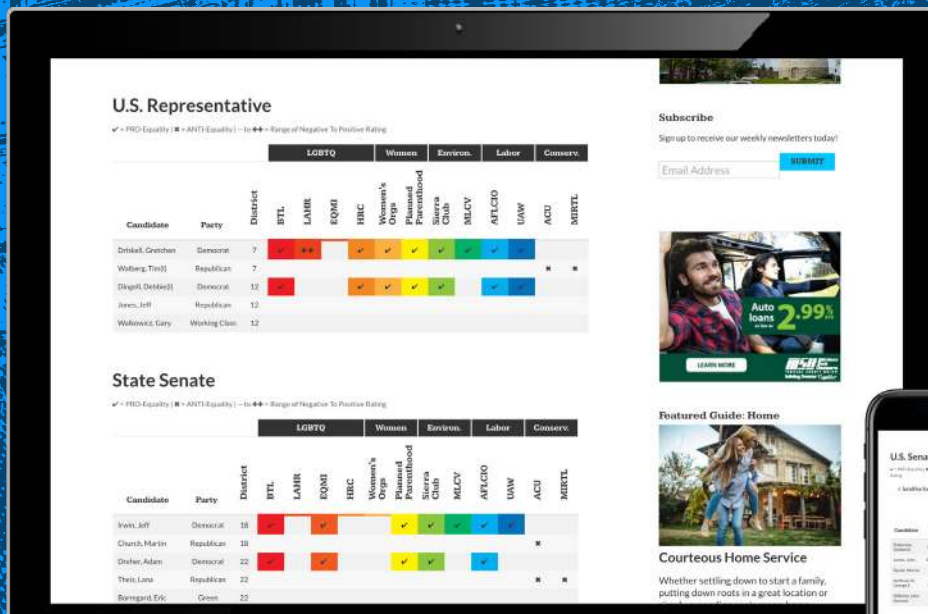
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Go to www.mivoterguide.com to learn more.



► Hoadley

Continued from p. 4

immediately, but he's let it go. He's continued to let his staff and his lackeys continue spreading these lies about Jon Hoadley."

The LGBTQ Victory Fund has endorsed Jon Hoadley for Congress.

Mark LaChey, the openly LGBTQ vice chair of the Michigan Democratic Party, said he was incensed by the homophobic attacks on Hoadley and tied the congressman's actions to his allegiance to President Donald Trump.

"Given their lock-step allegiance to Donald Trump and his history of truth-be-damned campaign tactics, I am incredibly disappointed but not surprised that Fred Upton and the NRCC are using outright lies and out-of-context comments made decades ago in their attempt to discredit State Representative Jon Hoadley," LaChey said. "If any voter in southwestern Michigan doubted that our Congressman is a Trump lackey, these vile accusations by the NRCC and the failure of Upton to condemn them proves exactly who he has been and continues to be ... out-of-date, desperate and ultimately homophobic."

Some of the attack ads and mailings have attempted to depict Hoadley as demeaning of women. But female leaders in Michigan were quick to speak out in support of Hoadley.

"The attacks against Jon are nothing more than a despicable attempt to make something out of nothing. Jon's record is clear: he has been a voice for women and children throughout his career and will continue to be our champion when elected to Congress," said Michigan State Rep. Kristy Pagan (D-Canton) and legislative leader on women's rights.

Hoadley, 37, is a three-term member of the Michigan House of Representatives. He has distinguished himself as a principled, progressive voice for equality — especially in the fight against violence against women — and as a strong supporter of workers' rights to organize. His campaign is endorsed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist, Attorney General Dana Nessel, U.S. Sen. and candidate for U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Cory Booker and scores of other elected officials at all levels of government. He is also strongly endorsed by the UAW and the Michigan AFL-CIO as well as dozens of other unions, environmental groups, women's organizations, gun control advocates, LGBTQ groups and BTL.

Hoadley's campaign was recently elevated to national prominence as the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee moved the Michigan 6th race to a potential "Red to Blue" pick up. This means that based on fundraising, polling and other factors, the DCCC leadership believes Hoadley has a chance to upset Upton this fall. Perhaps that threat is why Upton's campaign and supporters are targeting Hoadley with sexually charged lies and innuendo.

"Shame on Fred Upton for utilizing this as a campaign strategy," said Michigan State Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield). "Starting in 2016-18 voters started to punish anti-gay campaigning. Voters didn't have the appetite for homophobia in politics. So anti-LGBTQ politicians have had to shift their message to reach their anti-LGBTQ audience."

Moss himself is openly gay.

"Pedophile is the dirtiest charge against gay men. This is nasty, dirty, sick homophobia," Moss said. "Accusing any candidate of perverse behavior, especially when it is blatantly untrue as it is in Jon's case, is no less homophobic than the overt gay-bashing of campaigns past. It's a lie — based on a foundation of lies."

Efforts to reach Fred Upton's campaign were unsuccessful by press time.

VOTE FOR EQUALITY NOV. 3

Between The Lines strongly endorses these statewide and national candidates:

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(Participants paid at least minimum wage)

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Here are six openly LGBTQ candidates endorsed by BTL. We encourage you to support them by volunteering and donating to their campaigns:

Jon Hoadley (D) is running for the 6th Congressional District in southwest Michigan. Hoadley seeks to unseat incumbent Republican Fred Upton who is seeking his 17th term in the U.S. Congress.



David Coulter (D), Oakland County Executive seeks election to the post he was appointed to last summer after the death of longtime County Executive L. Brooks Patterson.



And these State Reps.:

Tim Sneller (D) seeks reelection to his seat in Michigan's 50th House District.

Laurie Pohutsky (D) seeks reelection to her seat in Michigan's 19th House District.

Jody LaMacchia (D) seeks election in Michigan's 46th House District.

Renee Richter (D) seeks election in Michigan's 108th House District.

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in Michigan with Your Absentee Ballot

LGBTQ Women-Focused Kofi House Debuts Annual Friendship Event Sept. 19

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

As fun as it can be to catch up with friends from time to time, it's often a healthy thing. In fact, the Mayo Clinic reports that friendships can be a critical element for good mental health and wellbeing. Program Coordinator at The Center for Lesbian and Queer Women and Girls Kathie Griffin-Futch recognized that when she planned her upcoming Women's Friendship Month Brunch at the Kofi House.

"And that's going to be Sept. 19 at the Kofi House in the yard," Griffin-Futch said. "... This is going to be an annual event every September because September is Women's Friendship Month and I want to highlight women and friendship. Because that's what the CLQ program is about: empowering LGBTQ women, creating a safe space for those women and having a space where LGBTQ+ women can come and feel comfortable."



Kofi House Programming Coordinator Kathie Griffin-Futch.



Dr. Sheryl Simmons will be the event's keynote speaker.

Recognizing the safety precautions that must be taken for public gatherings because of the novel coronavirus, Griffin-Futch has restricted attendance to 25 participants, will hand out masks for all attendees, provide sanitization stations, require the completion of a health questionnaire and take temperature checks. She added that the seats and tables for this outdoor event are within social distancing guidelines, too. The event's keynote speaker will be Dr. Sheryl Simmons.

"She is a good friend of Dr. Kofi's [for whom the Kofi House is named], she was a resident of Highland Park, she had an appointed position with President Obama, she is a nurse," Griffin-Futch said. "She heard what we were doing and she's an ally for the LGBTQ+ community and she wanted to be a sponsor, so she is sponsoring the brunch."

Because of the sponsorship, attendance is free and each participant will receive a copy of Simmons' book on friendship, "My Friendtastic Life," and a T-shirt from the event. While tickets to attend the event in-person are sold out, Griffin-Futch encourages those who are interested to follow the CQL Facebook page for updates and month-long Friendship-related programming.

"We have a whole agenda. We'll play a couple of games regarding women and friendship, and the friendship brunch is really to just acknowledge friendships with women — platonic and intimate friendships," Griffin-Futch said. "We're going to have some stories told about long-term friendships, and Simmons is our keynote speaker, so she's going to talk a bit about when friendships go bad, go good, what we can do to get them back together and why women and friendships are important."

When asked why she feels highlighting camaraderie among women is valuable, Griffin-Futch cited the current pandemic.

"If COVID-19 has taught us anything, [it's that] friendships are important," she said. "Because the world is changing so rapidly, if you're friends with somebody, you should make time for them just like you make time for everybody else."

The Kofi House is located at 135 Hazelwood St. in Detroit. Find out more about it and its services online at ruthelliscenter.org.

LGBTQ Progress Update on Michigan's Racial Disparities Task Force

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Having met regularly since spring, now that summer is almost at its end, the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities has been working in an advisory manner with both Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II for several months to address the causes of racial disparities in COVID-19 care. Regarding LGBTQ-specific issues, Executive Director of LGBT Detroit Curtis Lipscomb serves as the Task Force's only LGBTQ-specific advisor. BTL caught up with Lipscomb to discuss the strides the group has made so far.

Statewide Leadership and Statewide Goals

"If I could say I have one thing that I'm most proud of, it's that we have a true statewide leader. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said publicly that racism is a public health crisis. So, all of the things related to COVID-19, it disproportionately affects Black people and is therefore also a health crisis, and the lieutenant governor is the chair of this," Lipscomb said. "What an honor to be appointed to this body. And two, it's great to see these people, predominantly Black people in the area, committed to lending support to identify these barriers and offer solutions to that."

So far, the Task Force has secured the testing of all household members within a family and even those who are asymptomatic; it has identified the most vulnerable communities of color and used data-driven strategy to add testing facilities there; provided follow-up care to support those in quarantine who cannot afford food, personal protective equipment and hygiene products; and more. To date, the Task Force is near its target goals in the expansion of mobile and community partner testing sites and more.

Detroit LGBTQ Community Achievements

On a local level, Lipscomb has worked to curb the spread of COVID-19 via educational campaigns to spread awareness of The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention coronavirus prevention guidelines. He said that he still regularly sees behavior that doesn't adhere to social distancing — particularly in LGBTQ spaces.

"I see it every day. The nation has given us guidelines for the reduction of the spread of COVID-19, and I see in LGBTQ spaces, particularly limited LGBTQ spaces, that people have organized in areas that will put them more at risk of transmission," Lipscomb said. "And with the summer being a time where all people want to be with family and cook and be in parks and all of that, you have a lot of people who have to change their behavior. That has been the



Curtis Lipscomb. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter.

hardest thing in Detroit: asking people to adhere to the CDC recommendations to reduce transmission and to encourage people to practice."

However, despite the struggles involved in persuading people to change their habits, Lipscomb said he's seen forward strides, too. Most notably, he said, during Pride season.

"I think the biggest thing we've done to reduce transmission was move Hotter Than July [the world's second-oldest Black gay Pride] from a traditional experience to a virtual one," he said. "And we've had a tremendous amount of success of people understanding our commitment to people that we serve, making sure that we are following our nation's guidelines and informing the public about why this is important."


Looking to the Future

Currently, Lipscomb is gearing his efforts on the Task Force to push for even more educational resources, and even entertainment, "to support our physical and emotional wellbeing so that the public can see it at a safe space — wherever they dwell."

Long-term, Lipscomb hopes that LGBT Detroit can become a well-known provider of PPE, testing and, ultimately, vaccinations.


"We haven't gotten to that point yet, we are still on the prevention side because, as you know, there's no vaccination yet. But, believe me, the moment that there is, you're going to see not only this institution but a number of people seeking that opportunity," Lipscomb said. "I know that we're highly concerned about education, 'What can we do right now to reduce transmission?' That's always on our mind."

To learn more about the Task Force and its achievements, visit gaybe.am/n0.





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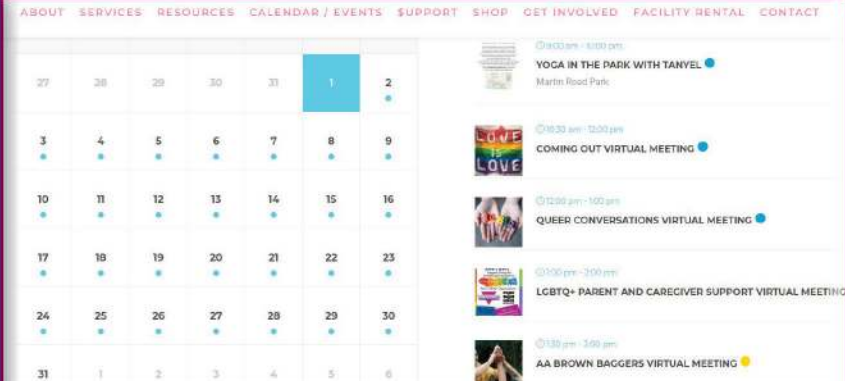
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Equality at the Polls Needed: 2 LGBTQ Poll Workers Talk Volunteering

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

During the 2016 presidential race, roughly 1 million election inspectors, or poll workers as they are often called, were needed across the U.S. to aid in the voting process. Despite that great need, the Election Assistance Commission said that 65 percent of jurisdictions reported difficulty in obtaining enough people to sufficiently staff polling places and that over 50 percent of the poll workers who did volunteer were over the age of 60. In 2020, the need is just as dire, but because of novel coronavirus pandemic concerns — like elderly populations being more susceptible to the disease — finding able-bodied and willing volunteers is as difficult as ever.

A low number of polling volunteers doesn't just mean longer wait times at the polls, according to an ABC News report, it could result in a reduction of available polling locations. And in key swing states like Michigan where absentee ballots cannot be counted until Election Day, weeks-long results delays could occur like in New York, "where it took six weeks for workers to process absentee ballots to get the final results of the recent Democratic congressional primary."

Ahead of the November presidential election, Between The Lines interviewed two experienced poll workers who made sure to volunteer their time in 2020 to help ensure that Michiganders both have their absentee ballots counted and have fair access to in-person voting.

"Democracy in Action"

Faye Schuett has been volunteering as a poll worker since 2013 after she retired from her teaching job. Never having had the time before, she said that she was motivated to help out because she loves seeing "democracy in action."

"And I'm always impressed with the variety of people who come in and how earnest everyone is about voting. People come in on crutches, they bring their children, a lot of people, when people are first-time voters and recently naturalized citizens, they have tears in their eyes after they vote," Schuett said. "It is the one activity that binds us as a democracy. Everyone, all of our neighbors and the people who we were work for and the people who we work with, that is one activity that we can share and that is democracy."

Michelle Walters agrees. Over the last several years, she's volunteered her time as a poll worker both in Royal Oak and Detroit. She said she's not sure there's anything she could do "that would make as big of an impact as working the polls" on election day.

But it's not only seeing the voters come in that makes an impact on Schuett and Walters. Both



Left to right: City of Farmington Clerk, Mary Mullison; Deputy Clerk Jennifer Tomlinson and Election Inspector Faye Schuett help to register new voters at Farmington High School.



Election Inspector Michelle Walters.

are members of the LGBTQ community, and being active in the country's political system serves as a reminder of those who have fought, and are still fighting for, equality.

"Being a woman and a lesbian, it's been so important to protect our rights and that's really the way to do it: to make sure you vote and vote in every election and make elections possible," Schuett said. "I've always been impressed with

"Being a woman and a lesbian, it's been so important to protect our rights and that's really the way to do it: to make sure you vote and vote in every election and make elections possible."

Faye Schuett

lesbian person," Walters said. "If nothing else, that was probably a good experience for them to see that we're active in the democratic process and we're trying to help and to give them a perspective of what it's like to be a lesbian. I talk openly about my wife and what precinct we vote at and why we're there. And I think it's a good opportunity to share my lived experiences with people."

How to Volunteer

In Michigan, those who are interested in becoming an election inspector must fill out an application at Michigan.gov/DemocracyMVP. In order to start the process, applicants must be:

- At least 16 years old and a resident of Michigan.
- A registered voter in the state if at least 18 years old.
- Not be a challenging challenger, candidate, member of the candidate's immediately family or a member of the local Board of Canvassers. Those who are convicted of a felony or an election crime may not serve.
- Willing to undergo a training session before election day.

Applicants who successfully go through the process will be paid for their time at a rate not lower than the minimum wage, but in some precincts, like in Ann Arbor, the starting pay rate is \$13 per hour.

To find out more information about how to become an election inspector, visit [michigan.gov/sos](https://Michigan.gov/sos).

"I talk openly about my wife and what precinct we vote at and why we're there. And I think it's a good opportunity to share my lived experiences with people."

- Michelle Walters

the ladies and men behind the tables and you'd see them again and again — not always in good health — older retired people putting in a long day and helping people to vote. I always thought, "That's something I'd like to do when I retire."

Walters said that the impact she makes by interacting with her fellow volunteers helps make a stand for equality, too.

"One of the things that I do like about it is often my experience with poll workers is that there are not many LGBTQ people working the polls, so sometimes it's an to spend many hours in close contact with someone who might not have spent a lot of time with an openly gay or



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Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

For over 50 years, Life magazine informed Americans about what was happening here and abroad. Photos and content were dramatic. Mostly conservative. Occasionally controversial. Once in a while, downright shocking.

Life folded in 1973; circulation 13 million. Readership, 10 times that amount. Its sister publication, Time, continues to this day.

Five years before the Stonewall Riots of 1969, Life tackled a scary taboo: "Homosexualities in America." An expose focusing on the gay underworld of New York, Chicago and San Francisco. America's collective Sodom and Gomorrahs.

Middle class Americans woke up to the realization that homosexuals were growing in number. Becoming alarmingly visible. A social threat to be somehow remedied.

In 1964, San Francisco was not the dynamic gay center of Castro/Market Street, clone-look militancy. It hadn't the high-density population complex of the 1970s and pre-AIDS 1980s; but Life's wide-audience article — unintentionally, to be sure — served as a catalyst for early gay migration there.

Life opened its expose head on: "Homosexuality shears across the spectrum of American life: the professional, the arts, business and labor. It always has. But today, especially in big cities, homosexuals are discarding their furtive ways and openly admitting, even flaunting, their deviation.

"Homosexuals have their own drinking places, their special assignation streets, even their own organizations. And for every obvious homosexual, there are probably nine nearly impossible to detect. This social disorder, which society tries to suppress, has forced itself into the public eye because it does present a problem — and parents especially are concerned.

"The myth and misconception with which homosexuality has so long been clothed must be cleared away, not to condone it but to cope with it."

Accompanying the 14-page belly shock are a dozen photos. Nameless gay men clustered in dark bars or milling about on dimly lit streets.

"These brawny young men in their leather caps, shirts, jackets and pants are practicing homosexuals, men who turn to other men for affection and sexual satisfaction," the piece read. "They are part of what they call the 'gay world,' which is actually a sad and often sordid world."

Gay bars are exposed: "As each new customer walks into the dimly lit room, he will lock eyes with a half dozen young men before reaching his place at the bar. Throughout the evening there is a constant turnover of customers as contacts are made and two men slip out together, or individuals move on to other bars in search of better luck.

"As 2 a.m. closing time approaches, the atmosphere grows perceptibly more tense. It is the 'frantic hour,' the now-or-never time for making a contact."

Sound familiar?

Here's the early version of the gay agenda: "As part of its anti-homosexual drive the Los Angeles police force has compiled an 'educational' pamphlet for law enforcement officers entitled, 'Some Characteristics of the Homosexual.'

The strongly opinionated pamphlet includes the warning that what the homosexuals really want is a 'fruit world.'" (Not

See next page



BTL Opinion

We Condemn Upton's Homophobic Attacks on Jon Hoadley

Jon Hoadley is the first openly LGBTQ person to run for Congress in Michigan, challenging incumbent Republican Fred Upton in Michigan's 6th district. Hoadley is running a great campaign - so much so that he is posing a real challenge to Upton who is seeking his 18th term — yep, that's 36 years!

Upton's supporters at the National Republican Campaign Committee are so frightened that they might lose this seat to a Democrat that they've pulled out the worst homophobic tropes - pedophilia, drug use, sexual predation - and thrown these insults at Hoadley in TV ads and mailings. They are betting they will be able to stir up voters' homophobia against Hoadley and soften his support in the Nov. 3 election.

Upton's campaign manager, Nate Henschel, told the Detroit News that the Upton campaign has nothing to do with the smear campaign. How dumb does he think we are? OF COURSE the Upton campaign is OK with this or it wouldn't be happening! And Upton could stop it immediately if he had the courage to speak out against these smears. Clearly, Upton is just hiding behind the NRCC.

Ironically, on Aug. 18, Upton co-presented a virtual conversation on civility and collegiality in politics with Democratic U.S. Rep. Debbie Dingell.

"We're tired of the vitriolic rhetoric and mean-spirited

language used in our political discourse, and so are the American people. That's why Debbie Dingell and I are proud to serve as vice chairs of the Problem Solvers Caucus, and why we do events like today's — to show folks that civility and bipartisanship still work and should still be valued," Upton self-righteously asserted.

Lofty principles are meaningless unless they can stand the test of real-life pressure, and Upton has failed that test miserably. At the first sign of an actual threat to his reelection, Upton went low — very low. He is accusing Hoadley, through his proxies, of representing the most mean-spirited stereotypes of gay men. So much for civility and collegiality.

Let's look at their "evidence" against Hoadley.

This summer, the NRCC successfully pitched a story to the New York Post that purposefully took phrases out of context from a 15-year-old Live Journal Hoadley wrote while an undergraduate student. A reading of the blog posts reveals the extent of the distortion and smear campaign by Upton and the NRCC — using small sections of posts to claim Hoadley mocks women, uses drugs, victimizes sexual partners and is a pedophile.

See next page

Here is each reference and how it is debunked:

False Charge: Hoadley is accused of being anti-women.

Fact: In describing a night out at a straight bar Hoadley wrote, “I’m not going to lie: breeder=weird/bad dancers,” from which the NRCC ridiculously accuses Hoadley of being “anti-woman.” Hoadley, who minored in women’s studies in college, has continuously been a champion for women’s rights in the legislature, advocating for equal pay legislation, reproductive rights, childcare resources and beyond. The NRCC accusation is a lie and makes no logical sense.

False Charge: Hoadley is a pedophile.

BOLD Fact: In a clearly satirical discussion about whether all ‘gay men desire to be flower girls,’ an aforementioned friend jokes that he has no desire to see a ‘4-year-old wearing a thong” as a condemnation of the hypersexualization of children. The phrase has been removed from context to somehow imply that Hoadley is a pedophile. It is another outright lie and distortion of the meanest kind to try to scare voters.

False Charge: Hoadley condones drug usage.

Fact: The original passage details that Hoadley went to leather bar to “learn about crystal meth” and attended an informational meeting about the drug’s impact on the LGTBQ community. He ended the post by writing, “Don’t do meth.” This was part of an anti-drug use project — the exact opposite of how the NRCC has presented this statement.

► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 12

a cocktail.)

Gays in the military, 1964: “If we didn’t throw them out, we’d be condoning homosexuality. The services’ position has to be that homosexual practices prejudice morale and discipline.”

Life warns, “For the first time the Supreme Court has agreed to hear the homosexual case, but no legal procedures are likely to change society’s basic repugnance to homosexuality as an

Upton should be ashamed of himself for besmirching Hoadley in this cowardly attack. If Upton meant anything he said while proclaiming his commitment to civility and collegiality he ought to apologize for this despicable smear campaign.

Reaction to Upton’s two-faced position of “civility and collegiality” versus his lies and distortions has been met with a firestorm of protest, from his constituents, LGBTQ leaders and local and national organizations including the Victory Fund.

In an emotional thank you note to his supporters last week, Hoadley wrote, “In the face of some of the most hateful and disgusting tactics we’ve ever seen in the 6th District, folks have raised their voices to let Congressman Upton and his dark money D.C. supporters know that hate has no home here in Southwest Michigan. No one can prepare themselves for the kind of vitriol we’ve seen from folks trying to defeat us, but the way people in our community have stepped up to let me know they’re with me means so much.”

Michigan’s LGBTQ community has known Jon Hoadley for over 15 years, starting when he took a temporary leave from college in 2004 to come here and work to defeat the anti-marriage ballot initiative that ultimately enshrined discrimination into the Michigan constitution. He has served admirably for six years in the Michigan House of Representatives. We know him to be principled, intelligent, trustworthy and we are lucky that someone this talented has committed his adult life to public service.

Upton should be ashamed of himself for besmirching him in this cowardly attack. If he meant anything he said while proclaiming his commitment to civility and collegiality he ought to apologize for this despicable smear campaign.

immoral and disruptive force that should somehow be removed.”

Lest we forget. Time 2020 marches on. What’s past is prologue. Profile. (And! with Trump and the Reblibicans in power), perhaps once more an alarming possibility somehow to be removed.

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.

Creep Of The Week

James Dobson

BY D’ANNE WITKOWSKI

In the eyes of James Dobson and other leaders in the far-right corners of Christianity, Donald Trump can do no wrong.

In a Sept. 14 column titled, “A Moral Alarm Against the Legislative Death March of 2020,” Dobson, who founded the virulently anti-LGBTQ groups Focus on the Family and the Family Research Council, writes, “Now and always, all human life is sacred, from the womb to the grave.”

He then goes on to say how awful abortion is. And then he writes this: “We reject even the most basic legal protections for the unborn, the disabled and the sick.”

Now while Dobson and I don’t see eye to eye on the abortion issue, I couldn’t help but think after reading about “basic legal protections” for “the disabled and sick” that Dobson was going to write about COVID-19. About how nearly 200,000 people in the U.S. have died in a mere six months, and many of the dead people who had a “comorbidity,” meaning they were already sick with something else that made them even more susceptible to COVID-19.

I thought Dobson might call out Trump and the Republicans for just standing back and letting all of these people die. Or maybe call them out for trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act that provided basic legal protections for “the disabled and the sick.” As you read this, the Trump administration is still trying to repeal the ACA, which would yank access to health care away from many Americans in the middle of a pandemic. Not to mention the fact that folks with preexisting conditions, who insurance companies used to be able to drop, would lose that crucial protection. Surely even James Dobson can see how immoral all of this is.

But, big surprise, I was wrong. Dobson was writing about euthanasia.

“The so-called ‘right to die’ movement permits the elderly, the sick or the mentally ill to end their lives, often aided by the very medical professionals sworn to protect them,” he writes.

That is a gross overgeneralization that doesn’t at all represent the right to die movement, but I digress. However, I couldn’t help but think that Dobson wouldn’t have to look very far to see people dying while surrounded by medical professionals who can’t help them. It’s been happening for six months and the president Dobson

loves so much still has no plan to address the pandemic. And there are still doctors, nurses, and other medical staff who don’t have adequate Personal Protection Equipment. We’re still sending medical professionals into rooms with people who are either suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 without the right kinds of masks and other protective gear. Meanwhile, Trump loves to crow about how he sent some ventilators to the states as if his work here is done.

But, sure, Dobson. The real tragedy is that there are people dying who WANT to die, as opposed to all of these people dying who did NOT want to die.

The fact is, all of the COVID-19 deaths are not a dealbreaker for guys like Dobson. It’s a small price to pay for getting another conservative justice on the Supreme Court so they can overturn Roe v. Wade and outlaw abortion.

In August of last year Dobson lamented that some churches were actually accepting LGBTQ people.

“I’m not a theologian,” he said, “but I believe the Bible ... is clear about its condemnation of all forms of sexual immorality. That’s just the way it is. If you don’t like it, argue with the Scripture. That has not changed, and it will not change. It’s the word of God, which is eternal and it is not subject to revision.”

Trump, of course, has been accused of and has engaged in many “forms of sexual immorality.” And Trump can’t take it up with the Scripture because he’s never read a word of it.

“What is the answer to this horrible disregard for life?” Dobson writes. “We need politicians who stand for life and policies that protect life. We also critically need a societal change of heart.”

I mean, he isn’t wrong. We do need political leaders who want to protect people. Who actually give a shit that their ineptitude is responsible for nearly 200,000 dead people in six months — I truly can’t emphasize that enough. And we, as a society, need to unlock a deep level of grief instead of pretending that the biggest problem we have is wearing a mask to the grocery store. 200,000 dead and there’s no sense of national mourning. Trump’s response was to Tweet a conspiracy theorist claiming that only 9,000 people had actually died.

Oh, but please do go on about how much Donald Trump cares about other peoples’ lives.

Be You: Stand With Trans to Host October Trans Empowerment Month

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

While the novel coronavirus pandemic has had a hand in postponing or canceling most scheduled programming throughout 2020, Stand With Trans has turned that trend around by changing its annual Empowerment Workshop into the upcoming Trans Empowerment Month that will last throughout October.

“It’s usually an all-day conference. We call it the Empowerment Workshop and we thought long and hard about it, and, given the current situation, we knew we couldn’t do it in person. And having one day online did not sound like a good solution, so that’s when I threw out the idea of having this month-long event and everybody just jumped on it,” said Stand With Trans Founder and Executive Director Roz Keith. “We’ve got an amazing month planned.”

Stand With Trans is a nonprofit that helps provide resources and support for transgender youth and their parents as they go through the process of transitioning. Normally, when the Empowerment Workshop is a single-day event, both parents and attending youth have a choice of dozens of programs that answer various questions about the process of transitioning physically and socially, dating and much more. Keith said that all of those events and more will be accessible online this year.

“In the past, we would not have been able to fly in a surgeon from Texas or California, but we have four really amazing surgeons who will speak at different times in the month, which will be great for parents or even young adults or anyone looking to have some sort of gender affirmation surgery,” Keith said. “And because October is LGBT History Month, throughout the month we’re going to be sharing some trivia and fun facts that relate to LGBT history. We’re going to recognize International Pronoun Day, and there will be a special session on pronouns that’s led by some folks from OutFront Kalamazoo.”

This year’s event will kick off with Owen Bondono, Michigan’s Teacher of the Year who is an openly trans man, on Oct. 1. That event will be followed by a variety of programming on dating and safety, entertainment and more. And Keith said that this only scratches the surface of what SWT’s October programming will provide, emphasizing that anyone looking to be a better ally to transgender people can benefit from the events, too.

“This is really for everyone. Even if you’re not transgender, you’re going to get educated and you can be a better ally. If you’re a parent or caregiver or somebody who works with youth — like a mental health professional or a doctor, medical professional, teacher, school administrator — you can learn from these sessions,” she said. “We want people to come and get educated.”

While this year’s theme is “Be You,” it’s arguable that accessibility is also. Keith said that all of the information provided is intended to reach as many people as possible, so youth are free to attend. Currently, there is ongoing early bird pricing for people who register by Sept. 15, and if for any reason potential attendees are unable to pay the registration fee, a subsidy for the event can be arranged.

“We always believed that the more information that we can put out there the stronger the allyship will be because people will better understand. And this is really so unique; it’s never been done before,” Keith said. “It’s really important to give people access. It would not be easy to get a consult with Dr. Bowers, or with Dr. Santucci, or Dr. Wilkins at U of M. ... But here’s an opportunity to get on this and ask your questions and hear about the procedure and talk about recovery. ... All you have to do is register.”

To find out more about the event visit standwithtrans.org. For help attending contact Roz Keith at roz@standwithtrans.org.

Affirmations LGBTQ Center Expands COVID-19 Food Help Program

BY BTL STAFF

Affirmations has announced the expansion of its ‘Lettuce Help’ Food Program and will be offering a second pickup date in light of the novel coronavirus pandemic. On Wednesdays, from 4 to 7 p.m., those in need of food can stop by the center to pick up essentials in addition to the existing weekly Friday pickup period from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

“For 31 years Affirmations has provided services to the LGBTQ community,” said Affirmations Executive Director Dave Garcia. “Despite the disruption of COVID-19, Affirmations has expanded services and we will continue to do everything we can to meet emerging needs.”

Those interested in obtaining boxes filled with a two-week supply of non-perishable foods and optional toiletries are instructed to pull up to the back of Affirmations for drop off of supplies into their cars by staff and volunteers. The program has been in operation for three months and has coordinated the donation of over 300 units of service to families across the tri-county area.

In partnership with Matrix Human Services and Unified, the Center will also be open to HIV testing by appointment only during both the Wednesday and Friday time frames. Affirmations will also continue to provide access to Instacart delivery orders of up to \$75

each for those unable to travel.

Sen. Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield) described his thoughts on the expansion.

“The ‘Lettuce Help’ program was created to provide essential goods to families in need during this very difficult time, no questions asked, and demonstrates the value that Affirmations provides to Michiganders of all backgrounds,” Moss said. “The center is also resuming its HIV testing, which was disrupted during the pandemic, during the same time slot as its food donation service thereby reimagining how to successfully operate and provide programming to vulnerable populations. This fills me with a lot of pride about what our community is capable of.”

Melanie Piana, mayor of Ferndale, added, “Affirmations has always been a critical partner caring for our LGBTQ Ferndale community members. In response to immense need during the pandemic, Affirmations continues to donate produce and non-perishable food to their most vulnerable members while taking care of their safety needs providing masks, sanitizer, sexual health and toiletry kits.”

Affirmations is located at 290 West Nine Mile Road in Ferndale. The Lettuce Help Food Program operates behind the center on Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. For more information, call 248-398-7105. Visit goaffirmations.org for more information.

Fauci: Politicization of COVID-19 Pandemic is ‘Really Unfortunate’

BY MICHAEL K. LAVERS

Dr. Anthony Fauci on Wednesday described the politicization of the coronavirus pandemic as “really unfortunate.”

“The politicization, the hostility, back and forth is something — I’ve been through multiple outbreaks over the last 35, 40 years as you well know — I’ve never seen such a situation where there’s been as much divisiveness,” Fauci told International Association of Providers of AIDS Care President José M. Zuñiga at the end of a virtual presentation he gave during the Virtual Fast-Track Cities 2020 conference.

“So you have to be able to function in the context of good public health practices, at the same time that it seems that everything is politicized, which is really unfortunate,” added Fauci.

Fauci, who is director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, spoke on the same day Bob Woodward released tapes in which President Trump acknowledged the pandemic’s severity.

Johns Hopkins University of Medicine’s Coronavirus Resource Center notes there are more than 6.3 million confirmed coronavirus cases in the U.S. The pandemic

has also killed 191,168 people in this country.

The White House’s response to the pandemic has been widely criticized. Trump, among other things, has downplayed the coronavirus’ impact in the U.S. and made dubious claims about when a potential vaccine may be available.

Fauci on Wednesday acknowledged the U.S. government is currently supporting “one way or the other either directly or indirectly” 6-7 potential vaccines, including three that are currently in phase 3 trials. Fauci noted “we will know whether one or more of these are safe and effective” by November or December.

“We are actually cautiously optimistic that we will reach that goal,” he said.

Trump in recent days has said a vaccine could be ready as soon as next month.

“It’s certainly is a possibility, but I think it’s unlikely that we’ll get a definitive answer by then,” said Fauci.

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

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LGBTQ-inclusive Curriculum Laws Take Effect in N.J., Ill.

BY PHILIP VAN SLOOTEN

New Jersey and Illinois' LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum laws go into effect this academic year.

Five states, as well as counties in Maryland and Virginia have already enacted such laws. GLSEN notes six states currently ban LGBTQ-specific content in the classroom.

"We're excited that LGBTQ students across the state are now guaranteed the opportunity to see themselves reflected in the classroom," said Ashley Chiappano, the safe schools and community education manager for Garden State Equality, a statewide LGBTQ advocacy group in New Jersey, in an email to the Washington Blade. "Creating a more inclusive school environment."

Illinois' Inclusion Curriculum Law that Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed last year is being implemented this school year. Equality Illinois, a statewide LGBTQ advocacy group, is among the organizations that support the law.

New Jersey and Illinois join California, Colorado and Oregon in requiring LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum content. Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas have various restrictions.

The Blade last year reported Maryland's State Department of Education said it was in the process of developing new standards to include LGBTQ and disabled communities. The Montgomery County School Board in May approved an LGBTQ history elective for juniors and seniors to begin next spring.

New Jersey's law, signed by Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy in 2019, was implemented in stages this year by Garden State Equality and Make it Better for Youth, another advocacy group. They rolled out a pilot program in 12 public schools from January to June to test out teaching materials prior to the law taking effect this month, according to NBC News.

Samuel Garrett-Pate, the communications director for Equality California, told the Blade the organization assisted New Jersey and other states by sharing lessons learned in California, which in 2011 became the first state to mandate LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum.

"We started this effort back in 2006," Garrett-Pate said,

"LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum teaches students about the historical contributions of LGBTQ members of our society and shouldn't be controversial — it's simply fact," said Lamneck. "We applaud the efforts of other states who are providing a more comprehensive and accurate teaching of our shared history."

explaining challenges advocates faced, which dovetailed with the fight for marriage equality. "This was only a few years after Prop 8 passed in California and one of the big arguments against marriage equality was kids would be taught about gay couples in school. In three years we were trying to pass legislation to ensure LGBT people would be fairly represented in our curriculum. It was not easy to get done."

Garrett-Pate said activists knew at the time it was important for California to be the first state because of its size.

"Because California is so large, if we require textbooks, it requires textbook companies to come up with new ones for such a large market," he explained. "It makes it easier for other states to adopt textbooks that are LGBT-inclusive."

But it took six years after the law passed for the materials to be implemented and even then there were problems.

According to Equality California's website and other news sources, when the textbooks and materials were rolled out in the fall of 2017, they were "nothing to be proud of" and advocates protested their use.

"Half of them were failing in significant ways in meeting the requirements of the Fair Education Act," said Equality California's Executive Director Rick Zbur in an interview posted to their website. "Many of them didn't have any content related to significant LGBTQ historical figures as part of the history curriculum."

Advocates fought and continue to fight to have relevant content in the curriculum, and have it implemented in more school districts, which meets the intent of the law. Garrett-Pate stated this is particularly important for LGBTQ youth who

often do not have LGBTQ parents at home to pass down their history in an affirming way.

"This is about making sure LGBTQ students have role models throughout history," he explained. "So that they learn that LGBTQ people are like anyone else and that they understand the context of their history. The bottom line of all of this is that history needs to be taught accurately and fairly. What conservative parents who opposed this are arguing is to rewrite history and we are arguing to teach history as it happened."

Garrett-Pate said it is not just up to politicians and nonprofits to fight for inclusive curriculum, but for LGBTQ parents and students to hold their schools and teachers accountable for their education as well.

"It takes time and it takes work," Garrett-Pate said. "But it is also the right thing to do."

Similarly, C.P. Hoffman, the legal director for FreeState Justice, Maryland's LGBTQ advocacy organization, stated they look forward to seeing the new state curriculum when it rolls out, "but in the meantime there's nothing stopping individual school districts and teachers from working queer history and queer issues into their classes."

"With more students identifying as LGBTQIA+ than ever before, it's crucial that they be able to see themselves reflected in their school work," said Hoffman.


Ve Lamneck, executive director of Equality Virginia, told the Blade there "are many issues that still need to be addressed before Virginia is a safe and inclusive state for all LGBTQ people." They said their organization over the summer conducted a survey that found "many Virginians are interested in prioritizing a statewide LGBTQ-inclusive Family Life Education curriculum."

"LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum teaches students about the historical contributions of LGBTQ members of our society and shouldn't be controversial — it's simply fact," said Lamneck. "We applaud the efforts of other states who are providing a more comprehensive and accurate teaching of our shared history."


Lamneck conceded LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum would face opposition in Virginia. They nevertheless specifically applauded Montgomery County officials' efforts "to affirm the dignity and historical accomplishments of LGBTQ individuals."

"LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum creates a more welcoming, tolerant, and safe environment for all students," Lamneck told the Blade.


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Historical Corktown Workers Rowhouse Showcases Both Detroit History and Modern Art

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

From The Guardian Building to the GM Renaissance Center, Detroit has its fair share of grand buildings that have made architectural history over the years, but even some of the city's most unassuming structures contain valuable information about the past. Nestled in the heart of Corktown, Detroit's oldest neighborhood, is a rectangular building that dates back to 1849 called the Corktown Workers Rowhouse. Once serving as a multi-family home for working-class immigrants in the historically Irish neighborhood, the Rowhouse has managed to survive nearly 200 years in Detroit as a functional boarding home that stopped service in the 1970s. In recent months, its restored, true-to-history, gray-white exterior has become adorned with the abstract art of artist Thomas Bell with plans for even more art to circulate both in and outside of its walls. That's because The Corktown Experience, a local nonprofit organization, has plans for transforming this piece of Detroit history into a workable exhibition space. And on Friday, Sept. 25, from 8 p.m. to midnight, there are plans to showcase even more art with a video installation by interFACEArts that will project from three windows in the home.

The man behind the art installations is Timothy Price. He's the programming, marketing and events director for the Worker's Rowhouse, an affiliate of The Corktown Experience. He said that there are plans in motion to restore the building, the home next door and its surrounding yard to create a hotspot for art and community. Unlike previous attempts to remodel the building that have taken place over the years, the goal is not to utilize the Rowhouse entirely as museum space — though it does feature nods to its past inside — but to showcase local artistry alongside the building's history.

"The vision is to have an exhibition center. The unit at the end is going to be the exhibition center, the middle will be a lounge and then this will be a gallery," Price said, in reference to the multiple rooms within the Rowhouse. "So we're going to make white walls and do different curation of artists and exhibits."

Price got involved with the project roughly 1 1/2 years ago, has a background in events planning and has had experience working with various Detroit nonprofit organizations like AIDS Walk Detroit. A member of the LGBTQ community himself, Price is excited to make space at the Rowhouse for LGBTQ artists, too.

"I've worked with a lot of LGBTQ artists," Price said. "... I like history and we want to



educate people, but we also want to stimulate people and bring art into history so that people say, 'Why is this abstract piece of art hanging up there? And why is this Pride flag there?' That's part of history."

Indeed, because there is a record of every single person who lived in the home from 1849 through the 1970s, Price said that there's a high possibility that the building was home to LGBTQ tenants at some point. He said that at some point he'd be open to exploring the histories of the Rowhouse's dozens of residents over the years.

Before that project takes off, however, more physical changes are scheduled to take place around the building. Alongside the Rowhouse's exterior, a soundproof wall will be built that will stretch from its neighboring Most Holy Trinity Church to the nearby Irish Plaza Park. This will serve not only as a clear partition for the outdoor events but as an extension to the exhibition space.

"There will be some permanent work, and then what we're going to do is start activation," Price said. "Because the work that's going to be featured on the house and elsewhere in the city will then become part of the wall on the back here."

Additionally, event planning is on the table for the Rowhouse.

"We're going to do a shipping container commercial kitchen with bathrooms and do a three-season pavilion so that people can rent it, do events here, and I'm talking everything from metal sculpture to different things, too," Price said. "And then kind of getting into the next programming, which I finally finalized with an artist that I worked with at Midtown that we have, he's doing a piece kind of relating LGBT and African American artists to go out front."

That artist is Geno Harris, a self-taught Detroit artist who founded The Poor Man's Art Collective specializes in his own brand of abstract decoupage. He said he was delighted to be thought of for the Rowhouse project.

"He contacted me for the first time when I was the managing gallerists for the Carr Center Gallery when it was on Woodward before they moved into the space they are in now. And he featured some of my artwork, and we became fast friends. He always expressed interest in doing [a project] together and this opportunity came up, and I jumped at the idea because it was one of those projects that would lend itself to bringing on board other artists who had not had the opportunity," Harris said.

Because for Harris, creating a collaborative environment among the artists in his area is the ultimate goal — something that he's excited that the Rowhouse will provide.

"Me, personally speaking, I'm all about community amongst artists," he said. "So when Tim said that to me, I was like, 'Oh, yeah, absolutely. You've found the perfect thing for Geno to be a part of. The art part and the possibility of doing exhibitions later on when we can be free from the pandemic sounds like the perfect fit ... to bring people to see different types of art and to see different types of people create different types of art."

But art is not all that the Rowhouse will have to offer when work on it is completed. The upstairs portion of the building will be offered as offices for local organizations to make use of as necessary — truly, a community space.

To find out more about the Rowhouse visit corktownexperience.com or follow its social media accounts on Facebook at [facebook.com/corktownexperience](https://www.facebook.com/corktownexperience) and [corktown_workers_rowhouse](https://www.instagram.com/corktown_workers_rowhouse) on Instagram. The Workers Rowhouse is located at 1430 6th St. in Detroit. The upcoming art show will be on Friday, Sept. 25, from 8 p.m. to midnight.

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You Can Count on Sharon Stone



Photo: Netflix

Screen Icon on Queerness in New Series, Her LGBTQ Activism and What Her Dad Meant to Her Gay Friends

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

That scene. You know the one: the one in “Basic Instinct” where Sharon Stone’s legs are open. It’s been talked about and talked about, and talked about some more. It’s been talked about so much in the years since it shook the world in 1992 that it has diminished the other non-crotch facets of Sharon Stone.

What nobody talks about anymore is her heart, her courage and her activism. As Stone pushed through the male-dominating Hollywood sphere of the 1990s to reach top-tier cinematic heights through her work in 1990’s “Total Recall” and then “Basic Instinct,” an Oscar nomination for “Casino” solidifying her influential screen presence, she was giving a voice to the voiceless. She was speaking up for marginalized women. She was speaking up for the LGBTQ community. She was speaking up for *herself*.

And to this day, she still does.

Stone’s enduring affinity with the LGBTQ

community might explain why working for the first time with Ryan Murphy, known for bringing actresses over 50 (Jessica Lange, Kathy Bates, and now Stone) into his lavishly stylized queerverse of prestige TV, was so special. In Murphy’s dark dramedy “Ratched” for Netflix, an origins story of Nurse Ratched of “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” the 62-year-old actress portrays the deliciously insane Lenore Osgood, a rich, twice-widowed mother who’d rather spend time with her Capuchin monkey than her queer son (played by openly gay actor Brandon Flynn). The series also stars out actresses Sarah Paulson, as nurse Mildred Ratched, and “Sex and the City” star and political activist Cynthia Nixon, who portrays Gwendolyn Briggs, the press secretary for the Governor of California.

When I spoke with Stone recently by phone, she did talk about the show’s queerness. But it was the touching story of her late father, Joe, who took her gay friends under his wing, that you won’t forget.

Where do you think your role as Lenore Osgood

will rate on the “Things Queer People Love That I’ve Done” scale?

Right? (Laughs.) I have to say that it’s full of beauty and full of style and full of the immense tenderness that happens when we confront abuse. And because of the nature of what it is to live a queer life, I think all of that will be very moving.

While watching “Ratched,” I was reflecting on your LGBTQ roles. There’s been some that are blatantly queer, and others that are more nuanced in their queerness. “Catwoman” with Halle Berry came to mind because I really do think it’s part of the queer canon.

(Laughs.) I think because the character was so intriguing – and so catty, also! And I think because the character was really based in an intense beauty-centric world, maybe. I just feel like my characters are all based in a “for everybody” kind of world, but I really believe there’s something when you work for people who are gay-friendly and people who hire gay

people on the set, where costumes and sets and things have an opportunity to grow and become even more lavish.

We shot (“Catwoman”) in Tony Duquette’s estate house (Duquette was an artist who specialized in fantastical set designs for stage and film); he was a very good friend of mine and, you know, he said to me when he met me, “I haven’t seen any of your pictures, darling.” But truly he was engaged in the (Canadian-American film actress and Duquette’s wife) Mary Pickford and (silent film actor) Douglas Fairbanks universe and swashbuckler films and all of these extremely lavish and beautiful filmmaking experiences.

One was not allowed to have a homosexual identity in those periods, so people had partners and the partnerships were agreements, and they were often very artistic agreements. In this case, very beautiful artistic agreements, very accomplished artistic agreements. And this was a way to love, be loved, be safe, be protective and work in the industry.

You've worked with straight directors as well as gay and queer directors. Ryan Murphy now among them. And when I think of him and the gay men I know, I think of the reverence and respect we have for women. Based on your experiences, what is different for you working with straight male directors versus gay or queer male directors and their treatment of the women that you've played?

(Laughs tellingly, as if she has a lot to say about this.) That's a beautiful question. Well, it doesn't just break down to gay and straight; it breaks down to people who have self-respect and people who do not. And our business was very much dominated by straight men – and a lot of straight men who felt that self-respect for them meant that there wasn't any for women.

Now that we are opening the business to a more sincere and honest appraisal of reality, women, men, gays and straights get to participate in the business with a treatment of white male abuse, which is starting to calm down but not completely. And as we can see from our worldview here and certainly from our national view, the resistance to the end of it, it's so violent; the resistance to the end of white male supremacy is so violent, and the women who have thrived on being victims and being victimized are unsure of what to do too because being a victim is an identity and having that situation where you call your husband or wife "mommy and daddy" is also part of that system. There's a whole mindset that goes with that system that's leaving, and as that leaves we have to start addressing all the other things, the underbelly of that, like child abuse and pedophilia.

When it comes to "Ratched" and working with someone like Ryan Murphy, who loves women differently than a straight man might, do you notice a difference in the way the character is being treated? For instance, was your experience different on, say, the set of "Basic Instinct"?

Well, I was protected on "Basic Instinct" because I had a European director (Paul Verhoeven). I had a very intelligent European director, so I was protected. I was not abused at all, or I could never have been able to play that part. We made agreements even prior to shooting that if we had disagreements we would take them off the set and into a private place and talk so that it wouldn't tear down the authority of the character.

When "Basic Instinct" was released, it agitated LGBTQ activists who were taken aback by your character being a bisexual psychopath. Seeing as though you were passionate about LGBTQ issues and you are an activist for the community, how did you process their concerns at the time?

At the time we had all kinds of problems, not just LGBTQ people feeling like they were going to be abused and not knowing what was going to happen and showing great concern. But there were just people acting out all over the place over this movie. People blowing

horns, trying to destroy the sets.

So (co-star) Michael Douglas and Sherry Lansing, the head of Paramount Pictures, and I sat down and we talked about it. I said that I would be very happy to become the person who talked about these LGBTQ issues and to discuss that what we were trying to do was put LGBTQ characters in a major motion picture from Paramount and that we were trying to, for the first time ever, do this. That we were trying to give the LGBTQ community a platform. And that I would take on the position of being the voice of that platform if this community would trust me.

And you did.

And I did. And Micheal and Sherry were like, "You're willing to do this?" And I'm like, "I'm absolutely willing to do this, and there's nothing about me that would cause people to distrust that that's what I'm going to do."

Would you say that was the moment in your life when LGBTQ issues became especially important to you?

I was already working for amfAR (The Foundation for AIDS Research, which Stone began working for in 1995, as Global Campaign Chair) at that time, so no. And I had already begun working for the Pediatric AIDS Foundation because my neighbor had funded it. So I was already heavily working on that with our pediatrician Dr. Peter S. Waldstein and his wife. I was into the pediatric aspect of it, and then I went to the Dominican Republic as a guest of the president because they were beginning to have extreme AIDS issues. This was a really long time ago. This was even before amfAR. Then amfAR asked me if I would work for them.

Getting back to film, I'm curious about your role in the 2000 HBO film "If These Walls Could Talk 2." You must still get stopped by lesbians everywhere you go for being a part of that movie.

Well, I just think it was really great that we had this opportunity for Anne Heche to direct Ellen (DeGeneres) and I. Ellen was so brave and so cool to come out and use her platform to get so much good work done. Vermont changed their laws after we did that film (the year the film was released, Vermont became the first U.S. state to pass same-sex civil union legislation). The Vermont senator (James Merrill Jeffords) then changed from being a Republican to a Democrat, and I went to visit him at the Senate in Washington and there was a lot more action.

I know everybody wants to be mad at Ellen right now, but let's not forget *all* of the incredible things she took on her own shoulders and her own back, and the pressure she took. I mean, when we did that, my parents were like, "Why are you doing this? And *what* are you doing?" And when I really explained it to them, my dad was like, "So you

See Sharon Stone, continued on p. 22

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► Sharon Stone

Continued from p. 21

mean those two uncles that lived together down the road were queer? And those old ladies were queer?" And I'm like, "Yeah, dad." And he's like, "Well, isn't that nice. So they weren't lonely and alone." And I'm like, "Yeah, dad; they weren't lonely and alone." And he goes, "Well, that's so good."

That's a beautiful response.

Right? So he started to have this revelation about all these old men or old women that he'd known all his life that lived together that weren't alone and lonely. He started inviting my gay friends up to the hunting cabin, including my friend whose father had kind of dismissed him as not being masculine enough to do anything. My dad would take them out on the boat and teach them how to shoot and fish and drive the boat and walk in the woods. These were my 40 and 50 year old friends who were standing up and saying, "I had a dad but my real dad was Joe Stone because this is what he did for me. He taught me how to shoot a bow and arrow." All of these things that their dads wouldn't spend the time doing with them because they were mad at them for being gay.

I'm getting a mental image of me, a gay man, learning to walk in the woods from your father and what that experience might have been like.

At my dad's memorial, one of my friends stood up and he said, "I don't suppose you would recognize why I'm such a fashion plate in these flannel shirts, but these were Joe Stone's shirts and he treated me like I was his son."

Did your dad ever see "If These Walls Could Talk 2" then?

Of course. He saw everything. He died 10 years ago, and he really became a very Zen-like dude who actually talked to a lot of my friends about a lot of big things in their lives. He used to do this thing where he'd go, "I'm gonna go out to the hardware store," and he wouldn't come back for seven or eight hours. He'd go to the hardware store and he'd go to the little shops and he'd go sit in the park and he'd literally wait for a person who needed to talk to him and help people with their life traumas.

I can't tell you how many people – giant businessmen, rock stars, political figures – that have come to me saying, "I knew your dad and I was having such a terrible time and I sat with your father and he helped me. Your father changed my life." It was just all these walks that he went on, and all these walks to the hardware store.

Do you think you've been influenced by him in regards to the work that you do for the LGBTQ community but also how vocal you are about other causes that matter to you?



Lenore Osgood (Stone) with her son, played by openly gay actor Brandon Flynn. Photo: Netflix

Yes, by both my mother and my father. Because my mother always said, "It doesn't matter who you love, it matters that you love."

I couldn't end this interview without mentioning the fact that you performed with Kylie Minogue in Cannes for AIDS research, and then you gave the gays an iconic moment with Mariah Carey on the red carpet at the 2018 Golden Globes and said you were going to trade diamonds with her. Did you realize the gay magic you were creating in both of those moments with two of our biggest gay icons?

No, but I can tell you that both of those women have been through their own personal major difficulties and giant triumphs. I admire both of them for being able to live in the public life and continue to be so generous.

I admire that about you because you have also been that person. I'm so happy we have your voice and that it's been heard.

Thank you. One-hundred percent, you can count on me.

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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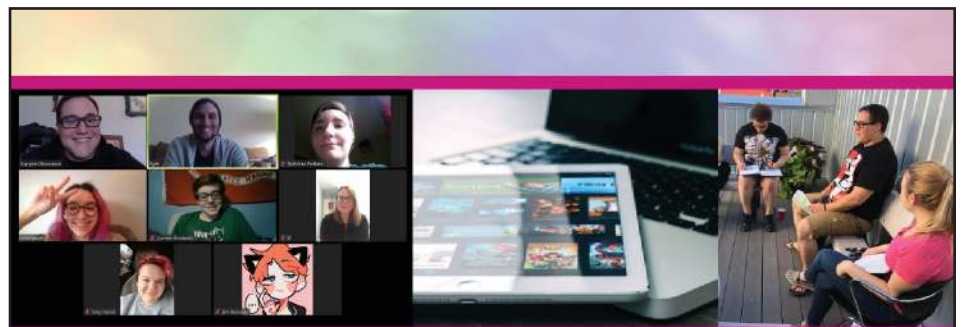
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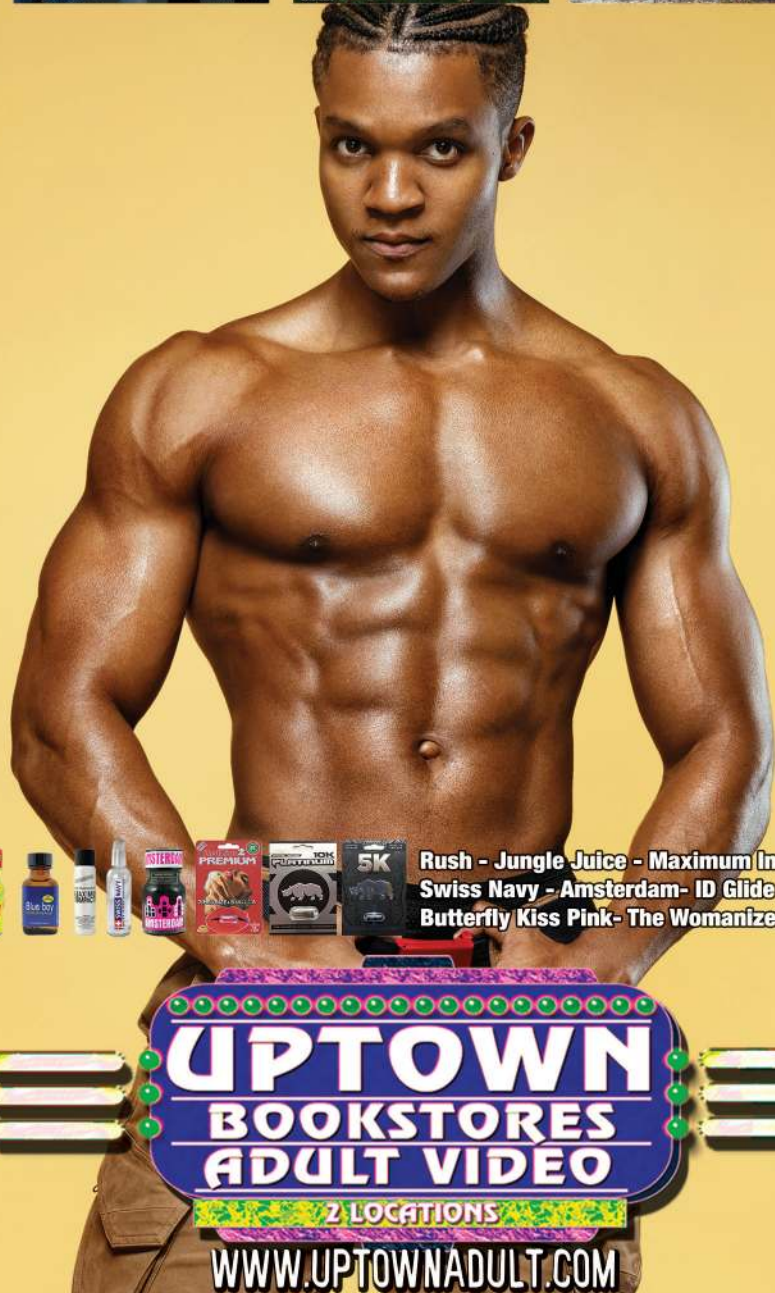
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Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

Star Trek's first trans and non-binary characters

The CBS All Access series "Star Trek: Discovery" will continue to fulfill the franchise's progressive ideals and for the upcoming third season include the show's first transgender and non-binary characters. Queer characters already existed in the "ST:D" universe, played by Anthony Rapp and Wilson Cruz, so the addition of the two new characters will be a welcome expansion of the ranks. Ian Alexander, a trans actor most known for his role on Netflix's "The OA," will play a trans Trill named Gray (Non-Trekker? A Trill is a species of humanoid from the planet Trill. And now you know.) and UK actor Blu del Barrio, who is also non-binary, will play the non-binary character Adira. This will be del Barrio's first major acting role, and they have told the press that they realized that "non-binary" was the best way to describe their gender nonconformity after seeing "Chilling Adventures of Sabrina"'s non-binary cast member, Lachlan Watson. In other words, we see ourselves in the media for the first time and it sometimes makes things a little more clear, gives us the words to describe ourselves, and, to adapt a "Trek" cliché, go boldly and get our life.

Dominique Jackson, Alec Mapa, Fortune Feimster get into a 'Chick Fight'

The question of the day is, "What if 'Fight Club,' but comedy-plus-women?" And the answer is - coming Nov. 13 to theaters and streaming platforms - the indie feature "Chick Fight." The story of a woman who is introduced to an underground, all-female fight club, and who then discovers she has a personal connection to the history of the club, it stars "Billions" regular Malin Akerman, Alec Baldwin, Bella Thorne, Kevin Connolly ("Entourage"), and former pro wrestler Kevin Nash ("Magic Mike"). Meanwhile rounding out that cast are three queer champions that we'll follow anywhere: comedians Fortune Feimster and Alec Mapa, as well as "Pose"'s Dominique Jackson. Originally developed by Ash Christian, the queer indie screenwriter and producer who suddenly and tragically died last month at age 35, the film is directed by Australian actor-turned-director Paul Leyden ("As The World Turns") from a script by first-timer Joseph Downey. We plan to channel any post-election rage into watching

this cast commit acts of comedy-violence. Should work.

Trans musician Billy Tipton's story told right

Billy Tipton was a successful touring jazz musician from the 1930s until the 1970s. Billy Tipton was also a trans man. His story is remarkable for many reasons, but in the hands of non-queer, cisgender-dominated media, his story is also almost never told with respect or understanding. The late musician is routinely misgendered, treated as a kind of gender double agent, and discussed in terms of deception and secrecy, as "a woman pretending to be a man." "No Ordinary Man," co-directed by Aisling Chin-Yee and Chase Joynt, a film that premiered this week at the Toronto International Film Festival, seeks to change all that. It's a documentary of sorts, written by Amos Mac (co-founder of the trans magazine "Original Plumbing"), telling the story of Tipton's life, elements of which are recreated by actors and trans artists because there was no traditional archival material available. Picked up for distribution by Radiant Films, keep an eye out for a streaming/theatrical release of this fascinating story, one finally properly told by queer people.

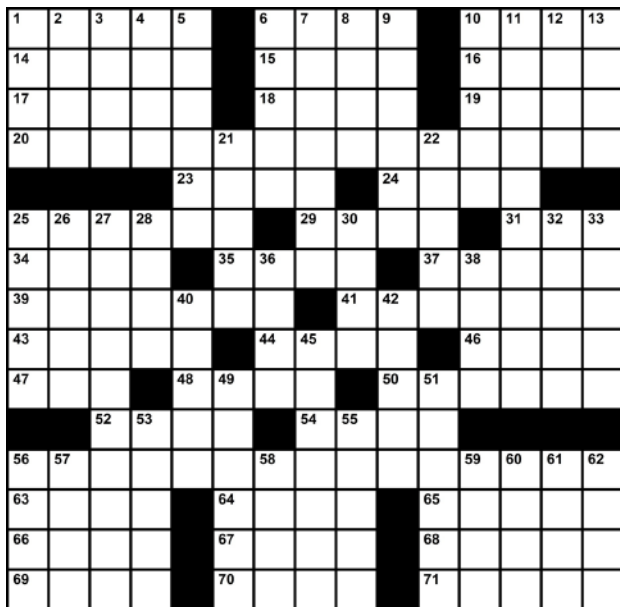
'Good Joe Bell' walks the walk



Dominique Jackson. Photo: KathClick

A pro-queer film starring Mark Wahlberg? Well, we were a little surprised ourselves to be honest, but there's a first time for everything (being a Calvin Klein underwear model doesn't count). And that's why we're pleased to see that Wahlberg will be giving a world some good vibrations in "Good Joe Bell." Based on a true story and also co-produced by Wahlberg, the plot follows Oregon dad Joe Bell, who walks across the United States with his gay son Jadin ("Play by Play") as they try to

raise awareness about the bullying and abuse of LGBTQ kids. Co-starring Connie Britton, and directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green ("Monsters and Men"), it also boasts a script from Academy Award-winning "Brokeback Mountain" team Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana (and that's about the gold standard of screenwriting cred when it comes to straight writers). The film has its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, no doubt with some award season hope on its mind. Look for it to pop up on screens (big or small) later this year.



- Love”
 35 Lone Star sch.
 37 Spud, to Gomer
 39 More of the quip
 41 More of the quip
 43 Magna ____
 44 Nick and Nora’s dog
 46 Tow job
 47 G. Burke’s greatest hits
 48 Obi, e.g.
 50 Seduce
 52 Pay attention to
 54 Russian river locale, once
 56 End of the quip
 63 Sports car, briefly
 64 Be a voyeur, perhaps
 65 Home near the polar bears
 66 Where they yell “Cut!”
 67 “The Black Clark Gable” Diggs
 68 Stock phrase
 69 Add-on for Congo
 70 Opt out of swallowing
 71 Fairy story figure

- Down**
 1 Play for a sucker
 2 Lorca’s stick
 3 They crawl around your mound
 4 RBI, to Billy Bean
 5 Down in the dumps
 6 They keep your nuts in place
 7 Behind
 8 Troubling spots
 9 Billy Budd, for one
 10 Allstate rival
 11 Like Derek Zoolander
 12 Cole Porter’s “Ridin’ ____”
 13 Big name in pumps
 21 Discussion venue
 22 Urania’s sister
 25 Mismanage
 26 Lend it to Marc Antony
 27 They’re very engaging
 28 Signorile’s column, with “The”
 30 Opening for the crack of dawn
 32 Beat, to Barber
 33 Check out, in a fitting room

- 36 Some like them hot
 38 Ambience
 40 Made less difficult to bear
 42 Light, woody material
 45 You can get some in bed
 49 Takes as one’s own
 51 Dr. J’s last name
 53 Use a rubber
 55 Shakespearean taming target
 56 Michael of “Six Feet Under”
 57 Personal lubricant ingredient
 58 Tide type
 59 Ghostbusters role
 60 Meat that goes in your boxers
 61 Linguist Chomsky
 62 Time of “Spamalot”

Clues pg. 22

A Head of the Game

Across

- 1 Climax, e.g.
 6 Antigay prejudice, e.g.
 10 Queens stadium name
 14 Pound poem part

Q Puzzle

- 15 Fairy tale start
 16 David Hyde Pierce and peers
 17 Place to become wife and wife
 18 Star Turner
 19 Todd Oldham designs
 20 Start of a quip by Holland Taylor
 23 Matching notes for Rorem?
 24 Get ____ deal
 25 Supermarket employee
 29 Deity identified with Diana
 31 Hairy Addams family member
 34 R.E.M.’s “The ____

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MetroCareNetwork.org

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

AIDS/HIV

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

Metro Care Coordination Network

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

UNIFIED - HIV Health & Beyond

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

Matrix MAC Health

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

Macomb County STD Clinic

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

Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLSHA)

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

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Service (ACCESS)

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

Advocacy

Equality Michigan

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

Campus

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

U-M Ann Arbor

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

Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

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

Eastern Michigan University

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

The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

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

Community Centers

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

Jim Toy Community Center

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

LGBT Detroit

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

Affirmations

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

Legal

American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

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

Fair Michigan

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

Know Your Rights Project

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

Older Adults

SAGE Metro Detroit

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

Political

The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

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

Professional Groups

Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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

Ties Like Me

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

Transgender

FtM Detroit

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

Get Listed, Promote Your Events

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



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

FtM A2 Ypsi

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

Transgender Michigan

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

Trans Sistas of Color Project

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

Youth

Ruth Ellis Center

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

Ozone House

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

Stand With Trans

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

Find these resources online

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

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Detroit, MI 48202
313-446-9800

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WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG



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



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



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

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

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

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

3 On the Edge: Transcending the Standard of Care

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

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

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

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

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

5 Sexual Health and HIV Prevention

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

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

6 Living Well Over the Age of 50

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

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



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